

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2024
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Thursday June 20, 2024 at Washoe County Commission Chambers. Chair Dahir called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Directors Absent: Devon Reese.

**Director Brekhus left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.*

A quorum was present.

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

Chair Dahir introduced the Chair Award during his tenure to honor staff achievements. He praised John Enloe, TMWA's Director of Natural Resources, for his significant contributions to the organization and the region.

Director Andriola commended Enloe's handling of a recent TMWA meeting, emphasizing his skill in fostering open dialogue with the public.

Vice Chair Duerr and Director Anderson expressed gratitude for Enloe's leadership and community vision, particularly citing his approachability during public engagements like the American Flat meeting on the APWF. Other directors, including Brekhus and Hill, echoed appreciation for Enloe's mentorship and innovative thinking.

General Manager John Zimmerman praised Enloe's dedication and humility as exemplary qualities of a public servant.

Danny Rotter, Director of Engineering, highlighted Enloe's entrepreneurial spirit and determination, exemplified by his role in advancing projects like the APWF.

Dr. Lydia Teel, Emerging Resources Program Administrator, credited Enloe as a mentor who fosters staff growth and success.

Dr. Krishna Pagilla from NWII praised Enloe for his visionary leadership in initiatives like the APWF, emphasizing his commitment to TMWA and the community's needs.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2024 MEETING OF THE TMWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Upon motion by Director Anderson, second by Director Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the May 23, 2024 minutes.

7. UPDATE ON BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT AWARD OF \$30 MILLION TO RENO AND TMWA FOR THE AMERICAN FLAT ADVANCED PURIFIED WATER PROJECT

Mr. Zimmerman stated that TMWA and the City of Reno secured a \$30M grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for the APWF project at American Flat. John Zimmerman acknowledged the efforts of several TMWA staff members including Dr. Teel, David Diegle, Dr. Angel Lacroix, Nick White, Dr. Greg Pohll, Darrin Garland, James Weingart, and Travis Bunkowski for their dedication to the project. He also recognized Kara Steeland and Stefanie Morris for their crucial roles in preparing the grant submission.

Vice Chair Duerr emphasized that securing the grant reflects a strong partnership benefiting the community, crediting Mayor Hillary Schieve's advocacy and TMWA's staff contributions.

Chair Dahir expressed enthusiasm for the project's positive impact on TMWA, the region, and the state.

Matt Bowman, Chief Financial Officer, highlighted that besides the financial boost, receiving the grant significantly reduces the project's financial risk. He clarified that TMWA will receive \$9M under the interlocal agreement with Reno. Regarding state bonds, Mr. Bowman explained that TMWA has applied for funding at 1% interest rate, potentially covering TMWA's \$55M obligation over 30 years.

8. UPDATE ON FEDERAL WATER QUALITY REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Will Raymond, TMWA's Director of Water Operations & Quality, and Kelli Burgess, the Water Quality & Permitting Manager, presented a staff report on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, focusing on PFAS, lead, and copper substances.

Director Brekhus queried TMWA's engagement in these regulatory discussions and if the Board should provide direction to staff. John Zimmerman, TMWA's General Manager, indicated that his earlier report aimed to address this but agreed to have staff provide a more detailed update in a future meeting.

Director Hill sought clarification if at-home childcare facilities are included in water testing. Burgess confirmed they are included if registered through the Washoe County School District.

Chair Dahir asked about potential staffing increases needed for this workload. Zimmerman acknowledged there would be an increase, integral to updating the Board. Will Raymond noted the addition of two chemists to support compliance efforts.

Director Anderson inquired about the frequency of water sampling at entry points. Raymond specified approximately 100 samples per quarter, distributed weekly.

9. INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE ORR DITCH BOOSTER PUMP STATION AND HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. Rotter and Jason Barnes, Senior Design Engineer, who is the project manager, provided an update on the project's current progress.

Director Hill expressed gratitude for the team's efforts and enthusiasm for the project, inquiring about the power source's connection to NV Energy. Mr. Rotter explained the project aims to utilize a significant portion of power directly onsite, offsetting TMWA's electricity costs and potentially generating surplus power for net metering back to NV Energy.

