

DRAFT - MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

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 Chair Henderson at 1:33 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: Danielle Henderson, Michael DeMartini, Michael Drinkwater, John Enloe, Bill Hauck, Mickey Hazelwood, John Martini, Darrin Price, David Solaro, Mervin Wright

Voting Members Absent: John Flansberg and John Zimmerman

Non-Voting Members Present: None

Non-Voting Members Absent: Harry Fahnestock, My-Linh Nguyen, Thomas Pyeatte, Ron Penrose, Cindy Turiczek

Staff Members Present: Jim Smitherman; Chris Wessel; Donna Fagan; and John Rhodes, Legal Counsel

2. Public Comment

Stuart Mackie expressed concern regarding Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA") board members with Interlocal Agreements.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER SOLARO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of Minutes from the May 3, 2017, Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 3, 2017, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. Discussion and possible approval of a scope of work and budget, not to exceed \$21,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") for Phase 1 of the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency ("TMRPA") project to develop a regional storm water drainage network Geographic Information System ("GIS") map; and, if approved, authorize the Program Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement ("ILA") with the Regional Planning Governing Board for that purpose, and provide limited in-kind services as specified in the scope of work – Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager, and Jeremy Smith, TMRPA. (For Possible Action)

Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager, presented information included in the staff report regarding deliverables and time lines for Phase 1 of the project.

Jeremy Smith, TMRPA, gave a presentation on the detailed scope of work for Phase 1 which includes data gathering and assessment. Mr. Smith answered questions from Commissioners regarding the project.

Chair Henderson reviewed the background of this item clarifying that the NNWPC made a recommendation to the WRWC. The WRWC decided to move forward with the project despite the concerns of the NNWPC at that point in time. Some of those concerns have been addressed and other concerns dealt with the fact that Phases 2 and 3 were uncertain. This agenda item addressed only Phase 1 of the project.

Commissioner DeMartini expressed concern regarding the scope of work deviating from what is needed to help in the flooded areas right now.

Commissioner Solaro discussed what is being done to address the flooding in the short term and clarified that this project is separate from those plans.

Public Comment: Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various issues related to water.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE JIM SMITHERMAN TO APPROVE THIS SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET AND ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

6. Review and possible approval of the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Routine Operating Budget for non-staff services for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reviewed information included in the staff report regarding the WRWC Routine Operating Budget for non-staff services. There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

7. Discussion and possible approval of a proposal from the University of Nevada, Reno (“UNR”) for funding in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the RWMF to support the Water Innovations Campus project; and, if approved, direct the Program Manager to execute an ILA with UNR for that purpose; and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman presented the staff report for this item and reminded the Commissioners that the budget for this project had previously been approved. This agenda item is to authorize staff to enter into a contract to make those funds available for partial funding of the Water Innovations Campus project. There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners.

Public Comment: Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various issues related to buildings.

COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVED FUNDING NOT EXCEED \$25,000 FROM THE RWMF TO SUPPORT THE WATER INNOVATIONS CAMPUS PROJECT AND DIRECT THE PROGRAM MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ILA WITH UNR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

- 8. Discussion and possible recommendation to the WRWC to approve three-month, no-cost time extensions for two ILAs with the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”): a) The Cloud Seeding project for the 2016 - 2017 season; and b) The Cloud Seeding Monitoring Gauges project. Possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner, and Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner, explained that due to the significant amount of precipitation, DRI anticipates that a significant remaining snow pack will prevent the timely completion of portions of the required work. The Cloud Seeding project requires access to remove various snow generators in conformance with United States Forest Service permit conditions. In addition, DRI anticipates that the residual snow pack will restrict access and prevent installation of the last pair of automated precipitation gauges associated with the Cloud Seeding Monitoring Gauge project. For these reasons, DRI has requested three month, no-cost extensions for both ILAs.

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE WRWC APPROVAL OF THREE MONTH, NO-COST EXTENSIONS FOR BOTH THE 2016-2017 CLOUD SEEDING PROJECT, AND MONITORING GAUGE PROJECT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEMARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR AND TWO (2) OPPOSITIONS BY COMMISSIONERS PRICE AND WRIGHT.

