



TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER
A U T H O R I T Y
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2011

The Standing Advisory Committee met at Truckee Meadows Water Authority in the Independence Room, 1355 Capital Blvd., Reno, Nevada. Vice Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Kevin Bloomgren*, Ernest Buchner, Colin Hayes, Neil McGuire, Susan Ralphe, Fred Schmidt, Ron Turner and Barry Winzeler.

Alternates Present: Robert Chambers, Harry Culbert (voting)* and Jim Smith.

Staff Present: Jack Byrom, Mark Foree, Kim Mazeris, Lora Richards, Jeff Tissier, Scott Estes and Brent Keele, Legal Counsel.

A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved the agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McGuire invited members to attend the Chris Chapman Power for Recovery Kardio Jam on Tuesday, February 15 at the Freestyle Martial Arts Academy. During an accident at a sporting event in Reno, Mr. Chapman was left with a serious spinal injury that will require many months of rehabilitation.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2011 MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved the minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting.

5. STATUS REPORT ON THE MERGER OF THE WASHOE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) WATER UTILITY FUNCTIONS INTO TMWA

Mr. Foree reported there were no new developments on the merger. Staff continues their work on the financial projections.

Mr. Bloomgren arrived at 3:12 p.m.

6. Status Report on the 2011 Nevada Legislative Session

Steve Walker, TMWA lobbyist, reported approximately 1,000 Bill Draft Requests have been presented to the Legislative Counsel Bureau and about 200 bills have been pre-filed. TMWA's process is as follows: Once bills are filed, Walker & Associates reviews the bills and sends those of interest to TMWA via John Erwin who in turn sends them to the appropriate individuals within the organization for their input. Once Mr. Erwin has agreed that a bill is of interest, the information is entered into a spreadsheet for monitoring. Approximately 125 bills are typically monitored during the legislative session. Staff presents the bills to the Board on a monthly basis for recommendations. If the time frame of a bill does not coincide with the Board's monthly meeting, staff will present the bills to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Board which meets weekly, as needed. Members of the Legislative Subcommittee are Chairman Mike Carrigan and Vice Chairman Dave Aiazzi, who are fully authorized to act on the Board's behalf. TMWA's Legislative Subcommittee meets in a joint meeting with the Legislative Subcommittee of the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC). Members of WRWC's Subcommittee are: Mike Carrigan, Dave Aiazzi and Steve Cohen from the STMGID local managing board. The WRWC lobbyists are John Rhodes and Jim Smitherman. The first meeting of the subcommittee is February 18, 2011.

The only bill to date of interest to TMWA is AB73 which clarifies provisions governing notices and the right of entry by State Engineer and staff for inspection and eliminates hearings for domestic well credit programs. TMWA has taken no position on this bill as of yet.

7. UPDATE ON STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Richards reported that during the recruiting period which ended January 31, 2011, seven applications were received: one for the irrigation alternate position and six for the one open residential position. She encouraged SAC members to continue to talk with any commercial customers to try to fill the vacant commercial position. The applications will be presented to the Board on February 16, 2011 for appointments. Mr. Schmidt suggested the Board consider expanding the SAC membership if there were enough qualified applicants.

8. PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED BUDGET FOR FY2011

Mr. Tissier presented the revised budget stating the reasons for the revision are a previously more optimistic view of economic conditions on the revenue side when the budget was first prepared in April, 2010 and actual revenues and operating expenses to date are lower than previously expected. He went over each line item revision as presented in the staff report and answered all members' questions. Mr. Foree talked about the Voluntary Workforce Reduction

Program that was rolled out to the staff just hours before this meeting which although budgeted for \$850,000 during FY2011 is intended to save approximately \$1 to 1.5 million annually.

10. COMMITTEE ITEMS (TAKEN OUT OF TURN)

Vice Chairman Schmidt asked about the story that ran in the media on January 31, 2011 that ranks Reno fifth on a top 10 list of American cities with the worst drinking water. Mr. Foree stated that this was the same story that had been run and thoroughly discounted last year. He gave the members the staff report and minutes from the January 2010 Board meeting and the certified letter he had written to the Environmental Working Group in August 2010 requesting that the erroneous information in their report be corrected as previously promised by its vice president. Ms. Mazerres said that only Channel 8 of the media had bothered to call TMWA for comments before running the story. Members of the SAC suggested that a letter be written by TMWA attorneys on the attorney's letterhead demanding a correction be made to the data and that the media be notified for the irresponsible journalism that occurred. The point being that with current economic conditions and concerns over growth in the community, with the need for new businesses to move to Reno, it was totally irresponsible for them to run such a story, which was untrue, without even bothering to check with TMWA. Ms. Mazerres and Mr. Foree both said that they had talked with the media, done interviews and would continue to work to get accurate information to the public.

9. FUTURE SAC MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee canceled the March 1, 2011 meeting. They scheduled the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 3 p.m. and requested the following items be placed on future agendas:

- **Membership update**
- **Orientation for new members**
- **Status Report on the merger of the Washoe County Department of Water Resources water utility functions into TMWA**
- **Status Report on the 2011 Nevada Legislative Session**

11. STAFF ITEMS

Mr. Foree reported that with the overly dry January, the snow pack in the Truckee River Basin is currently at 125% of normal, snow pack in the Lake Tahoe Basin is at 142% of normal and the level in Lake Tahoe is one and a half feet above the rim.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items for discussion, Vice Chairman Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

*Mr. Bloomgren present for items 6 through 13 only. Mr. Culbert, Mr. Bloomgren's alternate was present and voted for items 1 through 5.

Approved by the Standing Advisory Commission in session on April 5, 2011.

Corinne Cassell, Recording Secretary