

MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

The Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") held a regular meeting in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair DeMartini at 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Determination of Presence of a Quorum

Voting Members Present: Michael DeMartini, Michael Drinkwater, John Enloe, John Flansberg, Bill Hauck, Danielle Henderson, Darrin Price, David Solaro, Mervin Wright, John Zimmerman, Mickey Hazelwood (arrived 1:34)

Voting Members Absent: John Martini

Non-Voting Members Present: Eddie Quaglieri, Ron Penrose

Non-Voting Members Absent: Cindy Turiczek, Harry Fahnestock, My-Linh Nguyen

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

2. Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

4. Approval of Minutes from the April 4, 2018 Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 4, 2018 MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Review and possible approval of a scope of work and budget, not to exceed \$12,500 per year for two years form the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF"), for the Nevada Landscape Association ("NLA") Certified Landscape Technician Program; and, if approved, authorize the NNWPC Program Manager to execute an agreement with the NLA for that purpose - Pam Bedard, Certified Landscape Technician Program Administrator, NLA, and Laine Christman, Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA"). (For Possible Action)

Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner, presented the staff report including a history of the Certified Landscape Technician ("CLT") Program.

Pam Bedard, CLT Program Administrator, provided a presentation on the CLT Program proposal. Rick Clark, NLA President, spoke in favor of the CLT proposal and mentioned that the NLA is introducing this year a new program: QWEL, or Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper, which is an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) recognized water auditor program that is the next level for people who have passed the CLT exam.

Public Comment: Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

Ms. Bedard answered questions from Commissioner Flansberg regarding the number of candidates and the pass rate. Two candidates signed up this year to take the test in August and two candidates passed the written portion of the exam in January. Last year, 18 candidates took the exam and three passed. In 2016, 13 candidates tested and three passed. In 2015, 15 candidates tested and three passed.

Commissioner Flansberg noted that the numbers seem small with the amount of money being put into the program.

Ms. Bedard explained that the program and testing covers both construction and maintenance.

Ms. Bedard confirmed for Chair DeMartini that there is a lack of certified technicians and that this program can help fulfil the need for certified technicians.

Rick Clark remarked that a past study showed that landscape irrigation is approximately 30% efficient. He followed with an observation that irrigation hardware is sometimes installed and/or managed incorrectly, and that he sometimes sees water running down the streets. He further stated that one reason the program does not have a higher pass rate is that NLA does not just shuffle people through the program, they have to meet NLA's level of quality and standard in order to get the certification.

Mr. Wessel explained for Commissioner Drinkwater that the Commission is billed at the end of the fiscal year. The bill was recently received but is not yet reflected in the Program Manager's Report for this meeting.

COMMISSIONER HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR \$25,000 FROM THE RWMF TO SUPPORT THE CLT PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEARS 2018-2019 AND 2019-2020, AND AUTHORIZE THE PROGRAM MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NLA FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH TEN VOTES (10) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (COMMISSIONER PRICE).

Commissioner Price commented that if you see water running anywhere in this town, you call your local water agency, and they'll put a stop to it. They will come out, take a look, find out where the source is, and a lot of times do an audit, and inform the homeowner or business owner as to the cause of the problem.

6. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") for approval of a Seventh Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement ("ILA") with the City of Reno, in an amount not to exceed \$262,500 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF"), to support the Truckee Meadows Storm Water Quality Management Program for fiscal year 2018/2019 - Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner; and Theresa Jones, City of Reno. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Wessel presented the staff report including a brief history of the Storm Water Quality Management Program.

Theresa Jones, Associate Civil Engineer for the City of Reno, provided a presentation of the funding proposal for the Storm Water Quality Management Program and answered questions from Commissioners. She explained that each agency is spending millions of dollars to implement this program in addition to the funding requested from the RWMF in order to comply with the permit.

Ms. Jones explained for Chair DeMartini that the Storm Water Permit Coordinating Committee (“SWPCC”) does not provide sampling and monitoring services for private enterprises. She also confirmed that it is not testing groundwater at this time.

Ms. Jones explained for Commissioner Hauck that when the SWPCC was first required to start monitoring, only concentrations at various locations were sampled. As the program developed, the sampling and analysis plan and practices had to be refined. The program has been gathering loading data over the past three years and is just this year getting a handle on where the problem areas might be. This coming fiscal year’s monitoring program is going to hone in and assess where these areas are and look at best management practices that can reduce those loads.

Mr. Wessel stated that the Integrated Source Water Protection Program is now working with the SWPCC and one of the key elements of that effort is to identify projects that will result in some mitigation.

Non-Voting Member Ron Penrose asked why it is taking so long to get the permit issued.

Ms. Jones explained that, in her opinion, a lot of the NDEP (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection) personnel have moved to the NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation) storm water program to work on their audit issues, and as a result NDEP has been understaffed.

Public Comment: Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DRINKWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

7. Report on the Advanced Water Treatment Technologies Demonstration Project being conducted by the University of Nevada, Reno (“UNR”) - Jim Smitherman, Water Resource Program Manager; and Krishna Pagilla, UNR.

Rick Warner, Washoe County, provided an update on the overall project, which is now known as the “Northern Nevada Water Recycling Feasibility Study”, subtitled “Researching Advanced Water Purification Treatment Technologies”. This is a multi-agency initiative, involving the NNWPC not only for funding but also technical expertise. He added that for decades, the Truckee Meadows has used a purple-pipe water recycling system for non-potable uses, which is regulated by NDEP. In 2016, new NDEP regulations were passed that include what is called Category A plus water, which is essentially drinking water quality. Overall, this project is a five-year feasibility study that is about halfway completed. The objective is fairly simple: Does Category A-plus water offer significant beneficial water management opportunities to the Truckee Meadows? The feasibility framework identifies several essential elements, including a clear objective, regional efforts, public engagement, thoroughness, transparency, demonstration projects, and use of an international expert panel for review and advice.

Dr. Krishna Pagilla, UNR, provided information on specifics of the treatment technology evaluation, focused on two of the seven tasks that make up the scope of work: Task 3, Basis of Design of the Demonstration Projects; and Task 4, Operational Monitoring and Testing Plan. Both tasks are 90 percent complete as of today and draft reports on Tasks 3 and 4 will be submitted in the next week. Dr. Pagilla briefly reviewed the results of Tasks 1 and 2, and then called on UNR Ph.D. students Vijay Sundaram, to review progress on Task 3, and Laura Haak, to report on Task 4. Dr. Pagilla closed the presentation and answered questions from Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

8. 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

Jim Smitherman, NNWPC Water Resources Program Manager, presented a brief overview of the staff reports included for this agenda item.

9. Discussion regarding possible agenda items for the June 6, 2018 NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

The next NNWPC meeting will be on June 6, 2018 and the agenda will include: reports for ongoing projects.

Chair DeMartini requested a future agenda item for a report on the Lower Truckee River restoration projects.

No action was taken.

10. Commission Comments

Commissioner Henderson expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Chair for the past year and congratulated the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

11. Staff Comments

None

12. Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst spoke on various topics.

13. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:



Michael DeMartini, NNWPC Chair

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON MAY 2, 2018.