

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES**

**Friday, February 10, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) Board of Trustees was held on Friday, February 10, 2012, at Sparks Council Chambers, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada.

- 1. Roll Call and Determination of presence of a Quorum** – Chairman Carrigan called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Commissioners Present:

Mike Carrigan, Chair  
Bob Cashell  
Steve Cohen

Kitty Jung  
Geno Martini  
Margaret Reinhardt  
Ron Smith

Representing:

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)  
Truckee Meadows Water Authority  
South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID)  
Washoe County  
Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF)  
Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID)  
City of Sparks

Commissioners Absent:

Dave Aiazzi  
Bob Larkin

Representing:

City of Reno  
Truckee Meadows Water Authority

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Carrigan asked Commissioner Smith to lead the Western Regional Water Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3. Public Comment**

Chairman Carrigan called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

- 4. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Martini made a motion to approve the February 10, 2012 WRWC agenda as posted. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 5. Approval of the Minutes of the November 16, 2011 meeting.**

The minutes of the November 16, 2011 Western Regional Water Commission meeting were submitted for approval. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Martini seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 6. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2012 calendar year – Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager**

Commissioner Martini made a motion to nominate the existing Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to the 2012 calendar year term. Commissioner Cashell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 7. Report by the Desert Research Institute ("DRI") on its Cloud Seeding Operations for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins for the past water year, and status of its Cloud Seeding Coalition efforts; discussion and possible approval of funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") to support similar Cloud Seeding Operations for the upcoming water year; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement with DRI for that purpose**

Chairman Carrigan invited Jim Smitherman to present this item. Mr. Smitherman reported that the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) recently heard a presentation by DRI and recommended that the WRWC approve continuing the program and funding. He invited Arlen Huggins from DRI, who was present, to answer any questions or provide a brief report.

Dr. Huggins reported that DRI's main funding was received from the Truckee River Fund in October (\$155,000) and the funding from the WRWC would provide the remainder to complete the project through the spring. He stated that to date, there have been very few storms. He reported that DRI's equipment is in good shape and supplies are available through April. He stated that the water situation for the area is approximately 30% of normal. He summarized that DRI would continue their work.

Chairman Carrigan noted that funding for DRI's Cloud Seeding program previously was provided by the State and now TMWA and the WRWC provide funding.

**Commissioner Cashell made a motion to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund to support similar Cloud Seeding Operations for the upcoming water year; and to authorize the Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement with DRI for that purpose. Commissioner Martini seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

- 8. Discussion and possible designation of Schettler, Macy & Silva, LLC as the WRWC's external auditors for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 financial statement audit**

Ben Hutchins, Finance & Customer Services Manager for Washoe County Department of Water Resources, recommended that the WRWC approve a contract for Schettler, Macy & Silva, LLC as the WRWC's external auditors for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 financial statement audit. He added that they are great to work with and have done a great job in the past at a fair fee.

**Commissioner Martini made a motion to accept the report. Commissioner Cashell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

- 9. Report on TMWA's Water Usage Review Program for 2010 and 2011; discussion and possible approval of a funding in the amount of \$126,470 from the RWMF for the 2011 and 2012 Water Usage Review Program; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement with TMWA for the 2012 Program**

Mr. Smitherman reported that the NNWPC heard a presentation from Ms. Richards, Administrator of Conservation and Community Education at TMWA, at the last meeting and recommended that the WRWC approve funding to continue TMWA's Water Usage Review Program for 2012 in the amount of \$126,470. He stated that Ms. Richards was present to provide a brief report or answer any questions.

**Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$126,470 from the RWMF for the 2011 and 2012 Water Usage Review Program; and to authorize the Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement with TMWA for the 2012 Program. Commissioner Martini seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

**10. Report on responses to the Request for Qualifications for a groundwater management study to identify strategies and potential funding mechanisms to address regional groundwater quality and quantity issues, including nitrate concentrations related to septic tanks; discussion and possible approval of funding in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 from the RWMF for the study; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an Agreement with the selected consultant for that purpose**

Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner, reported that this item pertains to a study that was funded by the Regional Water Management Fund for a septic system analysis and risk-based management. The report identified and ranked sixteen areas of high-density septic systems. Washoe County has initiated a phased approach to connect the septic users to the municipal sewer in Spanish Springs with funding assistance from grants (which most likely will not continue into the future). Staff is interested in exploring alternative funding mechanisms.

Mr. Wessel explained that the purpose of the Groundwater Management Study is to identify strategies and potential funding mechanisms to address regional groundwater quality and quantity issues, including nitrate concentrations related to septic tanks that have been successfully done in other areas. The NNWPC approved a scope of work and request for proposals (RFP). He reported that following an open bidding process, the AMEC/Lombardo team was selected as most appropriate for the work.

