

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

The Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, via Teleconference, and conducted the following business.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Chair Hartung called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. There was a quorum present.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Sandra Ainsworth	Sun Valley General Improvement District (“SVGID”)
Paul Anderson	Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) (Sparks)
Jenny Brekhus	TMWA (Reno)
Kristopher Dahir	City of Sparks
Naomi Duerr	City of Reno
Vaughn Hartung	Washoe County
Jeanne Herman	TMWA (Washoe County)
Bonnie Weber	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”)

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Bob Lucey	TMWA (STMGID Successor)

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HERMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of the Minutes for the WRWC meeting of May 21, and June 17, 2020 (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAHIR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Report on Phase 1 of the Regional Storm Water Drainage Network Geographic Information System (GIS) Map, and possible direction to staff. – Jeremy Smith, PhD, Interim Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) and Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)

Jeremy Smith, TMRPA, provided a report on Phase 1. He also discussed the proposed Phase 2, Filling in Data Gaps. He answered questions from commissioners regarding the data that he has

been able to collect, as well as data that is still needed. Some data is still in CAD files that needs to be converted to GIS.

Commissioner Duerr asked Mr. Smith to reach out to Mike Mischel who is managing the storm water inspection program for the City of Reno to get additional data. Reno uses streets to convey storm water and that information should also be plugged in. She asked if data has been included on the irrigation ditches that serve as drainage ditches.

Mr. Smith confirmed that Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner, has been working on capturing where those ditches are and they can try to get that included.

Commissioner Duerr suggested Mr. Smith meet with all the Public Works Directors and bring back a proposal.

Commissioner Brekhus discussed the need for representation from Reno's Public Works Director on how this syncs up with other directions from Reno City Council and suggested pausing Phase 2.

Commissioner Dahir discussed why he felt they should not pause Phase 2.

Mr. Wessel suggested Phase 2 could be giving Mr. Smith time to incorporate the new data that has not been included yet.

Mr. Smith stated he could meet with Aaron Smith, Washoe County, regarding the data he has, and talk with each jurisdiction's Public Works Director to find out where this sits in their priorities. This project stalled about a year and a half ago because it wasn't a priority at the time.

Commissioner Duerr told Mr. Smith that if he is not getting the support he needs from the jurisdictions to get back with us and we can find out what's going on with our Public Works Departments.

Chair Hartung suggested sending this back to the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) to work on a scope of work to recommend to the WRWC.

Commissioner Duerr felt it is well underway and did not need to go back to the NNWPC.

Chair Hartung noted there is funding involved.

Mr. Jeremy recapped Phase 2 funding. The original estimate for Phase 2 was around \$80,000 but it would be important to get other information to see if that number still holds.

Mr. Wessel discussed his communication with Aaron Smith who gave an estimate of about \$80,000 just to convert the data in CAD files to GIS. That would be an important element to accomplish.

John Flansberg, Reno Community Development Director, agreed with Chair Hartung about sending it back to the NNWPC to work with Mr. Smith on a scope of work.

COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO SEND THIS BACK TO THE NNWPC AND GIVE THE WRWC A RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUERR.

Commissioner Duerr wants to make sure Mr. Smith specifically reaches out to Mr. Flansberg to get data as well as meeting with the NNWPC.

Commissioner Brekhuis stated part of the discussion is also understanding from Reno's perspective the integration to their directive to stand up a storm water utility.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

6. Discussion and action on a NNWPC recommendation for a scope of work and funding, not to exceed \$250,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF), to support the Truckee River Foundation's proposal to implement the One Truckee River Management Plan; and, if approved, authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Truckee River Foundation for that purpose – Jim Smitherman and Iris Jehle-Peppard, One Truckee River Executive Director. (For Possible Action)

At the June 17, 2020 meeting the WRWC Board requested that One Truckee River Executive Director, Iris Jehle-Peppard meet with individual Board members to discuss concerns and return to the July 15, 2020 meeting to present a revised proposal. A revised proposal was presented by Ms. Jehle-Peppard and is included in the meeting packet. The previous proposal presented focused on how One Truckee River works internally and this proposal focuses on the projects that One Truckee River leads and is looking to support.

