

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 in the Reno City Council Chambers, 1 East First Street, Reno, Nevada.

- 1. Roll Call and determination of presence of a quorum** – Chairman Ball called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Voting Members Present:

George W. Ball, Jr., Chairman
Neil Krutz, Vice Chairman
John Buzzone
John Flansberg
Mickey Hazelwood
John Jackson
Darrin Price
Jerry Schumacher
Stan Shumaker

Voting Members Absent:

Michael DeMartini
John Erwin

Non-Voting Members Present:

My-Linh Nguyen

Non-Voting Members Absent:

John Bird
David Boland
Harry Fahnestock
Kelvin Hickenbottom
Janelle Thomas

Staff Members Present:

Jim Smitherman
June Davis
John Rhodes, Legal Counsel

2. Public Comments.

Chairman Ball called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

3. Approval of the agenda.

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve the March 7, 2012 meeting agenda as posted. Commissioner Flansberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Approval of minutes from the February 1, 2012 meeting.

Commissioner Buzzone made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2012 meeting as submitted. Commissioner Flansberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Discussion of the process to review the draft Washoe County Consensus Population Forecast and complete an analysis comparing future water demands to sustainable water resources; and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman.

Chairman Ball invited Jim Smitherman to present this item. Mr. Smitherman reminded members that in 2010, as part of the development of the Regional Water Plan, the NNWPC compared the potentially

available sustainable water resources in Washoe County with the estimate of the amount of water needed to support the projected 2030 population. He reported that the Water Plan identified estimated sustainable water resources of approximately 183,200 acre-feet per year. The Water Plan estimates a demand of approximately 142,000 acre-feet based on the projected 2030 population of 590,500. He summarized that the projected water demand is well below what is potentially available.

Mr. Smitherman explained that in 2010, the Regional Planning Governing Board (“RPGB”) identified the NNWPC as the group to compare the draft Consensus Forecast with the estimated population that could be supported by the sustainable water resources, as set forth in the Water Plan. The information is to be presented to the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) in April of even-numbered years, with the results of the comparison by the following May 1. The purpose is for the information to be available prior to adoption of the Consensus Forecast, which is out for review currently.

Mr. Smitherman reported that he recently met with Shawn Stoddard from Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). He stated that TMWA’s water production for 2011 is 13% less than what was projected in the 2010 Water Resources Plan. He added that the Consensus Population Forecast for 2030 looks to be approximately 8% less than two years ago. He summarized that the population forecast and water demand is flattening.

Mr. Smitherman stated that his proposal is to continue working with Mr. Stoddard to develop a comparison report for the NNWPC to consider and possibly recommend to the WRWC. He added that TMWA’s updated population projection for their Water Resource Plan, which is updated every five years is not due for another two years, (due in 2014).

Commissioner Price asked for clarification that the previous water resource projection, based on the consensus forecast, showed that sufficient resources were available, with the estimated population decreased. Mr. Smitherman stated that is correct. Commissioner Price asked if any resources that were previously identified are no longer available. Mr. Smitherman stated that issue will be examined; however, he is not aware of any such situations. He added that there is a requirement to prepare the comparison report.

Chairman Ball offered the NNWPC’s direction to proceed forward as requested.

6. Discussion of the process to update the Clean Water Act Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman.

Chairman Ball invited Mr. Smitherman to present an update. Mr. Smitherman explained that the existing Washoe County 208 Water Quality Management Plan states that it should be reviewed and updated every five years (2012 is the fifth year since adoption of the Plan by Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [“NDEP”]).

Mr. Smitherman reported that there have been some significant changes since the Plan was adopted, which merit a review and some type of update. He stated that based on the flattened population projections, wastewater flows projections should be reviewed and updated. He added that the task may or may not require the use of professional services but funding is set aside. He reported that the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) was signed in 2008. The WRWC was designated as the 208 Planning Agency for Washoe County.

Mr. Smitherman also noted that the Truckee Meadows Storm Water Management Plan was updated, as well as the Regional Water Management Plan since the 208 Plan was adopted.

Mr. Smitherman proposed (as previously done by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency) to

convene a small technical steering committee to review the 208 Plan to determine what revisions might be needed.

Chairman Ball stated that was a good idea. Commissioner Shumaker asked if the plan was to finalize the update of 208 Plan by the end of the year and added that the permit for Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”) is under review by the State. He mentioned that inclusion of the permit would be good. He suggested that possibly the completion date for the 208 Plan update be left open-ended. Mr. Smitherman agreed that was a good suggestion.

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, commented that if the State is further delayed in the permit approval, the 208 Plan update could be approved by the NNWPC and the permit could be included as an amendment.

7. Monthly update on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency’s (TMRPA) parcel-based population and employment modeling program, Jim Smitherman.

