



STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 2, 2015

The Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) met at Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) in the Independence Room, 1355 Capital Blvd., Reno, Nevada. Chairman McGuire called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members and Voting Alternates Present: Bob Chambers, Harry Culbert, Colin Hayes, Neil McGuire, Steve Stegmeir, Ron Turner, and Jerry Wager.

Alternates Present: Mike Heffner, Karl Katt, Carol Litster, Ken McNeil, Mike Pidlypchak, and Mike Schulewitch.

Staff Present: Robert Charpentier, John Enloe, Scott Estes, Sonia Folsom, Mark Foree, Bill Hauck, Shawn Stoddard, Jeff Tissier, Steve Walker and Legal Counsel Debbie Leonard.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2015 MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved the minutes of the May 5, 2015 meeting.

5. REPORT ON STATUS OF POST-MERGER TASKS

Jack Byrom, TMWA Supervising Project Manager, provided an overview of the status of merger activities. At the closing on January 1, 2015, staff identified approximately 87 tasks that were important and needed to be tracked post-merger. Of those 87, 30 tasks have been completed, 41 are ongoing and are now considered business as usual, and 16 remain which are not critical, but are still important to track, such as the amendment to Chapter 10 of the Washoe County code. The most important are the employees and the transition has been seamless. The most interesting areas were the land, right-of-way, easements and water rights.

Ron Turner congratulated Mr. Byrom on the progress and work he has accomplished on this project.

6. STATUS REPORT ON THE 2015 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Steve Walker, TMWA Lobbyist, provided an overview of the final status of the bills on which TMWA had a position.

Dead: AB169, AB353, AB455, SB65, SB81, SB423

Passed: SB311

Passed as amended: AB201, AB332,

Status unknown at this time: SB193

Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager, commented on AB332 and mentioned TMWA will have to pay taxes on certain construction materials, but they would need to do further research into the full effect of the bill on TMWA.

Neil McGuire asked about SB311 and if the funds identified for the Boca Dam were allocated for maintenance. Bill Hauck, TMWA Senior Hydrologist, stated that Boca Dam is susceptible to earthquakes and the Bureau of Reclamation's study identifies solutions and options. It will cost approximately \$20-30 million to refurbish the Boca Dam. The Washoe County Water Conservation District needs to pass the costs on to the local entities and TMWA is responsible for approximately 10 percent of the cost. Jeff Tissier, TMWA Chief Financial Officer, stated that there were negotiations between municipal versus agricultural interests.

Mr. McGuire asked if the cost becomes a percentage of the total for all users of Boca Dam. Mr. Hauck replied that is correct.

Mike Heffner asked about the effectiveness of the 2015 legislative session compared to others. Mr. Walker replied that it was historic because it was an anomaly that the Republicans were the majority in both houses, which has not been the case since 1928.

7. PRESENTATION ON THE DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DRI) CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM

Frank McDonough, DRI Meteorologist, provided an overview of the Cloud Seeding program. Specifically, as background, Mr. McDonough identified other states which conduct Cloud Seeding programs, provided a summary of the Winter Year (WY) 2015 Truckee/Tahoe operations, and described the operational schedule for the remainder of the season. In the Northern Nevada/Sierras region there are numerous locations where DRI has placed cloud seeding generators. Mr. McDonough detailed the above-average temperatures and low precipitation levels that have been affecting the region and the fact that region is experiencing an exceptional drought. He explained the cloud seeding process and highlighted how other states (Utah, Idaho, Colorado, Montana and Wyoming) have conducted their own programs. In those states, the efficacy of these programs has increased snowfall by approximately 15 percent on average. Finally, they have managed to put about 9,000 acre feet (AF) into the snow pack this year, which is enough for approximately 21,000 households and the median cost per AF is about \$20.00.

Discussion followed regarding maintenance cost, the relationship between total generator hours and number of storms, effectiveness of aerial seeding versus ground seeding as well as unmanned versus manned aircraft, the accuracy of thermostats of a hundred years ago, adding more locations and the fact that the cloud seeding program has been ongoing since the 1970's.

