

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 5, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) was held on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 in the Washoe County Commissioner Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

- 1. Roll Call and determination of presence of a quorum** – Chairman Buzzone called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Voting Members Present:

John Buzzone, Chairman  
Michael Drinkwater, Vice Chairman  
George W. Ball, Jr.  
Michael DeMartini  
John Erwin  
John Flansberg (arrived at 1:39 p.m.)  
Mickey Hazelwood  
Neil Krutz  
Darrin Price

Voting Members Absent:

John Jackson  
Jerry Schumacher

Non-Voting Members Present:

David Boland  
My-Linh Nguyen

Non-Voting Members Absent:

John Bird  
Harry Fahnestock  
Kelvin Hickenbottom  
Edmund Quaglieri

Staff Members Present:

Jim Smitherman  
Chris Wessel  
June Davis  
John Rhodes, Legal Counsel

**2. Public Comments.**

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

**3. Approval of the agenda.**

Commissioner Krutz made a motion to approve the June 5, 2013 meeting agenda as posted. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of minutes from the April 3, 2013 meeting.**

Commissioner Ball made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Chairman Buzzone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**5. Report on the Lahontan Reservoir Water Quality Standards review – Randy Pahl, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Water Quality Planning.**

Mr. Pahl reported that the NDEP Bureau of Water Quality Planning is responsible for setting water quality standards and develops total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) within the state. He provided a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file), which highlighted the following:

- NDEP is examining the water quality standards for the reach from Highway 95-A (south of Silver Springs) to the Lahontan Dam.
- The Water Quality Standards (WQS) are required by federal (Clean Water Act) and state law.
- The beneficial uses are defined as irrigation, livestock watering, aquatic life, drinking water, etc. The WQS numeric criteria are set based on protection of the beneficial use.
- The WQS are measured in order to protect streams and waterways and are used by the Bureau of Water Pollution Control in establishing discharge permit limits.
- The WQS are used in the voluntary non-point source program as a goal.
- The Clean Water Act clearly stated that NDEP's WQS cannot be used to override water quantity allocations and management.
- Lahontan's WQS had not been examined since 1984. Since that time, Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility ("TMWRF") has had many improvements, as has the Carson River watershed and wastewater management. The loads to Lahontan Reservoir via the Truckee Canal and Carson River have been reduced by about half.
- NDEP has been working with the Cities, TMWRF, Washoe County and TMWA on reviewing the Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL"), which establishes the nutrient load allocations. There is a lot of interest in revising the TMDL, which has been very challenging; however, progress is being made. The process identified the need to ensure that the Standards are correct. NDEP is examining the WQS for the Truckee River, Lahontan Reservoir and Pyramid Lake.
- The beneficial uses are based on factors such as existing uses, public concerns and, desired potential uses. Aquatic life, recreation and drinking water uses are the most restrictive and therefore, drive the criteria.
- Currently, Lahontan Reservoir is not meeting the standards for total suspended solids, turbidity and total phosphorus.
- When the Lahontan Reservoir TMDLs were set, they were set based on streams; NDEP will most likely examine the lake stratification in relation to the TMDLs at Lahontan.

Mr. Pahl summarized that the next steps are to finish sampling, develop a rationale document this fall (a petition that goes to the State Environmental Commission ["SEC"]), and continue to hold meetings with the focus group. He stated that his hope is to go to the SEC in early 2014 for approval; then to the State Legislative Committee and Attorney General for certification and the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") approval. He added that there are many opportunities to comment, including at this meeting. Future workshops will be held. He offered to make presentations to any groups as requested. Mr. Pahl invited questions or comments.

Chairman Buzzone asked what the timeframe is for development of the rationale document. Mr. Pahl stated he hopes to have it completed by January or sooner if possible.

