

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