

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

The Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 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 8:34 a.m. There was a quorum present.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Sandra Ainsworth ( <i>present at 9:01</i> )	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
Alexis Hill	TMWA (Washoe County)
Bob Lucey ( <i>absent at 9:47 a.m.</i> )	TMWA (STMGID Successor)
Bonnie Weber	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF)

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
None	

**2. Public Comment**

Staff forwarded emails from Beth Dory and Michael DeMartini to the WRWC members.

Mathew DeMartini stated that he was not allowed to participate at all during the last Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) meeting and there is no record of the comments he submitted for that meeting.

Michael DeMartini spoke regarding issues with the public comment process. He requested to speak at the last NNWPC meeting and was not allowed into the meeting to comment until after the commission heard and deliberated on the item without hearing his information. He also stated that he was not allowed to witness the NNWPC meeting until they were on Agenda Item 4.

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

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

**4. Approval of the Minutes for the December 16, 2020, meeting. (For Possible Action)**

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

**5. Election of WRWC Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2021 calendar year – Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager (For Possible Action)**

The WRWC Act states that the terms of these offices are for one calendar year but it is silent as to rotation or any other limitation.

COMMISSIONER HILL MADE A MOTION TO SELECT COMMISSIONER HARTUNG AS CHAIR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAHIR.

Commissioner Brekhus stated she will not support the motion until a City of Reno representative is either the Chair or Vice Chair. Based on the history of the offices included in the staff report, a City of Reno representative has only held one of the seats ten percent of the time and Chair Hartung has been Chair since 2015. We work best when these are rotated around.

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

CHAIR HARTUNG MADE A MOTION TO SELECT COMMISSIONER DAHIR AS VICE CHAIR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON.

Commissioner Brekhus noted that for the same reasons stated on the previous motion, she will not support this motion.

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

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO SELECT COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH AS SECRETARY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WEBER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**6. Update on the status of the scope of work funded by the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF), in support of the One Truckee River Coalition to implement the One Truckee River Management Plan, and possible direction to staff. Chris Wessel and Iris Jehle-Peppard, One Truckee River Executive Director (For Possible Action)**

*(Commissioner Ainsworth present at 9:01 a.m.)*

Iris Jehle-Peppard, One Truckee River Executive Director, provided a status report on the progress to date. The project was funded for a 12-month period, however, start of the project was delayed several months and a time extension through December 31, 2021 is being requested to complete the project objectives, with no change to the original funding amount.

Public Comment: Jerry Wager referred to the storm water related education program mentioned in the presentation and asked if any thought has been given to extending that to ditch owners.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard responded to the public comment stating that they can focus on exploring that suggestion.

Public Comment: Michael DeMartini stated that was a good comment by Mr. Wager to expand the study to include ditches. Mr. DeMartini also discussed an issue of water rights related to runoff from residential properties.

Commissioner Duerr asked for more information on the grants they are getting and the ones that are being denied.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard stated they are getting support from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). The Nevada State Parks was competitive but when we applied for West Street Plaza they had questions about the City of Reno requesting \$30,000 for the permitting process. Ms. Jehle-Peppard explained that she talked with the City of Reno Parks Director to see if those fees can be waived or if there is some way the City of Reno can provide a funding match for the work.

Commissioner Duerr suggested that Ms. Jehle-Peppard reach out to the City of Reno representatives on this commission if she runs into challenges.

Commissioner Brekhus discussed the signage project and asked about resources to include the removal of defective or obsolete signs.

Commissioner Anderson requested clarification on the requests made in the presentation versus the proposed motion in the staff report to extend the contract.

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, explained that the agenda item as written does not allow for action to be taken on the proposed motion in the staff report. It does allow for direction to be given to staff.

Commissioner Dahir asked if there are plans to do more Portland Loo installations.

Commissioner Weber asked how to get more information on RVs and vehicles being moved to another location.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard stated in response to the containment of water connected to residential stormwater work that she will connect offline with Mr. Wright Jr. The Nevada Land Trust has been leading the signage project effort and Ms. Jehle-Peppard will reach out to them to see if there are plans for removal of old signs. She confirmed that they received funding from NDEP last year for installation of the next loo at Fisherman's Park. She explained that they are exploring a safe RV and vehicle parking site for people off of the river.

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO BRING THIS BACK ON A FUTURE AGENDA WHERE FORMAL ACTION CAN BE TAKEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WEBER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**7. Review and discussion concerning the results of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) recommendations on annual priorities for ongoing and future projects and studies for fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022, and possible direction to staff. Chris Wessel (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Wessel presented information included in the staff report recommending that the WRWC review and discuss recommendations from the NNWPC and approve, with or without changes, the recommendations for priorities for the upcoming year. The NNWPC Priority Ranking by Category and Project was included in the staff report for review and discussion.

