

MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") was held in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada and conducted the following business:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Drinkwater at 1:35 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF PRESENCE OF A QUORUM

Voting Members Present: Michael Drinkwater, Mickey Hazelwood, Michael DeMartini, John Erwin (arrived at 1:43), Neil Krutz, Norman Harry, and Darrin Price.

Voting Members Absent: David Solaro, John Flansberg, George Ball, and Jerry Schumacher.

Non-Voting Members Present: Kim Davis and David Boland.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Harry Fahnestock, Kelvin Hickenbottom, and Edmund Quaglieri.

Staff Members Present: Jim Smitherman; Chris Wessel; June Davis; and John Rhodes, Legal Counsel.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 6, 2013, MEETING AGENDA AS POSTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAZELWOOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 2, 2013, MEETING

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2, 2013, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KRUTZ. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. REPORT ON THE RENO TECHNOLOGY PARK WATER SYSTEM AND PROPOSED SPARKS ENERGY PARK, LOCATED EAST OF SPARKS NEAR THE PATRICK EXIT ON THE NORTH SIDE OF INTERSTATE 80 – John Enloe, Stantec Consulting Inc.

[Commissioner John Erwin arrived at 1:43 p.m.]

John Enloe, Stantec Consulting, presented a status report on the Reno Technology Park.

Commissioner Harry asked for more information about waste water. Mr. Enloe stated that the special use permit that was approved for this project requires de-nitrifying septic systems for any of the facilities installed out there. This site may generate 3,000 gallons a day of treated waste water effluent that would be disposed of into a leach field.

Commissioner Krutz asked if they were far enough along to have preliminary alignments and costs estimates on the use of reclaimed water. Mr. Enloe responded that some feasibility work was done in 2010 in which they looked at alignment along the river, alignment along a regional corridor primarily used for transmission lines, and the alignment following gas lines that extend from northeast Sparks, run back over the ridge and drop down right into that property. Mr. Enloe

stated that the alignment following the gas lines on BLM property was the preferred alignment from a timing and constructability standpoint.

Commissioner Price asked if the 1,100 acre feet of groundwater rights is not enough. Mr. Enloe responded that it is not enough if they are looking at 2,400 to 3,000 acre feet for the entire power plant.

Commissioner Price asked what other opportunities are being explored if the reuse water doesn't come to fruition. Mr. Enloe mentioned Nick Pavich and Jack Ferris and stated that he is sure they are looking at other opportunities such as using water out of the river. Mr. Enloe also stated that a concept they would like to have investigated involves connecting Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility ("TMWRF") and South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, and Huffaker Reservoir, with an inter-connecting pipeline and delivering water from that system. This may not only provide the water they need for their purposes but also maximize potential reclaimed water management benefits to the community.

Jim Smitherman asked if they are talking about construction of one cooling tower or multiple cooling towers. Mr. Enloe replied that he does not know but that the power plant construction would be phased.

Mr. Smitherman asked if the use of the cooling water would be 100% consumption. Mr. Enloe responded yes and stated that there would be on-site containment.

Commissioner DeMartini stated that about fifteen years ago there was an application for a power plant out in the Wadsworth area. They were proposing some 3,000 acre feet of water consumption per year at a couple thousand gallons per minute per day. Commissioner DeMartini made the observation that the project was ultimately denied due to the fact that it was going to have such a high consumptive use of the water.

Vice-Chairman Drinkwater asked for confirmation regarding the un-used portion of the effluent they currently have. Terri Svetich, City of Reno Engineering Manager, stated that they have 6,700 acre feet of ground water component and right now they are using about 3,000 acre feet annually. Vice-Chairman Drinkwater requested confirmation that there would still be some available for new potential irrigation customers or other customers if this 3,000 went to the power plant. Ms. Svetich responded that is correct.

Vice-Chairman Drinkwater asked for confirmation that when this came up about three years ago there was a challenge with the site being so far out of the Truckee Meadows Service Area ("TMSA") and some regulatory constraints about where effluent could be served. Mr. Smitherman responded that there is a provision in the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan ("Regional Plan") that classifies delivery of reclaimed water as a municipal service. Mr. Smitherman stated that he does not believe that the Regional Plan has been amended or changed to modify that requirement so that is probably a minor hurdle that the project would have to clear.

- 6. REPORT BY THE NEVADA LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION ("NLA") ON THE 2013 CERTIFIED LANDSCAPE TECHNICIAN ("CLT") TESTING PROGRAM; REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FROM THE REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FUND TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM IN 2014 AND 2015; AND, IF APPROVED, AUTHORIZE THE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE NLA FOR THAT PURPOSE – Jim Stanhouse, CLT Program Administrator, NLA.**

Jim Stanhouse, CLT Program Administrator, reviewed the process of the CLT testing program.

Commissioner Price asked if this Commission is the only source of revenue for their budget. Mr. Stanhouse responded no and stated that they receive revenue from the candidates. The cost of the training is not fully recouped from the candidates and some of the funding from this Commission helps compensate for that.

