

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2024
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at Sparks Council Chambers. Chair Dahir called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Paul Anderson, *Clara Andriola, Kristopher Dahir, Naomi Duerr, Alexis Hill, and **Devon Reese.

Directors Absent: Jenny Brekhus

**Director Andriola left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.*

***Director Reese attended virtually via Zoom and left the meeting at 11:33 a.m.*

A quorum was present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by John Zimmerman, TMWA General Manager.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. POSSIBLE BOARD COMMENTS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There were no board comments.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2024 MEETING

Upon motion by Director Anderson, second by Director Andriola, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the March 20, 2024 minutes.

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) TO FILL THE COMMERCIAL CUSTOMER ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE, AND OTHER POSSIBLE VACANCIES FOR TERMS BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025 FROM THE FOLLOWING POOL OF CANDIDATES LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER: RYAN GREENHALGH

Sonia Folsom, TMWA Executive Assistant, presented the staff report and introduced Ryan Greenhalgh. Mr. Greenhalgh expressed gratitude for the opportunity to join the Standing Advisory Committee, citing his extensive experience and longstanding presence in the community as assets that would allow him to make meaningful contributions.

Upon motion by Director Andriola, second by Director Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the appointment of Ryan Greenhalgh to the Standing Advisory Committee to fill the commercial customer alternate representative vacancy for term beginning May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

8. WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Bill Hauck, TMWA Water Supply Supervisor, reported that the Sierra Nevada snowpack building season ended on an extremely positive note, Lake Tahoe Basin snowpack officially measured at 114% of normal on April 1st, above average runoff is projected for the Truckee River, all upstream reservoirs (including Lake Tahoe) will completely fill this year, normal river flows are projected for at least the next two years (2024 and 2025) and into 2026 based on that fact, and this means normal water supply operations for TMWA.

9. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED CONSERVATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PLAN FOR 2024, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Robert Charpentier, TMWA Communications Specialist, and Cammy Elquist LoRé, Good Standing, presented the 2024 Communications and Outreach Plan.

Chair Dahir suggested certifying student participation for transcript recognition, adding City of Sparks and Washoe County logos to the stakeholder map, and presenting the communication plan to the respective agencies.

Director Anderson discussed engaging community influencers and ensuring outreach to all areas of the community, especially areas where they may not have a voice. Ms. LoRé said they have a decent roster of people taking tours in California and working with data instincts, Mark Milan, whom people have reached out to, as well as a letter of endorsement from The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Charpentier encouraged members of the Board to weigh in on social media when they see conversations happening surrounding TMWA projects since they are well informed and have credibility in the community.

Director Brekhus emphasized the connection between housing affordability and utility costs. John Zimmerman, TMWA General Manager, added that the finance staff explains this to the public at Smart About Water Day.

Director Hill said she was also impressed with the education curriculum and involving the community teachers and students, and proposed involving PBS and creating a slogan for the A+ Water Facility project. Ms. LoRé replied they have been involved with PBS and made a video for their STEM works program on water treatment and operator jobs, but can look into the teacher tours.

Director Duerr praised the outreach efforts and suggested coordination with the Water Education Training (WET) program.

No action taken.

10. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE 2025-2045 WATER RESOURCE PLAN

Kara Steeland, TMWA Senior Hydrologist and Watershed Coordinator, presented the planning process for the 2025-2045 Water Resource Plan, highlighting a preliminary timeline and an upcoming policy workshop in August, similar to previous planning processes. The kickoff for the plan will be at Smart About Water Day, featuring an interactive activity to engage the public.

Director Duerr expressed interest in potential structural changes to the document and inquired about its availability on the website for community outreach, including drafts and data. Ms. Steeland explained that the plan will resemble the current one but will feature a standalone executive summary and a new webpage on the website. Updates will include regional challenges, current and future resources (such as groundwater banking and direct potable use), a reanalysis of climate change scenarios, and a 500-year hydrologic tree ring study in the Truckee River by Bill Hauck, TMWA Water Supply Supervisor.

Director Hill echoed Director Duerr's sentiment regarding keeping constituents informed throughout the planning process.

Director Duerr asked about the timeline for presenting the plan to the Board. Ms. Steeland indicated that they plan to return before the August policy workshop to provide an update to the Board.

No action taken.

11. PRESENTATION AND INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON PROPOSED FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS TO SCHEDULE WSF FEES

Danny Rotter, TMWA Engineering Director, and David Kershaw, TMWA Engineering Manager, presented proposed changes to the WSF charges, noting that the last increase was two years ago. Chair Dahir inquired about the substantial increase in cost, attributing it to materials or workload. Mr. Rotter explained that the increase reflects rising material costs, especially during the COVID period, and the need to adjust pricing based on current market conditions.

Director Duerr sought clarification on the calculation of charges and how they vary across different areas. Mr. Rotter explained that charges differ based on projected growth in each area.

Chair Dahir requested staff to provide updated cost projections for the next month, considering both 20-year projections and current costs.

Director Brekhus asked about fee collection practices. Mr. Rotter mentioned the option to defer fees for single-family units during economic downturns and the challenges of tracking deferred fees.

Director Anderson acknowledged concerns from developers about the increases and emphasized the Board's careful consideration of affordability issues.

Director Hill inquired about TMWA's policy on assisting affordable housing projects. Mr. Rotter stated TMWA does not subsidize projects based on different classes.