8. PRESENTATION ON RECLAIMED WATER USE

John Enloe, TMWA Operational Strategies Manager, presented on this agenda item. Mr. Enloe provided an overview of potable reuse, the expanded use of reclaimed water, different types of projects, and the benefits of converting wastewater into drinking water. He detailed the costs, benefits and impacts for indirect potable reuse, direct potable reuse, and de facto potable reuse.

Mr. Enloe stated that the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has instituted a reuse steering committee to look at all of the water reuse regulations for the State of Nevada, and TMWA is one of the ten different representatives who are a part of the steering committee.

Bob Chambers asked for the website referred to in the presentation. Mr. Enloe responded it is "gwrs.com".

Jerry Wager inquired about the additional treatment required beyond what is being done currently, water quality standards and the issue with water rights downstream of a treatment plant. Mr. Enloe replied it would require different treatment processes than the existing treatment plants, and Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) would have to satisfy the return flow requirement if water was taken out. Potable reuse could be implemented in the South-Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility service area where return flow water rights are not an issue.

Mr. Heffner asked if staff at DRI has conducted any work or studies in this area. Mr. Enloe replied that University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) has been involved and a local engineering company, Stantec, has received a grant from the WaterReuse Research Foundation and partnered with American Water to conduct further research.

9. PRESENTATION ON WATER SUPPLY, COMMUNICATION AND CONSERVATION PLAN

Bill Hauck, TMWA Senior Hydrologist, stated TMWA is still operating normally and customer demands are being met with surface water from the Truckee River, and no wells are on-line as of today. The precipitation in May has kept river flows higher than originally projected and has allowed staff to delay releasing drought reserves and bringing production wells online. Mr. Hauck stated staff has seen a reduction in overall water consumption of approximately 20 percent in May and a 16 percent reduction in customer water consumption when comparing the last weeks in May 2015 and May 2013. This is even more substantial considering TMWA is serving more customers and has more service connections than in 2013.

Steve Stegmeir mentioned he and Bruce Gescheider conducted a presentation at the Chamber Board meeting recently, and their members were amazed at the fact that the region's population has increased but consumption has decreased.

Mike Schulewitch inquired whether, with the addition of STMGID, TMWA was pumping groundwater to that area or is it only surface water. Mr. Hauck replied TMWA is sending surface water to the area, but the Washoe County wells are pumping about 8 – 9 million gallons of groundwater.

Robert Charpentier, TMWA Communications Specialist, confirmed the community is responding well to TMWA's outreach communication requesting customers to reduce their use by at least 10 percent. Mr. Charpentier added TMWA has begun radio and television advertisements, launched a new microsite on TMWA's website, mailed restaurant tabletop tents, produced billboard advertisements and continues to do presentations and speaking engagements.

Mr. McGuire inquired if the credit card issue with the STMGID customers had been resolved. Mr. Foree replied that Kim Mazeres had taken care of that issue and it has since been resolved.

Chair McNeil added thanks to TMWA staff whom have been responsible for improving the over-watering issue at Somerset.

****Carol Litster departed during this agenda item at 4:32 p.m.***

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee member did not identify any future agenda items it wished to consider.

Debbie Leonard inquired whether, since no agenda items had been identified, a July meeting should be held.

Chair McGuire asked for discussion to potentially cancel the next SAC meeting for July 7, 2015.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Committee approved not to schedule a meeting for July 7, 2015.

11. STAFF ITEMS

Mr. Foree stated the Board's decision regarding flat rate customer's conversion to metered billing has been scheduled for implementation as of October 1, 2015 with the exception of STMGID flat rate customers. He mentioned an issue of a question whether homes that were on the National Historic Register should be exempted from going onto the metered rate, and it is unknown at this time if the Board will consider this at a future meeting.

Mr. McGuire asked if it was a unanimous decision. Mr. Foree replied yes.

12. COMMITTEE ITEMS

Mr. McGuire mentioned that Paul Rose has resigned and that TMWA's Annual Picnic is scheduled for June 27, 2015 and to RSVP to Sonia Folsom.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

14. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items for discussion, Chairman McGuire adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Approved by the Standing Advisory Committee in session on October 6, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Folsom, Recording Secretary

****Carol Litster was present during agenda items 1 through 9 only.***