



MEETING MINUTES

**July 26, 2021 – 9:00 AM
Regular Meeting**

Members: OPEN - Area 1 (Currant Creek/Smoky Valley)
Joe Westerlund - Area 2 (Tonopah/Manhattan)
OPEN - Area 3 (Beatty /Armargosa Valley)
Helene Williams- 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: Debra Strickland

Finance: Savannah Rucker

Staff:
Oz Wichman
John Klenke
Christal Behrends

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. **9:02 AM Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **09:02 AM Roll Call –Present:** Bill Knecht, Dennis Gaddy, Dave Hall, Helene Williams and Joe Westerlund.
3. **09:03 AM Mission Statement – “Provide, protect and preserve water resources within Nye County.”**
4. **09:04 AM 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.**

None.

5. **09:05 AM Approval or modifications of the Agenda for the Water District Meeting of July 26, 2021 (Non-action item).**

Savannah Rucker will present the FY 21 / 22 Budget Status Update after agenda Item 9.

Presentation, update and discussion provided by Jay Dixon, Chief Hydrologist, Kinross Gold Corporation will be moved forward, to occur after agenda Item 11.

6. **09:06 AM For Possible Action – Discussion, deliberation and decision regarding Approval of Minutes for May 24, 2021.**

Bill Knecht made a motion to approve the minutes from May 24, 2021 as written. Dennis Gaddy seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 5-0.**

7. **09:07 AM Water District Governing Board Member / General Manager Comments (This item limited to announcements or topic/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas).**

Helene Williams spoke about SB 567 (Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act), stating that the Bill will take 2 million acres of undeveloped public lands for conservation in Clark County. In the Bill, there are 30,633 acres of land slotted for development south of Las Vegas, going towards Primm. SB 567 also projects a growth of 820,000 residents by 2060. Helene feels the impact of this Bill on Basin 162 could be dramatic, especially, if the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, tries to bypass the Nevada Division of Water Resources. She encouraged all WDGB members to continue to track these efforts.

Dave Hall provided an update on the meetings he has been attending in Beatty. The first, Nevada Energy is proposing to build a 500 plus mile super transmission line from Reno to Vegas. Beatty’s Town Board has also heard multiple proposals regarding a solar plant that

is interested in constructing a plant in Beatty / Amargosa Valley (NV 373 & US 95). Project is all preliminary at this point. Because of the water treatment processes of Beatty Water & Sanitation, there is no “extra” water available i.e. water trucks, mining.

Serving on the Nevada Supreme Court Water Commission, Oz stated that one of the common discussions amongst the commission members is that NDWR lacks a policy document. For example, the term “curtailment” does not show up anywhere in statute.

8. 09:18 AM Ex-Parte Communications and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements.

Commissioner Strickland disclosed in addition to this Board’s liaison and a County Commissioner, she is also the owner of Strickland Construction, T&M Group Realty and Lakeside Storage. She has been a licensed well drilling, pump setting, septic contractor as well as a broker who brokers water rights for 26 years. She will not be voting on items during this meeting. Although she will be able to influence this Board, she does not find this to be a conflict of interest. It is her hope that her knowledge base is of value.

9. 09:19 AM For Possible Action – Discussion, deliberation and decision regarding election of new Water District Governing Board Officers for FY 2021/2022.

- a. Chair**
- b. Vice Chair**
- c. Secretary / Treasurer**

Bill Knecht motioned to nominate Dave Hall to serve as Board Chair. Dave Hall accepted the nomination. Dennis Gaddy seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 4-0-1 with Dave Hall abstaining from the vote.**

Dennis Gaddy motioned to nominate Bill Knecht to serve as Vice Chair. Bill Knecht accepted the nomination. Joe Westerlund seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 5-0.**

Dennis Gaddy motioned to nominate Savannah Rucker to serve as Secretary / Treasurer. Savannah Rucker accepted the nomination. Bill Knecht seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 5-0.**

10. 09:36 AM For Possible Action - Discussion, deliberation and decision regarding payment of the annual \$7,500 membership fee to the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA).

Helene Williams motioned that we pay the annual \$7,500 membership fee to the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA). Bill Knecht seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 5-0.**

11. 09:37 AM For Possible Action- Discussion, deliberation and decision recommending to the Board of County Commissioners, the appointments of Joni Eastley, Midge Carver

and Commissioner Debra Strickland to serve as Nye County Representatives for the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA).

Bill Knecht motioned to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, the appointments of Joni Eastley, Midge Carver and Commissioner Debra Strickland to serve as Nye County Representatives for the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA). Helene Williams seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 5-0.**

12. 11:00 AM For Presentation and Discussion- Presentation, update and discussion provided by Dwight Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist, McGinley and Associates, Inc., and John Klenke, Geoscientist, regarding the USGS water model impacting the larger Amargosa Valley geographic areas and the ongoing Devils Hole debate.

Dwight Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist for McGinley and Associates, presented an update to the Board regarding the Preliminary Review of the USGS DV3 Model and USGS Proposed AD-4 Pumping Test, to include information regarding:

- DV1 and DV2 Simulated Water Levels at Devils Hole
- DV3 Modeling to Match a Declining Devils Hole Water Level Trend
- Simulated Pumping Contributions to Devils Hole Water Levels
- Groundwater Flow through Amargosa Desert
- Groundwater Flow through Pahrump Valley
- Concerns Regarding Proposed AD-4a Corridor Pumping Test

Presentation attached to minutes.

