

**NORTHERN NEVADA WATER PLANNING COMMISSION  
("NNWPC")  
AGENDA**

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

1:30 p.m.

Mt. Rose Conference Room, Bldg. A  
Washoe County Complex  
1001 East Ninth Street  
Reno, Nevada

**Notes:**

1. Items on this agenda on which action may be taken are followed by the term "For Possible Action". Non-action items are followed by an asterisk (\*).
2. Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker and is allowed during the public comment periods, and before action is taken on any action item. Comments are to be directed to the Commission as a whole. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. The public may sign-up to speak during the public comment period or on a specific agenda item by completing a Public Comment Information ("Request to Speak") card and submitting it to the clerk.
3. Items on this agenda may be taken out of order, combined with other agenda items for consideration, removed from the agenda, moved to or from the Consent Items section, or delayed for discussion at any time. Arrive at the meeting at the posted time to hear item(s) of interest.
4. Supporting material provided to the Commission for the items on the agenda is available to members of the public at the NNWPC offices, 1001 E. Ninth St., Reno, NV, from Jennifer Purgitt, Administrative Secretary, (775) 954-4665, and on the NNWPC website at <http://www.nnwpc.us>
5. The Washoe County Commission Chambers are accessible to the disabled. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for persons who are disabled and wish to attend meetings. If you require special arrangements for the meeting, please call (775) 954-4665 no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.
6. In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda has been posted at the following locations: Reno City Hall (1 East First Street), Sparks City Hall (431 Prater Way), Sun Valley GID (5000 Sun Valley Blvd.), Truckee Meadows Water Authority (1355 Capital Blvd.), Washoe County Administration Building (1001 E. Ninth Street), South Valleys Library (15650A Wedge Parkway), the NNWPC website at <http://www.nnwpc.us>, and the State of Nevada Website at <https://notice.nv.gov>

1. Roll Call and determination of presence of a quorum. \*
2. Public Comments. \* (Three-minute time limit per person.)
3. Approval of agenda. **(For Possible Action)**
4. Approval of the minutes from the October 2, 2019, meeting. **(For Possible Action)**
5. **Workshop** to review the priorities, projects and studies listed in the WRWC FY 2019-2020 Budget; discussion of priorities for ongoing and future projects and studies, possible recommendation to the WRWC, and possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner. **(For Possible Action)**
6. Report on actions taken at the October 2019 meeting of the WRWC regarding appointments of the NNWPC's At Large and Domestic Well positions – Chris Wessel. \*
7. Commission Comments. \*
8. Staff Comments. \*
9. Public Comments. \* (Three-minute time limit per person.)

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

\*Indicates a non-action item

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

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

The Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") held a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at the Washoe County Commissioner Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business.

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

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

*Voting Members Present:* Jon Combs; Michael DeMartini; Michael Drinkwater; John Enloe; Bill Hauck; Mickey Hazelwood (*present at 1:32 p.m.*); Danielle Henderson; John Martini; David Solaro; Mervin Wright; John Zimmerman

*Voting Members Absent:* John Flansberg

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

*Non-Voting Members Absent:* Harry Fahnstock; Cindy Turiczek; My-Linh Nguyen

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

**4. Approval of Minutes from the August 7, 2019 Meeting (For Possible Action)**

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAUCK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

*(Commissioner Hazelwood present at 1:32 p.m.)*

**5. Report on the Draft 2019 update of the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan and the process for its approval; and possible direction to staff – Jeremy Smith, Interim Executive Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency. (For Possible Action)**

Jeremy Smith, Interim Executive Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency ("TMRPA"), gave a presentation on the Draft 2019 update of the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan ("Regional Plan") and the process for its approval.

Commissioner DeMartini discussed the need for the natural resources part of the plan to be a high priority.

Director Smith explained that the Natural Resources Plan and the Public Infrastructure Investment Plan will be occurring concurrently.

Commissioner Solaro expressed appreciation for the work that has gone into this plan.

Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager, stated he will be working with Director Smith on developing the Public Infrastructure Investment Plan.

COMMISSIONER HAUCK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLARO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ELEVEN (11) 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 possible direction to staff – Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner and Frank McDonough, DRI. (For Possible Action)**

Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner, provided a staff report. Since 2009, DRI has conducted its cloud seeding program for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins using funds provided by either the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) or the Truckee River Fund (“TRF”), and the WRWC. At this time, the WRWC, TMWA and the TRF do not anticipate providing funding for the Program in the 2019-2020 water year.

