

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2023
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at Sparks Council Chambers. Vice Chair Dahir called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Paul Anderson, Jenny Brekhus, Kristopher Dahir, Naomi Duerr, and *Alexis Hill.

Director Absent: Devon Reese and Alternate Mariluz Garcia.

A quorum was present.

**Director Hill was absent between 10:57 a.m. and 11:23 a.m.*

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Director Hill.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. POSSIBLE BOARD COMMENTS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Vice Chair Dahir noted TMWA's newly appointed Director, Commissioner Clara Andriola, will attend the May Board meeting.

Director Hill confirmed she was appointed to the TMWA Board of Directors to replace former Commissioner Hartung and is very excited about being the Board.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Director Duerr, second by Director Anderson, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2023 MEETING

Upon motion by Director Hill, second by Director Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the March 15, 2023 minutes.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING 2023 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES, CURRENT BILLS, AND TMWA RECOMMENDED POSITIONS ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Stefanie Morris, TMWA Director of Legal & Regulatory Affairs, presented the staff report and the legislative subcommittee recommendation to the Board to support AB 261 (State plan for economic development to maximize efficient water use and encourage conservation). Ms. Morris also stated that a major deadline, April 14th, most bills did not pass out of committee with the exception of exempt bills, about 19 bills are dead that TMWA was tracking. AB 220 (SNWA's Omnibus Bill) passed out of committee, which did have an amendment to population cap of 700k for additional sections related to tentative and final maps and AB 387 (related to groundwater basins that have interconnectivity and best available science) passed out of committee, but no amendments yet, and SB 112 and SB 113 (groundwater basin management), have not yet been amended but plenty of discussion.

Director Duerr stated the subcommittee has been meeting regularly, have had good discussions, and taken good positions, and Ms. Morris is doing a great job.

Discussion followed regarding AB 220 and if the State is deciding how to manage water resources or asking for our position, does it impact northern Nevada, and if TMWA supports it. Ms. Morris replied the bill addressing how water conservation is considered in the State Economic development plan, it only applies to Clark County, but the population cap was added to the tentative/final map process, and yes, TMWA supports the bill.

Director Brekhus noted that it is good policy to have this component included in the state economic development plan and for TMWA to be supportive of it.

Upon motion by Director Anderson, second by Director Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved TMWA's Legislative Subcommittee recommendations for all positions on the bill list and Support on AB261.

8. WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Bill Hauck, TMWA Water Supply Supervisor, provided an update on TMWA's water supply: many new records were set, Mt. Rose had its third highest snow water equivalent in 112 years (1983 peak is still our largest snowpack year in history) and Marlette Lake had its highest in 170 years; Tahoe and Truckee Basins are at 273% and 250% of median, respectively; Lake Tahoe lake level increased three feet since December 1, 2022 and another 3 feet increase is projected by July; all other upstream reservoirs are expected to completely fill and spill in 2023; expect normal river flows for the next two – three years; this year will be a 'non-drought' designation under the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) since Floriston Rates will be met and elevation at Lake Tahoe will not drop below 6223.5 feet; also under TROA due to the 'non-drought' designation status, 28,180.85 acre feet (AF) of TMWA's 32,180.85 AF upstream credit water was converted to fish credit water and converted 591.77 AF of conserved water to water quality credit water which is water a portion of the toilet retrofit program; and TMWA's upstream storage is currently at 32,509 AF but will have about 40k AF of upstream storage in July once Independence and Donner Lakes fill.

Vice Chair Dahir asked if there has been any study to look at the history of knowing the difference between 1983 and to show the difference of what we do now. Mr. Hauck replied that even though TROA was not in place back then, all other requirements, flood control and 50k AF of observed space between Stampede, Prosser, and Boca Reservoirs, but he can review and add it to his update.

Director Brekhus expressed concern about water safety in the Truckee River and in reservoirs and inquired if the Truckee River Fund could consider a proposal for water safety recreation and if the conversion of water quality credit water impact the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) or the agreement with Truckee Reno Industrial General Improvement District (TRIGID). Mr. Hauck replied that the intent of the Truckee River Fund was to address water quality and the Fire Service has made announcements regarding river safety, and no, the water quality credit water is supposed to be used between the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County, in consultation with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to improve water quality of the Truckee River, particularly downstream of the reclamation facility to augment low river flows in peak summer.

