

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at the Sparks Council Chambers, Legislative Building, 745 Fourth Street, Sparks, Nevada.

1. Roll Call and Determination of presence of a Quorum

Vice-Chairman Hartung called the meeting to order at 12:42 pm. There was a quorum present.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
Vaughn Hartung	Washoe County
Steve Cohen	South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (“STMGID”)
Sandra Ainsworth	Sun Valley General Improvement District (“SVGID”)
Naomi Duerr	City of Reno
Geno Martini	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”)
Ron Smith	Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) - City of Sparks
Neoma Jardon	TMWA – City of Reno

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
Ed Lawson	City of Sparks
Kitty Jung	TMWA

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chairman Hartung asked Jim Smitherman to lead the WRWC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Introduction of and oath of office for newly appointed WRWC Trustees, including Ed Lawson (Sparks City Council), Naomi Duerr (Reno City Council), and possibly Ron Smith, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”).

Nancy Parent, Washoe County Clerk, swore in Naomi Duerr and Ron Smith as WRWC Trustees.

5. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

6. Approval of the minutes of the September 17, 2014, meeting (For Possible Action)

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

7. Discussion and possible approval of the 2013-2014 WRWC financial statements and audit opinion, and possible direction to staff – Ben Hutchins, Director, Finance and Administration Division, Washoe County Community Services Department, and Zeth Macy, The Bullard Macy Group. (For Possible Action)

Ben Hutchins introduced Zeth Macy, who briefly reviewed the financial statements. The Board received an unmodified opinion and there were no deficiencies or instances of non-compliance.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EIGHT (8) MEMBERS PRESENT.

8. Discussion and possible designation of Schettler, Macy & Associates, LLC as the WRWC’s external auditors for the Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 financial statement audit, and, if approved, authorize the Vice-Chairman to execute the related Engagement Letter, and direct staff to file the required documents with the State of Nevada – Ben Hutchins. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Hutchins reported that the proposal does not include a charge increase. Schettler, Macy & Associates have done a great job in the past and Mr. Hutchins recommended that the Board approve them for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SEVEN (7) MEMBERS PRESENT.

9. Report and discussion on the (proposed) Amendment to the 2012 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan modifying limitations on the use of effluent outside the Truckee Meadows Service Area (“TMSA”), and possible direction to staff – Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)

Jim Smitherman reported on the proposed amendment. This amendment not only benefits TMWRF but will benefit the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility and the Reno Stead Water Reclamation Facility.

Commissioner Duerr asked if this amendment would impact anything in the Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”). Mr. Smitherman responded that it would probably not have much impact.

Commissioner Duerr stated that she asked at the Regional Planning Governing Board (‘RPGB’) meeting whether there would be a charge for the effluent or if the focus would be more on getting it out of the river. The answer to that question was that it was still to be decided. Commissioner Duerr asked Mr. Smitherman if he had the same understanding. Mr. Smitherman responded yes.

Commissioner Duerr asked if the cost would be included in the update of the RWMP. Mr. Smitherman responded that cost estimates are required to be included, but who will bear the cost may not be determined by the time of the update.

There was discussion regarding the value of effluent and possible uses. It is a benefit and a resource, but it can be a liability if there is too much.

[Commissioner Smith left at 12:56 p.m.]

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JARDON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

10. Discussion and possible approval of a proposed schedule to prepare and adopt the 2016 update of the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”) – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reviewed process requirements and timing for the RWMP update.

Commissioner Duerr asked about the public outreach proposal for the RWMP update. Mr. Smitherman stated that the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) meetings are public meetings and that will be the public’s first chance for input. Once a draft is ready to bring to this Board, there will be a public workshop.

Commissioner Duerr requested future discussion to address the public outreach process, and suggested that Mr. Smitherman reach out to the City of Reno’s public outreach staff regarding ways to more proactively engagement the public.

Vice-Chairman Hartung suggested identifying stumbling blocks early on in the process.

There was discussion regarding the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority meeting attended by several of the Board members. Interest was shown in holding a joint meeting in the future to share information that was presented regarding water resources. Vice-Chairman Hartung stated that he requested a digital copy of the presentations to share with TMWA, and expressed interest in agendizing this topic for discussion when there is a full Board.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JARDON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

11. Report on current beneficial uses of irrigation ditches in the Truckee Meadows, and RWMP provisions relating to such ditches – Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)

Chris Wessel stated that the staff report includes historical background information on the ditches, as requested at the last WRWC meeting. Mr. Wessel stated he was available to answer any questions or give a presentation on this item if desired. There were no question.

12. Report on the Cloud Seeding funding efforts and related legislative activities – Jim Smitherman.

Mr. Smitherman provided an update on the Cloud Seeding funding efforts. Mr. Smitherman recently received a proposal for a state-wide Cloud Seeding Program from the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”). The proposal would be to forward on the cost to the Legislative Council Bureau to include in a bill draft that has been requested by the Interim Committee on Public Lands at the request of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority. Mr. Smitherman reviewed information in the proposal and stated that it is a better deal than they are getting now with the local program. If the state-wide cost share program goes forward, it would be a great benefit to the TMWA and to this Board.

There was discussion regarding the cost of the current local program and other potential contributors.

Commissioner Duerr expressed interest having a better understanding of the Cloud Seeding Program and requested a future agenda item to discuss details of the program.

Vice-Chairman Hartung stated that he would like to see the program move away from ground based operations and move to using drones.

Commissioner Cohen asked for updates on Commissioners' efforts to seek funding from local ski resorts. Vice-Chairman Hartung responded that there is nothing to report on that, and that effort was to be made in concert with the DRI.

Mr. Smitherman stated he will pass on the comments and questions to the DRI, and will have a representative from the DRI at the next WRWC meeting.

13. Possible direction to staff regarding agenda items for a possible January 21, 2015, meeting and other future meetings – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)

Mr. Smitherman reviewed potential agenda items for the January WRWC meeting: swearing in of new trustees; election of officers; establishment of a legislative subcommittee; report on US Bureau of Reclamation's Basin Study; report on Cloud Seeding efforts with the DRI; recognition of departing trustees; public outreach schedule for the RWMP update.

There was discussion regarding timing issues with the WRWC meetings following TMWA's meetings. It was decided that the WRWC meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m., prior to the TMWA meetings.

COMMISSIONER MARTINI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AS DISCUSSED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JARDON. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) MEMBERS PRESENT.

14. Commission Comments

Commissioner Cohen announced that today will be his last WRWC meeting.

15. Staff Comments

None

16. Public Comment

None

17. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on _____ 2015.

Chairman