Mr. Wessel reported that the study was initially proposed for \$20,000 in funding; however, the NNWPC and staff thought that number was not sufficient to accomplish the goal and deliverables. He stated that the Clean Water Act (CWA)'s 208 Water Quality Grant is available in the amount of \$40,000, which the NNWPC expects to receive. He explained that if received, the money would be used for this study. He added that the WRWC is the CWA's 208 Water Quality Leader. He summarized that his request is that the WRWC approve an increase in the 208 planning and review budget by \$40,000, which would increase the total budget for this project to \$60,000, which would be offset by the grant funds if they become available.

**Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 from the RWMF for the study; and to authorize the Chairman to execute an Agreement with the selected consultant for that purpose. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

**11. Presentation on membership and proposed 2012 meetings of the Legislative Committee to Oversee the WRWC ("LOC"); discussion and possible direction to staff regarding the LOC meeting set for February 24, 2012**

Rosemary Menard, Director of Washoe County Department of Water Resources, acknowledged Pat Guinan, Legislative Council Bureau Research Staff, who was present. She mentioned that the members of the LOC include Senator Lee, Senator Schneider, Senator Gustafson, Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson, Assemblyman Daly, and Assemblyman Goicoechea. The group is planning to meet on February 24 at 9:00 a.m. in Carson City.

Ms. Menard stated that staff has been working on polling members to determine their interests. An overview of the legislation will be proposed along with a history of the previous interim committees. Also included at the meeting will be an update on the TMWA/DWR consolidation; overview of the water rights transfer process; regional water supply discussion to include the resources, systems, water quality issues; and an update on the Truckee River Flood Project.

Commissioner Martini asked Ms. Menard if she is looking for recommendations from the WRWC to take to the committee. She stated that staff has discussed the issue and found no particular legislative actions proposed for this session.

Commissioner Martini requested that the legislature “do away with this committee and put what’s left to be done under TMWA.” He stated it is a waste of time for us to be meeting.

Mr. Guinan reported that statutorily the Legislative Oversight Committee is set to sunset in 2013.

Commissioner Cashell reiterated that the recommendation is to abolish the WRWC to save costs when the issues could be done under TMWA or the County.

Chairman Carrigan offered to brief the Oversight Committee at the February meeting on the recommendations brought forward by the two mayors.

## **12. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the March 9, 2012 meeting and future meetings.**

Ms. Menard stated that staff recommended canceling the March 9, 2012 meeting; however, there are a number of items slated for the April meeting, including adoption of the tentative budget for the WRWC and NNWPC. Also scheduled for the meeting will be:

- State review of Truckee River nutrient water quality standards
- Follow-up from February 24 Oversight Committee meeting
- Based on the Washoe County Consensus Forecast, determining if we have adequate water supply for the region – Action will be required by the NNWPC

Chairman Carrigan asked if the WRWC is abolished, what happens to the NNWPC. Ms. Menard stated that generally the commissions are tiered and the NNWPC is the technical advisory committee to the WRWC.

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, offered a preliminary opinion that any changes or abolishing the WRWC would necessitate changing the duties of the NNWPC or putting those responsibilities in another place. He stated that the issue would most likely focus around the additional duties of the WRWC not related to purveying of municipal water; i.e., flood issues, water quality and other planning issues.

Chairman Carrigan asked Mr. Rhodes and staff to develop a brief opinion of the options. He also mentioned the user fees, which Ms. Menard stated were statutorily set for the Regional Water Management Fund. Ms. Menard added that the scope of the NNWPC and WRWC is more than just drinking water; they are also responsible for wastewater, reclaimed water, flood, storm water and water quality.

Mr. Rhodes agreed to report back on the issue in April. He offered to speak with Chairman Carrigan prior to the meeting on February 24.

## **13. Commission Comments**

Commissioner Cohen stated that he has been receiving phone calls and emails and wished to state publicly that STMGID has been exploring its future for the last couple of years, based on the discussions of TMWA and DWR consolidating. He reported that Washoe County issued a 10% cut for all departments, including DWR, and Ms. Menard felt she could only manage DWR by no longer managing STMGID. The Board of County Commissioners agreed, which effectively eliminated STMGID from the County’s management. He stated that STMGID is currently working on an Interlocal Agreement with the County for a merger to protect STMGID’s water system assets. He stated that the tentative timeframe for the merger of STMGID into DWR is to take place by June 30.

**14. Staff Comments**

None

**15. Public Comment**

Chairman Carrigan called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

**16. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on May 17, 2012.

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Mike Carrigan, Chairman