

# LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Southern Nevada Water Authority

100 City Parkway

Las Vegas, NV

October 9, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Dunbar, *City of Las Vegas (CLV)*  
Daniel Hernandez, *Clark County (CC)*  
Priscilla Howell, *City of Henderson (COH)*  
Dave Johnson, *Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD)*  
Zane Marshall, *Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)*  
Tom Minwegen, *Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD)*  
Steve Parrish, *Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD)*

Also Present:

Joseph Barnes	James Kangas
Elizabeth Bickmore	Nathan Lenon
Bella Castro	Natalia Londono-Arroyo
Gina Castruita	Leslie Long
Ken Colgate	Lisa Luptowitz
Keiba Crear	Julia Mueller
Leslie Dieguez	Sean Neiswenter
James Dotchin	Carlton Parker
Jason Eckberg	Tim Ricks
Adrian Edwards	David Stoft
Dan Fischer	Linda Tarver
Nathan Harper	John Tennert
Gerry Hester	Todd Tietjen
John Hiatt	Andrew Trelease
Zach Hills	Debbie Van Dooremolen
Ebrahim Juma	Xiaoping Zhou
Ben Jurand	

- 1. Welcome/Call to Order**  
Zane Marshall called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
- 2. Public Comment**  
Seeing no request for public comment, Zane moved forward with the meeting.
- 3. Introductions**  
Participants introduced themselves.
- 4. Approve April 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes**  
Motion to approve the summary passed.

**5. Receive an Informational Update on Items Related to the Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee (LVVWAC) that may appear on Future Regular Board Meetings of LVVWAC Members' Appointing Agencies**

Zane noted that the SNWA Board of Directors will consider the 2018 Water Resources Plan and the Water Budget at their November Board meeting.

SNWA is also developing an item for the Clark County Commission regarding the quarter-cent sales tax. This item will be presented at the December Clark County Commission meeting.

Priscilla stated that COH will consider a routine item associated with water pressure monitoring with U.S. Geological Survey.

**6. Receive an Update from Members and Staff Regarding Water Resources, Stormwater, Wastewater, and Water Quality, Including but Not Limited to Regulations, Permitting and Status of the Lower Las Vegas Wash**

Mark noted that CLV has been experimenting with trying to do a more steady state dosing of their aluminum sulfated filtration with the results showing more phosphate being removed.

Steve reported that CCRFCD is still waiting for the state to finish work on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Staff is also working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to renew the Regional Permit Seven for 404 permitting.

Tom stated that the Flamingo Water Resources Center, which is the main water treatment plant in the valley, is working well.

Zane reported that he, John Entsminger and Julie Wilcox briefed the Clark County Commission on the status of the lower Las Vegas Wash and recommended bringing an item before the board regarding the quarter-cent sales tax. The commission seemed to be in support of this initiative. Staff plans to begin discussions with interested stakeholders regarding the state of the environmental compliance and additional agreements that will need to be put in place to move forward once funding is secured for this project.

**7. Approve the 2016/2017 LVVWAC Accomplishments Document**

Motion to approve the Accomplishments Document was passed.

**8. Receive Presentation on 20 Years of Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee Accomplishments**

Debbie Van Dooremolen provided the presentation. Debbie noted that the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) was established in 1998 after the Las Vegas Wash (Wash) had suffered through decades of environmental degradation. The LVWCC has been working on its mission to stabilize and enhance the valuable environmental resources of the Wash. The Administrative, Research and Environmental Monitoring and Operations study teams, as well as LVVWAC oversight, have been instrumental in helping the LVWCC to fulfill its mission.

Over the past 20 years, the LVWCC has held hundreds of stakeholder meetings. Approximately \$150 million has been spent on the Las Vegas Wash Capital Improvements Plan and about \$40 million on other Wash-related programs. The local agencies have contributed more than \$20

million to this effort and Debbie thanked federal partners for contributing over \$75 million in grant funding over the years.

The Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan established 44 action items, all of which have received some level of action; 31 action items are either complete or being addressed by others and 13 are ongoing actions that will be perpetual for the life of the project.

Capital construction is complete following the construction of 21 weirs and approximately 13 miles of bank protection. In 2018 alone, the Tropicana and Sunrise Mountain weirs were completed.

Water quality in the Wash and its tributaries has been monitored since 2000. This monitoring documented a reduction in total suspended solids of about 60 percent, allowing the Wash to be removed from the 303(d) list of impaired waters for the state. Staff created a comprehensive database in the Lower Colorado River Water Quality Database. Bioassessment monitoring has also been conducted, with staff implementing four rounds sampling a variety of media (typically water quality, sediment, fish and bird eggs).

Biologists have conducted more than 10 baseline wildlife surveys and are currently conducting follow-up surveys. The baseline surveys were used to develop the Las Vegas Wash Wildlife Management Plan, which was approved by the LVVWAC in 2008. In 10 years, 94 percent of the plan's recommended actions have been implemented. More than 515 acres have been revegetated with native plants; 140 of those acres are wetlands. Salt cedar has been reduced from approximately 1,500 acres to less than 65 acres.

The Wash has over 40 individual sites for cultural resources, 28 of which are eligible for National Register listing. The LVWCC developed and implemented an education and outreach plan and has attended or hosted over 660 events in the past 20 years. The Wash website, lvwash.org, has hosted nearly 1,900 unique visitors a month and approximately half a million visits since the program was established.

Debbie showed several before-and-after photos that depict the profound change in the structures and landscape from the beginning of the project until now.

Tom expressed his gratitude to all the partners and agencies that have helped make the LVWCC successful over the past 20 years and asked whether anyone from the audience would like to share their thoughts with the committee. John Hiatt spoke a few words.

**9. Set Next Meeting Date and Propose Items for the Next Meeting's Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2019. Staff will coordinate the agenda.

**10. Public Comment**

There were no comments. Meeting adjourned.