

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

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

The regular meeting of the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, June 17, 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 a.m. and the meeting was recessed until after the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) meeting. Chairman Hartung called the meeting back to order at 10:05 a.m. There was a quorum present.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Vaughn Hartung	Washoe County
Bob Lucey	TMWA, as successor to South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District
Jeanne Herman	TMWA, as its Washoe County WRWC member
Sandra Ainsworth	Sun Valley General Improvement District (“SVGID”)
Ron Smith	TMWA, as its City of Sparks WRWC member

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Naomi Duerr	City of Reno
Ed Lawson	City of Sparks
Neoma Jardon	TMWA, as its City of Reno WRWC member
Geno Martini	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Lucey led the WRWC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER LUCEY 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 May 21, 2015, meeting. (For Possible Action)

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

6. Discussion and possible approval of a Third Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Washoe County to provide staff services for the WRWC and the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commissioner (“NNWPC”); and possible direction to staff – Ben Hutchins, Division Director, Finance and Administration, Washoe County Community Services Department, and Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)

Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager, stated there is very little change to the agreement with this amendment. The one substantive change is that since the merger of the Water Utilities the County no longer has a Water Utility Fund, so staff would be paid out of another appropriate fund and then reimbursed by the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”). Staff has vacated the Energy Way offices and consolidated into the offices at the Administrative Complex on Ninth Street. The overhead exhibit, Exhibit D, was specific to overhead charges related to Energy Way so that has been changed to be more generic.

Mr. Smitherman confirmed that the overhead is budgeted at \$131,000 and that he will be working with Ben Hutchins, Washoe County Community Services Department, to finalize the details of what the overhead amount will be.

Mr. Hutchins stated that most of this amendment is just a housekeeping item as a result of the office move. Mr. Hutchins also stated that they are looking after the best interest of the WRWC to make sure that the overhead number is reasonable.

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

7. Report and discussion on current cloud seeding methodology, and possible direction to staff - Jim Smitherman, and Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)

Chris Wessel introduced Frank McDonough, Desert Research Institute (“DRI”). Mr. McDonough gave a presentation on the various methods of cloud seeding including information on the pros, cons, productivity, and cost of each method. Mr. McDonough answered questions from the Commissioners related to the various methods of cloud seeding.

Marc Pitchford, DRI, spoke regarding potential drone methods in the future and efforts being made to work with the FAA to make that happen. Mr. Pitchford stated that if the goal is maximum water resources, all the methods reviewed should be used with the understanding that certain things will cost more.

Chairman Hartung discussed the issue of how to get more people to participate in funding the cloud seeding efforts.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LUCEY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) MEMBERS PRESENT.

8. Report on the ongoing review of the Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”) including public outreach; discussion and possible approval of a revised schedule to

review the RWMP, and develop and adopt the 2016 RWMP update; and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

(Chairman Hartung called for a recess at 10:54 a.m. The meeting was called back to order at 10:57 a.m.)

Mr. Smitherman reported that the merger of the water utilities has increased the work load on TMWA staff and it is affecting their ability to put out a draft Water Resources Plan (“WRP”) in a timely manner. TMWA is also hoping to incorporate next winter’s precipitation and snow pack data into the WRP. The recommendation from the NNWPC is to split the RWMP review and the planned update development into two different schedules. In October, staff will prepare a report on the review of the RWMP and that schedule would be in compliance with the law to review the plan within five years of its adoption. The next phase would be developing a draft RWMP for review by the NNWPC in July of 2016.

Mr. Smitherman discussed public outreach efforts. Last week a workshop was held on preliminary information that is being incorporated into the RWMP. The workshop was advertised in the same way a public hearing is advertised. As history has shown, that kind of advertising methodology does not get much turnout. Mr. Smitherman stated that he has been encouraged/directed by Commissioner Duerr to engage the public in a more proactive way early in the plan development process. Before engaging staff members from the entities represented on the WRWC to help with community outreach efforts, Mr. Smitherman inquired as to what the purpose and scope would be for early public outreach. It was suggested a couple of meetings ago that the public could help scope the RWMP. Mr. Smitherman stated that the RWMP is already adequately scoped in the statute. The statute also clearly identifies the stakeholders, which are: the water suppliers for municipal industrial use in our area; the sewer, storm drain, and flood control service providers; entities concerned with water quality, and other interested persons. All of these required stakeholders are adequately represented either on the WRWC or the NNWPC. Also, other interested persons are on the email list that is used every time a notice is sent out for meetings. The statute requires the NNWPC to receive and consider information from all stakeholders. In addition, the NNWPC will review and consider information and recommendations from the State Engineer and regional agencies which are all engaged at some point during the process, and understand what the NNWPC is doing as far as updating its RWMP. Mr. Smitherman stated that the RWMP is not necessarily directed toward the general public and the stakeholders are already engaged. Mr. Smitherman stated that he has reached out to Commissioner Duerr to get a better understanding from her concerning early public outreach and he is waiting to hear back from her.

Commissioner Smith stated that Mr. Smitherman’s comments today will be in the minutes so Commissioner Duerr can read those for the next meeting. Commissioner Smith also stated that the WRWC, and other Boards, need to stop giving staff things to do without the appropriate direction by a motion or just giving staff busy work. He added there is a public forum right here (at all WRWC meetings) and that is where the public can get information if they want it. There is nothing staff can do if the public doesn’t show up. Commissioner Smith stated that Mr. Smitherman should just keep doing what he is doing.

Chairman Hartung stated that he agrees with Commissioner Smith with one exception, and that is if the staff from the entities is needed at a meeting and they are not there, then that is

something the WRWC would have control over, but he does not believe that is the issue. Mr. Smitherman confirmed that is not the issue.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HERMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) MEMBERS PRESENT.

9. Report on legislative activities completed in the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature that affect or are of interest to the WRWC / NNWPC – John Rhodes, WRWC Legal Counsel. (For Possible Action)

John Rhodes, WRWC Legal Counsel, reviewed information included in the staff report regarding bills the Legislative Subcommittee followed that passed.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LUCEY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) MEMBERS PRESENT.

10. Commission Comments

None

11. Staff Comments

Mr. Smitherman recommended cancelling the July WRWC meeting. The August WRWC meeting will include a presentation by a Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe representative on their Water Quality Control Plan and a presentation by DRI requesting funding for the cloud seeding program.

12. Public Comment

None

13. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 11:18 A.M., SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LUCEY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) MEMBERS PRESENT.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2015.

Chairman