Public Comment: Susan Lynn spoke in support of the project.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK WITH FUNDING NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TRUCKEE RIVER FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ONE TRUCKEE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BREKHUIS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

7. Presentation of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's (TMWA) Draft 2020-2040 Water Resource Plan – Kara Steeland, TMWA, John Enloe, TMWA and Bill Hauck, TMWA.

The draft TMWA 2020-2040 Water Resource Plan was presented at the June 17, 2020 TMWA Board of Directors meeting and the July 1, 2020 meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission.

Kara Steeland and Bill Hauck from TMWA provided a presentation of the draft plan and were available to answer any questions from the commission.

8. Discussion and action on a NNWPC recommendation for a scope of work and funding, not to exceed \$150,000 from the RWMF, for consulting engineering assistance concerning the completion of the Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document Project – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

The Project has progressed over the first two years of the three-year Agreement with four of the eight Project Tasks completed. The Team recently determined that external engineering technical support is necessary to assist in the completion the Project. Staff requested a proposal from Mr. Roy Johnson, Managing Engineer at Brown and Caldwell, who developed the effluent

management framework that serves as the basis for the Project. A proposal is included in the meeting packet. The net fiscal impact to the RWMF for this item, if approved, will not exceed \$70,000 in FY 2020-2021.

Commissioner Brekhus expressed concern moving on to Phase 2 before a report on Phase 1 has been seen by Reno City Council. We are continuing to move down technical outcome paths without having the policy implications known or vetted by the policy makers, and how this scope of work fits into other activities we may have at our home jurisdictions.

Commissioners Dahir and Weber and Chair Hartung expressed support to move forward with the project.

Mr. Smitherman explained the structure and efforts of the Regional Effluent Management Team. The project is endeavoring to give viable alternatives that have been vetted through at least the technical aspects and then lay out some possible pathways.

Commissioner Duerr discussed the need for some interim information coming back soon so we can have policy discussions.

Commissioner Dahir stated this is a tool to help each jurisdiction make those policy decision.

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SCOPE OF WORK AND FUNDING, NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 FROM THE RWMF, FOR CONSULTING ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE CONCERNING THE COMPLETION OF THE REGIONAL EFFLUENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING GUIDANCE DOCUMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BROWN AND CALDWELL FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WEBER.

Commissioner Duerr asked that if this passes, staff will give an update as this is proceeding so we understand how this is evolving and the policy implications.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSITION BY COMMISSIONER BREKHUS.

9. Discussion and action on the Water Resources Program Manager position – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

In anticipation of Mr. Smitherman's retirement, he recommended last January that Chris Wessel be appointed Interim Program Manager effective upon his retirement. In addition, he recommend that Washoe County conduct an open competitive recruitment for a Water Resources Program Manager and provide the WRWC with a list of qualified candidates who have been interviewed and approved for hire by Washoe County. The WRWC could then interview and select from among the candidates and indicate to the County which candidate is the WRWC's choice.

No action is required unless there is a change in the direction given in January.

10. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items and dates for future WRWC meetings – Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)

The WRWC will meet again in October 21, 2020. Possible agenda items: Audit Report; proposal from TMRPA for GIS; hiring of the Program Manager position; Regional Effluent Management Team update; Integrated Source Water Protection Program update.

11. Commission Comments

Chair Hartung presented Mr. Smitherman with an award in appreciation of his years of service.

12. Staff Comments

The Water Environment Federation presented the 2020 Public Official of the Year Award to Vaughn Hartung. Lydia Perry, TMWA, received their \$25,000 scholarship award.

Mr. Wessel expressed appreciation for Mr. Smitherman.

13. Public Comment

None

14. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2020.

Chair Vaughn Hartung