



## INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

*October 30, 2019, 3:00 p.m.*

*Colorado River Conference Rooms, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
100 City Parkway, 7th Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada*

IRPAC members present	Ken Evans Carol Jefferies Bob Murnane Phil Ralston Virginia Valentine	Peter Guzman Tom Morley Jonas Peterson John Restrepo
IRPAC members absent	Andy Maggi	Paul Moradkhan
Staff present:	John Entsminger Julie Wilcox Andy Belanger Peter Jauch Colby Pellegrino Jordan Bunker	Dave Johnson Kevin Bethel Tabitha Fiddymment Greg Kodweis Katie Horn
Others present:	Guy Hobbs	

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no speakers.

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

The Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee 2020 (IRPAC 2020) met on Wednesday, October 30, 2019. The meeting began at 3:12 p.m.

*#1 Approve agenda.* Peter Guzman motioned to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

*#2 Welcome and introductions.* Terry Murphy, facilitator, welcomed the committee members and introductions were made.

*#3 Receive an overview of the committee process and administrative items relating to the committee.* Ms. Murphy reviewed the scope of the advisory committee and stated that all meetings will follow Nevada's Open Meeting law. She reminded the committee that recommendations are made on a consensus basis and do not require unanimous agreement, and that the goal of the committee is to recommend a long-term planning and funding strategy. She also reviewed committee member and SNWA commitments as well as future meeting dates.

*#4 Receive an overview of past SNWA committees.* John Entsminger, SNWA General Manager, welcomed the committee and described previous citizen advisory committee processes and why the Authority uses advisory committees. He stated that past committees have evaluated a range of issues, including:

facilities, resources, water policy, drought and conservation, security, sustainability, water quality and funding.

The 1994 IRPAC made recommendations related to facilities, water quality and water resources as the Authority's facilities were unable to meet demand projections and Nevada was projected to exceed its Colorado River allocation. Mr. Entsminger reviewed several recommendations given by the 1994 IRPAC and gave an update on what the Authority has done as a result of their recommendations.

The 2004 Integrated Water Planning Advisory Committee (IWPAC) made recommendations related to water resources and conservation as the Colorado River Basin began to experience what would quickly become the worst drought in the basin's recorded history. Mr. Entsminger reviewed several recommendations given by the 2004 IWPAC and gave an update on what the Authority has done as a result of their recommendations.

While discussing the 2004 IWPAC resources recommendations, Mr. Entsminger stated the Authority has participated in pilot-scale desalination studies as was recommended by the committee. Ken Evans asked if desalination is currently available as a resource. Mr. Entsminger stated that desalination is viable as a future resource but is still expensive. He stated that, in the next 30 – 50 years, opportunities will present themselves for the Authority to participate in, but the preference would be to work out an exchange with California or Mexico for them to use the water from the ocean and leave water in Lake Mead for Southern Nevada to use. It would be cost prohibitive to run infrastructure from the coast to Las Vegas.

The 2012 IRPAC made recommendations primarily related to funding as the community was amid an economic recession. Mr. Entsminger reviewed several recommendations given by the 2012 IRPAC, which focused on recommending a funding formula to fund capital and ensure the organization's long-term financial stability. He then gave an update on what the Authority has done as a result of their recommendations.

While discussing the 2012 IRPAC resources recommendations, Mr. Entsminger discussed the Authority's debt service payments to fund capital projects and Mr. Evans asked what happens in 2038–2039 with the decrease in debt. Mr. Entsminger stated that if the Authority does not incur any new debt, all the long-term bonds will be paid off. Mr. Evans commented that as the committee give recommendations, overlaid with capital improvement projects, future debt projections will change, depending on what is recommended. Mr. Entsminger stated that much of what will be discussed with the committee will be capital infrastructure needs to support what the Authority believes the community will look like in the future.

The 2014 IRPAC made recommendations related to the drought, infrastructure and funding as Lake Mead's water levels were among the lowest since the reservoir was filled. The decline in lake elevations threatened the community's water supply. Mr. Entsminger reviewed several recommendations given by the 2014 IRPAC and gave an update on what the Authority has done as a result of their recommendations.

