

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, via Zoom Virtual Meeting, Reno, Nevada. Chair Hartung called the meeting to order at 10: 00 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul Anderson, *Jenny Brekhus, Naomi Duerr, **Neoma Jardon, Vaughn Hartung, Jeanne Herman, and Alternate Ed Lawson.

Members Absent: Kristopher Dahir

*Member Brekhus arrived at 10:02 a.m.

**Member Jardon left at 12:16 p.m.

A quorum was present by telephonic appearance.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ed Lawson, City of Sparks Mayor.

4. POSSIBLE BOARD COMMENTS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

Chair Hartung took item #4 out of order to express condolences on the passing of Carson City Mayor Crowell. Chair Hartung then noted the Board would have a closed-door session upon adjournment, and congratulated Mayor Ed Lawson of City of Sparks on his appointment as Mayor.

Alternate Lawson stated Mayor Crowell was a great man who championed for Carson City and he will be missed.

Member Jardon was also saddened by Mayor Crowell's passing whom she had known for a very long time. She also congratulated Ed Lawson on his promotion to Mayor at City of Sparks and acknowledged Chair Hartung's recognition by Water Environment Federation (WEF) for Public Official of the Year for his contribution to clean water public policy and government service.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Joe Nannini, TMWA customer, submitted written comment on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 regarding TMWA's decision to close the Hunter Creek Ponds to fishing be reconsidered. "These ponds are such a great place to teach kids to fish for bass. There are not a lot of fisheries in this area that support this sort of family activity and the Hunter Creek Ponds are a great resource! It is understood that there were a few

people who left behind their trash. I would be the first in line to organize park cleanups and similar activities for this area if need be. I am sure there are also local non-profits who would get involved. Closing off access does nothing but create animosity toward TMWA. TMWA's decision to take away a phenomenal opportunity for kids to learn how to fish with their families is such a disappointment. These sorts of hidden spots are what makes Reno a great place to raise kids. I urge you to reconsider this decision as it hurts this community greatly.”

4. POSSIBLE BOARD COMMENTS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

Chair Hartung asked Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager, to have an agenda item regarding the Hunter Creek Pond issue at the next Board meeting to have further discussion.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Member Duerr second by Member Jardon, which motion duly carried by six to zero of the members present and Member Herman, who participated telephonically, did not indicate a vote, the Board approved the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2020 MEETING

Upon motion by Member Jardon, second by Member Anderson, which motion duly carried by six to zero of the members present and Member Herman, who participated telephonically, did not indicate a vote, the Board approved the August 19, 2020 minutes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Public Comment period was reopened to accommodate a late received public comment request. Michele Hulbert, TMWA customer and member of the Juniper Hills Homeowners Association (HOA), stated the ponds at Hunter Creek never had fish in them, but someone planted fish in the ponds and the unintended consequence in the past six months is the increased traffic at all hours of the day and night, as well as trash and debris left behind, and people cutting across private property to get to the ponds instead of using the trail. They have had to call the police at times when people are at the ponds fishing and causing a noise disturbance into the night and urged TMWA to keep the ponds dormant from fish.

7. RECOGNITION OF CITY OF SPARKS MAYOR RON SMITH

Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager, noted August 19th was a sad day for TMWA and the community with the passing of Sparks Mayor Ron Smith. Chair Hartung said Mayor Smith was a dear friend to all of us, a great advocate, and colleague.

Member Anderson thanked TMWA for recognizing Mayor Smith and he is sitting on the TMWA Board of Directors because of him.

Alternate Lawson informed the Board that the Northern Nevada Veteran's Memorial (Memorial) will be completed sooner than expected due to an unexpected generous donor.

Member Jardon stated she had known him since before she held public office and appreciated his guidance and friendship. He advocated for projects that would benefit the region and not just City of Sparks for years to come and was always looking out for you and seeing how he could help.

Member Duerr said the Memorial was Mayor Smith's legacy. She had the privilege of working with him at the Flood Authority for years and got to know him personally, and his contributions to the community.

Member Brekhus said she only served with Mayor Smith on the TMWA Board for a brief time and expressed her sympathies to his family.

Andy Gebhardt, TMWA Director of Operations & Water Quality, on behalf of staff said it was refreshing that you could deal with Mayor Smith as a "normal" guy and not an elected official. That he didn't pretend to know what he didn't know, trusted staff, and asked questions to understand.

Chair Hartung requested staff provide a plaque to his wife in his honor.

8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 INTEGRATED SOURCE WATER AND 319(H) WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS AND THE TRUCKEE RIVER IN THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS

Kara Steeland, TMWA Hydrologist, updated the Board since their approval of allocating TMWA staff to work on the plan in January 2017, and introduced Lynn Zonge and Jill Sutherland, Resource Concepts Inc. (RCI), and Kim Rigdon and Birgit Widegren, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) with whom staff has been working to finalize the plan. Ms. Widegren presented the progress made since the initial presentation in 2017, and Ms. Zonge presented the Source Water and Watershed Protection Web Map in the Truckee Meadows region and how to navigate the webtool.

