

WASHOE COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2021
Via ZOOM

DIRECTORS:

Cory Casazza
John Capurro
Bill Hauck
Lawrence Belli

GUESTS:

Michael Pagni, Attorney
George Ball, Engineer
Dave Wathen, FWM Office
Scott Schoenfeld, USBR

PUBLIC:

Valerie Cooke
Beth Dory
Jerry Wagner
Naomi Duerr
Lara Enders
Jim Nadeau
Jim Nevelen
Gene_Sandra
Kathy

ABSENT:

Robert Quilici
Louis Damonte
Doug Avanzino

STAFF:

Mary Pat Eymann, Dist. Manager
Brian Casci, Damtender

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER –

Vice-President Casazza called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., quorum present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- Valerie Cooke – Inquired about the Steamboat Canal Project. She noted the comment period to truckeeriver.nvwatershed.com was extended to February 16, 2021 but understood that project has been suspended. With that in mind who do the people still requesting to comment during that period do they thru the truckeeriver.nvwatershed.com website or do they contact JoseRosado@usda.gov? She also asked what it meant if the project has been suspended, will it resume and if so when? What information will the public be given about that?

3. APPROVE AGENDA –

Mr. Pagni stated agenda item #10 is being pulled.

- ❖ Director Hauck made a motion to approve the agenda with item #10 being pulled; seconded by Director Capurro; motion carried.

4. and 5. APPROVE BOARD MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 1, 2020 MEETING; CHECKS WRITTEN AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2020 – JANUARY 2021.

- ❖ Director Capurro made a motion to approve minutes and financial statements as submitted; seconded by Director Hauck; motion carried.

6. FEDERAL WATER MASTERS REPORT – Dave Wathen/Brian Casci

A complete copy of the Water Report is available at District Offices or on the internet at troa.net.

7. UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF SAFETY OF DAMS PROJECT – Shane Dyer

Attended the project management meeting last week and the big news is that substantial completion has been awarded. A letter was also received by District office and is available there.

There were 7 items on the list that need to be done.

1. Installation of the fiber and power for the seismic raceway to the outlet works.
2. Installation of stilling well conduit, electrical enclosure, and staff gage for second weir at the dam inspection well.
3. Installation of screen at the dam outfall pipe.
4. Replacement of the damaged vehicle crash barrier at the dike. Damage is due to a manufacturer's defect of the cable holders on the hinge side. A similar defect is also observed on the dam side vehicle barrier, and will need to be replaced as well.
5. General site cleanup.
6. After year 20/21 winter season, remove all silt fences and straw wattles.
7. BOR Instrumentation is still in process for determining the recourse regarding the piezometer PT-10-2A on the crest that is clogged.

At this point the project is complete. BOR is contracting with the Forest Service for the next 3 years of monitoring on vegetation and things like that. There are also still going to install some seismic instrumentation over the next few months. During the end of construction, a rock went down one of the piezometers and got jammed down deep. BOR is trying to figure out if they have to rip the piezometer out or if the piezometer will function properly with the rock in there. This actually does matter to the District because if it doesn't function as it is suppose to and it is not replaced, we are on the maintenance contract and could be on the hook for that. We need to make sure this is either replaced or is able to function before we accept that after the construction.

Brian Casci (Damtender) stated that in mid-November the contractors came out and as far as he knew were able to get the rock all the way down to the bottom.

Shane – they did push it close to the bottom but the question is, can the water come up around the rock without being pressurized at all? Is the District willing to accept that or not?

Scott Schoenfeld (USBR) – Either way the District will not be responsible for that piezometer. BOR is the one who reads the piezometer. Mr. Schoenfeld does not think it is a concern as a maintenance item.

Shane – in terms of the re-payment contract he feels we are still a long way out, possible into 2022.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF ON FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC) PRELIMINARY PERMIT FOR A POWER PLANT AT BOCA DAM. – Shane Dyer

No movement on this, they are still waiting for grant money.