- 9. Discussion and possible approval of a Second Amendment to the ILA with DRI for continuing maintenance of the Washoe Evapotranspiration project, extending the agreement for a term of one year, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the RWMF; and, if approved, authorize the Program Manager to execute the amendment for that purpose – Chris Wessel. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Wessel presented information included in the staff report on this maintenance contract.

Mr. Wessel and Greg McCurdy, DRI, answered questions from Commissioners regarding weather stations. Mr. McCurdy discussed the criteria that must be met by the weather stations for the Evapotranspiration project. He also noted that they are now able to track the number of users, and that information will be included in upcoming reports by DRI.

Public Comment: Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various issues related to water.

(Commissioner Solaro absent at 2:30 p.m.)

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE ILA WITH DRI EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000), AND AUTHORIZE THE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE ILA FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.

- 10. Discussion and possible recommendation to the WRWC to approve a proposal from DRI for continuation of the regional precipitation monitoring project, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the RWMF; and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Wessel presented the staff report and answered questions from Commissioners.

There was discussion regarding the availability of the data that has been collected for the past 18 years. Mr. Wessel confirmed for Commissioner DeMartini that he will make the raw data available to those that are interested.

Mr. Wessel explained for Commissioner Drinkwater that the analysis of the data that has been collected is being done by Dr. Dan McEvoy with DRI and will be presented to the NNWPC in August or September.

Mr. Smitherman discussed some of the history of this data collection.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of delaying the approval of this item until the report from DRI on the value of the existing data is presented.

Mr. Wessel confirmed for Chair Henderson that they will not be losing any data collection time if this item is not approved today and is continued to the August NNWPC meeting.

COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE THIS ITEM TO THE AUGUST NNWPC MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.

11. Report on legislative activities, including Bill Draft Requests and Bills pending in the 2017 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC / NNWPC – John Rhodes, WRWC / NNWPC Legal Counsel.

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, presented the staff report on this item. There were no questions from Commissioners.

(Commissioner Price absent at 3:03 p.m.)

12. 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

Mr. Smitherman presented an overview of the staff reports for these items.

13. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for, or cancellation of, the July 5, 2017, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Possible future agenda items will include:

- Progress report from UNR on the Advanced Water Treatment project;
- Report from DRI on evaluation of the long term precipitation data;
- Continuation of today's Agenda Item 10.

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE JULY 5, 2017, MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) MEMBERS PRESENT.

Commissioner DeMartini expressed concern regarding the potential need for coordination of the flood mitigation efforts that are going on in the North Valleys. He also discussed the possibility of a future agenda item to consider the formation of a committee that would be involved in the coordination of some of the flood mitigation efforts.

Mr. Smitherman suggested that staff can request a report from the entities that are involved in the flood mitigation activities so the NNWPC can be fully informed and take action from there.

Commissioner Martini expressed concern about the authority of the NNWPC to form a subcommittee to review the work of two Public Works Directors and stated that he cannot support that action.

COMMISSIONER DEMARTINI MADE A MOTION TO INCLUDE A FUTURE AGENDA ITEM FOR A REPORT ON THE GENERAL PLAN FOR PROTECTION FROM THE ENTITIES INVOLVED AND WHAT THEY HAVE DONE WITH REGARD TO RESEARCHING PREVIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO PROTECT AGAINST THE POTENTIAL OF FLOODING IN THE NORTH VALLEYS; AND TO CONSIDER FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE OF THE NNWPC THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN COORDINATION OF SOME OF THOSE EFFORTS FROM A PLANNING STANDPOINT. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Staff was directed to request a report on the status of the flood mitigation activities.

14. Commission Comments

None

15. Staff Comments

Mr. Smitherman announced that an offer has been made to a candidate for the full-time secretary position replacing June Davis. He also thanked Donna Fagan for all of her work with the NNWPC in addition to her regular duties.

16. Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

17. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

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

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

Danielle Henderson, Chairman

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON August 2, 2017.