



## **MEETING MINUTES**

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**January 29, 2018 – 9:00 AM**

**BOCC Chambers Pahrump, NV**

Members: Richard W. Carver - Area 1 (Currant Creek/Smoky Valley)  
Joe Westerlund - Area 2 (Tonopah/Manhattan)  
James Weeks - Area 3 (Beatty /Armargosa Valley)  
Walt Kuver- Area 4, Position 1 (Pahrump Valley)  
William Knecht- Area 4, Position 2 (Pahrump Valley)  
Dennis Gaddy -Vice Chair- Area 4, Position 3 (Pahrump Valley)  
Dave Hall - At Large - Chair

Legal: Sev Carlson

Board of County Commissioners: John Koenig

Finance: Savannah Rucker

Staff: Oz Wichman  
John Klenke  
Geraldine Krause

Acronyms: AG - Attorney General  
AVSTP - Armargosa Valley Science & Technology Park  
BOCC - Board of County Commissioners  
BOR - Bureau of Reclamation  
CSWP- Community Source Water Protection  
CNRWA - Central Nevada Regional Water Authority  
DOA - Department of Agriculture  
DOI - Department of Interior  
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency  
GID - General Improvement District  
GM - General Manager  
GWE- Groundwater Evaluation Grant  
GWMP – Groundwater Management Plan  
HUD - Housing and Urban Development  
IRWMP - Inter Regional Water Management Program  
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding  
NTS - Nevada Test Site  
NCWDGB - Nye County Water District Governing Board  
NRWA – Nevada Rural Water Association  
NwRA - Nevada Water Resources Association  
RFP - Request for Proposals  
RNWA - Rural Nevada Water Authority  
ROW - Right of Way  
SNWA - Southern Nevada Water Authority  
USDA - United States Department of Agriculture  
UGTA - Underground Test Area

1. **(00:00:01) Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **(00:00:33) Roll Call - Present:** Dennis Gaddy, Walt Kuver, Richard Carver, William Knecht, James Weeks and Dave Hall.
3. **(00:01:02) Mission Statement** –“Provide, protect and preserve water resources within Nye County.”
4. **(00:01:10) General Public Comment (first): Three-minute time limit per person. Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item.**

Wendy Barnett, President of Great Basin Water Company explained that they have been working hard on auditing the water rights at Great Basin. Wendy went on to say that there was a meeting in Carson City, NV where General Manager of the Water District, Oz Wichman, State Engineer Jason King, and Wendy Barnett were in attendance. The subject of the meeting was to review the catalog process of water rights to ensure all data is captured to include the transfer of ownership. Wendy thanked everyone for their patience while they work through the review process.

Gordon Lamm ? expressed concern over the rumored price increase of water rights and how much they were going to cost per acre foot as a result of Order 1293. Gordon is directly impacted by Order 1293 because he is in the process of purchasing land in Pahrump that do not have water rights and asked if there was any intention to regulate the cost. Water District Governing Board Member, Walt Kuver replied, “No, It is a free market”.

The WDGB paused to reconnect the Granicus system.

5. **(00:04:01) Approval or modifications of the Agenda for the Water District Meeting of January 29, 2018.**

Chairman Dave Hall explained that Agenda item 10 would be pulled due to the illness of Executive Director of the CNRWA Jeff Fontaine.

Comptroller Savannah Rucker was also absent from the meeting to explain the Budget Status Report but it is included in the backup.

6. **(00:04:13) For Possible Action - Discussion, deliberation and decision regarding Approval of Minutes for December 11, and December 21, 2017.**

Water District Governing Board Member Walt Kuver made a motion to approve the Minutes from the December 11<sup>th</sup>, and December 21, 2017 Governing Board Meetings. Dennis Gaddy seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 6-0.**

7. **(00:05:20) Correspondence and Announcements.** None
8. **(00:05:22) Ex- Parte Communications and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements.** None

9. **(00:05:24) For Possible Action – Presentation, discussion, deliberation and possible action regarding approval to fund transportation for water conservation related school field trips to Ash Meadows, Death Valley and Round Mountain Gold Corp. Cost not to exceed \$2,000. This item is budgeted.**

Donna Lamm’s presentation focused on water conservation and the importance of educating children to make a difference. Donna stated that children absorb new ideas and are open to different ways of thinking to solve challenges.

The field trips offer a wealth of knowledge to be learned about water. Donna explained that Death Valley National Park is the hottest and driest area of the United States. Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge hosts 28 endemic species, the second highest number in North America, all of which are there because of the shrinking water resources over thousands of years. Donna added that Round Mountain Gold and Crescent Dunes are two large companies in Tonopah that see the value in water conservation. All are willing to share lessons they have learned about the use of water.

Donna closed her presentation by stating that with proper education children will grow to be adults who will adapt to this harsh environment and hopefully work together to solve the challenges they will face.

There was no motion to Agenda item #9 A because money was already budgeted to “Conservation Events School”.

Dennis Gaddy made a motion to Agenda item #9 B to approve funding for the field trips not to exceed \$2,000. William Knecht seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 6-0.**

10. **(00:06:22) For Presentation – Presentation from Jeff Fontaine, Executive Director, Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA) regarding current issues under consideration by the Authority.**

This agenda item was pulled from the agenda due to illness of Presenter, Jeff Fontaine.