Chair Hartung discussed the need for Regional Wastewater Planning to be much higher on the list of priorities.

Commissioner Duerr discussed the need for WRWC members to have input on the rankings. She stated she is not sure she understands all the details of the projects listed. She noted that Regional Stormwater Planning and Regional Flood Planning are tied in the ranking and yet very few of the projects align with the recommendation to focus on those. There also seems to be a project missing related to Regional Stormwater and Flood Planning. The key item to get those done is a regional discharge or regional flood model and that has been proposed by the Flood Board but has received very little traction. She asked staff to think about how they can engage the WRWC, how we can find out what's missing, and how we can best work with the NNWPC going forward.

Commissioner Brekhus discussed the Long Valley Creek Feasibility Study and stated the Reno City Council voted that Long Valley will not be a recipient for that effluent, so any study of that is for naught. The Regional Wastewater Study is fine in order to have a baseline understanding of how wastewater is treated in our region. Taking it to the next step should be in a different forum maybe as we all sit in our jurisdictions.

Chair Hartung stated that Washoe County also has a wastewater treatment plant and has not abandoned the study of Long Valley Creek.

Commissioner Duerr stated that Long Valley Creek is not a reclaimed water study at this point, it is a discharge and it belongs in Regional Wastewater Planning.

Commissioner Dahir discussed the need for the WRWC to have a voice at the table to lay out the priorities for the region and stated it would be good to have that conversation with the NNWPC at the joint meeting.

It was determined that no action is required at this time and this item will be addressed at the joint meeting next month.

Commissioner Duerr asked if they will be having a strategic planning meeting for the WRWC to discuss this item or if they will be having a meeting with the NNWPC.

Mr. Wessel stated the plan for the next joint meeting of the WRWC and the NNWPC is to discuss stormwater and closed basins, and then have a regional effluent management presentation. It will be a two-hour meeting starting at 8:00 a.m. on March 17.

Commissioner Duerr suggested Chair Hartung meet with staff and think through what the best process would be for this item.

*(Commissioner Lucey absent at 9:47 a.m.)*

No action was taken.

**8. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the WRWC tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022, and possible direction to staff regarding the time and place for a public hearing on the tentative budget, and possible direction to staff. Chris Wessel (For Possible Action)**

Due to time constraints, this item will be moved to a special meeting.

No action was taken.

**9. Review, discussion, and possible update of WRWC Resolution #3 which provides certain administrative authority to the WRWC Program Manager. Chris Wessel (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Wessel presented information included in the staff report. The intent of this proposed amendment is to enhance efficiency of contract management by staff in support of contracts sponsored by the Regional Water Management Fund. The additional authority this amendment would delegate to the WRWC Program Manager was included with the staff report.

COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 3, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON.

There was discussion clarifying the authority this resolution would give to the Program Manager.

Commissioner Brekhuis suggested changing the standing Agenda Item 14 to a Program Manager's Report to include information on what the Program Manager has exercised pursuant to this resolution. That is a good way to keep an eye on it and give him the tools he needs.

COMMISSIONER DAHIR AMENDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION WITH THE AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE DUTY FOR THE PROGRAM MANAGER TO REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD ON CONTRACTS THAT HE APPROVES OR EXTENDS, COMMISSIONER ANDERSON SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**10. Discussion and possible establishment of the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee for the 2021 session of the Nevada Legislature, and possible direction to staff. Chris Wessel (For Possible Action)**

CHAIR HARTUNG MADE A MOTION TO ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, TO BE COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: COMMISSIONERS HILL, DUERR AND DAHIR WITH COMMISSIONERS BREKHUIS AND ANDERSON AS ALTERNATES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WEBER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**11. Report on status of the 2021-2040 Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP) update process and anticipated timeframe; and possible direction to staff. Chris Wessel (For Possible Action)**

Due to time constraints, this item will be moved to next month.

No action was taken.

**12. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items and dates for future WRWC meetings**

Nothing in addition to the items discussed under previous agenda items.

**13. Commission Comments**

None

**14. Staff Comments**

None

**15. Public Comment**

Michael DeMartini stated he would like to make a presentation at the next meeting on one of the agenda items on the North Valleys. He asked that staff notify him by email once a meeting date and time is established for the March meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.

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Chair Vaughn Hartung