Mr. Entsminger recognized that the Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) is a separate agency but also reviewed the recommendations made by the 2016 LVVWD Rates and Rules Advisory Committee related to infrastructure, asset management, water quality and funding as the LVVWD service area was recovering from an economic recession. Asset management and the need for new infrastructure were critical parts of the discussions. Mr. Entsminger reviewed several recommendations given by the 2016

LVVWD Rates and Rules Advisory Committee and gave an update on what the District has done as a result of their recommendations.

*#5 Receive an overview of the SNWA's history and key initiatives.* Mr. Entsminger gave an overview of the Authority and its core responsibilities, which include water supply planning, infrastructure, conservation, water quality and stewardship. He stated that much of what the committee recommends may have an affect on not only the Authority, but its purveyor members, which include the City of Henderson, City of North Las Vegas, LVVWD and Boulder City.

Mr. Entsminger gave information about the Authority's reliability on the Colorado River, the drought, current and future Lake Mead water levels, banked water resources and return-flow credits. He gave an overview of the Authority's infrastructure and the regional water system, and stated that the system is healthy, relatively new and has plenty of capacity, but there are a few pinch points in the system where additional facilities are needed and that these will be discussed with the committee in future meetings. He also provided highlights on the Authority's Intake No. 3 and the Low Lake Level Pumping Station.

Ms. Murphy mentioned that the committee will have the opportunity to tour the Authority's facilities and get a closer look at the water system and how it operates.

Mr. Entsminger gave a brief overview of the Authority's conservation program, but stated that there will be a future meeting solely dedicated to conservation. He stated that the program relies on four key parts, including regulations, incentive programs, pricing and education. He also stated that since the turn of the century, Southern Nevada has been a world leader in urban water conservation and that despite an increase in population since 2002, per capita water use and Colorado River consumption have decreased. However, over the past couple of years, progress towards the Authority's conservation goal has plateaued and given the continued drought and projected growth, the committee and the community will need to renew its conservation effort.

Phil Ralston asked if there is a volume or usage of water that is the new normal given the drought, population growth, the recession and conservation efforts, or, if there is a target consumption number that the Authority would like to see.

Mr. Entsminger stated that there is not one single target number because of the different options of controlling demand, and/or increasing supplies and/or driving down GPCD. He also stated that Nevada is allocated 300,000 acre-feet per year from the Colorado River, and permanent tributaries bring in 30,000 acre-feet. Maximum shortage under federal law is 30,000 acre-feet. Given that, the community cannot exceed 300,000 acre-feet of water consumption per year and this year's consumption was 244,000 acre-feet. Mr. Entsminger noted today's water use isn't an emergency, but that we need to ensure that there are sufficient incentives, regulations and planning in place to maintain reliability. There will be future discussions with the committee on how those goals can be achieved.

Mr. Entsminger spoke to water quality and reiterated that importance of the committee in visiting and viewing some of the treatment and labs facilities. He also spoke briefly to the Authority's funding and showed a summary of the 2019-20 sources and uses.

He then gave an overview of the Authority's current efforts which include:

- Completing L3PS on time and under budget
- Maintaining conservation progress

- Continuing working with Colorado River Basin partners to protect Lake Mead water levels
- Implementing the Drought Contingency Plan
- Maintaining credit worthiness

He then gave an overview of the Authority's long-term efforts, which include:

- New, major infrastructure to provide capacity, redundancy and reliability valley-wide
- Maintaining water recycling levels requires new infrastructure
- Pursuing resource opportunities on the Colorado River
- Renewable energy resources needed to achieve the state mandated Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard
- Progress towards the community's conservation goal must be maintained or surpassed

All of these efforts will be included in an amendment to the Authority's Major Construction and Capital Plan.

Mr. Evans asked if there was a component within the plan that the committee will come up with that will focus and provide funding to infrastructure maintenance to take care of what we already have.

Mr. Entsminger stated that system maintenance and asset management is very important and will be a key component moving forward.

Ms. Murphy asked for further questions from the committee, closed the meeting and stated that the next meeting will be November 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no speakers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.