

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2015
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at Sparks Council Chambers, 745 4th Street, Sparks, Nevada. Chair Martini called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Naomi Duerr, Vaughn Hartung, Jeanne Herman, Neoma Jardon, Geno Martini, Ron Smith and Alternate David Bobzien.

Member Absent: Jenny Brekhus

A quorum was present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Hartung.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Smith, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 17, 2015 MINUTES

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the June 17, 2015 minutes.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN AND REQUEST FOR BOARD ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 230 APPOINTING A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Smith, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 230 appointing Geno Martini as Chairman for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Upon motion by Member Smith, second by Member Hartung, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 230 appoint Neoma Jardon as Vice Chair for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING POSSIBLE PROCEDURE FOR BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS TO UTILIZE TWO OR MORE HOURS OF STAFF TIME

Michael Pagni, TMWA General Counsel, stated both Members Hartung and Smith expressed their concern with the numerous requests of staff time to conduct research and analysis. Member Hartung requested this item be considered by the Board to decide whether the process needed to change or limit Board members requests of staff time. Mr. Pagni referred to current rules and regulations, specifically Resolution No. 2, a policy which was adopted by the TMWA Board in 2001. This Resolution stipulated a requirement that any project that entails more than two hours of staff time requires the approval of the full Board. In the past, there have been very few requests that have reached this level of staff effort and consequently there has not been a strict adherence to the policy. Staff is looking to the Board for direction whether they want amendments to the policy or to adhere more strictly to the existing policy.

Member Smith asked if a Board member requested from staff a project that required more than two hours of staff time, would it have to be agendaized at the next meeting for them to vote. Mr. Pagni replied that is correct, but Board members can be proactive in their requests to be agendaized in a timely manner.

Member Hartung added he brought this forward because staff is extremely busy with communications, drought, conservation, etc. and any request should be presented to the Board for consideration showing that it not only benefits the Board, but TMWA as well.

Member Duerr expressed the need to consider topics in a timely manner and requested to hear from staff about how the process is currently working. Mr. Pagni replied this is the existing policy and the procedure would be for the Board member to request in advance to have it put on the agenda for staff to research and bring it back at the next meeting.

Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager, stated staff has been doing well with previous requests and per Resolution No.2 the policy is that a Board member can contact Mr. Foree and request any information. He added some requests have required more than two hours of staff time and he agreed that if it would require a significant amount of time, it can become an issue, which it has not at this time.

Discussion followed with respect to the exceptional number, and detail, of the requests from staff, where a most recent request required one week of both staff and legal time, and future requests should be agreed to by the Board. It was stressed that Resolution No. 2 should be enforced and Board members should first contact Mr. Foree with their questions and if further research is required, staff can provide that support. Since staff time is one of the largest component cost of resources in any organization this will ultimately reduce the cost and decrease the amount of staff time that will be monopolized.

Upon motion by Member Smith, second by Member Hartung, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board agreed to enforce Resolution #2, adopted March 16, 2001, which requires Board approval for board member requests to utilize two or more hours of staff time.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF EXISTING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR WATER USAGE REVIEW PROGRAM WITH WESTERN REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION

Andy Gebhardt, TMWA Customer Service Manager, explained the success TMWA has had with the water usage review program and staff has seen approximately 100 more reviews compared to last year at this time (2015: 919 and 2014: 822), and customers are responding to TMWA's request to conserve.

Discussion followed regarding the likelihood that the increase in audits was due to the conservation message and the majority of the audits were residential versus commercial, but staff has not yet analyzed the data.

Upon motion by Member Jardon, second by Member Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the one year extension of existing Interlocal agreement for water usage review program with Western Regional Water Commission.

9. PRESENTATION ON THE DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DRI) CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM AND WYOMING CLOUD SEEDING STUDY

Frank McDonough, DRI Meteorologist, provided an overview of the Cloud Seeding program. Specifically, as background, other states conducting Cloud Seeding programs, summary of the Winter Year (WY) 2015 Truckee/Tahoe operations and 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 five-year liquid snowpack, above average temperatures and low precipitation levels for the region, and the fact that the region is experiencing an exceptional drought.

Member Hartung asked for clarification regarding what four inches of liquid equates to in snow. Mr. McDonough replied the typical average of a cold storm is 10 to 12 inches of snow per one inch of water.