13. 11:43 AM For Presentation and Discussion - Presentation, update and discussion provided by Frank McDonough, Desert Research Institute, regarding a summary of the FY 20/21 Spring Mountains Cloud Seeding Project.

Frank McDonough, Desert Research Institute, presented a Spring Mountains Cloud Seeding Project (Winter 2020-2021) Update. Topics include in the update:

- Generator Functionality
- Cloud Seeding Weather / Climatological Analysis
- Spring Mountains Winter Snowfall (Lee Canyon)
- Snow Water Equivalent
- Project Summary (Cost / Benefit)

Presentation attached to minutes.

14. 09:39 AM For Presentation and Discussion – Presentation, update and discussion provided by Jay Dixon, Chief Hydrologist, Kinross Gold Corporation, regarding a water management update for the Round Mountain Mine project.

Jay Dixon, Chief Hydrologist, Kinross Gold Corporation, presented the 2020 Round Mountain Gold Corporation's Water Resource Management Status Update to include:

- 2020 Dewatering Overview and Highlights
- 2021 Drilling Plans
- Dewatering Support Structure
- Gold Hill Water Management Update

- Round Mountain Water Management Update
- Monitoring Plan Review and Updates
- 2020 Water Rights Status (Basin 137B and Round Mountain Gold Corporation)

Presentation attached to minutes.

15. 12:15 PM District Member, Staff and Liaison Reports/Comments:

a. Finances (09:28 AM)

Savannah Rucker discussed the Water District Fund Balance and Expense Status Report as of June 30, 2021. The Fiscal 2021 year did end on 6/30/21 but will be open until the end of August for accounts payable. For this report, Actual Beginning Balance is \$522,873. Revenues are at 101% collected and Expenditures (\$217,589) are at 46%. Savannah expects the expenditure figure to grow marginally. On the report, there are encumbrances showing. An Encumbrance reflects a contract that is pending payment. We are projecting an Ending Fund Balance of \$500,287. Overall, the Water District is in great financial health.

The Expense Status reports provides detail of where the Water District is with all budgeted expenditures. The Water District is within 47% of the Operating Budget Worksheet and looks fiscally healthy, with no foreseeable audit finding.

b. Board Reports

- I. LVVWD/SNWA
- II. CNRWA

c. Staff Reports

I. Oz Wichman

Oz provided an update regarding the Nevada Supreme Court Water Commission stating there has been multiple discussions amongst the Commission members if three (3) judges could handle to workload of the water cases presented. In speaking with the Attorney General's office, Oz discovered there are approximately 50 cases pending at any given time, that the AG is filling for the State Engineer. Oz's input was that if indeed there are 3 (three) judges, that they should not all be out of Vegas or Reno. Rural representation / connection should be considered.

In addition, Oz has been working with the town of Beatty regarding the prospective mining companies coming into the area. Beatty's arsenic treatment facility and sewage treatment facility would pose hindrance to this occurring. His recommendation is that the town of Beatty develop MOU's that require prospective mining operations to fund the research and system improvements. This would have to happen for Beatty to be able to accommodate the growth in population (mining employees).

Oz has been engaged in various legislative discussions regarding AB 62 (Extensions of Time). He was also involved in a survey requesting feedback on NDWR priorities.

II. John Klenke

In regards to Dwight's work and presentation, the letter stating that we oppose the USGS pump test and request for meeting has just been sent.

John has had contact with NDWR. The State has five (5) active wells they use for water levels in Pahrump Valley. We are going to look at one of the wells that is blocked, so we can continue to get data from it.

III. Christal Behrends

Christal provided an annual update on the Volunteer Domestic Well Metering Program. There has been a slight increase to program participation as 1(one) participant joined the program in 2020. Both Average Usage and AFA have had slight increases. Average usage per day is now 567 gallons, with average acre feet annually at .63 AFA.

d. Projects Status Report

I. Staff

e. Board Liaison Reports

I. Commissioner Debra Strickland

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

16. 12:29 PM For Possible Action- Discussion, deliberation and decision concerning future Water District Governing Board Meetings. Proposed schedule to include: Monday, October 25, 2021 (Railroad Valley) Monday, December 13, 2021 (Pahrump)

Commissioner Strickland requested that we consider having our October meeting on 10/18/2021 versus 10/25/2021. Christal will verify this will work with the Currant Creek Community Center. Future notification to follow.

Bill Knecht motioned that the proposed schedule be approved with consideration to the October meeting change to 10/18/2021 and the December meeting remaining on 12/13/21. Dennis Gaddy seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 5-0.**

17. 12:32 PM General Public Comment (Second)

Theo Dubourg submitted a written comment and it was read by John Klenke. Comment is attached to minutes and is regarding the water level change map. John will supply Christal with a current copy to post to the website.

18. 12:34 PM Adjourn

Bill Knecht motioned that we adjourn the meeting. Dennis Gaddy seconded the motion. **The vote was approved 5-0.**