

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

**Wednesday, August 2, 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 1:32 p.m.

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

*Voting Members Present:* Danielle Henderson, Michael DeMartini, Michael Drinkwater, John Enloe, John Flansberg, Bill Hauck, Mickey Hazelwood, Darrin Price, David Solaro, John Zimmerman

*Voting Members Absent:* John Martini, Mervin Wright

*Non-Voting Members Present:* Thomas Pyeatte, Cindy Turiczek

*Non-Voting Members Absent:* Harry Fahnstock, My-Linh Nguyen, Ron Penrose

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

**2. Public Comment**

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

**3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes from the June 7, 2017, Meeting (For Possible Action)**

COMMISSIONER HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 7, 2017, MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**5. Report on the Advanced Water Treatment Technologies Demonstration Project being conducted by the University of Nevada, Reno ("UNR") - Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager; Rick Warner, Washoe County Community Services Department; and Dr. Krishna Pagilla, UNR.**

Rick Warner, Washoe County Community Services Department, presented a progress report on the Advanced Water Treatment Technologies Demonstration Project. The presentation included information on the following: Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study; Regional Feasibility Phase Activities; UNR Scope of Work; Advanced Water Treatment Technologies Demonstration Project Tasks; Task 1: Project Rationale and Justification for Potable Reuse; Task 1 Findings; Task 2: Treatment Technologies that can meet Nevada DEP Regulations/Requirements; Task 2 Recommendations; Task 3: Basis of Design for the Demonstration Project; Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grant; Next Steps; Nevada Water Innovation Campus Kick Off Reception August 24, 2017.

John Rhodes, Legal Counsel, responded to questions from Commissioner Price about ownership of intellectual property, stating that he does not think the interlocal agreement dealt with the eventuality of a salable product being developed. It was more focused on ways to use existing technology that would be available to all of the public entities who have contributed. That is an issue they can look into in the future when renewing the contract. Mr. Rhodes stated they will follow up on that issue with Dr. Pagilla as well.

*Commissioner Solaro absent at 1:58 p.m.*

**6. Report on the One Truckee River project, a partnership between Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (“KTMB”) and the Nevada Land Trust (“NLT”) to coordinate existing efforts, and identify priorities for new efforts, for long-term management and sustainability of the Truckee River - Lynda Nelson, NLT; and Christi Cakiroglu, KTMB.**

Christi Cakiroglu and Lynda Nelson gave a presentation highlighting the project’s progress and accomplishments over the past two years, including: Establishment of a broad-based Core Planning Team; involvement of a diverse team of stakeholders; development and implementation of the One Truckee River Management Plan, and its adoption by Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

**7. Report on the analysis of historical precipitation data collected by Washoe County; discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) to approve a proposal from the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”) for continuation of the regional precipitation monitoring project, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”); and possible direction to staff - Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Dan McEvoy, DRI, presented his findings and answered questions regarding his analysis of the precipitation data and recommendations for the future of the project.

Commissioner Drinkwater asked how knowing how much rain is falling in the Smoke Creek Desert benefits the ratepayers of the Truckee Meadows who fund this body.

Chris Wessel, NNWPC Water Management Planner, discussed the value of this analysis and stated that these projects were started because it was recognized early on that the basins that are being studied have the potential for water importation projects. It will be incumbent on us as a community and Washoe County to ensure that whatever water resources are brought to bear for this community are valid and sustainable. This is filling a data gap that will be useful in the future.

Commissioner Enloe further discussed the value of this analysis in determining where development is approved.

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE WRWC APPROVE DRI’S PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUATION OF THE REGIONAL PRECIPITATION MONITORING PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 FROM THE RWMF, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSITION BY COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER.

*Commissioner Price absent at 2:50 p.m.*

**8. Report on Lemmon Valley flood activities and planning - John Flansberg, City of Reno; and David Solaro, Washoe County.**

Commissioner Flansberg reported on the City of Reno's Lemmon Valley flood activities and planning. The elevations of Swan Lake and Silver Lake are being measured on a weekly basis to determine how quickly they are receding through evaporation. There is concern that we will likely see water levels in the next water year up to about where they were at their peak this water year. Washoe County and City of Reno staff have looked at the roadway at Lemmon Drive and are continuing to work on what can be done to improve the situation for transportation on Lemmon Drive. "We are hesitant to remove the barriers knowing we will most likely have to have them back in place based on whatever type of winter we might see."

Commissioner DeMartini asked how the elevation at the lakes is being measured.

Commissioner Flansberg stated they use set locations for consistency and are taking weekly measurements.

Commissioner DeMartini discussed his efforts to measure the elevation of White Lake in Cold Springs and how much more accurate that measurement is when using continuous monitoring gauges rather than measuring manually once a week. There needs to be more of a plan to prevent future flooding than just waiting for evaporation and hoping we don't get much rain.

Commissioner Flansberg stated he is interested in Commissioner DeMartini's thoughts on what the City of Reno could do in terms of removing water from the lakes that flooded.

Commissioner DeMartini asked how he and Commissioner Flansberg can discuss this topic outside of the NNWPC meeting without violating the open meeting law.

Mr. Rhodes will look into that and get back to Commissioner DeMartini.

Staff will check with Commissioner Solaro to see if he has comments on this item to bring back at the October meeting.

**9. 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 for fiscal year 16-17 year to date and fiscal year 17-18 period 1

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

**10. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the September 6, 2017, NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Possible future agenda items include:

- Report on cloud seeding program from last winter
- Report on non-Regional Water Management Fund funding sources and proposed alternatives for cloud seeding for the coming winter
- Report on the cloud seeding monitoring project
- Report on the Nevada Water Innovations Campus
- Truckee River Information Gateway Maintenance contract

- Report on the Washoe ET Project
- Update on the Stormwater Program

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2017, MEETING AND INCLUDE THE ABOVE POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS ON THE OCTOBER MEETING AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) MEMBERS PRESENT.

**11. Commission Comments**

None

**12. Staff Comments**

None

**13. Public Comment**

Ginger Pierce discussed her geothermal plant observations and concerns regarding wells.

Danny Cleous discussed concerns regarding the safety of Lemmon Valley Road and effluent water continuing to be discharged into the lake.

Cherie Shorter discussed concerns regarding road issues in Lemmon Valley.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

**14. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

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Danielle Henderson, Chairman

**APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.**