Director Duerr asked Mr. Hauck to define non-firm credit water and is it all in Stampede. Mr. Hauck replied it is all in Stampede and TMWA's non-firm (flexible) above base amount is water TROA allows us to hold in any of our reservoirs.

9. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED CONSERVATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PLAN FOR 2023, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Robert Charpentier, TMWA Communications Specialist, introduced Cammy Elquist LoRé, GoodStanding Outreach, who has been instrumental in coordinating with staff and communications team through our strategic communications planning process and honing the messaging points regarding TMWA's water resources, which is very different from previous years.

Ms. LoRé recognized the Communication Team, in addition to Mr. Charpentier and herself: Marlene Olsen, Andy Gebhardt, Bill Hauck, Stefanie Morris, and Marci Westlake. Ms. LoRé presented TMWA's 2023 Communication Plan: communication framework, customer experience, stakeholder network, annual State of the Water presentation to media and stakeholders, and outreach for A+ recycled water projects in coordination with OneWater Nevada demonstrating that it is a drought proof water resource. Also, at this year's Smart About Water Day, the OneWater Nevada Educational Trailer will be launched.

Director Hill said she was impressed with the presentation and customer survey.

Director Brekhus inquired about turf and to think about another concept, demonstration garden, turf alternatives, and the conversation needs to revolve around alternatives beyond turf concept.

Director Anderson thanked staff for all their work, positive messaging and direction the plan is heading and asked who the stakeholders for the State of the Water presentations are. Ms. LoRé replied Rotary Clubs, Neighborhood and Community Advisory Boards, media and anyone who would like a TMWA presentation on our water supply and resources in the region. Director Anderson suggested staff present at the local agency meetings.

Director Duerr appreciated staff being proactive, especially with the State of the Water presentations, and agreed with expanding the reach to other invested groups in the area, was pleased that there was

no push to remove turf in the messaging, and to continue working with the UNR Cooperative Extension to focus on benefits of turf, trees, and xeriscape.

Director Brekhus agreed that it is a sophisticated approach and deliberate, and added there are some issues at City of Reno that could negatively impact TMWA and OneWater Nevada's A+ water reuse project in relation to its effluent problem in Fish Springs Ranch and lack of financing.

Vice Chair Dahir noted A+ water is a huge undertaking, suggested that it be considered as an emergency water resource, add "strategic" to the messaging that we are bettering the resources 30, 40 years ahead, and need to reinforce TROA and upstream storage and precipitation are all part of the management of resources. Mr. Charpentier replied it is already part of the communication plan and we are structuring our messaging to relay the concept of continuing to improve the water resources for future generations.

Director Duerr asked when the State of the Water presentation will be held and to share it with them. Ms. LoRé replied it is on April 27th and will be virtual only since they get more media attendance. Mr. Charpentier thanked the Board Members who have been sharing their posts since it gains more traction.

No motion taken.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Zimmerman asked the Board to promote Smart About Water Day on Saturday, May 6th, because TMWA staff puts a lot of work into organizing it and thanked City of Reno for collaborating with them in using the California Building at Idlewild Park. He added they are working with a company, HomeServe, which offers warranties to homeowners and endorsed by the National League of Cities, on water and sewer line replacements and communicating to customers of the service provided. Vice Chair Dahir noted he has known about this company for a long time, and this is fantastic because the customers that are impacted, are the ones that do not have a reserve since its their responsibility and not the utility's.

Mr. Zimmerman recognized TMWA staff, Aiden McNerney and Josh Geertsma, who assisted an individual having a medical emergency and called emergency personnel. He added that TMWA employees also worked with former TMWA employee, Brent Eisert, to move a boulder on the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail which will eventually have a plaque honoring Janet Phillips, and recognized TMWA staff: Victor Rosales, Lance DeMartini, Jason Juliot, and Chance Henderson. He also recognized Gina Martin and Melissa Mendoza who have helped the last few months and ran the meeting today. Finally, he noted that the May 18th Board meeting is on a Thursday and will be at Washoe County Commission Chambers.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

12. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Hill requested to have the Board bylaws on the next agenda since we have new Board members.

Director Brekhus addressed the nomination of Chair and rotating the jurisdictions; she will advocate for that during the Board bylaws discussion.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Vice Chair Dahir adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on May 18, 2023.

Sonia Folsom, Board Clerk.

****Director Hill was absent for part of agenda item 9 and 10.***