Members of the Board commended staff on all their work and the relevancy of the plan and web map. They discussed the possibility of adding a layer for domestic wells at a later date, expressed concerns regarding the risks of wildfires and their impact on water quality (the web map describes the relationship between the two factors), and how TMWA would use this plan as part of the review process (TMWA staff has been working with City of Reno staff on its zoning code update, which will now require certain projects to notify TMWA prior to continuing through the review process).

Ms. Widegren acknowledged all the different groups and stakeholders they have been working with these past few years. It is also a watershed management plan, which requires state and federal endorsement that would open up additional sources of funding.

Upon motion by Member Anderson, second by Member Brekhus, which motion duly carried by six to zero of the members voting the Board accepted the 2020 Integrated Source Water and 319(h) Watershed Protection Plan for Public Water Systems and the Truckee River in the Truckee Meadows. (Member Herman, who participated telephonically, did not indicate a vote on the item)

9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE UPDATED TMWA DRAFT 2020-2040 WATER RESOURCE PLAN

Ms. Steeland updated the Board on the edits to the draft 2020-2040 Water Resource Plan (2040 WRP) since staff presented in June. Much of the public feedback received was positive with a few requesting staff to make clarifying edits on key language regarding climate change, water conservation and groundwater capacity, which are presented in the updated 2040 WRP. Also, per a Board Member comment regarding changes to Chapter 5 “Other Conceptual Resources,” which are private water projects, staff is looking to the Board for input on next steps.

Member Brekhus confirmed she raised concerns regarding Chapter 5 and the public perception that TMWA supports private entities to import water, and stressed TMWA should be the developer of water resources in the region and would like a larger discussion regarding that topic.

The Board expressed they approved of the changes made (regarding climate change scenarios, conservation and water use) and the new platform for the 2040 WRP and discussed the listing of potential projects in the 2040 WRP and public perception misconstruing these as officially endorsed by TMWA. John Enloe, TMWA Director of Natural Resources, agreed and said TMWA is not advocating for or against these projects listed, and there are other projects that were not listed in the 2040 WRP simply because they were not ready to be made public. Mr. Foree added that TMWA does not currently have any contracts with these projects and any such projects would go before the Board for approval prior to any work by TMWA commencing.

Mr. Enloe said he and staff can modify the Other Conceptual Resources section introduction in Chapter 5 based on the discussion today and will provide the provide proposed language to Members Brekhus and Duerr prior to October for final approval of the 2040 WRP.

No action taken.

10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 288: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND AN AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO FUND SUCH PROJECTS FROM FUND PROCEEDS (RESOLUTION MAY REFLECT ACTION TAKEN IN ONE OR MORE VOTES ON RECOMMENDED PROJECTS)

Mr. Enloe presented the staff report for Board approval and referred to Project #244, Washoe County project regarding river encampment cleanup, in particular. Mr. Enloe informed the Board on the progress being made with the Portland Loo, which has been opened and in operation for over a month now and has been successful because of the outreach and communication with people along the river. They are also opening it an hour earlier in response to the public request because of the relationships being built with people along the river. He introduced Dana Searcy, Washoe County Project Coordinator, to provide the Board with more information regarding Project #244.

Ms. Searcy stated this project is innovative and is part of the Build for Zero project, which is a movement of over 80 different communities across the country to address homelessness in a comprehensive system. Here, it is a regional effort by over 33 different organization as well as all three jurisdictions, Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County (under the County Manager's office). They are working closely together on two focus areas: in the short-term is to clean up the river through the work of the river stewards program, and long-term to improve the river corridor and water quality in our community and reduce the number of people along the river. Already, a lot of work has been accomplished through Grant Denton at Karma Box Project and the One Truckee River with the Portland Loo as well as all the outreach that occurring.

Members of the Board thanked Ms. Searcy for her contribution in the effort to address the homeless issue and collaborative work with partner agencies to pool resources to positively affect change. The Board discussed how the Built for Zero is the key to collecting data to track the program, connecting the jurisdictions with resources, and bringing them together. Ms. Searcy replied the County Manager's office is the lead and they will track all activities and monitor what is working well and how to replicate it without duplicating efforts, and the project will start October 1, 2020. Member Jardon commended Mr. Denton on the progress his initiative has made along the river and his continued communication with staff at the City of Reno.

Upon motion by Member Jardon, second by Member Duerr, which motion duly carried by six to zero of the members voting, the Board adopted Resolution No. 288: A Resolution to approve funding for the projects recommended by the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee and an authorization for the Community Foundation to fund such projects from Fund proceeds. (Member Herman, who participated telephonically, did not indicate a vote on the item)

11. DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL FUTURE AGREEMENT(S) WITH CITY OF RENO FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AMERICAN FLAT ADVANCED PURIFIED WATER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND STAFF AND COST SHARING FOR WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT WORK

Mr. Enloe introduced John Flansberg, City of Reno, to answer questions and informed the Board on the progress made regarding the A+ Feasibility Study Project at Reno-Stead, being the first of its sort in the state of Nevada, which will allow for recharge of 10 gallons per minute of advanced purified water. TMWA will show the science behind the project (TMWA has an engineering report which was provided to NDEP and an electronic copy can be provided); the last phase of the demonstration project will, after extensive water quality and geochemical testing, validate the water quality does not change once injected. A final report will be provided to NDEP by April 2021 and an executive summary can be provided to the Board at that time. TMWA has been working with agency partners for a number of years to get to this juncture and staff is requesting the Board to approve moving forward on working with City of Reno and bringing back an agreement(s) for approval.