*(Mr. Rhodes absent from 2:10 to 2:17 p.m.)*

Frank McDonough, DRI, presented information regarding last winter’s cloud seeding operations for water year 2018-2019 and an overview of plans for this winter. By the end of last winter the Tahoe basin had about 185% of normal snow pack. The Tahoe-Truckee Project had 18 cloud seeding events prior to February 15, 2019 and 530 total generator hours. That created an additional 10,065 acre feet of SWE in the snowpack. Mr. McDonough answered questions regarding climate models and cost benefit.

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

**7. Report on the American Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”), and possible direction to staff – Greg Pohll, Principal Hydrogeologist/Modeler, TMWA. (For Possible Action)**

Greg Pohll, Principal Hydrogeologist/Modeler, TMWA, gave a presentation on the American Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation. The hydrogeologic investigation was conducted at the American Flat Road site in the West Lemmon Valley hydrographic basin. The study included a seismic survey, construction of one injection well and two monitoring wells, an aquifer test on the injection well, an extended duration (4 month) recharge test, water quality sampling of injectate water and local groundwater, and a water compatibility evaluation for the background and injectate water. The American Flat Road Hydrogeologic Investigation Report is attached.

Commissioner DeMartini expressed concern regarding arsenic levels in the aquifer and the need for more studies on how pumping into the aquifers might move around the concentrations of arsenic that are at the deeper levels.

Mr. Pohll confirmed that the arsenic concentrations in the local groundwater are higher than the Truckee River but injection of this fluid in this case caused the arsenic concentrations to go down. With regard to whether or not the study addresses a more regional issue, this particular effort was focused on the American Flat site but TMWA is also doing other studies including a regional groundwater modeling study. This modeling tool was used to help us understand how injection at this site would impact the regional system. We’ve done a lot of work to incorporate a

significant amount of regional data to develop this groundwater model and we are using this model to help better understand the system.

Commissioner Enloe stated that TMWA is not doing any flood studies related to this work but is looking strictly at groundwater conditions.

Commissioner DeMartini expressed concern that some of the more extensive studies referred to should be under the umbrella of the county rather than TMWA.

Commissioner Enloe confirmed that TMWA is not doing a flood study.

Mr. Pohll explained that DRI is being funded by the Corp of Engineers to look at the impact of surface water runoff on flooding. That is a separate project and TMWA is on the technical advisory committee, not conducting the study.

Commissioner DeMartini stated that he thinks there is a regional study that should be done that this study should be part of that nobody seems to be doing.

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

**8. Report on TMWA's Bedell Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation and possible direction to staff – Christian Kropf, Senior Hydrogeologist, TMWA. (For Possible Action)**

Christian Kropf, Senior Hydrogeologist, TMWA, gave a presentation on the Bedell Flat Hydrogeologic Investigation. TMWA is investigating the feasibility of aquifer recharge with water that meets the State of Nevada quality standards for category A+ reclaimed water within the Truckee Meadows and valleys north of Reno. The feasibility study at the Bedell Flat hydrographic basin north of Lemmon Valley is being conducted in phases. The initial phase was limited to understanding the potential infiltration capacity of near-surface soils in the southwest part of the basin. Additional phases will investigate the infiltration capacity of adjacent areas and will assess the geology, hydrogeology, aquifer properties, potential storage volume, long-term infiltration, and recoverability of recharged water in the study area. This initial phase of work was partially funded by the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC"). Work completed in 2018 and 2019 indicates that near-surface soils in the southwestern part of the Bedell Flat basin are favorable for infiltration. Additional geologic and hydrogeologic investigations are underway to assess the infiltration capacity of deeper unsaturated zone soils, the occurrence, quality, and flow of groundwater, and the climatic variability in these areas. These assessments will be conducted jointly with the U. S. Geological Survey ("USGS") through the installation of monitoring wells, soil sample collection and analyses, and weather station monitoring. In addition to the USGS, current work is also supported by funding made available by the WRWC.

Mr. Smitherman clarified that the state of Nevada is making the funds available to pass through and fund this. It is not technically the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") in the end, the state will reimburse us for the money that we pass through.

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

**9. Report on activities of the OneWater Nevada project, including location of, and access to project information and reports; and possible direction to staff – Rick Warner, Warner and Associates; John Enloe, TMWA; and Jim Smitherman, Water**

**Resources Program Manager, Western Regional Water Commission. (For Possible Action)**

*(Commissioner Solaro absent at 3:23 p.m.)*

A presentation was given on activities of the OneWater Nevada feasibility study, including location of, and access to project information and reports. A OneWater Nevada website is presently under development, which once finished will provide access to pertinent information and serve as the report repository.

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TEN (10) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**10. 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.

Commissioner Drinkwater asked about the status of the Steamboat Ditch Study.