9. DISCUSSION, ACTION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TROA REIMBURSEMENT UNDER SECTION 7.A.2(b)(3) – Michael Pagni

Met with the TROA party reimbursement people in January. Went through the Watermaster's Office spreadsheet calculation of the APF portion of the reimbursement formula. Mr. Pagni explained at the meeting how the WM's offices methodology on how they came to their calculation. There was a brief discussion on the concepts of timing on when the reimbursement would start. As Governmental Agencies they all need to budget in advance. They asked what the reimbursement may be and when it starts to get put into place. This is hard to calculate as the APF formula is a running average and is constantly changing every month.

Mr. Pagni has since sent them out some general expenses based on our prior financials over the past 5 years, which is the other piece of the reimbursement formula. They were given the WM spreadsheet and they are digesting that. Mr. Pagni hopes to have a follow up meeting sometime in March or April to see if there is any other input on the WM spreadsheet and talk about reimbursement methodologies.

The hope and goal is to be able to start the reimbursements by the end of 2021.

10. UPDATE ON NRCS TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT. *Item was pulled.*

11. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT – Michael Pagni

Nothing additional to report

12. ENGINEER REPORT – George Ball

See Engineer's Report.

13. DAMTENDER REPORT – Brian Casci

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- Shane Dyer (JUB/Dyer Engineering) – Read information into record from NRCS Statement “In consideration of public comments received to date, and an intent to re-evaluate the feasibility, scope and extent of the project, as well as the effectiveness of the proposed project to meet conservation criteria; and identify the level of technical services that would be required to complete the project, the planning process has been halted at this time.” Mr. Dyer commented that is all the District knows about it and we are trying to learn more from NRCS.
- Valerie Cooke – She thanked Mr. Dyer for his comment and noted it is consistent with the release of a public statement that has been issued already. She asked if her other questions were going to be answered and asked another question whether people should provide comments to the website originally established or should they to Jose Rosado?
- Michael Pagni (attorney for District) – Mr. Pagni noted that due to limitations under the Open Meeting Law the Board is unable to comment or discuss or respond to comments made in the public comment portion of the meeting. He noted that questions on the Project can be directed to NRCS.
- Jerry Wagner – Mr. Wagner inquired whether any Board members voting for this project would personally benefit from it?
- Valerie Cooke – (still had time remaining on her original 3 minutes) Ms. Cooke added addition comments asking whether anyone would be responding to the questions previously asked.
- Jerry Wagner – (still had time remaining on his original 3 minutes) Mr. Wagner added additional comments inquiring whether the District had previous discussions with TMWA about this project earlier in the year?

Additional Public Comment received in writing prior to the meeting:

Beth Dory - Dear Directors of the Washoe County Water Conservation District:

1. The SCIC has agreements with both the City and County to maintain the ditches for "storm water conveyance."* Since SCIC does not have an easement through my property for non-irrigation water, how can this legally be done? Has water from the Truckee *ever* been released/diverted into the Steamboat Ditch during a winter (Nov. 2-Mar. 31) storm event? (see att.) please refer to pg 189 (computer) from this link <https://data.nbmg.unr.edu/Public/NEHMP/StateOfNevadaEnhancedHazardMitigationPlan2018.pdf>
2. Michael Pagni, as I understand represents the following public bodies (a) the Washoe County Water Conservation District (b) Northern Nevada Water and Planning Commission (c) The Western Regional Water Commission (d) Truckee Meadows Water Authority *AND* the *Private* Ditch Company, the Steamboat Canal, and Irrigation Company. Could Mr. Pagni explain to a non-attorney how this overlap of clients is not a conflict of interest on his part?
3. Do the Directors of the WCWCD believe that under Mr. Pagni's council that the "District" and therefore *the Public* were well served regarding the "Steamboat Canal Project?"
4. <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Ur5XdmZdBLsJ:renocitynv.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx%3FType%3D4%26ID%3D3995%26MeetingID%3D1101+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

15. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Comments – none

Future Agenda Items – nothing additional

16. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business Director Hauck made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Director Capurro; motion carried, meeting adjourned.

****The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 1:30 pm.****

John Capurro, Secretary/Treasurer