

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2025
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at Sparks Council Chambers. Chair Duerr called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Paul Anderson, Clara Andriola, Naomi Duerr, Alexis Hill, Miguel Martinez, **Kathleen Taylor, and *Dian VanderWell.

A quorum was present.

**Director VanderWell attended the meeting virtually.*

***Director Taylor left the meeting at 11:40am.*

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Milan, Data Instincts.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. POSSIBLE BOARD COMMENTS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chair Duerr noted that several Board members participated in a tour of the advanced purified water treatment plant in Southern California and attended the WateReuse Symposium in Tampa, Florida. She invited any members who wished to share their experiences with the rest of the Board.

Vice Chair Andriola said she attended the WateReuse Symposium in Tampa and appreciated the presentations highlighting Nevada's community efforts and TMWA's leadership. She emphasized the importance of collaboration among jurisdictions and the role of elected officials in promoting the message that water has no boundaries, encapsulated by "One Water Nevada." She also recognized Kim Rigdon, Western Regional Water Commission Water Resources Program Manager, Mr. Milan and many others who have contributed with this effort.

Chair Duerr agreed and thanked Directors Anderson and Martinez who also attended the symposium. She also mentioned the Truckee River Tour in early May that the Board will be attending.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Director Anderson, 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 19, 2025 MEETING OF THE TMWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Upon motion by Director Hill, second by Director Martinez, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the March 19, 2025 minutes.

7. PRESENTATION ON DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S (DRI) PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH

Chair Duerr disclosed that her very first semi-professional job was at DRI running the water and rock lab. Dr. Kumud Acharya, President of DRI, provided an overview of DRI, its programs and areas of focus, including the DRI Foundation whose chair, Kristin McMillan Porter, provided a brief background on its global initiative, Adaptable World Environment.

Chair Duerr thanked Dr. Acharya and Ms. McMillan Porter for their presentation. She asked about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funding and expressed concern regarding its impact on DRI's Western Regional Climate Center.

Director Hill asked to let the Board know how they can support the Reno summit and asked how federal funds are affecting DRI. Dr. Acharya replied that they do have some concerns, but have other sources of funding for NOAA, which funds DRI's climate center.

8. WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Kara Steeland, Senior Hydrologist & Watershed Coordinator, reported that late winter storms increased the snowpack to about 110% of the median in both the Lake Tahoe and Truckee Basins. Projections indicate normal river flows throughout the year, with Lake Tahoe's elevation nearing full capacity for the second consecutive year. The Truckee River system storage is at about 76% of capacity, indicating a favorable water supply and drought outlook.

Vice Chair Andriola thanked Ms. Steeland on a great water supply outlook presentation on April 3rd, where about 40 people attended.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL AND LIFE INSURANCE PLAN & TRUST (§501-C-9) PLAN DOCUMENT

Jessica Atkinson, Human Resources Director, presented the staff report and revisions to the document.

Director Hill asked if there could be an instance of an employee who retires but does not receive a NV PERS benefit. Ms. Atkinson explained employees could be eligible for this trust at 55 years old with 10 years of service, and elect to defer NV PERS enrollment to avoid age penalties. In order to stay on insurance plans offered by TMWA retirees must be receiving a PERS benefit, otherwise they would use the trust benefit to reimburse for expenses associated with a non-TMWA health plan.

Upon motion by Director Andriola, second by Director Anderson, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved the revisions to the Post-Retirement Medical and life Insurance Plan & Trust (§501-c-9) Plan Document.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING TMWA'S DRAFT 2025-2045 WATER RESOURCE PLAN

Ms. Steeland presented the draft 2025-2045 Water Resource Plan, which is updated every five years.

Members of the Board were pleased with the content in the updated plan and shorter version that will be developed for the public. They requested that staff include additional context in Ch. 7, add further detail to explain graphs in Ch. 4, consider adding Spanish or bilingual languages in public outreach, and enhance public outreach to specific groups to increase reach and feedback.

Upon motion by Director Hill, second by Director Taylor, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved TMWA's Draft 2025-2045 Water Resource Plan Public Outreach Schedule.

11. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED CONSERVATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PLAN FOR 2025, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Robert Charpentier, Chief Communications Officer, and Cammy Elquist LoRé, GoodStanding Outreach, presented on the 2025 Communications and Outreach Plan.

Director Anderson and Chair Duerr suggested that staff utilize the Board's platform and constituent groups so they can help make more connections, and to send them an email with dates/times to promote the events.

No motion taken.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING 2025 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES, CURRENT BILLS, AND TMWA RECOMMENDED POSITIONS ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Dan Nubel, Staff Attorney, and Leo Drozdoff, Government Affairs Consultant, updated the Board on the status of bills TMWA is monitoring. They noted that April 11th was the first deadline for bills to pass out of their initial committee, with exemptions for bills with fiscal notes. TMWA staff is currently tracking 60 bills, with the next deadline on April 22nd. They highlighted AB104, which addresses regulations related to direct potable reuse.

Mr. Drozdoff discussed SB276 and AB419. Initially opposed to SB276, TMWA now supports its concepts of improved communication (report to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection directly), including downstream/tribal notifications for spills by NDEP, and it has passed out of committee. AB419, which has been under discussion for over a year, involves hearing regulations before the State Engineer and enforcing the Administrative Procedures Act. TMWA opposes AB419 but supports its goals, aiming to work with the bill sponsor while managing resources. The position is to support SB276 and oppose AB419, as stated in the report.

Director Martinez requested more information on AB419. Mr. Nubel expressed concerns about the bill, initially taking a monitoring position as it was newly released. The fiscal note by Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) is \$25 million per biennium, which would significantly expand NDWR's scope, requiring hearings and meetings with applicants before filing applications. This expansion could overextend NDWR and slow down processes, contrary to the bill's intent. Additionally, issues with judicial review could bind the State Engineer to previous decisions, rather than just following the law.

Upon motion by Director Hill, second by Director VanderWell, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the Directors present, the Board approved positions as indicated in the bill list.

13. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Zimmerman highlighted Marci Westlake's, Customer Service Manager, paperless billing initiative which is saving TMWA about \$538k annually; and continuing to look for ways to maximize the savings.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

15. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Duerr requested to invite the state climatologist present at a future Board meeting, if possible.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on Wednesday, May 22, 2025.

Sonia Folsom, Board Clerk.

****Director Taylor was present for agenda items 1 thru 11.***