The Board approved, and expressed full support for this project which ensures good management of water resources in the region. They inquired about the success of the proposed American Flat project considering that Bedell Flat did not succeed as expected. Mr. Enloe added the Bedell Flat project was in a remote location which had no infrastructure to recharge and after they conducted drilling tests to understand the hydrogeology, it showed an immediate response to pumping and did not have capacity to store water, which is when they switched to American Flat (they have been able to recharge potable water for 5 months at 500 gallons per minute). The Board asked whether nearby wells would be impacted by the project and to initiate a mitigation program for safety measures. TMWA and City of Reno staff are currently monitoring the site to ensure that irrigation needs are met and not over saturating the soil.

Member Anderson said this is a fantastic project and thanked Mr. Enloe and staff for all their work, and stated for the record he approves TMWA supporting a project that even though the City of Sparks will not see a direct benefit from, this will help City of Reno right now, and will count on in the future in years of drought; a great thing for the community as a whole.

Mr. Flansberg added that the City of Reno has expanded resources out there as well as TMWA along with OneWater Nevada and noted that it is a promising project, and location, to move forward with at this point, as well as to identify roles and responsibilities in Reno and appreciates the support.

Mr. Enloe added it is good for all entities and it addressed the City of Reno's issues. In addition, NDEP hosted a 2-hour public workshop on the feasibility study effort, which was well advertised, and approximately 50 people signed into the workshop.

Upon motion by Member Jardon, second by Member Duerr, which motion duly carried by six to zero of the members voting, the Board approved staff to explore potential future agreement(s) with City of Reno for implementation of American Flat Advanced Purified Water Demonstration Project and staff and cost sharing for water resource development work. (Member Herman, who participated telephonically, did not indicate a vote on the item)

*Member Jardon left at 12:15pm.

Chair Hartung called for a recess at 12:16p.m.

Chair Hartung reconvened the meeting at 12:20pm

12 DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR CONTRACT YEAR 2019/2020 AND DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON POSSIBLE PERFORMANCE LUMP SUM AWARD AND/OR OTHER COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT

Jessica Atkinson, TMWA Human Resources Manager, presented the staff report and noted they received 100% responses on the survey for the first time; the summary of the results is attached to the staff report.

Mr. Foree stated he is not looking for, and did not want, any additional compensation and adjustments.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Foree for all his work and dedication. Member Duerr requested for Mr. Foree address any rating identified as an “Area for Growth” such as Inter-local Cooperation, and Cooperative Communication.

Upon motion by Member Duerr, second by Member Brekhus, which motion duly carried by five to zero of the members voting, the Board accepted the report. (Member Herman, who participated telephonically, did not indicate a vote on the item)

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON REQUEST FOR BOARD INPUT AND ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR CONTRACT YEAR 2020/2021

Mr. Foree presented the report for his goals and objectives for the coming year including: the 2040 WRP for Board approval in October; working with the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County staff regarding regional water issues, including wastewater and effluent management, stormwater and the OneWater Nevada initiative; succession planning because three senior managers are set to retire within the next two years and the need to fill those positions; the Marlette Lake project now that the Memorandum of Understanding has been approved by the three parties, we will be working on identifying the amount of surplus water that could be available to TMWA; work with regional partners to develop and implement

a digital plan review process; and continue working with NDEP and Washoe County District Health to further streamline and improve the plan review and approval process.

Upon motion by Member Brekhus, second by Member Duerr, which motion duly carried by five to zero of the members voting, the Board approved General Manager performance objectives for contract year 2020/2021. (Member Herman, who participated telephonically, did not indicate a vote on the item)

14. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Foree thanked the Board for their continued support, that he appreciated their comments and suggestions, and he will continue to work on the suggested areas to improve upon. He informed the Board that TMWA was recognized by WEF, as a utility of the future, which points to the OneWater Initiative and working with regional partners.

Mr. Enloe added that the recognition is due to the work with the Water Reuse Association and TMWA's involvement in the A+ water demonstration project; TMWA applied for the Innovative Partnership category.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

16. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Duerr requested for an agenda item at a future meeting to address the possibility for TMWA to have the authority to take emergency action to temporarily shut-off water and repair a leak and then back bill the homeowner for the repairs.

17. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Chair Hartung adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

Sonia Folsom, Board Clerk.

****Member Brekhus was present for agenda items 2 thru 17 only.***

*****Member Jardon was present for agenda items 1 thru 11 only.***