

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

The Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 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 8:31 a.m. There was a quorum present.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
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	TMWA (STMGID Successor)
Bonnie Weber	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF)

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Sandra Ainsworth	Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID)

**2. Public Comment**

None

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

COMMISSIONER HILL 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 April 21, 2021, meeting. (For Possible Action)**

There was discussion regarding an email received from Michael DeMartini expressing concern that his public comment was not accurately reflected in the meeting minutes. Chair Hartung suggested having staff review the meeting recording to ensure that the comments are accurately reflected in the meeting minutes.

COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WEBER.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini agreed that information presented at the meeting should be reviewed and reflected in the meeting minutes. He also asked that the attachments provided with his public comment be included.

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

**5. Discussion, action, and possible approval of a project recommended by the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission, for a Regional Wastewater Source Control Plan Development-Phase 1 development plan; possible direction to staff - Chris Wessel, Water Resources Program Manager and Krishna Pagilla, PhD. Director, Nevada Water Innovation Institute (For Possible Action)**

Krishna Pagilla, Nevada Water Innovation Institute (NWII), gave a presentation on the proposed project. NWII will develop wastewater source control frameworks for each of the five (5) regional water reclamation facilities. The proposed work is focused on reducing pollutants to enhance and possibly expand the opportunities to use wastewater effluent in existing and future water recycling projects. NWII envisions two (2) project phases. Phase 1 is the initial focus and is planned as a single joint regional project initiative. Phase 1 is the subject of the current contract proposal. NWII and individual agencies would plan and implement the facility-specific tasks related to Phase 2.

Mr. Pagilla and Chris Wessel, Water Resources Program Manager, answered questions from Commissioners on details of the project.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini stated he agrees with a lot of what has been said on this item. There are some major hurdles that need to be addressed because the resulting cost of some of what has been proposed might be more than what the communities can support.

Commissioner Dahir discussed the importance of this project and thanked Dr. Pagilla for his work.

Chair Hartung echoed Commissioner Dahir's comments and stated it is an honor to have Dr. Pagilla in our region.

COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$170,000, UPON APPROVAL OF THE FY2021-2022 BUDGET, IN SUPPORT OF A PROJECT FOR A REGIONAL WASTEWATER SOURCE CONTROL PLAN DEVELOPMENT-PHASE 1 AND ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO'S NEVADA WATER INNOVATION INSTITUTE FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HILL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**6. Presentation regarding unique characteristics of closed basin hydrology and possible future agenda items related to closed basin studies – Chris Wessel**

Mr. Wessel gave the presentation. The Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) ranked closed basin studies as one of their highest priorities. The priority ranking is reflected in the WRWC tentative annual budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 which will be presented for adoption at a public hearing on May 20, 2021. Today's presentation provides

contextual background on characteristics of closed basin hydrology and the unique challenges they present.

Dwayne Smith, Washoe County, discussed the floodplain management work in Lemmon Valley and answered questions regarding the process of updating flood maps.

Dave Kershaw, TMWA, discussed TMWA's involvement with groundwater modeling and helping partners address impacts and mitigations to closed basin areas and potential flooding issues.

John Flansberg, City of Reno, stated they are recommending that the flood maps contain not just 100 year flood areas but 500 year flood areas as well.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini stated that the current open file report by the USGS for Cold Springs Valley says that in Cold Springs we need to reclaim approximately 800 acre feet of water before it mixes with the more toxic water in the lake. We need to use our technology to create a solution to keep the water from getting contaminated and use it as a resource.

**7. Report, discussion and action on legislative activities, including Bill Draft Requests and Bills pending in the 2021 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC / NNWPC; and possible action on WRWC Legislative Subcommittee recommendations regarding pending legislation – Michael Pagni, Legal Counsel (For Possible Action)**

Michael Pagni, WRWC Legal Counsel, reported on the activities of the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee. No bills have been identified that would have a significant adverse impact on the WRWC.

Mr. Pagni disclosed that his firm does represent Heinz Ranch Land Company which is a private developer that has supported AB333. At the request of the Bill sponsor, Mr. Pagni did testify in support of the Bill solely on behalf of Heinz.

Commissioner Brekhus stated she is uncomfortable with dual representation on AB333.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini stated that he respectfully disagrees with a number of the points Mr. Pagni made regarding AB333. He stated that he has been recognized as an expert planner by the State Engineer's office and there are some things in AB333 that do not conform to the operation at the State Engineer's office. He also disagrees with public funding paying for Mr. Pagni to be a lobbyist for the WRWC and TMWA and at the same time be a lobbyist for a large developer.

Staff received an email from Matthew DeMartini that has been forwarded that to the WRWC and will be entered into the record and posted.

CHAIR HILL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRWC LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUERR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

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

There will be a WRWC budget meeting on May 20 and the next regular WRWC meeting will be on June 16.

**9. Commission Comments**

None

**10. Staff Comments**

None

**11. Public Comment**

None

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

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

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Chair Vaughn Hartung