

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2021
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:07 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair
Dan Stewart, Vice Chair
Scott Black (alternate for John Lee)
Claudia Bridges
Jim Gibson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Cedric Crear and Justin Jones

STAFF PRESENT John Entsminger, Colby Pellegrino, Doa Ross, Kevin Bethel and Greg Walch

OTHERS PRESENT None

Unless otherwise indicated, all members present voted in the affirmative.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

For full public comment, visit snwa.com/apps/snwa-agendas/index.cfm

Ed Uehling spoke regarding item 7. He said it was a conflict of interest to hire the same company, Hobbs, Ong & Associates, to advise the Authority on borrowing funds and to sell bonds through the same company, because the company is paid to assist with the financial transaction.

Item 7 was removed from the agenda.

ITEM NO.

1. ***For Possible Action: Approve agenda with the inclusion of tabled and/or reconsidered items, emergency items and/or deletion of items, and approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 15, 2021.***

Staff requested that item 7 be removed from the agenda.

FINAL ACTION: Vice Chair Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting with the deletion of item 7, and to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 15, 2021. The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. ***For Possible Action: Adopt the 2021 Las Vegas Wash Capital Improvements Plan.***
3. ***For Possible Action: Approve and authorize the Chair to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an interlocal agreement among the City of Henderson, the City of Las Vegas, the City of North Las Vegas, Clark County, the Clark County Regional Flood Control District, the Clark County Water Reclamation District, and the Authority to establish funding allocations and the budget for Las Vegas Wash activities in Fiscal Year 2021/22 and approve the Authority's allocation of \$357,093.***
4. ***For Possible Action: Approve a resolution authorizing submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Applied Science Grants for Fiscal Year 2021, seeking \$199,985, and outlining the Authority's ability to contribute monetary and in-kind services, and authorize the General Manager to sign the funding agreement upon completion provided the Authority's obligations do not exceed \$296,665.***
5. ***For Possible Action: Approve a resolution supporting and verifying the submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2021 requesting \$189,351.***

6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between TOP Engineers Plus, PLLC, and the Authority to provide professional engineering services to develop and implement a comprehensive circuit inventory database for an amount not to exceed \$250,000 per contract year, with up to four one-year contract renewals and an annual increase not to exceed 10 percent per renewal term.
7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a professional services agreement with Hobbs, Ong & Associates, Inc., for independent financial advisory services for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 per fiscal year, with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods. [ITEM REMOVED FROM AGENDA]

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff’s recommendations for items 2 - 6. The motion was approved.

BUSINESS AGENDA

8. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Atkins North America, Inc., and the Authority to provide professional design engineering and construction support services on the Lower Las Vegas Wash for an amount not to exceed \$14,110,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion was approved.

9. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Las Vegas Paving Corporation and the Authority to provide Construction Manager at Risk pre-construction services in support of the Lower Las Vegas Wash Stabilization Plan for an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion was approved.

10. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a professional services agreement between R&R Partners, Inc., and the Authority to provide integrated marketing and strategic communication services to promote water conservation and water quality throughout Southern Nevada, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, with the option to renew the agreement for two additional one-year periods, and authorize an annual increase not to exceed 10 percent for each renewal term.

FINAL ACTION: Vice Chair Stewart made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion was approved.

11. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a professional services agreement between Prodajsa USA, Inc., dba HCI Advertising, and the Authority to provide Spanish-language communication, marketing and public education services to promote water conservation and water quality throughout Southern Nevada, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000, with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods, and authorize an annual increase not to exceed 10 percent for each renewal term.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion was approved.

12. ***For Possible Action:*** Conduct a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for the Authority and subsequently adopt a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22.

John Entsminger, General Manager, gave an overview presentation on the tentative budget. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

Chair Kirkpatrick opened the Public Hearing. Ed Uehling said that the Authority overestimates the budget for capital projects in order to make up for operational losses. He said that the Authority borrows funds and counts those funds as revenue. He said that the expenditures slated for conservation pay for taking water away from residents in the east side of the Valley to give it to residents in the western part of the Valley. He said that funds should not be spent to encourage water conservation since that reduces water sales revenue.

Chair Kirkpatrick closed the Public Hearing. She said that the Authority was recognized nationally for its conservation efforts, and the Board was proactively working on ways to ensure that conservation projects benefit the residents in the east part of the Valley. She also said that the Authority does not use capital funds to offset operational expenses. Mr. Entsminger added that per the Authority’s bond covenants, bond sale proceeds can not be used for operations.

FINAL ACTION: Vice Chair Stewart made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion was approved.

13. ***For Information Only: Receive an update from staff on water resources including, but not limited to, drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin, conservation programs and activities, activities on the Colorado River, and water resource acquisition and development.***

Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager, Resources, gave a water resources and conservation update presentation. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

Director Gibson asked how Lake Powell water levels compared to Lake Mead water levels and how levels between the reservoirs are balanced. Ms. Pellegrino said that typically Lake Powell water levels fluctuate more than Lake Mead since Lake Powell captures the runoff from the Upper Colorado River Basin and then releases more regulated flows to Lake Mead. Mr. Entsminger said that under the operating rules and guidelines for the Colorado River, the general goal is to keep the reservoirs approximately equal, but due to hydrological fluctuations, the lakes can experience slight water level variability from year to year.

Vice Chair Stewart asked how the Bureau of Reclamation determined its lake level projections. Ms. Pellegrino said that the models were based on the Basin receiving average precipitation while also accounting for how dry the soils were.

Director Black said that he recently participated in a turf conversion at his home in North Las Vegas. He said he respects the work that the Board and the Authority does to conserve water to benefit the community.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Public Comment

Ed Uehling said that the Authority borrowed billions of dollars to construct the Third Intake at Lake Mead and the Low Lake Level Pumping Station, but then received a reward for building that project for \$520 million. He said that was evidence of how the Authority inflates its budget by needlessly borrowing money.

Robert Wengert said that he represented a privately funded group that had water technology to make potable water. He said that his group was working on water projects in Saudi Arabia, Puerto Rico and California.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Copies of all original agenda items and minutes, including all attachments, are on file in the General Manager's office at the Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1001 South Valley View Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada.