

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION
AND
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION**

CONCURRENT MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

The concurrent meeting of the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) Board of Trustees and the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, in the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Corporate Office - Independence Room, 1355 Capital Blvd, Reno, NV, and conducted the following business.

1. Roll Call

WRWC Chair Hartung and NNWC Chair Solaro called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

<u>WRWC Commissioners Present:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Sandra Ainsworth	Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID)
Kristopher Dahir	City of Sparks
Vaughn Hartung	Washoe County
Alexis Hill (zoom)	TMWA (Washoe County)
Donald Abbott	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF)

<u>WRWC Commissioners Absent:</u>	<u>Appointed by:</u>
Paul Anderson	Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) (Sparks)
Jenny Brekhus	TMWA (Reno)
Naomi Duerr	City of Reno
Bob Lucey	TMWA (STMGID Successor)

NNWPC Commissioners Present: Bill Hauck, Danielle Henderson (zoom), Michael Drinkwater, John Enloe, John Flansberg (zoom), John Martini, Chris Melton, David Solaro, Kara Steeland, Michael Widmer (zoom), Mervin Wright

NNWPC Commissioners Absent: Mickey Hazelwood

Staff Members Present: Kim Rigdon, Birgit Widegren, Lucas Foletta, Jennifer Purgitt

2. Pledge of Allegiance

NNWPC Chair Solaro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

NNWPC COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY NNWPC COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) NNWPC COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

WRWC COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY WRWC COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) WRWC COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the WRWC Meeting on October 19, 2022. (For Possible Action by WRWC)

This item was continued to a future agenda.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the NNWPC Meeting on October 5, 2022. (For Possible Action by WRWC)

NNWPC COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY NNWPC COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) NNWPC COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

7. Presentation and discussion concerning schedule and travel logistics for site visits to advanced purified water facilities and learning centers – Mark Milan, Data Instincts, and Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager

Mark Milan, Data Instincts, presented information on the tours of purified water sites for WRWC and NNWPC members. The first site visit to the Albert Robles Learning Center and Orange County Water District is scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2023. The second site visit to the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center and Pure Water Monterey facilities is scheduled for February 16 and 17, 2023. Draft tour itineraries are included in the staff report. WRWC and NNWPC members may choose to attend one or both tours.

Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager, stated that staff is looking for confirmation of attendance no later than November 14, 2022. Due to current airline scheduling and staffing challenges, flight times are in flux and will be confirmed once booked.

8. Presentation concerning progress and status of Nevada Water Innovation Institute (NWII) studies and projects supported by the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF) – Dr. Krishna Pagilla, Director, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Dr. Laura Haak, Research Scientist

Dr. Krishna Pagilla, Director, Civil and Environmental Engineering, gave a presentation on the NWII activities and outcomes. The presentation also included background information on the NWII. Over the past five years, the University of Nevada, Reno, NWII, with regional partners, demonstrated advanced water reclamation to achieve Category A+ water. NWII continues to provide leadership and guidance to the OneWater Nevada collaborative through regional water management coordination. The Enhanced Source Control for Regional Water Reuse and Resource Protection Final Report summarizes existing water reclamation facility source control programs, details regulatory compliance for reuse strategies and evaluates problematic contaminants which may enter the wastewater collection systems for Phase 2 monitoring and sampling needs.

9. Action, discussion, and possible direction to staff for approval of a scope of work and funding not to exceed \$388,576 from the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF), for an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for the Regional Wastewater Enhanced Source Control Monitoring - Phase 2 project tasks – Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action by NNWPC and WRWC)

Ms. Rigdon presented the staff report. The scope of work includes developing specific sampling and monitoring plans for each water reclamation facility, performing data analysis, and completing all aspects of wastewater source control strategy development. Each facility agency is responsible to implement their individual sampling and monitoring plan for data collection. It is anticipated that each facility will contract separately or coordinate with UNR to conduct the sampling, monitoring, and analysis of samples during the project timeline. If the scope of work and funding are approved, the interlocal agreement will become effective January 1, 2023 with a project completion date of June 30, 2025.

NNWPC Commissioner Flansberg stated that he fully supports this initiative. It is an important initiative for us to understand what type of contaminants are coming into each of our wastewater treatment plant streams and how we are going to treat for those as we look to our processes and our future growth.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini spoke regarding the important factor of TDS with source water control.

NNWPC Commissioner Drinkwater noted the importance and benefit of source water control on many levels.

NNWPC COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE WRWC APPROVAL AND FUNDING OF AN ILA WITH UNR FOR SERVICES OUTLINED IN REGIONAL WASTEWATER ENHANCED SOURCE CONTROL MONITORING - PHASE 2 PROPOSAL AND FUNDING, NOT TO EXCEED \$388,576 FROM THE RWMF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSED FUNDING SCHEDULE, CONTINGENT UPON ANNUAL NNWPC PRIORITIES SETTING AND WRWC BUDGET APPROVAL, AND A PROJECT COMPLETION DATE OF JUNE 30, 2025, SECONDED BY NNWPC COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) NNWPC COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

WRWC Chairman Hartung stated that this initiative is about source water protection and keeping pollutants out of wastewater.

WRWC Vice Chairman Dahir asked if this initiative got the region ahead of potential legislation for PFAS.

NNWPC Commissioner Martini stated that there was a whole list of emerging contaminants and UNR's Scope of Work puts the region in a good situation to be better suited to react to any legislation.

WRWC Chairman Hartung agreed and stated he is confident that the UNR team will help stay ahead of those situations.

WRWC Commissioner Hill stated she was excited to support the initiative.

Public Comment:

Matthew DeMartini noted the A+ water factor behind the project and stated he is not interested in drinking an effluent through indirect potable use.

WRWC COMMISSIONER DAHIR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING, NOT TO EXCEED \$388,576 FROM THE RWMF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSED FUNDING SCHEDULE, CONTINGENT UPON ANNUAL NNWPC PRIORITIES SETTING AND WRWC BUDGET APPROVAL, FOR AN ILA WITH UNR FOR SERVICES OUTLINED IN THE REGIONAL WASTEWATER ENHANCED SOURCE CONTROL MONITORING - PHASE 2 PROPOSAL WITH A PROJECT COMPLETION DATE OF JUNE 30, 2025, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH UNR, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023, SECONDED BY WRWC COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FIVE (5) WRWC COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**10. Update and status report on the Steamboat Ditch Flood Evaluation Phase 1 study –
Dwayne Smith, Director Engineering and Capital Projects**

Dwayne Smith, Director Engineering and Capital Projects, gave a presentation on the Steamboat Ditch Flood Evaluation Phase 1 study. The study evaluates a portion of Steamboat Irrigation Ditch through the urbanized areas within the jurisdictions of Washoe County and the City of Reno between Hunter Creek and Evans Creek. The effort is intended to provide support to Washoe County and the City of Reno for assessment of potential flood control outlet improvements on the Steamboat Ditch. The scope of work was included in the staff report.

Mr. Smith answered questions from commissioners regarding the study.

NNWPC Commissioner Hauck asked if there will be other studies on ditches compromised during the last flood.

NNWPC Commissioner Wright stated concerns about mercury contamination going into the Truckee River from Steamboat Ditch and asked how water quality issues with mercury and other contaminants would be considered.

Mr. Smith noted the collaborative effort of this work. They are very sensitive to the environment and impacts from irrigation ditches to the Truckee River and those considerations will be brought into the process.

WRWC Vice Chairman Dahir asked if part of the study was to evaluate fire mitigation of fuels concerns from constituents.

Mr. Smith responded that both the Cities of Reno and Sparks have maintenance agreements with the ditch companies to remove underbrush.

WRWC Commissioner Hill discussed public participation and offered to help with outreach opportunities.

WRWC Chairman Hartung asked if natural drainages that could be diverted above or below the ditch were identified.

Mr. Smith stated that they were identified during Phase 1.

WRWC Chairman Hartung stated that the issues needed to be dealt with regionally and that the WRWC had funded the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency to map all stormwater drainage in the region. He also remarked that the Orr Ditch provided groundwater recharge, as did other ditches in the valley and that should be a consideration.

Mr. Smith confirmed for WRWC Chair Hartung that he will bring back not only findings but recommendations.