Mr. Smitherman reported that he does not have a final scope of work for that project yet. Mr. Smitherman will look into the status of that scope of work and report back at the next meeting.

**11. Discussion regarding location and possible agenda items for the November 2019 NNWPC meeting, and other future meetings, and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019. Mr. Smitherman noted that he will be on vacation at that time. The November meeting agenda will include the annual priorities workshop. The five year review of the Regional Water Management Plan will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

No action was taken.

**12. Commission Comments**

None

**13. Staff Comments**

None

**14. Public Comment**

None

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birmingham.

Approved by:

---

Mervin Wright, NNWPC Chair

**APPROVED BY COMMISSION IN SESSION ON \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.**

DRAFT



# Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** October 31, 2019  
**TO:** Chairman and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”)  
**FROM:** Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Workshop to review the priorities, projects and studies listed in the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) fiscal year (“FY”) 2019-2020 Budget; discussion of priorities for ongoing and future projects and studies, possible recommendation to the WRWC, and possible direction to staff.

---

### **SUMMARY**

The NNWPC typically holds an annual workshop to identify priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The priorities relate to the water planning subjects identified in the WRWC Act and in the Regional Water Management Plan, which include water resources, water conservation, wastewater, reclaimed water, storm water and flood control. The purpose of this exercise is to develop FY 2020-2021 strategic priority recommendations for the WRWC. The identified priorities will be used by staff to develop a FY 2020-2021 draft budget which will be presented to the NNWPC for their review and recommendation to the WRWC.

Strategic priority recommendations for FY 2020-2021 developed at this workshop and subsequent draft budget will be reviewed and discussed with the WRWC at a concurrent workshop. Staff expects that the concurrent workshop will provide confirmation of WRWC strategic priorities, policies, goals and objectives for the upcoming year, which will allow the NNWPC and staff to develop the FY 2020-2021 tentative budget for presentation to the WRWC.

### **BACKGROUND**

On November 7, 2018, the NNWPC held a workshop to review the projects and studies listed in the WRWC FY 2019-2020 budget and discuss priorities for ongoing and future projects and studies. The outcome of the workshop was the basis for the development of the FY 2019-2020 tentative budget. On April 12, 2019, the WRWC held a workshop and reaffirmed its FY 2019-2020 strategic priorities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the NNWPC accept and approve the results of its November 2019 workshop and priority setting exercise, and direct staff to prepare the results for recommendation to the WRWC at a concurrent workshop.

CW:jp



# Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** October 31, 2019  
**TO:** Chairman and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”)  
**FROM:** Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Report on actions taken at the October 2019 meeting of the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) regarding appointments of the NNWPC’s At Large and Domestic Well positions.

---

### **SUMMARY**

At the WRWC October 16, 2019 meeting, staff identified two NNWPC positions for which terms have expired and are up for reappointment. The positions identified were 1) a member of the public at large to represent environmental, biological, conservation or public concerns, last held by Mickey Hazelwood; and, 2) one member to represent owners of domestic wells, last held by Michael DeMartini. The WRWC Board directed staff to conduct a public recruitment to identify qualified candidates and have the NNWPC review the qualified candidates and make recommendations to the WRWC concerning appointments.

In the past, recruitment for NNWPC positions have been done by advertising for applicants in the Reno Gazette-Journal and the Sparks Tribune, and making notification to the TMWA Standing Advisory Committee, Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee, Reno Neighborhood Advisory Boards, Reno Citizens Institute, Washoe County Citizen Advisory Boards and the Washoe County Leadership Academy. Staff screens applications for qualifications and invites qualified applicants to appear before the NNWPC before it makes recommendations to the WRWC.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Western Regional Water Commission Act (the “Act”), Chapter 531 Statutes of Nevada 2007, Section 36, provides for the WRWC to appoint to the NNWPC, a member of the public at large to represent environmental, biological, conservation or public concerns; and, one member to represent owners of domestic wells. Section 36 also requires that any vacancy on the NNWPC must be filled for the unexpired term by the appointing entity.

Section 38 of the Act provides that members of the NNWPC may not hold any elective governmental office, but may be engaged or employed in private enterprise or be employees of state or local government, and each member must be qualified pursuant to at least one of the following subsections:

1. A professional engineer licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 625 of NRS;
2. Experienced in comprehensive planning, natural resources or environmental protection;
3. A specialist in hydrologic science;
4. Experienced in law, management or planning related to water;
5. Experienced in municipal finance or resource economics;
6. Experienced in construction, planning or operation of facilities or systems for supplying or treating water, for collecting or treating sewage, for drainage of storm water or for control of floods; or

7. Knowledgeable in the areas of water conservation, biology, natural systems, water quality and water management.

CW:jp