Mr. McDonough stated they have put about 11,500 acre feet (AF) into the snow pack this year and due to the warm storms, they have started to use aircraft and liquid propane to assist in their efforts.

Discussion followed regarding the effects of cloud seeding during warm storms and adhering to the suspension criteria in the cloud seeding program to avoid the possibility of flooding.

Mr. McDonough provided an overview of the Wyoming study on the efficacy of cloud seeding conducted over the past 10 years in the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow mountain ranges in Wyoming.

The program has increased snowfall by approximately 5 – 15 percent on average. At the close of the study, the state of Wyoming had substantial scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of cloud seeding and expanded the program to a total of five mountain ranges and invested an additional \$1 million.

Member Bobzien has followed the cloud seeding program. He was pleased to see the outcome of the Wyoming study and to have scientific results that show it is effective. He asked if there was any control of wet winters versus dry winters. Mr. McDonough replied no but, reiterated that DRI added 11,500 AF this past winter and it was the driest winter on record.

10. PRESENTATION BY PAULA PENROD ON THE ADVANTAGES OF SYNTHETIC TURF AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPING

Paula Penrod, owner of SynLawn, presented on the positive environmental effects of using synthetic lawn rather than natural turf as part of a customers' landscaping.

11. DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 231: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO DEVELOP A DYNAMIC DROUGHT CONTINGENCY DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT ACCOUNTS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Laine Christman, TMWA Resource Economist, mentioned that Marcus Faust, TMWA's Lobbyist in Washington D.C., and Councilmember Jenny Brekhus had brought to their attention this particular grant application offered through the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a drought contingency plan. Mr. Christman stated TMWA already has a drought contingency plan which is part of the Water Resource Plan (WRP) TMWA is currently updating. Therefore, staff will be updating the current drought contingency plan using the model Shawn Stoddard, TMWA Senior Resource Economist, developed. The model itself has to be updated as well to reflect the expanded region, and customers, TMWA is now servicing after the completion of the merger on December 31, 2014.

Discussion ensued regarding the budget and the match TMWA is offering in-kind. Mr. Christman and Dr. Stoddard explained the in-kind is staff's time already being dedicated to updating the WRP.

Member Bobzien commented on the benefit of being recognized by the federal government by obtaining this assistance to address the challenges faced in this region and the importance of contributing to the Governor's Drought Forum. He requested that the Board be kept apprised of the milestones.

Upon motion by Member Bobzien, second by Member Duerr, which motion carried unanimously by the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 231 approving the grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a dynamic drought contingency decision support system.

12. UPDATE ON THE RIVER WATER SUPPLY

Bill Hauck, TMWA Senior Hydrologist, provided a brief summary of the current water supply situation. Mr. Hauck stated TMWA has begun to release reserves from Stampede Reservoir and will begin releasing from Boca Reservoir soon. He is estimating that TMWA could use less than the 8,000 AF projected in March 2015 and that customer usage in June was down approximately 10 percent compared to 2014 principally due recent precipitation of the last few weeks. He confirmed the demand side management program is working significantly well and the former Washoe County well production has decreased.

Board discussion followed regarding whether staff knew the response rate for the different customer classes, if there was a recognition program for those who save substantially and whether conserving more than 10 percent would be detrimental to lawns. Dr. Stoddard replied the data is not yet available. Marlene Olsen, GoodStanding, replied they are recognizing customers in the bill inserts. Mr. Gebhardt replied, according to the Nevada Landscaping Association, grass will go dormant, but will not die.

13. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Foree noted one of the capital improvement projects related to drought supply is the North Valleys Integration Project. TMWA had applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan for \$15 million which was approved by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on July 14. The very favorable terms of the loan are 2.62% interest over 20 years.

Member Duerr congratulated Mr. Foree and staff on obtaining the loan for the project under excellent terms.

Member Hartung commended Mr. Pagni on a well written and informative report on the Vidler agreement.

Discussion followed regarding TMWA's attendance of the Governor's Drought Forum meetings and events to ensure TMWA staff will be present.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

15. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Jardon inquired whether staff could provide a future update on possible next steps related to conservation if the drought continues. Mr. Foree replied staff has no plans of changing anything during this irrigation season as it appears our goal will be met. Mr. Erwin reiterated staff is currently updating the WRP and a draft will be presented to the Board at the October or November meeting which will have the updated drought and conservation plan.

16. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Chair Martini adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on August 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Folsom, Recording Secretary