11. **District Member, Staff and Liaison Reports/Comments:**

**a. Finances**

- I. FY 17-18 Budget Status

**b. Board Reports**

- I. LVVWD/SNWA  
II. CNRWA – John Koenig

**c. Staff Reports**

- I. Oz Wichman – 1197 and 1197A

Oz Wichman briefly reviewed the implications of Order 1197A which states that the Division of Water Resources is not going to allow any new appropriations of water; even for 2AF or less in Basin 230 (Amargosa Valley). There was discussion regarding Orders 1197 and 1197-A with respect to Devils Hole and movement of water rights per both Orders. Any specific questions should be directed to Mark Beutner, Division of Water Resources.

Oz stated that he went to Carson City to continue his work on trying to get a better understanding on the numbers of water rights that are not yet committed to projects. Oz expected to come to the WDGB with a revised calculation at the end of February, and then revisit it in a year with an attempt to be more accurate.

II. John Klenke

**d. Projects Status Report**

I. Staff

**e. Board Liaison Reports**

I. Commissioner John Koenig

**f. Report from other individuals, groups and or agencies regarding water-related Issues; for informational purposes only.**

I. Darrell Lacy

Planning Director Darrell Lacy announced; he is working with the Department of Water Resources to come up with a plan of action to address questions and communications regarding order 1293 that come through the Planning Department. Darrell explained that in the past if someone went to the Planning Department and inquired about lot development approval on a lot smaller than an acre, a will serve letter was required from the utility company to provide water under certain conditions to the parcel of land, if the lot was larger than an acre, a well could be drilled and there were no further requirements. Darrell stated, now that Order 1293 is in place he is trying to figure out what documentation is needed and the process to develop a lot. Darrell pointed out that property owners have come into the office with plans, wanting to develop their lots, but under building code, a certificate of occupancy cannot be granted without water.

Water District Governing Board member Walt Kuver asked how the building process works.

Planning Director Darrell lacy replied, if someone wants to develop a residential lot, they go to the Planning Department for a zoning review and provide the Planning Department with a site plan. The site plan lays out the location of the well, septic, and home will be. If it is a lot that has the legal rights to drill a well, then the Planning Department didn't require a well to be drilled prior to approval to develop the lot, but the well had to be installed and plumbed in before the certificate of occupancy would be granted. Darrell added that the challenge now is that some lots are not approved to drill wells until water rights are purchased.

Walt Kuver asked how those lots will be identified.

Darrell Lacy responded; "I don't know, they are probably going to have to get a letter from Department of Water Resources" which may cause a delay in the building process.

Darrell Lacy pointed out the possibility of a change in ordinances, as this process unfolds and the unintended consequences are understood.

General Manager of the Water District Oz Wichman stated that State Engineer Jason King has 4 to 5 people working on sorting out who has water dedicated to a particular lot.

Oz added that Hamilton Reed spent a few hours at DWR giving them a refresher on the work he completed on over dedication for the Water District in early 2017, which proved to be beneficial to Jason King.

Oz stated, Basin Engineer Levi Kryder, at DWR is the person to direct any questions to regarding whether water has been previously dedicated to a parcel of land.

**12. (00:17:29) For Possible Action - Discussion, deliberation and possible decision concerning future meetings/workshops.** The next scheduled meeting dates are February 26, and March 26, 2018.

Water District General Manager Oz Wichman stated that there would be a Budget Meeting scheduled within the time frame of the following meetings in the form of a Special Meeting or Teleconference.

Chairman Dave Hall remarked that the board will work together to decide on a date for the Budget Meeting.

Board Member Walt Kuver stated that the Budget should reflect work that needs to be identified to support additional projects.

Oz agreed, and noted that he will most likely include a \$50,000 line item for Engineering Expenses to further the exploration of the Carbonate Aquifer. The use of the allocated funds would depend on the success of the Grant Application.

Oz announced that he is thinking about the high priority items outside the Pahrump Basin, one of which is the Railroad Valley water rights filings by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Oz contacted Andy Bellanger at the Southern Nevada Water Authority and asked if there is any interest on the part of the Southern Nevada Water Authority to run a pipeline to Railroad Valley. The answer Oz received was that there is no interest at this time to run a pipeline.

Oz remarked that he will be following up with Jason King and Andy Bellanger again, and suspected that he will be coming back to the Water District Governing Board in a few months with approval for a letter to the State Engineer with regard to those filings languishing in Railroad valley. Oz stated there is some movement in Railroad Valley regarding a private sector business that is going to require water.

Oz stated his current focus is to prepare a revised version of the Groundwater Management Plan for Pahrump.

Oz explained as far as the budget goes; the large ticket item is to make sure there is enough money to fund the application of Grants, and pursue characterization of the Carbonate Aquifer.

**13. (00:21:13) General Public Comment (Second)**

During Public Comment, Wade Hinden asked if there was going to be a public notice when the school water conservation field trips to Ash Meadows, Round Mountain Gold and Death Valley will take place.

Chairman Dave Hall asked Donna if the field trip was just for the school children. Donna replied it is for the children but anyone wanting to attend, and listen to the presentation is welcome.

**14. (00:22:20) Adjourn**