

MINUTES
NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 6, 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 Chairman 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, Mickey Hazelwood

Voting Members Absent: John Martini, John Zimmerman

Non-Voting Members Present: None

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

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

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

4. Approval of Minutes from the May 2, 2018 Meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER PRICE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 2, 2018 MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

5. Adoption of Resolution No. 18-01, recognizing Commissioner Darrin Price for his many years of service on the NNWPC, and outstanding contributions to regional water resource planning. (For Possible Action)

Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager, read the resolution into the record.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-01, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

6. Discussion and possible approval of a Third Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement ("ILA") with the Desert Research Institute ("DRI") for the Regional Precipitation Monitoring project, extending the agreement to continue the project for a term of one year, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") - Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner; and Dr. Dan McAvoy, Applied Climatologist, DRI. (For Possible Action)

Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner, stated this item is the ongoing monitoring network proposal for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. After the consolidation of the County's municipal water utility with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("TMWA"), the WRWC assumed responsibility for this program.

Dr. Dan McAvoy, DRI, presented the plan for continuing with the contract. He stated that they are proposing to continue with what they did last year, which is to continue operations and maintenance of the Washoe County Rain Gauge Network and to continue processing of precipitation data to digital archive and spatial mapping. The program includes 78 stations installed between 1998 and 2006. The rain gauges are serviced twice a year. Dr. McAvoy also reviewed some of their observations this year. These gauges can prove to be valuable for things like estimating annual precipitation. Dr. McAvoy discussed one potential use of the data. There is a project with Greg Pohll at DRI who is working on developing a surface water/ground water model for Lemmon Valley. He wants to reconstruct the levels of Swan Lake and potentially develop a flood forecasting tool for the Swan Lake area. He is looking for precipitation estimates and may potentially use this data.

Commissioner Enloe asked for more detail on the spatial estimates.

Dr. McAvoy responded stating that Prism's primary source of input is generated from local observations in the region. One of the reasons the spatial estimates are so far off is because there is hardly any precipitation estimates going into the models.

Commissioner Drinkwater asked if potential researchers know that this data exists and if it is available in a public forum.

Dr. McAvoy responded stating it is not very widely known right now and is not available directly to the public, but that it would be easy to make the data available on the Western Region Climate Center website.

Mr. Wessel stated that the data would be posted on the [WRWC] digital library. The final report from DRI would also be available through the digital library. He also stated this is the first practical application for the data that he is aware of and hopes that all of the Commissioners would disseminate that information.

Chair DeMartini stated he looks forward to the data being made available.

Mr. Wessel responded stating if we have a GIS interface or mapping we could put in a layer that would provide information on the various cans just by clicking on them. He is waiting for the final report from DRI to come out to hopefully generate that.

Dr. McAvoy stated the final report will be sent to Mr. Wessel today or tomorrow.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE ILA WITH DRI IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019, AND AUTHORIZE THE WRWC WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT TO THE ILA FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENLOE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

Commissioner Wright stated it is important to review the past data especially in response to the wildfires that have occurred in northern Washoe County and to look at how vegetation is responding to precipitation throughout the year.

Dr. McAvoy stated that would be a great use of the data.

7. Discussion and possible approval of a Fourth Amendment to the ILA with DRI for the Washoe Evapotranspiration project, extending the agreement to continue the project for a term of one year, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the RWMF - Chris Wessel and Dr. Dan McAvoy. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Wessel explained that the Washoe Evapotranspiration project is a conservation element of the Regional Management Plan. The goal of the project is to provide irrigators with the ability to modify their watering use based on evapotranspiration rates. The proposal includes maintenance of two additional weather stations that are planned to be installed this month.

Dr. McAvoy added that the two new stations will be located at the Lemmon Valley Regional Park and the Cold Springs Community Center.

Chair DeMartini discussed the differences between rates published by the State Engineer versus the rates from this project. The State does not appear to be recognizing the amount of water that these gauges would determine as being necessary. He asked if there is something that could be looked into with regards to providing an explanation to the public as to the potential differences so they understand how many water rights are actually needed to water their alfalfa as one example.

Dr. McAvoy stated that is a great point and we can look into clarifying those issues.

Mr. Wessel added that the intent of this project was really more focused on landscape irrigation than crop irrigation. The sites that we sponsored were specifically intended to provide information about grass areas related to landscape for residential and large commercial irrigation.

Commissioner Price stated he was glad to see that quarterly reports will be provided on the website. He also asked if this requested funding covers the cost of printing and distributing the brochure.

Dr. McAvoy responded stating that he does not have that budget information at this time but can find out.

Mr. Smitherman added that we do get quarterly reports that include the website traffic statistics and can make those available as well.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) 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 location and possible agenda items for the July 2018 NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

The July meeting date falls on Independence Day and is normally cancelled. Possible agenda items for the next NNWPC meeting include: a presentation by Commissioner Hazelwood on Truckee River restoration projects; a presentation by Jeremy Smith with the Regional Planning Agency on the Washoe County population consensus forecast; a presentation by Mr. Smitherman

of water resource availability identified in the Regional Water Management Plan; and a report on the Watershed Management Plan Gap Analysis project.

Mr. Smitherman confirmed for Commissioner Flansberg that he will check on the availability of the commission chambers for August 1.

COMMISSIONER FLANSBERG MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE JULY MEETING AND SCHEDULE THE NEXT NNWPC MEETING FOR AUGUST 1, 2018, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

10. Commission Comments

Commissioner Price thanked Mr. Smitherman and Mr. Wessel for all their work.

Chair DeMartini agreed and expressed appreciation for the Commission's excellent staff.

11. Staff Comments

Mr. Smitherman thanked Commissioner Price for his service and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

12. Public Comment

None

13. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:



Michael DeMartini, NNWPC Chair

APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON JUNE 6TH, 2018.