

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

**Wednesday, October 3, 2018**

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 the Commission conducted the following business:

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

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

*Voting Members Present:* Michael DeMartini; Jon Combs; Bill Hauck; John Enloe; John Martini; David Solaro; Mervin Wright; John Zimmerman

*Voting Members Absent:* Danielle Henderson; Michael Drinkwater; John Flansberg; Mickey Hazelwood

*Non-Voting Members Present:* Ron Penrose, Thomas Pyeatte

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

*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 HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**4. Approval of Minutes from the September 5, 2018 Meeting (For Possible Action)**

This item was continued to the next meeting.

**5. Report on initial tasks to update the Truckee Meadows Watershed Management and Protection Plan for Tributaries to the Truckee River (the "Plan"); discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") for approval of a scope of work, and funding in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF"), to continue the Plan update process; and, possible direction to staff - Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner; and Theresa Jones, PE, Associate Civil Engineer, City of Reno. (For Possible Action)**

Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner, presented the staff report noting that the Truckee Meadows Storm Water Permit Coordinating Committee ("SWPCC") completed a Phase I gap analysis as part of the initial update to the Plan. The current Plan does not include all components of the nine elements required by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") for grant funding under Section 319, the Nonpoint Source Management Program, of the Clean Water Act ("Section 319"). Based on the information identified in the Phase I gap analysis, the SWPCC is requesting funding in the amount of \$150,000 from the RWMF to complete Phase II of the Plan update. The SWPCC approved the hiring of NCE Consulting, Inc., through the City

of Reno, to complete this subsequent phase of the Plan update. Mr. Wessel introduced Theresa Jones, SWPCC Coordinator to give a presentation on the findings of the Phase I gap analysis, and the proposed scope of work to complete Phase II of the Plan update.

Ms. Jones and Debra Lemke, NCE Project Manager, presented the findings of the Phase I gap analysis and the proposed scope of work to complete Phase II of the Plan update.

The gap analysis provides tributary templates, GIS tributary watershed boundaries, data gaps for each watershed, and priorities. The main desired outcomes of the Plan is a prioritized project list. The projects must build on the existing work that has been done and they must be eligible for the 319 funds that are available for EPA approved watershed plans. This effort must integrate and compliment the Integrated Source Water Protection Plan and the One Truckee River program.

This effort has been broken down into five tasks. The first task is project management. Task 2 is to complete the data review and gap analysis. Task 3 is data gathering to fill the gaps. Task 4 is the preparation of a draft 2019 Watershed Plan. Task 5 is to have the final Plan submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) by June 30, 2020.

Ms. Lemke explained for Chair DeMartini the benefits of the 319 federal funding and clarified that the funding is for non-point source pollution projects.

Ms. Jones confirmed for Commissioner Enloe that the June 30, 2020 timeframe works for the other agencies involved in this effort, including the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (“NDEP”).

Ms. Jones also confirmed for Commissioner Wright that watershed boundaries would be associated with the boundaries of the tributaries in the Truckee Meadows service area.

Public Comment:

Birgit Widegren, NDEP, spoke in support of this funding to continue with the next phase in the Plan update.

Commissioner Wright discussed the importance of this Plan and the eligibility for funding.

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE WRWC APPROVE THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR PHASE II OF THE PLAN UPDATE, AND FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 FROM THE RWMF, TO CONTINUE THE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

- 6. Report by the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”) on last winter’s cloud seeding operations for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins, and alternatives for funding and operations for the upcoming winter; discussion and possible recommendation to the WRWC for approval of a scope of work, and funding in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the RWMF, to partially support operations for the upcoming winter; and, possible direction to staff - Chris Wessel, and Frank McDonough, DRI. (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Wessel presented the staff report and explained that since 2009, DRI has conducted its cloud seeding program for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins (the “Program”) using funds provided by either the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) or the Truckee River Fund (“TRF”), and the WRWC. At his time, TMWA and the TRF do not anticipate providing funding for cloud seeding operations in the 2018-2019 water year.

Frank McDonough, DRI, gave a presentation on last winter's cloud seeding operations for water year 2017-2018, and the proposed scope of work for the upcoming winter, water year 2018-2019. DRI secured partial funding for the 2018-2019 Program from the State of Nevada during the previous legislative session. State funding will cover the cost of forecasting as well as the operation and maintenance of five of seven existing cloud seeding generators for the upcoming winter.

In anticipation of the available funding, DRI is proposing a scope of work in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the RWMF, to support operation and maintenance of the remaining two generators associated with the Program for water year 2018-2019. The WRWC budget for FY 2018-2019 includes \$50,000 for the proposed cloud seeding operations.

COMMISSIONER ENLOE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT WRWC APPROVE THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK, AND FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000, FROM THE RWMF, TO PARTIALLY SUPPORT THE PROGRAM FOR THE 2018-2019 WATER YEAR.

Commissioner Martini commented that he will support the motion since funds have been budgeted for the program this year, but next year will be tough because there are a lot of priorities coming online.

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSITION BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT.

7. **Report on the development of outreach strategies, messages, materials and information dissemination methods related to regional effluent management planning (the "Project") provided by Data Instincts Public Outreach Consultants ("Data Instincts"); discussion and possible recommendation to the WRWC for approval of a scope of work, and funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the RWMF, to continue the Project; and, possible direction to staff - Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)**

Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager, presented the staff report and reported that Data Instincts has performed well relative to the scope of work and has completed the first phase of the Project.

Lydia Peri, Washoe County Engineering and Capital Projects Division, presented information on details of the project focusing on the public outreach component of the feasibility study.

Mr. Smitherman confirmed that this item is budgeted for \$100,000 and it was among the top priorities in the priority setting workshop. NNWPC staff received an email from Reno City Council Member Jenny Brekhus requesting that her comments be made a part of the record. Mr. Smitherman read the letter into the record.

COMMISSIONER SOLARO MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE WRWC APPROVE THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK, AND FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 FROM THE RWMF, TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) 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.

Mr. Smitherman presented a brief overview of the staff reports included for this agenda item.

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

The next NNWPC meeting will be Wednesday, November 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Washoe County Commission Chambers.

Possible agenda items for the next NNWPC meeting include: priority setting workshop.

No action taken.

**10. Commission Comments**

Commissioner Enloe reported that TMWA has awarded the construction contract for the Mt. Rose Water Treatment Plant and will be beginning construction in the next couple of weeks.

**11. Staff Comments**

None

**12. Public Comment**

None

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

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Michael DeMartini, NNWPC Chair

**APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.**