

FINAL - MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

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 Chairman Drinkwater at 1:31 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: Michael Drinkwater, Darrin Price, Michael DeMartini, John Erwin (arrived at 1:34 p.m.), John Flansberg, Danielle Henderson, Neil Krutz, Jerry Schumacher, David Solaro, and Brian Wadsworth (arrived at 1:32 p.m.).

Voting Members Absent: George Ball and Mickey Hazelwood.

Non-Voting Members Present: Chris Anderson and Kim Davis.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Harry Fahnestock, My-Linh Nguyen, 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 (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRICE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) MEMBERS PRESENT.

[Commissioner Wadsworth arrived at 1:32 p.m.]

4. Approval of the Minutes from the September 10, 2014, Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2014, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. Report on Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA")'s drought water supply – Bill Hauck, TMWA.

[Commissioner Erwin arrived at 1:34 p.m.]

Mr. Hauck stated the last three years have been very low snowpack years and they were the worst consecutive years in history for stream flow runoff. TMWA had to ramp up groundwater production, and in August had to begin making releases from Stampede Reservoir and Boca Reservoir. Since early September TMWA has been doing direct releases out of Donner Lake to supplement what is in the River and to keep the water treatment plants on-line. Mr. Hauck reported that about 16% of the total upstream reserves have been used. With the wet weather this past weekend, the river flow has picked up and water demand is down 20-30% over the last three days. On July 30, TMWA launched a conservation campaign and in the last nine weeks there has been a 7.5% outdoor water usage reduction.

6. Report on the pending consolidation of public water purveyors: TMWA; Washoe County's water utility; and, the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District ("STMGID") – Jack Byrom, TMWA. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Byrom distributed three items to the NNWPC members including a list of frequently asked questions, a service area map showing areas that will be included in the TMWA Service Area after the consolidation, and a portion of a document being used as a master project schedule. Mr. Byrom stated that 248 tasks have been identified to complete the merger by the end of the year and about 80 have been completed. An Executive Oversight Committee meets every two weeks to review the master schedule and discuss issues that need to be resolved.

Mr. Byrom reported on the status of some of the key areas of the consolidation effort. Jobs were offered to Washoe County Department of Water Resources employees and 27 people accepted positions at TMWA. All financing tasks are on schedule. Department restructuring issues are being resolved. An inventory of all vendors and contracts has been completed in order to be able to manage all the contracts going forward. There are 41 legal tasks to be completed including amendments to the current interlocal agreements, ordinances, rules, tariffs, and the rates. The customer and information billing system is being upgraded. Job shadowing will be done for the meter reading process. Commissioner Erwin is leading a group that is handling the land and property right-of-way and water rights, working to ensure those records are moved into the TMWA system. The transfer of all necessary technical equipment is on target. A total upgrade of the System Control and Data Acquisition ("SCADA") system is on schedule and will go live on October 15, 2014. Washoe County has been working on the Fish Springs Project to have it operational at the close of the merger. A program is underway to either refurbish or replace some of the Washoe County vehicles. A warehouse expansion will be completed in February 2015. A complete standards review has been done so there is one set of standards for all the systems. An inventory has been completed of all existing developer contracts. The final merger agreement for STMGID will be at the Washoe County Board meeting on October 14, 2014.

Mr. Byrom stated they are focusing on the tasks that are required in order to close the consolidation by the end of December 2014 and other tasks will be moved to the post-merger task list.

Commissioner Price asked if they plan to start using the Fish Springs water supply soon. Mr. Byrom stated Washoe County will have it operational and then TMWA will see how it would best fit in the overall use.

Commissioner DeMartini stated he has received calls from domestic well owners concerned about losing services currently offered by the Washoe County Department of Water Resources. Commissioner DeMartini asked if TMWA would be taking over the same jurisdictional authority that the County had. Mr. Byrom stated the TMWA service area boundary will include those areas where Washoe County currently serves potable water in the distribution system. Mr. Byrom clarified that TMWA will only be providing water service and will not be adopting any of the County's other service programs.

Chairman Drinkwater asked if there is an intent to continue consolidating with other water systems in the valley to ultimately have one water purveyor. Mr. Byrom stated he is not aware of any intent for the TMWA Board to try and acquire other water systems that are not part of the current merger. John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, clarified that the WRWC was directed to study the feasibility of consolidating the public water purveyors and the other water systems Chairman Drinkwater referenced are private water companies.

Chris Anderson, Washoe County Health District, asked if the program to waive connection fees for homeowners in Callahan Ranch converting from wells to public water would continue. Mr. Byrom stated that the program has been named the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and there has already been a first reading with the TMWA Board to adopt that program as part of the merger.

7. Report on the “Septic Nitrate Baseline Data and Risk Assessment Study for Washoe County, Phase II: In-Depth Analysis of Prioritized Study Areas, Creation of Baseline Data Set, and Risk Assessment” – Christian Kropf, Sr. Hydrogeologist, Washoe County Community Services Department.

