

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

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at the Sparks Council Chambers, Legislative Building, 745 Fourth Street, Sparks, Nevada.

**1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum**

Chairman Hartung called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. There was a quorum present.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Vaughn Hartung	Washoe County
Ed Lawson	City of Sparks
Geno Martini	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”)
Ron Smith	TMWA, as its City of Sparks WRWC member
Jeanne Herman	TMWA, as its Washoe County WRWC member
Bob Lucey	Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”), as successor to South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District
Naomi Duerr	City of Reno

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Neoma Jardon	TMWA, as its City of Reno WRWC member
Sandra Ainsworth	Sun Valley General Improvement District (“SVGID”)

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Martini led the WRWC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)**

COMMISSIONER LAWSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**5. Approval of the minutes of the January 21, 2015, meeting. (For Possible Action)**

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 21, 2015, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) MEMBERS PRESENT.

*[Commissioner Lucey arrived at 9:03 a.m.]*

**6. Presentation of letters to the Chairman for signature, recognizing former WRWC Trustees Mike Carrigan and Steve Cohen for their exceptional service to the WRWC,**

**and possible direction to staff regarding recognition of other Trustees – Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)**

Jim Smitherman submitted letters of recognition for consideration and signature.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE CERTIFICATES IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE FOR DEPARTING TRUSTEES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LAWSON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**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, and possible direction to staff – Marc Pitchford, Frank McDonough, and Greg Bortolin, DRI. (For Possible Action)**

Frank McDonough, DRI, presented background information on cloud seeding, a summary of cloud seeding efforts for the past year, and an operational schedule for the remainder of the season.

*[Commissioner Duerr arrived at 9:17 a.m.]*

Commissioner Lucey asked about the potential for using an aircraft in the cloud seeding efforts. Mr. McDonough stated that the benefit of using an aircraft is that it can be used during a warm storm when the ground-based generators cannot reach a high enough elevation to be used. However, an aircraft would need to refuel after three hours and is double the cost per acre foot.

Chairman Hartung spoke regarding the use of drones in the future. Mr. McDonough stated that the challenge with drones is that they would need to handle icy conditions.

COMMISSIONER LUCEY MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT AND DIRECT STAFF TO BRING BACK A MATRIX WITH COST COMPARISONS OF DELIVERY FOR THE CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM MOVING FORWARD LOOKING AT ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH.

Commissioner Smith asked about funding. Marc Pitchford, DRI, stated that there is a Bill in the Legislature for half a million dollars per biennium. If that Bill passes that will be \$250,000 a year, which is a 25% cost share by the State.

*[Commissioner Lawson left at 9:31 a.m.]*

Greg Bortolin, DRI, clarified that the Humboldt River Basin is currently not funded. If the Bill passes and the money becomes available, there will be a discussion as to who gets what for which program.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**8. Discussion and possible approval of an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) for the acquisition of water quality water rights to partially satisfy the 6700 acre-foot requirement in the Truckee River Operating Agreement (“TROA”), to provide for transfer of title to the water rights acquired by TMWA to Reno, Sparks and Washoe County; possible direction to staff, and if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute the amendment – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

John Rhoades, Legal Counsel, provided background information on the interlocal agreement with TMWA and the proposed amendment.

Commissioner Duerr asked what is driving this request. John Erwin, TMWA, explained that when the 2007 agreement was being negotiated, Section 1.E.4 was taken out of the TROA and put into a second document. Since TMWA has staff and is in the water rights market, TMWA was holding the water rights for the beneficial purpose of Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**9. Review and possible ratification of staff’s approval of invoices for reimbursement of certain expenses, in excess of \$25,000, incurred in evaluating and implementing recommendations regarding integration/consolidation of public water purveyors in accordance with the existing Interlocal Agreement – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Smitherman stated that with the successful consolidation effective last December, staff was presented with the final invoice for consolidation expenses.

Commissioner Martini stated that it is time to start looking into doing away with the WRWC and have TMWA take over the WRWC functions.

Chairman Hartung stated that he hopes there will be a place at TMWA for WRWC staff.

Commissioner Duerr discussed projects included in the budget and stated that going forward there needs to be discussions about the role of regional water planning and if TMWA is ready to take that on.

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**10. Review, discussion, possible approval of the draft WRWC tentative budget for fiscal year 2015 – 2016, and possible direction to staff regarding the time and place for the public hearing on the tentative budget – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Smitherman stated that on April 1, 2015, the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) approved and recommended this budget for approval by the WRWC. If all goes according to plan, the ending cash balance will still be about 2.3 million dollars. Mr. Smitherman reviewed the worksheets included in the staff report and answered questions from the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**11. Report on public outreach and schedule to review and adopt the 2016 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”) update, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Smitherman stated that a public workshop meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2015, at the TMWA building. Topics that will be addressed are population employment projections, water demand projections, and water rights availability.

COMMISSIONER LUCEY MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUERR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**12. Report on legislative activities, including Bill Draft Requests and Bills pending in the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC / NNWPC, and possible approval of recommendations made by the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee – John Rhodes, WRWC Legal Counsel. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Rhoades reported that the Legislative Subcommittee has met four times and has reviewed a number of Bills that directly or indirectly affect the WRWC, the NNWPC, or may be of interest because of their subject matter. Mr. Smitherman attended a hearing on behalf of the WRWC and presented testimony in support of the Cloud Seeding Bill SB423.

COMMISSIONER LUCEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE POSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR NEUTRAL / WATCH ON ALL BILLS EXCEPT FOR THE CLOUD SEEDING BILL, WHICH IS A POSITION OF SUPPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**13. Possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for the May 21, 2015, meeting and other future meetings – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

A future agenda item regarding the future of the WRWC was requested.

Mr. Smitherman reviewed potential agenda items for the next WRWC meeting:

- a) A budget hearing;
- b) Agreements that need to be renewed for ongoing projects

**14. Commission Comments**

None

**15. Staff Comments**

Mr. Smitherman stated that there will be a presentation at the TMWA meeting immediately following this meeting on the Tahoe/Truckee Basin Study that the WRWC members may be interested in attending.

**16. Public Comment**

None

**17. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on \_\_\_\_\_ 2015.

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Chairman