

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2020  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, via Zoom Virtual Meeting, Reno, Nevada. Chair Hartung called the meeting to order at 10: 31 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Paul Anderson, Jenny Brekhus, Kristopher Dahir, Naomi Duerr, Neoma Jardon, Vaughn Hartung, and Jeanne Herman.

A quorum was present by telephonic appearance.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Member Brekhus.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Upon motion by Member Duerr second by Member Anderson, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the agenda.**

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2020 MEETING

**Upon motion by Member Brekhus, second by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the May 21, 2020 minutes.**

6. PRESENTATION ON THE PORTLAND LOO PROJECT

John Enloe, TMWA Director of Natural Resources, updated the Board on the status of the Portland Loo Project at Brodhead Park. Mr. Enloe stated that TMWA has contracted with Gerhardt & Berry Construction, Inc., but the construction of the first installation is slightly delayed at Brodhead Park due to the civil unrest downtown.

Board Members inquired where the other two restrooms would be installed (locations have yet to be determined at this time); the role of the maintenance valet (the individual will be stationed at Brodhead park to ensure proper use of the restroom, light maintenance/cleaning and social outreach); and when the restroom would be open (about four weeks from the start of construction).

## 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING TMWA'S DRAFT 2020-2040 WATER RESOURCE PLAN

Kara Steeland, TMWA Hydrologist, presented the draft 2020-2040 Water Resource Plan (2040WRP), as well as the public outreach schedule, and staff plans to bring it back for final Board approval in the fall. Bill Hauck, TMWA Water Supply Administrator, presented the climate change model scenarios, which indicate that even in extreme scenarios, the first year of shortage is 50 years out; therefore, TMWA's water supply remains extremely resilient under current operations. Mr. Hauck further explained the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant TMWA received in September 2019 is a multi-agency approach to reevaluate the flood control management of upstream storage (last updated in 1985) based on changing climate conditions, potentially providing a more flexible and adaptive storage plan.

The Board commended staff on a great job drafting the 2040WRP: making it more accessible to the general audience, shifting the focus from TMWA's history to be more forward looking, addressing climate change, including the BOR grant in its analysis, expanding the ASR program, and presenting a strong future water supply outlook.

Vice Chair Dahir stated it is important to invest funds to address major issues such as climate change, sewer and growth, but not necessarily building more reservoirs. Mr. Hauck agreed and said TMWA's greatest asset in combating climate change is the adaptive management of its reservoirs and convincing the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) through our studies and analysis to protect the community against flood and capture more upstream snowmelt will be critical. Mr. Enloe added continuing to invest in advanced purified water and reclaimed water efforts in the region, and capitalize on the local resources available, such as the Marlette Lake Water System, will also prove beneficial.

Chair Hartung inquired about the recommendation from the USGS regarding the need for additional reservoirs in our system for future sustainability. Mr. Hauck replied California would probably not permit another major reservoir. Adjusting reservoir operations will be extremely important, since runoff may occur well before April under future climate conditions, and having the ability to adaptively manage the reservoirs will increase how much runoff is captured. Mr. Hauck informed the Board the Sacramento ACOE completed a similar analysis on the American Rivers and Folsom Reservoir and they have begun operating the reservoir differently; TMWA staff will be working with the Sacramento ACOE on the BOR grant.

Member Duerr liked the public process outreach and recommended for staff to utilize the Facebook Live feature on Zoom to engage the public even more so.

Member Brekhus raised questions about the need to develop policies regarding growth and suggested integrating TMWA's projections with other agency analyses related to growth and economic status in the region to be better equipped for industries coming to the region. In addition, Member Brekhus requested

more information on the Marlette Lake Water System as well as how the connection between ASR and reclaimed water work, prior to final adoption of the plan.

At this time the Board requested staff to return in the fall with any substantive concerns and/or feedback they receive during the public outreach process prior to final adoption, and to present the final 2040WRP to all three entities: Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County.

**No action taken.**

## 8. PUBLIC HEARING ON RATE AMENDMENT

### A. RATE AMENDMENT, SECOND HEARING AND ADOPTION: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 286: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT TMWA NEW RATE SCHEDULE INTERRUPTIBLE LARGE VOLUME NON-POTABLE SERVICE (ILVNPS)

Mr. Enloe presented the proposed ILVNPS Rate Schedule, which would create a mechanism to allow for temporary uses of reclaimed water for various purposes. Since the first reading in May, TMWA has received another request from the Somerset Golf Course for TMWA to either lease or serve them Truckee River water (about 100 acre feet) through their own facilities so they could irrigate the golf course this summer (one of their irrigation wells is out of service). Mr. Enloe introduced Kevin Porter, City of Sparks Utility Manager, who is available to answer questions related to Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) and reclaim water use that were brought up at the last meeting.

