



## STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

February 4, 2020

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The Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) met at Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) in the Independence Room, 1355 Capital Blvd., Reno, Nevada. Chair McGuire called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

**Primary Members and Voting Alternates Present:** Ken Becker, Harry Culbert, Jordan Hastings, Colin Hayes, Don Kowitz, Carol Litster, Neil McGuire, Taylor Russo, Fred Schmidt, Mike Schulewitch, and Jerry Wager.

**Alternates Present:** Fred Arndt, Karl Katt, Susan Hoog, John Krmpotic, Chris Melton, Scot Munns, Dale Sanderson, and Jim Smith.

**Primary Members and Alternates Absent:** Robert Chambers, Ken McNeil, Jonnie Pullman, and Ann Silver.

**Staff Present:** Matt Bowman, Robert Charpentier, Laine Christman, John Enloe, Scott Estes, Sonia Folsom, Mark Foree, Bill Hauck, Danny Rotter, Michele Sullivan, Sandra Tozi, John Zimmerman, and Legal Counsel Mat Trachok (McDonald Carano).

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Upon motion duly made by Member Culbert, and seconded by Member Becker, and carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved the agenda.**

#### 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2019 MEETING

**Upon motion duly made by Member Kowitz and seconded by Member Litster, and carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved the December 3, 2019 meeting minutes.**

Chair McGuire noted that Mr. Matt Basile was running late and that Chair McGuire would delay the agenda item for which Mr. Basile was responsible until Mr. Basile arrived.

Chair McGuire re-opened agenda item #2 Public Comment.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair McGuire introduced Chris Melton, the new Sun Valley General Improvement District wholesale alternate representative, John Krmptic, the new commercial customer alternate representative, and Taylor Russo, the new Reno-Sparks Chamber primary representative.

## 6. WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Bill Hauck, TMWA Water Supply Administrator, reported that, even though this year's snowpack was only at 76% of average with the snow season two-thirds through, the region can expect normal river flows. Mr. Hauck added that there is no need for concern because the region has enough water storage for normal river flows even if the next three years are extremely dry.

Member Schulewitch asked what the average at this point was last year. Mr. Hauck replied 140-150% of normal in early February and 175% of normal on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 5. PRESENTATION ON THE DECLINE IN THE TREE CANOPY IN THE AREA

Matt Basile, Urban Forester, presented on the tree canopy coverage in the Reno area. Mr. Basile stated that the City of Reno currently has only 5.2% canopy coverage, which is significantly lower than what is recommended by the United States Forest Service for the region (15%), and that the City of Reno is taking steps to increase the tree canopy. He provided an overview of what the City of Reno is doing to increase the tree coverage on public property, as well as to improve irrigation efficiency and create a diverse ecosystem to protect against disease. In addition, the City of Reno is updating its tree species list (what trees are either native or will survive in our region) and its ordinances to clarify who is responsible for trees that border private property.

At this time, Committee Members requested that Mr. Basile make a similar presentation to the Builders Association of Northern Nevada (BANN) to address any concerns with respect to the changes to the ordinances before adoption; asked questions and made comments regarding specific items in Mr. Basile's presentation, including the relationship between trees and carbon suppression, tree species selection, planting, and irrigation; and discussed the extent of TMWA's purview with respect to trees. Laine Christman, TMWA Conservation Supervisor, explained that TMWA's role has been to work with Dale Carlin, who provides tree assessments, tips and tricks for tree conservation to TMWA customers, as well as to provide a free Landscape Guide, which is on TMWA's website. Mr. Christman added he is working with Mr. Basile at the City of Reno and the UNR Cooperative Extension to align TMWA's landscape guidebook with their list of recommended trees.

7. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR SECOND QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2020

Matt Bowman, TMWA Financial Controller, presented the financial performance for the second quarter year-to-date fiscal year 2020. Change in net position was \$4.1m higher than budget, due primarily to net capital contributions that were approximately \$1.9m higher than budget (due to higher developer contributions of \$2.8m offset by lower grant revenue of \$1.0m), higher operating income of \$1.7m, and lower non-operating expenses of \$0.6m (due to higher investment income of \$0.8m). Operating revenue was \$2.9m lower than budget due mostly to \$2.7m less in water sales. Operating expenses were \$4.5m lower than budget primarily due to lower services and supplies costs (\$2.7m lower than budget). Cash on hand was \$213.5m or \$15.7m higher than at the beginning of the fiscal year (\$156.5m unrestricted cash to meet operating & maintenance expenses, principal & interest payments, and construction projects, and \$57.0m restricted cash to pay for scheduled bond principal and interest payments, as well as maintain required reserves as stipulated in TMWA's bond covenants).

8. PRESENTATION OF DIFFERENT WATERING ADVANCEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Laine Christman presented on the two main categories of real-time leak detection devices: sub-meters (connected directly to main supply line and WiFi to analyze water consumption, and some allow water to be turned off remotely) and moisture sensors (can be connected to a toilet or put under a sink). The primary goal is to provide early detection of a leak via electronic notification. Mr. Christman also provided an overview of irrigation controllers that are connected via WiFi to provide better control of when and how much to water depending on the weather.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

**Next meeting:**

1. Water supply update
2. Presentation on FY 2021 tentative budget and 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
3. Presentation on TMWA's Draft 2020-40 Water Resource Plan
4. Presentation on water quality
5. Election of Vice Chair for the remainder of calendar year 2020

**Upon motion duly made by Member Schulewitch and seconded by Member Hayes, and carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved to cancel the March 3, 2020 meeting.**

**Upon motion duly made by Member Culbert and seconded by Vice Chair Schmidt, and carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved the above agenda items for future meetings.**

10. STAFF ITEMS

Michele Sullivan, TMWA Chief Financial Officer, reported to the Committee that the TMWA Board approved continuing to implement the next 2.5% rate increase, which will go into effect in the May billing cycle.

11. COMMITTEE ITEMS

Vice Chair Schmidt informed the Committee that he is retiring and introduced Chris Melton, Sun Valley General Improvement District Public Works Director, who is to be appointed his alternate.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items for discussion, Chair McGuire adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

Approved by the Standing Advisory Committee in session on August 4, 2020.

Sonia Folsom, Recording Secretary