

**DRAFT - MINUTES**  
**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, August 5, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") was held in the Reno City Council Chambers, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada and conducted the following business:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Enloe at 1:30 p.m.

**1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum**

*Voting Members Present:* John Enloe, Darrin Price, George Ball, Michael DeMartini, Michael Drinkwater (arrived at 1:33 p.m.), John Flansberg, Mickey Hazelwood, Danielle Henderson, John Martini, David Solaro, and Brian Wadsworth.

*Voting Members Absent:* John Erwin.

*Non-Voting Members Present:* My-Linh Nguyen, and Thomas Pyeatte.

*Non-Voting Members Absent:* Chris Anderson, Harry Fahnestock, and Cindy Turiczek.

*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)**

Chairman Enloe requested that Agenda Item 6 be heard prior to Agenda Item 5.

*(Commissioner Drinkwater present at 1:33 p.m.)*

COMMISSIONER BALL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRICE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the June 3, 2015, Meeting (For Possible Action)**

COMMISSIONER BALL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 3, 2015, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**6. Report on LimnoTech, Inc. review of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's ("PLPT") proposed changes to the PLPT Water Quality Control Plan and any possible effects to the Nevada Water Quality Standards ("WQS") or Total Maximum Daily Loads ("TMDL") for the Truckee River, and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") to send a comment letter to the PLPT, and possible direction to staff – Kerri Lanza, P.E., City of Reno. (For Possible Action)**

Kerri Lanza, City of Reno, introduced Laura Weintraub with LimnoTech, who attended the meeting through a phone conference to present the results of their review with a PowerPoint via a Web-Ex Internet connection.

Ms. Weintraub presented the report on the LimnoTech review of the proposed changes to the PLPT Water Quality Control Plan. The presentation included information on the following topics: TMDL Background; Current Truckee River TMDL Loads (1994); 2008 TMDL Working Group Findings; Current Numeric Nutrient Criteria; Final Results Total Phosphorus; Summary

of Technical Findings Related to Phosphorus; Examination of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (“NDEP”) vs. PLPT Existing Phosphorus WQS; Proposed PLPT WQS Changes and Implications; Estimate of Total Phosphorus TMDL With No Change to NDEP Phosphorus WQS; and Potential Paths Forward.

Ms. Lanza stated that the public comment period for the PLPT Water Quality Control Plan will end on August 21, 2015. Ms. Lanza stated that a draft letter was prepared with comments regarding the draft PLPT Water Quality Control Plan and is included for possible recommendation to the WRWC.

Commissioner Flansberg expressed concern regarding supporting a standard without scientific support behind it. Commissioner Flansberg expressed concern that there is no credit for all of the work and effort that was put into the river restoration downstream and how that work has improved the river.

Commissioner Price requested clarification of the comment in the draft letter regarding an agreement and asked what the impacts [of the new standards] would be. Ms. Lanza stated that 2007 agreement had a clause regarding the Tribe agreeing not to do anything to its WQS that could jeopardize the plant operations.

Commissioner Drinkwater stated that clause says the Tribe agrees not to adopt standards that would substantially negate the value of the WQS agreement. The numbers used in the presentation regarding the possible reduction in the waste load allocation for the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”) cannot be met. Having to redirect all of our efforts to address a phosphorous standard is contrary to the intent of the WQS agreement.

Chairman Enloe asked if this was evaluated under a Truckee River Operating Agreement (“TROA”) or non-TROA based flow regime. Ms. Weintraub explained that the model runs used were based on the future TROA - no action.

Chairman Enloe asked what differences there would be assuming TROA was implemented. Ms. Weintraub stated she believed that it would provide for more water in the lower portions of the river, and stated that NDEP recommended using a more conservative approach using the future “no action run” rather than assuming that TROA would be implemented.

Chairman Enloe asked about the timing if the PLPT moved ahead with adoption of this WQS. Ms. Lanza stated that if their adoption was eminent, they would be working with the State immediately to talk about whether or not they are going to pursue a TMDL on their own or rely upon the third parties to provide the science that they have been working on.

Commissioner Wadsworth reviewed the timeline for the process and stated that if everything were to move forward as is, it would be final around October or November.

Commissioner DeMartini asked about what would happen with a dissolved oxygen violation. Commissioner Wadsworth stated that is one of the questions they are looking at for the future to determine the threshold before there is a deterioration in aquatic life.

There was discussion regarding whether it would be more appropriate for each entity represented on the NNWPC to write their own comment letters to the PLPT specific to their entity regarding the proposed changes to the PLPT Water Quality Control Plan.

**COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI.**

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, stated that the WRWC will see this report, including the draft comment letter to the PLPT, at their next meeting.

