

**WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

The Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, via Teleconference, and conducted the following business.

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

Chair Hartung called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. There was a quorum present via telephonic and/or Zoom appearance.

Commissioners Present:

Sandra Ainsworth  
Paul Anderson  
Jenny Brekhus  
Kristopher Dahir  
Naomi Duerr  
Vaughn Hartung  
Jeanne Herman  
Bob Lucey  
Bonnie Weber

Appointed by:

Sun Valley General Improvement District (“SVGID”)  
Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) (Sparks)  
TMWA (Reno)  
City of Sparks  
City of Reno  
Washoe County  
TMWA (Washoe County)  
TMWA (STMGID Successor)  
Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (“TMWRF”)

Commissioners Absent:

None

Appointed by:

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Approval of Agenda (For Possible Action)**

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAHIR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**4. Approval of the Minutes for the WRWC meeting of May 21, 2020 (For Possible Action)**

No action was taken on this item

**5. Discussion and action on a Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) recommendation for a proposal and funding request from Washoe County, not to exceed \$170,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF) for reimbursement of costs related to the Steamboat Irrigation Ditch Evaluation; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an interlocal agreement with Washoe County for that purpose – Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner. (For Possible Action)**

Dwayne Smith, Director of Engineering and Capital Projects, Washoe County Community Services Department, presented a proposal and request for funding to partially fund a project to evaluate a portion of the Steamboat Irrigation Ditch through the urbanized areas within the jurisdictions of Washoe County and the City of Reno between Hunter Creek and Evans Creek. The effort is intended to provide support to Washoe County and the City of Reno for assessment of potential flood control outlet improvements on the Steamboat Ditch.

Michael Pagni, WRWC Legal Counsel, disclosed for the record that he is legal counsel for the Steamboat Ditch Company. He explained that this funding came from and would go to Washoe County and not Steamboat and did not implicate any conflict issue.

Commissioner Duerr disclosed that she is on the Lake Ditch Board.

Mr. Smith answered questions from commissioners regarding the evaluation. These requested funds will cover the majority of the costs. If there are additional costs later, they would look at other areas to contribute as well. Their intent is not just to identify the mitigation approaches for this area but to develop a strategy that can be applied in other areas at later times.

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING REQUEST FROM WASHOE COUNTY, NOT TO EXCEED \$170,000 FROM THE RWMF, FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS RELATED TO THE STEAMBOAT IRRIGATION DITCH EVALUATION AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH WASHOE COUNTY FOR THAT PURPOSE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LUCEY. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION BY COMMISSIONER WEBER.

**6. Discussion and action on a NNWPC recommendation for a scope of work and funding, not to exceed \$250,000 from the RWMF, to support the Truckee River Foundation's proposal to implement the One Truckee River Management Plan; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement with the Truckee River Foundation for that purpose – Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager. (For Possible Action)**

In 2015, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) and Nevada Land Trust (NLT) joined forces to convene a diverse planning team to consider activities, issues and impacts along the Truckee River and create a comprehensive, collaborative plan to address a broad range of issues. In September of the following year, the One Truckee River (OTR) Management Plan, Phase 1, was unanimously approved by the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and Washoe County. One Truckee River is presently guided by a leadership team, which proposes transitioning the initiative out from under KTMB and NLT, and into the Truckee River Foundation nonprofit organization using funding from the RWMF for fiscal year 2020-21. The move is intended to increase and enhance support for staff, operations and efforts to implement identified priority action items.

Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager, confirmed that the budget for next fiscal year does include funding for this project.

Iris Jehle-Peppard, Partnership Director of OTR, gave a presentation on the funding request for this project and answered questions from commissioners regarding the contract agreement and scope of work.

Commissioners discussed the need for more fine-tuned details and a clear explanation of the crime prevention program. They also questioned the plans to transition the initiative into the Truckee River Foundation.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard stated she is open to adjustments and she wants the work that OTR does to fit under the prioritized action items that the partnership council determined in 2017. It is key for OTR to stay focused on the consensus that has been built with that group as it includes so many agencies. The crime prevention by environmental design is about identifying who owns what land and what could possibly be done with that land. It is a journey that is just conceptual at the moment. Before Lynn Barker left the City of Reno she said that the Police Department and Public Works came to her with this idea and that is why she was moving it forward. OTR is trying to have a solid foundation to do all of this work and move it forward.

Commissioner Dahir asked if there are any potential issues if this is not approved until the next meeting in July.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard confirmed they would be fine to wait until July 15 for the funds to be approved.

Commissioner Brekhuis discussed the need for a holistic scope of services that we can understand. Also, there may need to be articulation that they are using this fund but are marrying it up with other funds to achieve implementation of the plan.

COMMISSIONER BREKHUIS MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT WRWC MEETING IN ORDER FOR HERSELF AND OTHER WRWC MEMBERS TO SIT WITH STAFF AND MS. JEHL-PEPPARD TO WORK ON SOME REVISIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF THIS CONTRACT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAHIR.

Public Comment:

John Enloe stated there are some misperceptions about what OTR is and isn't. Ms. Jehle-Peppard's job is coordinating, facilitating, and being a conduit. Without Ms. Jehle-Peppard OTR would go nowhere. The objective was not to have this be permanent funding but to help stand up OTR during this transition period.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**7. Presentation of the draft 2020 Washoe County Consensus Forecast; discussion and possible determination that the Consensus Forecast estimate for 2040 population can be supported by the sustainable water resources set forth in the Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP); and possible direction to staff – Jeremy Smith, PhD, Interim Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) and Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

Jeremy Smith, Interim Director of TMRPA, gave a presentation on the draft Consensus Forecast and answered questions from commissioners.

Mr. Smitherman presented a comparison of the Consensus Forecast with the sustainable water resources identified in the RWMP and answered questions from commissioners.

COMMISSIONER DUERR MADE A MOTION TO FIND THAT THE SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES WILL SUPPORT THE 2040 POPULATION FORECAST, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAHIR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

**8. Report on Phase 1 of the Regional Storm Water Drainage Network Geographic Information System (GIS) Map, and possible direction to staff – Jeremy Smith and Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

This item was continued to the July WRWC meeting.

**9. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding agenda items and dates for future WRWC meetings – Jim Smitherman. (For Possible Action)**

The WRWC will meet again in July at 8:30 a.m. Agenda items will include: Interim Director position; OTR Management Plan; a report from Regional Planning on the stormwater infrastructure GIS coverage; presentation from TMWA on their Water Resource Plan; and a recommendation on Resolution No. 5 on conformance review procedures.

**10. Commission Comments**

None

**11. Staff Comments**

None

**12. Public Comment**

None

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Christine Birmingham, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

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Chair Vaughn Hartung