Commissioner Price stated that he believes the intent of this funding is to assist with water conservation and to get the word out about the importance of the use of water. Commissioner Price expressed concern regarding whether or not the Commission is getting the best bang for their buck with regard to funding this program. There was discussion regarding certification requirements, funding, the number of candidates certified each year, and advertising for the training program.

Commissioner Erwin asked how many certified landscape technicians there are in the area. Mr. Stanhouse responded that there are 91.

Commissioner Erwin asked what main topics are addressed in the CLT training. Mr. Stanhouse replied mainline installation, lateral installation, programming controllers, valve repair, and trench installation. The written test also requires knowledge of Evapotranspiration ("ET") rates, friction loss, and pipe sizing.

Commissioner Erwin asked what feedback is received from the technicians. Mr. Stanhouse responded that the technicians are ecstatic and that just about every one of the certified technicians he knows has gained a lot from the training.

Commission Erwin asked if the technicians have to have continuing education in this field. Mr. Stanhouse responded that they are required to have 24 hours every two years.

Commissioner DeMartini stated that he feels this training is important and that funding it requires a small amount of money that has a large positive effect on the whole community with regard to water conservation.

Commissioner Price agreed that the training is important but reemphasized his concern stated earlier regarding getting the best bang for the buck. Commissioner Price asked whether the costs go down with fewer candidates. Mr. Stanhouse replied that, to an extent, the exam takes the same amount of dollars regardless of how many people are registered. Mr. Stanhouse also stated that this year they offered many more exams.

Commissioner Price asked whether the in-kind donations are staff time from the organizations listed. Mr. Stanhouse responded that is correct, and the equipment required.

Commissioner Price asked about the number of NLA staff. Mr. Stanhouse stated that in addition to himself there are three part-time employees and volunteers.

COMMISSIONER KRUTZ MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF \$25,000 FROM THE REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FUND TO SUPPORT THE CERTIFIED LANDSCAPE TECHNICIAN PROGRAM IN 2014 AND 2015 AND AUTHORIZE THE PROGRAM MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE NEVADA LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERWIN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSITION BY COMMISSIONER PRICE.

Commissioner Harry asked that Mr. Stanhouse provide more frequent updates and more clarity in the budget. Mr. Stanhouse stated that he would provide a more detailed budget.

Commissioner Harry suggested that Mr. Stanhouse might want to pursue finding a regulatory agency that would reinforce a requirement for CLTs.

7. REPORT ON PROPOSED FACILITY CONFORMANCE REVIEW PROCEDURES; POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION REGARDING SUCH PROCEDURES, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF (Continued from October 2) – Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager and John Rhodes, Legal Counsel.

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, stated that this item proposes a procedure which is allowed by the statute whereby the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) would delegate its final conformance review and decision making authority to this body.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE WRWC THAT THEY ADOPT A RESOLUTION AFTER HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING APPROVING THE PROPOSED FACILITY CONFORMANCE REVIEW PROCEDURES, WHICH WOULD DELEGATE THE FINAL DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY TO THIS COMMISSION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DeMARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

8. REPORT ON 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 Erwin stated that there is nothing new to report since last month’s meeting on this item.

9. 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 TMWA Standing Advisory Committee (“TMWA SAC”)

Mr. Smitherman stated that staff reports on items A and B are provided in the meeting packet and that there is no report from the Commission’s representative on the TMWA SAC today.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 2014 NNWPC MEETING, AND OTHER FUTURE MEETINGS, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF – Jim Smitherman.

Vice-Chairman Drinkwater stated that the January 2014 NNWPC meeting is scheduled on January 1. There was discussion regarding whether to cancel or reschedule that meeting.

COMMISSIONER ERWIN MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE JANUARY 2014 MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KRUTZ. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

Vice-Chairman Drinkwater asked for input regarding the February NNWPC meeting currently scheduled for February 5. Mr. Smitherman stated that date coincides with the Nevada Water Resource Association annual conference which is in Las Vegas. Mr. Smitherman has been invited to speak on one of the panels and will not be here for a NNWPC meeting on that date.

Mr. Smitherman reviewed future NNWPC agenda items which include: Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District – Sewer Monitoring Information; \$50,000 Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility Nitrogen Treatment Alternative Study; Budget for Next Fiscal Year; Truckee River Flood Project Status Update; Washoe ET Additions; Status on Truckee River Nutrient Water Quality Standards Review; Update on changes in the Pre-Treatment Ordinances; Storm Water Program Audit; and Project Proposal for Highland Canal Work.

It was determined that the future agenda items are reports with no action required.

COMMISSIONER DEMARTINI MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE FEBRUARY 2014 MEETING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IF THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR THE PROGRAM MANAGER FINDS IT NECESSARY, A MEETING WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN FEBRUARY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KRUTZ. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

11. COMMISSION COMMENTS

None

12. STAFF COMMENTS

None

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 2:43 PM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KRUTZ. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

David Solaro, Chairman

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON _____, 2014.