

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

The Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at the Sparks Council Chambers, 745 4th Street, Sparks, Nevada, and conducted the following business.

1. Roll Call

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

Commissioners Present:

Donald Abbott
Paul Anderson
Jenny Brekhus
Naomi Duerr
Mariluz Garcia
Kristopher Dahir
Susan Severt

Appointed by:

Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF)
Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) (Sparks)
TMWA (Reno)
City of Reno
TMWA (STMGID Successor)
City of Spark
Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID)

Commissioners Absent:

Vaughn Hartung
Alexis Hill

Appointed by:

Washoe County
TMWA (Washoe County)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Abbott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

Vice Chair Dahir stated that Chair Hartung has resigned and will no longer be on this Board. Agenda Item 5 to elect new officers will be postponed until the full Board is present.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ITEM 5 REMOVED AND ITEMS 10 AND 13 MOVED UP BEFORE ITEM 5, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUERR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Election of WRWC Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2023 Calendar Year (For Possible Action)

This item was postponed.

6. Approval of the Minutes from the January 18, 2023, WRWC Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ABBOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUERR. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION BY VICE CHAIR DAHIR.

7. Presentation and report regarding the Truckee Meadows Source Water and Watershed Protection Plan update - Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager, Kara Steeland, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and Jill Sutherland, RCI, Inc.

Kara Steeland, TMWA, and Jill Sutherland, RCI, gave the presentation on the Truckee Meadows Source Water and Watershed Protection Plan. They answered questions and received feedback from commissioners on the following topics: wellhead protection needs; wastewater testing; and future work with Washoe County and Sparks.

8. Presentation and report on the One Truckee River (OTR) project status - Birgit Widgren, Water Management Planner, and Iris Jehle-Peppard, OTR Executive Director

Iris Jehle-Peppard, OTR, gave the presentation on the project status. She answered questions and received feedback from commissioners on the following topics: expanding restoration efforts into urban areas; budget; how people can be more river friendly; trail signs along the river; past contract with Karma Box Project; current contract with The Reno Initiative; and Reno's decision to invest in a Truckee River park.

9. Presentation and report regarding WRWC and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) purified water facility site visits - Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager, and Mark Millan, Principal, Data Instincts

Mark Millan, Data Instincts, gave the presentation on the water facility site visits.

Ms. Rigdon presented feedback and takeaway highlights on the visits from the participants. Overall the experience was valuable for the Board.

Mr. Millan answered questions and received feedback and will be at future meetings with more information on outreach and funding needs.

10. Action, discussion, and possible direction to staff for the approval of the WRWC tentative budget for fiscal year 2024 (FY24); and to schedule a public hearing for adoption by the WRWC - Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager (For Possible Action)

Ms. Rigdon presented the staff report. On March 1, 2023, the NNWPC approved the draft WRWC FY24 tentative budget and made a recommendation to the WRWC for approval.

Ms. Rigdon answered questions from Commissioner Brekhus regarding the Cold Springs Water Balance Modeling. Washoe County was waiting for the Rapid Infiltration Basin Analysis to be complete before further developing the scope of work for the Cold Springs Water Balance. That analysis was presented to the Regional Effluent Management Team a week ago and the report was sent to all the agency directors. Dwayne Smith, Washoe County, is currently developing the Cold Springs Water Balance scope of work and that will be ready this spring.

Commissioner Duerr discussed Washoe County and Reno efforts to stand up a storm water utility and the potential need for help in the future from the WRWC with storm water utility issues.

Ms. Rigdon confirmed for Commissioner Duerr that we are working on a Steamboat Ditch Flooding Study. Dwayne Smith presented the results of phase 1 of the study in our concurrent meeting in November. She also confirmed that we are co-funding that and do not have an amount set until we see the scope of work.

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT WRWC TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY24, DIRECT STAFF TO SUBMIT AND FILE THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY STATUTE, AND PROVIDE NOTICE, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET TO BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M., SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

11. Report, discussion, and possible direction to staff regarding the NNWPC public at large position vacancy and recruitment - Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager (For Possible Action)

Ms. Rigdon presented the staff report. The vacant position recruitment has been advertised on the NNWPC and WRWC websites, in the Reno Gazette-Journal, and to the following committees: the TMWA Standing Advisory Committee; Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee; Reno Neighborhood Advisory Boards; Reno Citizens Institute; Washoe County Citizen Advisory Boards; and the Washoe County Leadership Academy. So far three applications have been received. If more than five applications are received, we will apply the evaluation criteria and bring the top five to the NNWPC to make a recommendation to the WRWC for the appointment.

No action was taken.

12. Report, discussion, and action on legislative activities, including Bill Draft Requests and Bills pending in the 82nd (2023) 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 - Lucas Foletta, McDonald Carano (For Possible Action)

Lucas Foletta, McDonald Carano, presented the report and discussed the process for this legislative session.

Vice Chair Dahir asked the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee to look at AB220 and expressed concern regarding the current wording and potential unintended consequences.

No action was taken.

13. Action, discussion, and possible direction to staff to make an appointment to the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee for the 2023 session of the Nevada Legislature (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONERS DUERR, ANDERSON, AND HILL WITH COMMISSIONERS BREKHUS AND ABBOTT AS ALTERNATIVES TO THE WRWC LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE 2023 SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE TO TRACK AND POSSIBLY ADVANCE POSITIONS ON PENDING LEGISLATION THAT MAY AFFECT OR BE OF INTEREST TO THE WRWC/NNWPC, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

14. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items and dates for future WRWC meetings (For Possible Action)

The next WRWC meeting will be on May 18 and will include the budget hearing. The June 19 meeting will include project presentations and agreements.

Vice Chair Dahir expressed interest in more site visit opportunities for the WRWC.

No action was taken.

15. Public Comment

None

16. Commission Comments

Vice Chair Dahir expressed appreciation for Chair Hartung's years of service.

17. Staff Comments

None

18. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2023.

WRWC Chair