Mr. Kropf presented information included in the staff report regarding the project objectives and the future of the project. Lydia Peri, Intern with Washoe County Water Resources, presented information on how they are selecting wells for testing and the sampling progress.

Commissioner Price asked what will happen to this program when the consolidation of public water purveyors is complete. Commissioner Solaro stated Washoe County Community Services Department will take over the program and have a final report to the NNWPC in March.

Commissioner Price asked about the gap of time between the completion of Phase I and the current Phase II. Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner, stated the process was interrupted after the completion of Phase I due to a requirement to complete an exploratory report on what actions could be taken if it was discovered that groundwater was being affected by septic. That interim report was completed in 2013.

Chairman Drinkwater asked about the results of that interim report. Mr. Kropf stated the report came to the NNWPC in March 2013 and it identified various management options available. Mr. Wessel stated the ultimate conclusion was that there were only two options determined to be reasonable and viable for 100% nitrogen removal. Those options were either hooking up to sewer or a connection system to connect septic system effluent output directly to a sewer interceptor.

There was discussion regarding whether the burden of the cost to switch to sewer would be on the homeowner. Mr. Wessel stated there would be an attempt to secure federal or other funding.

Commissioner Erwin asked about the Health Department’s role as the problem continues to grow. Mr. Anderson stated their chance to mitigate impacts to domestic wells is at the permitting stage of the well being drilled and that he is not aware of any management measures for mitigating that situation other than the approval process.

Commissioner Erwin asked if the Health Department would take any action in an extreme case such as if individuals in a home become ill because of pollution in a domestic well. Mr. Anderson stated he will follow-up on that and provide an answer at the next NNWPC meeting.

Commissioner Erwin asked if an inspection is required for domestic wells during the resale of a home. Mr. Anderson stated there is no requirement but they can do an inspection of on-site disposal systems upon request.

8. Report on the Washoe County Consensus Population Forecast 2014-2034; discussion and possible direction to staff – Jeremy Smith, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (“TMRPA”) and Shawn Stoddard, TMWA. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smith presented an overview of the Consensus Forecast process and what has been adopted. Mr. Stoddard presented information on the methodology used for creating the TMWA Population Forecast.

Commissioner Price asked about the difference between the results from the two outside sources. There was some discussion regarding the differences in results and Mr. Smith stated that the Regional Planning Governing Board Regulations on Procedure around this process have been updated so that they now have the option to select other outside sources as well as the option to select only one outside source in the future.

[Commissioner Schumacher left at 2:59 p.m.]

There was discussion regarding national versus local trends, and the difference between the logistic curve model used by TMWA and the REMI model used by the State Demographer.

9. Discussion concerning the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan 2016 update, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reviewed information included in the meeting packet regarding possible actions and timeframes for the update of the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan.

10. Program Manager’s Report – Jim Smitherman.

- a. Report on the status of projects and work plan supported by the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”)
- b. Financial report on the RWMF
- c. Report on the TMRPA’s parcel-based population and employment modeling project
- d. Informational report from the NNWPC representative on the TMWA Standing Advisory Committee (“TMWA SAC”)

Staff reports for items typically included in the Program Manager’s report were included in the meeting packet and Mr. Smitherman stated there is nothing in particular to bring to the attention of the Commission members at this time.

11. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the November 5, 2014, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated future agenda items will include more detail on progress of the 2016 Comprehensive Regional Water Plan update and a review and possible approval of agreements for outside help that will be needed.

Mr. Smitherman led discussion regarding possible dates for the next NNWPC meeting. It was decided that the next NNWPC meeting would be held on December 3, 2014.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION THAT THE NEXT NNWPC MEETING WILL BE ON DECEMBER 3, 2014, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERWIN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.

12. Commission Comments

Commissioner Erwin stated he received a copy of the issued order of September 30, 2014, from Judge George in the District Court and read a portion of the order into the record. “The Court concludes that it has authority to modify all provisions of the Orr Ditch Decree, that legal and factual circumstances have changed since the Orr Ditch Decree was entered, that those changes warrant modification of the Orr Ditch Decree, and that the proposed modifications, while complex and extensive, are suitably tailored to the extensive changes that have occurred, which changes reflect and establish the need to modify the existing operating framework for managing

a complex river system to provide a flexibility necessary to manage water rights for competing and complementary uses, while also ensuring the protection of existing Decreed water rights. Accordingly, for good cause shown, the Court orders that the moving parties' Amended Motion to Modify or Amend the Final Decree entered in this Case in 1944 (#1173) is granted."

Commissioner Erwin stated that their petition was filed in January 2009 and they now have an order that affirms that Truckee River Operating Agreement ("TROA") can be implemented.

13. Staff Comments

None

14. Public Comment

None

15. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

Michael Drinkwater, Chairman

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON _____, 2014.