Commissioner Erwin asked about the primary source of the phosphorus. Mr. Pahl stated that surrounding soils might be responsible for 15 to 20 percent. He stated that they are not sampling the lakebed. Commissioner Erwin asked if the Truckee Canal has been sampled. Mr. Pahl stated that sampling has been discussed with Desert Research Institute ("DRI"); however, it has not been implemented.

Commissioner Ball referred to the existing standards for the Carson River for dissolved oxygen and asked if regulators have trend information available on the lower Carson River over time versus temperature. Mr. Pahl stated he has not seen that information.

Chairman Buzzone thanked Mr. Pahl for his presentation.

**6. Report on the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”) pump-around and force main repair – Robert Lee, Senior Civil Engineer, City of Reno.**

Mr. Smitherman referred to the staff report that was included in the packet and stated there was some incorrect information so it was replaced by a revised report.

Robert Lee stated that he has the responsibility of the capital improvement program (“CIP”) for TMWRF. He provided a PowerPoint presentation on the headworks by-pass emergency for which repairs are presently in progress (copy of presentation on file). Highlights of the presentation included:

- A map of the TMWRF facility headworks, which showed two major interceptors that flow into the headworks facility, 4 raw sewage pumps that pump to grit removal and other structures
- In 2012, TMWRF plant staff and Mr. Lee began a risk assessment of the assets at the plant to serve as a basis for planning and prioritizing CIP projects. Thirty-six projects were identified that require improvement. The headworks facility was ranked number three on the list. Work had begun on the first two items and Stantec was contracted to assess the headworks improvement needs.
- In January 2012, a discharge header began leaking, almost simultaneously with a leak in a second discharge header. There was no way to isolate the lines so an emergency was declared. A pump-around of the headworks facility was implemented.
- The scope of work for the emergency included:
  - Replacement or repair of several gates
  - Repair / replacement of eroded concrete – sewage discharge piping was replaced
  - Termination of the pump-around is tentatively scheduled for early July

Mr. Lee invited questions or comments. Commissioner Price asked if any capacities were gained in the improvements. Mr. Lee stated no because the gates and openings were sized for the existing facility. He added that the goal in the emergency work was to be able to segregate flows in the headworks. Commissioner Price asked if Mr. Lee is confident that the capacity is still 46.5 million gallons per day (“MGD”). Mr. Lee explained that the 46.5 MGD is based on the ability to treat to certain discharge standards; however, the headworks facility is not connected to the quality of treatment. The headworks facility is based on the hydraulics to handle the flows; nothing was changed in the emergency work.

Commissioner Drinkwater, TMWRF Plant Manager, referred to the capacity question and stated that the existing manifold with four raw sewage pumps was increased in size. Commissioner Price stated that he understands that some of the new materials used increase the flow; however, the limiting portion is the permit. He stated that he was questioning some of the new design efficiencies.

Mr. Lee stated there are new hydraulic efficiencies in the newly installed components; however, the focus was on the emergency aspect (not capacity increases).

Commissioner Drinkwater added that there was no set of design specifications for the emergency; work was performed “on the fly”. He commended the Cities, plant staff, contractors, consultants and all involved for a job well done. He added that staff is confident that the scheduled deadline of July 3 to terminate the pump-around will be met.

Commissioner DeMartini asked about the cause of the leaks. Mr. Lee stated that it potentially was due to cavitation of a fitting and the pipe had corroded due to old age.

Mr. Lee stated that the cost of the emergency is approximately \$2.7 million for the piping and work in headworks, and approximately \$300,000 in consulting costs. The cost of the pump-around will be substantial (approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million for TMWRF perhaps) but was a necessary portion of the SouthEast Connector project so some funding will be provided by the Regional Transportation Commission ("RTC").

**7. Review and possible approval of the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") Routine Operating Budget for non-staff services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014, and possible direction to staff - Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager. (for possible action)**

Mr. Smitherman reported that this procedure is relatively routine to ensure that staff remains in compliance with the WRWC's Resolution Number 3, which authorizes him to approve in-budget expenditures not to exceed \$25,000 upon recommendation by the NNWPC, including the authority to authorize routine operational expenditures. He added that this budget was recently presented to and approved by the NNWPC as part of the WRWC Budget, which the WRWC approved.