Commissioner Price stated that the majority of the letter was requests for verification of data and that it is valid to ask those questions.

Commissioner Wadsworth stated that he will abstain from voting on this item. Commissioner Wadsworth also stated that it was not his or the Tribe's intention to impede upon any process or negate any of the work that has gone into this.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH TEN (10) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION BY COMMISSIONER WADSWORTH.

Mr. Smitherman stated that he will summarize today's discussion on this item in his staff report that will be presented to the WRWC.

5. **Report by the Desert Research Institute ("DRI") on its Cloud Seeding Operations for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins for the past water year; discussion and possible recommendation to the WRWC for funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") to support similar Cloud Seeding Operations for the upcoming water year – Frank McDonough, PhD, DRI. (For Possible Action)**

Frank McDonough, DRI, presented the report on Cloud Seeding Operations.

*[Commissioner Solaro absent at 2:47 p.m.]*

Chairman Enloe asked if the Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA") approved DRI's funding request earlier this year. Mr. McDonough replied he believes that is correct.

Commissioner Flansberg asked about what progress has been made in the effort to find other partners to contribute funding. Mr. McDonough stated that they have not made progress getting in front of the right people. [Washoe County Commissioner] Vaughn Hartung is trying to set up meetings with ski resorts in an effort to get them to participate in funding. Mr. McDonough stated that there is some work being done outside of TMWA and WRWC funding but there are no other partners at this time.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST WITH THE REQUIREMENT THAT DRI MUST PURSUE OTHER PARTNERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DeMARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

7. **Discussion and possible approval of a proposal and funding request not to exceed \$23,500 from the RWMF for a technical workshop concerning a study further exploring the ozone-biological activated carbon advanced oxidation process for effluent treatment; and, if approved, authorize the Water Resources Program Manager to execute a contract with the WaterReuse Research Foundation for that purpose – Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Smitherman reviewed information regarding this request for funding a technical workshop.

Commissioner Price asked about the possibility of using another venue to save money on the proposed expenditure of \$10,000 for a venue. John Buzzone, Stantec, explained that the reasoning for the cost of the venue was to address the challenge of coordinating transportation and keeping the attendees together.

*[Commissioner Wadsworth absent at 3:06 p.m.]*

CHAIRMAN ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE \$23,500 FROM THE RWMF FOR A TECHNICAL WORKSHOP, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT STANTEC LOOK AT THE VENUE ISSUE TO SEE IF ANY MONEY CAN BE SAVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRICE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**8. Presentation of staff comments on the “Wastewater and Watershed-Based Water Quality Planning” chapter for the 2016 Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”) update; discussion and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

*[Commissioner Price absent at 3:08 p.m.]*

Jim Smitherman reviewed preliminary staff comments on this chapter included in the staff report.

*[Commissioner Wadsworth present at 3:11 p.m.]*

Commissioner Drinkwater requested that staff include some language explaining that there are other limiting factors which may make the flow irrelevant.

No action was taken.

**9. Presentation of comments received on the “Water Resources” chapter for the 2016 RWMP update; discussion and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)**

Chris Wessel stated that there are no comments to review at this time. Most of the comments on this chapter will come from TMWA’s Water Resource Plan.

No action was taken.

**10. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding any chapters of the RWMP previously reviewed by the NNWPC in relation to the 2016 RWMP update – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

No action was taken.

**11. Program Manager’s Report – Jim Smitherman.**

- a. Report on the status of projects and work plan supported by the RWMF;
- b. Financial report on the RWMF; and,
- c. Report on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency’s parcel-based population and employment modeling project.

Mr. Smitherman reported that the standard items are included in the Program Manager’s Report.

Mr. Smitherman reported that he and the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency's staff are working with the Effluent Working Group to get one set of wastewater flow projections that works best for the RWMP.

**12. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the September 2, 2015, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings; and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Smitherman stated the potential future agenda items will include:

- A presentation from the Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District on their Capital Improvement Program;
- A presentation from DRI on the linear optimization programming for effluent management; and,
- RWMP chapters for review; and any other standing items.

Commissioner Flansberg suggested a presentation on the effluent management plan for the possible interconnection to Huffaker Reservoir.

No action was taken.

### **13. Commission Comments**

Commissioner Wadsworth stated that he will not be present for the September 2, 2015, meeting.

Commissioner Drinkwater requested that all supporting materials be distributed to NNWPC members prior to the day of the meeting in order to have time to review the materials.

### **14. Staff Comments**

None

### **15. Public Comment**

None

### **16. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

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John Enloe, Chairman

**APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.**