Director Duerr sought clarification on how TMWA would negotiate rates for power buyback and who oversees this process internally. Ryan Dixon, Generation Manager, noted that NV Energy's net metering rules would guide this process per kilowatt-hour. Justina Caviglia, TMWA Board Counsel, mentioned ongoing discussions in the Sierra Pacific Power Rate case, suggesting that updates could affect these negotiations. Mr. Zimmerman assured that TMWA's internal counsel monitors the situation closely and is prepared to engage external legal support if needed.

10. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON SPANISH SPRINGS WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Enloe presented the staff report.

Director Brekhus inquired why TMWA is not utilizing local water resources and how water is distributed throughout the system. In response, Mr. Enloe acknowledged the current reliance on Truckee River water due to unsuitable groundwater quality. He mentioned that as development progresses, TMWA is exploring alternative water solutions.

Chair Dahir agreed with Director Brekhus and encouraged staff to look at all options.

11. PRESENTATION ON TMWA'S NEW BUSINESS PROCESSES

Mr. Rotter and David Kershaw presented the staff report. During the presentation, Mr. Rotter acknowledged Katie Mason, Senior New Business Engineer, who was present, and Tiffany Anderson, Principal New Business Engineer, who was not in attendance, both for their outstanding work.

Chair Dahir raised questions about the necessity of multiple reviews and the decision-making process regarding the use of ductile iron. Mr. Rotter explained that multiple reviews often stem from initial redlines not being addressed promptly, although this trend is improving. He clarified that TMWA adheres to standards based on NAC (Nevada Administrative Code), particularly regarding water/sewer separation and when using restrained pipes, which necessitates the use of ductile iron according to TMWA's standards.

12. UPDATE ON THE 2025-2045 WATER RESOURCE PLAN PLANNING EFFORTS

Nate Allen, TMWA Director of Natural Resources, presented the staff report.

Director Andriola commended Mr. Allen for his contribution at the June 12 meeting.

No action was taken.

13. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON POTENTIAL TMWA RULE UPDATES

Dan Nubel, TMWA Staff Attorney, presented a staff report detailing upcoming rule updates, with plans for a workshop before formal redlines are presented to the Board.

Director Hill asked about coordination between TMWA and Washoe County staff regarding fire facilities to avoid conflicts. Mr. Zimmerman responded that conflicts are unlikely due to TMWA's existing agreement with the Fire District.

14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF ALEX TALMANT TO THE PRIMARY SENIOR CITIZEN CLASS CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVE

Sonia Folsom, TMWA Executive Assistant, presented the staff report.

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 Alex Talmant to the primary senior citizen class customer representative.

15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR AND REQUEST FOR BOARD ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 328 APPOINTING A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Chair Dahir said he enjoyed being chair this year and expressed his appreciation of the Board.

Director Hill expressed gratitude to Chair Dahir for his dedicated leadership, noting his sincerity in overseeing every board meeting, supporting staff, and approaching issues thoughtfully. She praised him as a great leader who has served with honor and commitment. Additionally, Director Hill highlighted the importance of providing opportunities for leadership rotation among board members.

Upon motion by Director Hill, second by Director Anderson, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the appointment of Naomi Duerr as Chair for fiscal year 2025.

Upon motion by Director Hill, second by Director Anderson, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the appointment of Clara Andriola as Vice Chair for fiscal year 2025.

16. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Zimmerman announced that Danny Rotter has been promoted to Assistant General Manager effective July 1 as part of TMWA's succession planning. He praised Rotter for his dedication to mentoring and innovation. Additionally, Zimmerman noted that the July Board meeting will be cancelled. He also expressed gratitude to Chair Dahir for his service, acknowledging his valuable insights and support.

Director Hill inquired about the next legislative subcommittee meeting. Zimmerman explained that no date has been set yet, but discussions will begin soon in preparation for the legislative session. He mentioned the possibility of scheduling a meeting for TMWA's standing subcommittee if needed.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

18. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Andriola expressed gratitude to Mr. Zimmerman and TMWA staff for promptly addressing misinformation ahead of the June 12th meeting. She specifically appreciated their agility in launching a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on TMWA's website. This initiative enabled her constituents to access important information before the meeting, addressing their concerns effectively. Additionally, she congratulated TMWA on securing the \$30M Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant, highlighting it as an example of TMWA's commitment to delivering best practices in customer service.

19. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Chair Dahir adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on August 19, 2024.

Sonia Folsom, Board Clerk.

****Director Brekhuis was present for agenda items 1 through 10 only.***