Mr. Smitherman summarized that the Routine Operating Budget was \$103,000 for the last fiscal year. Contracts under this budget include preparation of minutes, servicing the website, video coverage of meetings, etc.

Commissioner Erwin made a motion to accept staff's recommendation. Chairman Buzzone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Price referred to the amount of almost \$490,000. Mr. Smitherman stated that the amount covers staff services, which were already approved under contract.

**8. Report on the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District ("STMGID"), issues arising from the pending consolidation of Washoe County's Water Utility with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA"), and possible consolidation of STMGID with TMWA, Jerry Schumacher, STMGID**

Commissioner Schumacher, STMGID Board of Trustees, was not present so this item was postponed to the next meeting.

**9. Report on legislative activities, including Bills pending in the 2013 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC / NNWPC, John Rhodes, NNWPC Legal Counsel.**

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, referred to the staff report included in the packet, which he added decreased in size based on Bills that died. He reported that the Legislative Committee to Oversee the Western Regional Water Commission will expire on July 1, 2013. He stated that an Open Meeting Bill was approved, and a Public Records Bill which will require that requests for public records must be honored within five days, even when made orally. He added that other Open Meeting Law requirements will be reviewed and implemented by staff.

Mr. Rhodes offered to provide a final legislative update report at the next NNWPC meeting. He invited questions or comments.

**10. Report on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency ("TMRPA") parcel-based population and employment modeling project and revised scope of work; and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager. (for possible action)**

Mr. Smitherman reported that TMRPA has been engaged in the ongoing Industrial Lands Needs Analysis. He stated that the prior day, the TMRPA held a workshop on the subject, which was attended by approximately twenty-five local government planners and private sector representatives. Most of the work on the supply side, including data for surrounding counties, has been completed.

Mr. Smitherman reported that the consultant will develop the demand analysis in June and July and expects to have a draft report for review by the Regional Planning Governing Board in August. He offered to invite TMRPA staff to present the report to the NNWPC as well.

Commissioner Price asked if any of the entities that would benefit from the scope expansion would participate in the cost. Mr. Smitherman stated he had not heard anything about the other counties providing funding; however, they have provided geographic information system (GIS) data as in-kind contributions.

Commissioner Price asked for clarification that the TMRPA model now includes other counties. Mr. Smitherman explained that the industrial land needs analysis does include lands in other counties because a new business would not be limited to Washoe County. He added that the analysis includes the Tahoe Regional Industrial Complex. Commissioner Price asked if inclusion of water and other layers would be expanded to the other counties. Mr. Smitherman stated he does not believe that is planned. He clarified that comments at an earlier workshop included expanding the industrial needs analysis to other counties based on size and availability.

#### **11. Program Manager's Report, Jim Smitherman.**

- 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 under this item are provided as informational items. He invited any questions or comments, of which there were none.

#### **12. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the July 3, 2013 NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff, Jim Smitherman.**

Mr. Smitherman reported that the next regularly scheduled meeting would fall on July 3. Commissioner Erwin made a motion to cancel the July meeting. Chairman Buzzone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Smitherman stated that there are upcoming agenda items for the August meeting, which include:

- NDEP Stormwater Program Audit
- Update on the TMDL project
- TMRPA staff to provide an update on the population and employment modeling project, including the Industrial Lands Needs Analysis
- Update on monitoring of domestic wells
- Climate change – environmental impacts to the water supply
- Standing Items
  - Legislative Update
  - Program Manager's Report
  - Status update on possible TMWA - STMGID merger

#### **13. Commission Comments.**

None

#### **14. Staff Comments.**

None

**15. Public Comments.**

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

**16. Adjournment.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on \_\_\_\_\_ 2013.

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John Buzzone, Chairman