Director Duerr suggested exploring options like Reno's waiving of certain fees for affordable housing projects.

Mr. Zimmerman mentioned that staff would provide an overview of the New Business process in June.

12. PUBLIC HEARING ON RATE AMENDMENTS

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

A. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF AMENDMENTS TO TMWA RATE SCHEDULE WSF – WATER SYSTEM FACILITY (WSF) CHARGES REVISING AREA FEE, SUPPLY AND TREATMENT, AND STORAGE UNIT COSTS

Mr. Rotter noted the proposed redline changes to the WSF charges are included in both agenda items #11 and #12.

Upon motion by Director Duerr, second by Director Hill, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved to refer to a second reading of amendments to TMWA Rate Schedule WSF – Water System Facility Charges revising area fee, supply and treatment, and storage unit costs.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 324: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF WATER PROJECTS; DECLARING THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY'S INTENT REGARDING REIMBURSEMENT FROM ONE OR MORE FUTURE BOND ISSUES; AUTHORIZING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES TO REQUEST THAT SUCH BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$55,000,000 BE PURCHASED BY THE STATE OF NEVADA ACCOUNT FOR THE REVOLVING FUND; AND PROVIDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE

Matt Bowman, TMWA Chief Financial Officer, presented a resolution for Board consideration, emphasizing its non-binding nature as an indication of TMWA's commitment to pursue financing through the State of Nevada's State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program for the American Flat Facility to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

Director Hill commended staff for pursuing state funding opportunities and suggested looking into the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank for additional funding, especially considering the need for more projects in the north.

Director Brekhus expressed concern about delays in the project timeline and reimbursement from Reno. Mr. Bowman clarified the funding split between Reno and TMWA and stated that while Reno has reimbursed TMWA, the project progress has been slower than anticipated. Mr. Rotter added that a detailed update was provided at the last meeting, including a Gantt chart, which he can send.

Director Brekhus indicated she would vote against the resolution due to concerns about the partnership and differences in bond backing between TMWA and Reno.

Director Reese expressed admiration for the efforts of both TMWA and Reno staff on the project.

Upon motion by Director Anderson, second by Director Hill, which motion duly carried five to one with Director Brekhus dissenting, the Board adopted Resolution No. 324: A resolution concerning the financing of water projects; declaring the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's intent regarding reimbursement from one or more future bond issues; authorizing authority representatives to request that such bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$55,000,000 be purchased by the state of Nevada account for the revolving fund; and providing the effective date.

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 325: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND AN AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN NEVADA TO FUND SUCH PROJECTS FROM FUND PROCEEDS (RESOLUTION MAY REFLECT ACTION TAKEN IN ONE OR MORE VOTES ON RECOMMENDED PROJECTS)

Ms. Folsom and Kara Steeland, TMWA Senior Hydrologist and Watershed Coordinator, presented the staff report.

Director Hill suggested contacting Reno to apply for the next round of funding. Ms. Folsom responded that Reno staff have been informed, with additional employees added to the distribution list for future grant cycles.

Chair Dahir emphasized the importance of ensuring that funds are allocated appropriately, particularly for projects downstream of TMWA's service area. He highlighted the need for collaboration with downstream jurisdictions and emphasized the importance of clear instructions for future requests for proposals to ensure careful allocation of funds.

Upon motion by Director Hill, second by Director Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 325: A resolution to approve funding for one or more of the projects recommended by the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee and an authorization for the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to fund such projects from Fund proceeds.

15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF EDMUND (EDDY) QUAGLIERI TO REPRESENT TMWA ON THE CARSON-TRUCKEE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT (CTWCD) BOARD

Mr. Zimmerman introduced Eddy Quaglieri, TMWA Water Rights Manager, recommended to replace John Enloe, TMWA Director of Natural Resources, on the CTWCD Board. He added the Governor makes the final appointment.

Mr. Quaglieri said he maintained the Truckee River from Glendale to Wadsworth for the State Engineer for flood capacity and is excited to work on the upper half of the Truckee

Upon motion by Director Duerr, second by Director Hill, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the appointment of Edmund (Eddy) Quaglieri to represent TMWA on the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District Board.

16. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Zimmerman provided updates on succession planning efforts, including job shadowing, lunch and learns, and diversity workshops. He also noted the progress of Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant tours for employees and board members. Additionally, Mr. Rotter and Mr. Kershaw's team will continue scheduling workshops and maintaining an open line of communication with developers experiencing delays or setbacks. Finally, Mr. Zimmerman reminded the Board about Smart About Water Day on Saturday, May 4th, at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center from 10am-2pm.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

18. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Brekhus expressed concerns about a recent decision made by the Reno City Council to grant entitlement for a new development to connect to a satellite water district, the Great Basin Water District. This decision marks the first time an incorporated land will connect to a satellite system for new

development. She highlighted the shifting dynamics, noting that while the Stonegate development was initially planned to connect to TMWA, it has now changed course, with another development in the unincorporated area taking precedence. Director Brekhus emphasized the importance of examining the capacity and service area of satellite systems, as they can pose liabilities for the region, with TMWA often stepping in to provide support when these systems fail.

19. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Chair Dahir adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Sonia Folsom, Board Clerk.

****Director Andriola was present for agenda items #1 through part of #13 only.***

*****Director Reese was present for agenda items #1 through #13 only.***