Chairman Ball requested an explanation of the parcel-based population and employment model as it relates to the Consensus Population in comparison to the sustainable water resources.

Mr. Smitherman stated that the model is not developed to the point of using it for that particular comparison; however, when it is complete, it will serve as a valuable tool in the process.

Mr. Smitherman reported that since his last update, he has been working on developing suitability factors in the form of geographic information system (“GIS”) coverage for water infrastructure. He stated that he met with TMWA and received a map of TMWA’s infrastructure zones/areas where different types of upgrades would be needed for future development. He stated that some zones would require a connection fee, which is included in the cursory ranking in the model. He summarized that he has adequate information from the water purveyors.

Mr. Smitherman stated that in addition, he would develop a suitability factor (using GIS coverage) that speaks to the availability of water resources for future development. Potential resources could include Truckee River water, groundwater, Vidler water, etc. He added that Vidler water would probably be available to developers at a higher cost. The water resources will be included as a layer in determining suitability factors for development.

Mr. Smitherman reported that TMRPA is still looking at a target date of June to pass on a new set of model runs to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for inclusion in their updated Regional Transportation Plan.

Chairman Ball asked if the water quality of the Vidler system has been evaluated for the impact on the water treatment plant. Commissioner Shumaker stated it has been evaluated and the impacts were not significant.

8. Program Manager’s Report

- a. Status report of projects and Work Plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund**
- b. Financial report on the Regional Water Management Fund**
- c. Informational report from the NNWPC representative on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Standing Advisory Committee (“TMWA SAC”)**

Mr. Smitherman reported that the items included in the agenda packet are provided as informational items. He reported that he provided an update to the TWMA SAC last month and the report was well-received.

Chairman Ball referred to the “Status Report of Projects and Work Plan” and asked why many of the items show zero percent complete. Mr. Smitherman stated that those items are in the process of finalizing agreements or purchase orders or nothing has been billed.

9. Discussion regarding agenda items for the April 4, 2012, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman.

Mr. Smitherman reported that the April NNWPC meeting would include the following agenda items:

- Election of new NNWPC Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- Review of the tentative Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget, with possible recommendation to the WRWC
- Discussion of the process to review the Washoe County Consensus Forecast
- Report on status of NDEP’s review of the Truckee River water quality nutrient standards
- Program Manager’s Report

Commissioner Price requested an update on the Legislative Oversight Committee’s prior meeting, along with the upcoming steps. Mr. Smitherman offered to provide a brief review of the meeting under Staff Items.

Commissioner Price stated that although TROA was signed, he heard there were additional lawsuits and requested an update. Mr. Smitherman stated that John Erwin provided a comprehensive update on TROA at the TMWA SAC meeting and offered to request a presentation to the NNWPC.

Commissioner Shumaker mentioned that RTC provided an update in December on the proposed relocation of Steamboat Creek and requested another update when it is appropriate. He mentioned that Commissioner Jackson had requested an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project.

10. Commission Comments.

Commissioner Price thanked Mr. Smitherman for the great work on the parcel-based model.

Commissioner Price announced that he would not be present at the next NNWPC meeting and requested not being appointed as Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

11. Staff Comments.

Mr. Smitherman stated that Chris Wessel was absent from this meeting because he was attending the Nevada Water Resource Association (NWRA) Conference in Southern Nevada.

Mr. Smitherman reported that the Legislative Oversight Committee members include Senator Lee, Senator Schneider, Senator Gustafson (Chairman), Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson, Assemblyman Daly, and Assemblyman Goicoechea (Vice-Chairman). Mr. Smitherman, Rosemary Menard, Jeff Tissier and Mark Foree discussed the consolidation efforts between TMWA and Washoe County Department of Water Resources. He stated that John Erwin provided a report on sources of water supply. He added that Darrin Price, Terri Svetich and Mark Foree provided an update on water, wastewater and reclaimed water infrastructure. Other discussion items included water quality, wastewater effluent issues (presented by John Buzzone), storm water management (by Terri Svetich) and information on interbasin transfer policies and process (presented by the State Engineer’s office). He added that Danielle Henderson also provided an update on the Truckee River Flood Project.

Chairman Ball asked about the discussion of the interbasin transfers. Mr. Rhodes stated that Kelvin Hickenbottom provided a general presentation of the processes and made references to Southern Nevada Water Authority requests and statutory requirements.

Mr. Smitherman stated there were a few questions on the ongoing septic and groundwater quality work. He summarized that presentation of the issues was well-received and there will probably be one additional meeting in July. At that time, any bill draft requests (BDRs) would be discussed.

12. Public Comments.

Chairman Ball called for public comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

13. Adjournment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2012.

George W. Ball, Jr., Chairman