11. Report, discussion, and possible direction to staff concerning the results of the NNWPC annual priorities setting workshop held on October 5, 2022, to prioritize projects and studies for fiscal year 2024 – Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager and Birgit Widegren, Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action by NNWPC and WRWC)

Ms. Rigdon presented the staff report. On October 5, 2022, the NNWPC conducted its annual workshop to develop a prioritized list of identified projects and subjects for FY24 that reinforce the goals of the Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP). The outcome of the workshop has historically been used as the basis for development of the professional services portion of the WRWC tentative budget.

The NNWPC members ranked the planning subjects, scored each project, and reviewed the resulting professional services budget for FY24 with all projects and priorities fully funded. The NNWPC also directed staff to prepare an additional professional services budget option to compare the budget with all projects fully funded with one that omits funding for projects that scored 30 or less points (the redline) during the priorities setting exercise. Both budget options are included with the staff report for review.

WRWC Vice Chairman Dahir asked why FY24 funds would not be distributed to projects when the fund is replenished annually, and the money goes to the community.

WRWC Chairman Hartung said that if there was a reduction in water use due to a drought, there would be less money in the fund.

WRWC Vice Chairman Dahir stated that the redline should be lower, however, maybe the scoring break will encourage project proponents to get their projects in order.

NNWPC Vice Chairman Widmer stated that he chaired the NNWPC priority setting workshop and the redline was created to determine if there was a major scoring break between projects and they did not discuss cutting the programs that fell below the redline. He suggested that if projects were to be cut, there should be care and skill used in those decisions.

NNWPC Commissioner Martini stated that he asked staff to find the scoring break point. He said that there could be situations where a project asked for additional funding or a new worthy project came up during the fiscal year after all the money was encumbered. Having some funding available outside the budget cycle would increase flexibility.

WRWC Vice Chairman Dahir agreed that having some remaining funds made sense.

WRWC Chairman Hartung asked about how the funds are encumbered, and staff responded that the funds are encumbered until the agreement expires or terminates.

NNWPC Commissioner Enloe stated that there are sometimes uncertainty of scope and timing issues for some projects that fell below the redline. He said all the projects were good and worthy of funding, but the NNWPC pulled back due to the uncertainty of some projects.

Staff asked for direction on what projects that fell below the redline should be funded or if WRWC had questions on projects.

WRWC Chairman Hartung said the NNWPC should make those recommendations and then the WRWC would take action.

WRWC Commissioner Hill asked for more information regarding the Lemmon Valley Flood Mitigation Analysis. Staff said they do not have a Scope of Work.

WRWC Vice Chairman Dahir said it made sense for the NNWPC to determine whether projects were ready and fundable and tell the WRWC why they made those decisions.

WRWC Chairman Hartung suggested tabling the discussion.

NNWPC Commissioner Henderson said that she couldn't make the NNWPC priority setting workshop, appreciated the discussion and was pleased to hear that projects under the redline were worthy of funding. She supported the One Truckee River project because it makes steady progress on tasks that other agencies aren't doing. She stated that she would support funding some or all the projects that fell below the redline.

Public Comment:

Michael DeMartini expressed concern regarding potential flooding in the North Valleys and noted the Silver Lake water level is not dropping as fast as it should be.

No action was taken.

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

Ms. Rigdon stated she was not preparing to hold December meetings because she will be on vacation leave the first week of December during the regularly scheduled NNWPC meeting and explained there were no pressing agenda items for a December WRWC meeting. She inquired if there were any objections from the board to resume meetings in January 2023.

Ms. Rigdon stated the next NNWPC meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2023, and the next WRWC meeting will be held January 18, 2023.

WRWC Vice Chairman Dahir did express that he was fine not having a December meeting, and the January advanced purified water facility site visit planning and logistics will need to be well communicated with the board.

Ms. Rigdon said staff will send email updates and get the calendar invites out as soon as possible.

There were no objections from the WRWC or NNWPC members to resume meetings in January 2023.

13. Public Comment

None

14. Commission Comments

NNWPC Commissioner Widmer volunteered his time to put together a thumbnail sketch with some history and background behind each of the projects.

Several WRWC Commissioners expressed appreciation for the expertise of the NNWPC Commissioners and the work they have done prioritizing projects.

15. Staff Comments

None

16. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2023.

WRWC Chair Vaughn Hartung