Member Brekhus stated she did not support the first reading due to concerns about TMWRF, and inquired if these requests would be brought to the Board for approval. Mr. Enloe replied only if the request was significant since it is at TMWA's discretion depending on the current drought situation and water availability. Michael Pagni, TMWA General Counsel, added generally it would be within the general manager's authority to add a customer but if the general manager desired additional direction he would have the ability to bring to the Board for input if necessary.

Mr. Enloe further explained the original request for temporary service was brought to TMWA by both City of Sparks and the developer for the 5 Ridges development. The issue is City of Sparks does not have the water rights to satisfy the return flow obligation and diverting additional TMWRF effluent for the project; the new rate structure gives the ability to temporarily permit water rights to leave in the river to help satisfy the return flow. Mr. Porter confirmed the City of Sparks is supportive of this rate and even though City of Sparks has an inventory of water rights used for return flow management, they are not experts in managing water rights which is why TMWA's expertise is greatly valued in assisting them to sign up a temporary reuse customer.

Member Brekhus asked if there had been discussions at the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) on how this will affect the allocation of the joint ownership. Mr. Porter replied he does not sit on the JCC and cannot speak specifically to the allocation of joint ownership. He added in terms of joint ownership and effluent leaving TMWRF, Sparks has a variety of customers it serves as well as the City of Reno; and Washoe County has its own reclaimed water system from effluent produced at their South Truckee

Meadows Water Reclamation Facility; and all three entities are looking for the opportunity to add customers.

Member Brekhus stated she would like a better explanation of what is effluent as a water resource, if the new rate would create capacity for the City of Sparks to add will-serve letters for reclaim service, and expressed concerns about the increased demand and added stress on the system. Mr. Porter replied no, the intent is not to identify new customers, rather following the best practice of utilizing the existing system to serve customers wishing to use reuse water on a short-term basis, and the new rate tariff will assist them. Mr. Enloe clarified this would not impact TMWA’s existing facilities; users have to have their own facilities to divert water.

The Board discussed how beneficial this is for managing effluent, maintaining the return-flow requirements and utilizing water in the Truckee River that would otherwise not be used. They agreed they would like to be kept informed of new customers, keep the process in place that already exists under the general manager’s authority, and have the general manager report new customers using this rate to the Board in his monthly water rights report.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**Upon motion by Member Dahir, second by Member Jardon, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 286: A resolution to adopt TMWA new Rate Schedule Interruptible Large Volume Non-Potable Service (ILVNPS).**

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

**9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN AND REQUEST FOR BOARD ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 287 APPOINTING A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

Mr. Foree presented this item.

Member Anderson moved to appoint Vaughn Hartung to Chair and Kristopher Dahir to Vice Chair.

**Upon motion by Member Anderson, second by Member Jardon, which motion duly carried six to one with Member Brekhus dissenting, the Board adopted Resolution No. 287: A resolution appointing Vaughn Hartung as Chairman, and Kristopher Dahir as Vice Chair, of TMWA Board of Directors for fiscal year 2020-2021.**

## 10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Foree reported Lake Tahoe is about 1.2 feet below full and reservoir storage is at 75-80% total, which equates to a solid reservoir supply scenario with normal river flows for at least the next two years. TMWA's current revenue status is holding strong with the warm weather in April and May. Mr. Foree added that TMWA is now in Phase 2, following Governor Sisolak's reopening of the state, and slowly increasing employees returning to the office, but only based on need and for many it will remain status quo (which is working very well), and temperature scanning kiosks have been set up at all TMWA locations.

Michele Sullivan, TMWA Chief Financial Officer, reported revenues were behind \$3m until the spring, but have since made up more than half of that in the past few months and are now only a little over \$1m under budget. Ms. Sullivan noted collections have increased over the past 60 days for bills that are over \$100 or more. However, there is no pressure to pay and customers will receive friendly reminders asking them to communicate with us so that we can work with them to spread out the payments over six months (or more if needed); this is approximately 3,500 customers and about \$0.5m.

Member Brekhus inquired about water collections and how other water purveyors are creating policies for shut offs as well as wastewater and water resources for the most-recent annexation into TMWA's service area in the North Valleys. Ms. Sullivan replied TMWA does have a policy in place and she attended a virtual conference regarding this very issue; no utility is shutting off water at this time. Mr. Zimmerman replied that wastewater from the recently annexed project will go to the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility and the project would use Fish Springs water resources for the Will-Serve Commitment.

Chair Hartung inquired about additional snowmelt, the river flow rate and how many flood gates are open. Mr. Hauck replied no, it will be more evaporation rather than snowmelt, three gates are open, and Mr. Foree added river flow is about 200 cubic feet per second leaving Tahoe and at 970 cubic feet per second at Farad (at the state line).

## 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 12. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Brekhus requested staff reports be hyperlinked to the agenda for ease of reading digitally.

Vice Chair Dahir inquired about the health of staff. Ms. Atkinson replied staff is doing well with no confirmed cases.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Chair Hartung adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on August 19, 2020.  
Sonia Folsom, Board Clerk.