

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2007
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met at Washoe County Department of Water Resources, 4930 Energy Way, Reno, Nevada. Chairman Mike Carrigan called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Mike Carrigan, Vice Chairman Dave Aiazzi; Bob Larkin, and Geno Martini.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Brainard, resident of Sparks, Nevada, spoke in favor of moving full speed ahead with the implementation of universal metered billing as soon as possible thereby ensuring water delivery on an equitable basis for all TMWA customers.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Aiazzi, second by Member Martini, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the agenda for November 9, 2007.

4. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON SCHEDULE FOR BRINGING A FUTURE AGENDA ITEM TO THE BOARD REGARDING IMPLEMENTING METERED BILLING FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Kim Mazeres presented the following communications and public outreach plan and schedule to the Board for the implementing metered billing for all residential customers.

- **Mid-November:**
 - Send postcards to all flat-rate customers to inform them of the upcoming opportunities for participation in public meetings and workshops.
 - Send letters to all Washoe County legislators and commission members and to all City of Reno and Sparks council members to advise them of the proposed changes and public meetings.
- **Wednesday, November 21 and Sunday, November 25:** Provide notice in the Reno Gazette-Journal, Sparks Tribune and Ahora newspapers regarding the upcoming public meetings and workshops.
- **Saturday, December 1, 9:30 am:** Public workshop by Staff to be held at TMWA.
- **Tuesday, December 4, 9:00 am:** TMWA Technical Advisory Committee public meeting held at TMWA.
- **Tuesday, December 4, 3:00 pm:** TMWA Standing Advisory Committee public meeting held at TMWA.
- **Wednesday, December 5, 5:30 pm:** Public workshop by Staff to be held at TMWA.

- **Thursday, December 13, 6 pm:** TMWA Board meeting, held at Sparks Council Chambers, where this agenda item is recommended to be in the format of a public hearing.

During all of the above public meetings, Staff will discuss the following *proposed* schedule to convert all flat-rate customers to metered billing:

- **January 2008 – Only upon Board decision to proceed,** staff to perform billing conversion work and flat-rate customer notifications.
- **February 2008 – Only upon Board decision to proceed,** all accounts previously billed at the flat-rate that have a meter installed at the premise will be billed at the metered rate.

Staff met with the Editorial Board of the Reno Gazette-Journal on Wednesday, November 7 and discussed the conversion. The Editorial Board is well aware of the Board's interest and the proposed schedule and is awaiting the outcome. Staff has also identified some of the highest users of water to determine whether a personal call or meeting with them is warranted.

The Board made some suggestions for additions to the above recommendations. Prior to the workshop, place a full-page ad in the Reno Gazette-Journal touching on some of the following points: a) inform metered customers also as the postcards are only going to flat-rate customers; b) give the reasons why this is being done, which are that metering was a commitment under the negotiated settlement act in exchange for drought storage and that the retrofits were paid for with developer money not by the customers; c) emphasize that saved water goes for drought storage NOT for growth. The ad should be large enough to compel those interested people to come out and voice their support of the implementation. Be sure to note that the Board wants your input and this is not a "done deal" until after the Board votes on this matter on December 13. Also the Board noted that it would be nice to have Chairman Carrigan as a guest on some of the talk radio stations.

It was noted that over 60% of the customers not currently billing at the metered rates would pay the same or less after the conversion.

Chairman Carrigan also wanted it noted for the record that TMWA will, as they have always done, allow a newly converted customer who finds a leak two months in which to fix the problem. Ms. Mazeris also noted that staff auditors and those in the conservation department are proactively researching customers' bills, looking for any problems. Ms. Williams also reminded the Board that customers can call the Call Center at 834-8080 where they can get a comparison for their last twelve months of billing. Either Ms. Mazeris or Ms. Williams are willing to discuss any problem with any customer.

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Aiazzi, second by Member Martini, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board voted to follow staff recommendations with the additions that were brought up during the discussion and to have this item placed on the agenda for the December 13, 2007 Board meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment.

6. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the board meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on December 14, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Cassell, Recording Secretary