

MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

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 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: Michael Drinkwater, Darrin Price, George Ball, Michael DeMartini, John Erwin, Brian Wadsworth, and John Martini.

Voting Members Absent: John Flansberg, Danielle Henderson, Mickey Hazelwood, and David Solaro.

Non-Voting Members Present: Harry Fahnestock and Kim Davis.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Chris Anderson, 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 MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ITEM SEVEN (7) BEING CONTINUED TO NEXT MONTH'S MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRICE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the December 3, 2014, Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER ERWIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 3, 2014, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. Discussion and possible approval of a scope of work with Hansford Economic Consulting for technical assistance to update the "Costs and Financing" chapter of the 2016 Regional Water Management Plan ("RWMP"), in an amount not to exceed \$23,575 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF"); and if approved, authorize the NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager to execute a contract with the consultant for that purpose – Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)

Details of the proposal are included in the staff report. Mr. Smitherman stated he is available to answer questions. There were no questions from the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERWIN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

6. Discussion and possible approval of a scope of work with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for technical assistance to update the regional water balance portions

of the “Population Forecast and Projections of Water Demand, Peak Day Requirements and Wastewater Flow” chapter of the 2016 RWMP, and other as-directed tasks related to the 2016 RWMP update, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the RWMF; and if approved, authorize the NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager to execute a contract with the consultant for that purpose – Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner and Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reviewed information included in the staff report for this item. There were no questions from the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER ERWIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

- 7. Presentation of review comments and proposed revisions to the “Planning Policies and Criteria” chapter for the 2016 RWMP update, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

This item was continued to the February 4, 2015 meeting.

- 8. Presentation of staff review comments on the “Conservation” chapter for the 2016 RWMP update, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner, reviewed information included in the staff report regarding the areas within Chapter 7 identified for updating. The most significant changes identified by staff will involve removing references to the Washoe County Department of Water Resources (“WCDWR”) and the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (“STMGID”). The majority of the elements which require input will be dependent on the update of Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”)’s Water Resource Plan (“WRP”).

There was discussion regarding the process if the Comprehensive Regional Water Plan is at odds with the WRP. John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, stated that according to Section 41 of the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Act, the NNWPC is mandated to consider TMWA’s plan and seek to incorporate it. The final resolution would be with the WRWC in their adoption process.

- 9. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding any chapters of the RWMP previously reviewed by the NNWPC in relation to the 2016 RWMP update.**

Mr. Smitherman stated this will be a standing item on the NNWPC agendas during the RWMP update process.

- 10. Report on the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility / Huffaker Reservoir Effluent Interconnection Pipeline Evaluation, and possible direction to staff, (David Kershaw, City of Reno, and John Buzzone, Stantec). (For Possible Action)**

David Kershaw provided a brief history on the need for the evaluation.

John Buzzone gave a presentation on the evaluation, which included the following topics: project objectives; approach; modeling scenarios developed; key modeling observations and findings; load reductions; infrastructure considerations; and the summary.

Harry Fahnestock asked what lining solutions and costs were considered for the reservoir. Mr. Buzzone stated the existing liner would be extended at a cost of about \$5.2 million, and an HDPE liner would be used.

Commissioner Erwin asked how many acre feet of Thomas Creek water would be offset. Mr. Buzzone stated that approximately 700 acre feet has been diverted annually.

Commissioner Erwin asked if the reservoir could be used to store additional creek water in winter as opposed to storing effluent so that creek water could be released in the summer time to further dilute flows. Mr. Buzzone stated there is no direct connection and the water released would be a combination of creek water and treated effluent, which would require a NDPEs permit and load allocation, which would take away from TMWRF's allocation, or someone else's.

Commissioner Martini asked about the risk in the base level analysis. Mr. Buzzone stated the water balance model is pretty good. The weakest link with regard to the load reductions are the assumptions for phosphorus and total nitrogen concentrations.

Chairman Drinkwater asked if the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility ("STMWRF") would be discharge limited in the future without a project of this nature. Mr. Buzzone confirmed that is correct, based on the assumptions in the model.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERWIN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

11. Report on the development of a scope of work for an updated wastewater and effluent master plan – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reviewed information included in the staff report regarding a three-phase approach to regional effluent master planning.

Chairman Drinkwater asked about funding for Phase 2. Mr. Smitherman stated that probable participants would be Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, TMWA, and WRWC.

Commissioner DeMartini asked if this would dovetail into the 208 Plan process. Mr. Smitherman stated they would be looking to use the information from this effort to be incorporated into the 208 Plan update.

12. 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 Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency ("TMRPA")'s parcel-based population and employment modeling project;

Mr. Smitherman reported that TMRPA staff and he met with TMWA to discuss the coordination of the population forecast, demand and wastewater flow projections relative to TMWA's planning and the Regional Water Plan update. TMRPA staff and Mr. Smitherman also met with Mr. Buzzone to discuss linking the regional water balance model with the population and employment model developed by TMRPA.

- d. Report on Truckee River water quality standards review.

Mr. Smitherman reviewed information included in the staff report regarding the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe ("PLPT")'s review of their water quality standards. When that update is available for a third party review, staff anticipates the need for technical support from LimnoTech, Inc.

Commissioner Wadsworth stated the PLPT's deadline to have their water quality standards approved by the Tribal Council and the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is September 30, 2015. The public process is expected to be from March to about June of 2015.

Kerri Lanza, City of Reno, stated that based on new information regarding the timing of PLPT's process, it is likely safe to release allocated funding to other projects, knowing that some type of financial commitment will be needed mid-year for review of the PLPT water quality standards.

13. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the February 4, 2015, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman stated future agenda items will include: review of several chapters of the RWMP; and a report by Chris Anderson on water quality regulation with respect to domestic wells.

Commissioner Price requested a standing item to address potential legislation that may affect this Commission.

Mr. Rhodes requested that motions be made to add agenda items rather than direction only.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO INCLUDE A STANDING AGENDA ITEM, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL LEGISLATION THAT MAY AFFECT THIS COMMISSION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIRMAN DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO INCLUDE IN THE MANAGER'S REPORT, A RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THE FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

14. Commission Comments

Commissioner Wadsworth asked if the Commission is interested in hearing an update at the April NNWPC meeting on what the PLPT is doing with their water quality standards. Chairman Drinkwater responded yes.

15. Staff Comments

None

16. Public Comment

None

17. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

Michael Drinkwater, Chairman

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON _____, 2015.