

## **LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

October 19, 2021

2:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Tom Brady, *City of North Las Vegas (CNLV)*  
Mark Dunbar, *City of Las Vegas (CLV)*  
Daniel Hernandez, *Clark County (CC, alt.)*  
Priscilla Howell, *City of Henderson (COH)*  
Zane Marshall, *Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)*  
Tom Minwegen, *Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD)*  
Colby Pellegrino, *Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD)*  
Andrew Trelease, *Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD, alt.)*

### **Also Present:**

Steven Anderson	Alexei Luganov
Jason Bailey	Tom Maher
Elizabeth Bickmore	AJ Rodrigues
Michael Boyles	John Solvie
Chaunsey Chau-Duong	Abigail Sumanis
Keiba Crear	John Tennert
Christine Dudas	Todd Tietjen
Jason Eckberg	Debbie Van Dooremolen
Adrian Edwards	Xiaoping Zhou
Greg Kodweis	

### **1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Priscilla Howell called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

### **2. Public Comment**

Seeing no request for public comment, Priscilla moved forward with the meeting.

### **3. Introductions**

Roll call was taken; attendees are listed above.

### **4. Approve April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes passed.

### **5. Receive an Information 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**

There were no items to report.

### **6. Receive Update on New Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee Logo**

Debbie Van Dooremolen presented the new Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) logo. She began by stating that the new logo design aligns with the newly redesigned LVWCC website (lvwash.org) that will launch by the end of October. The website's redesign

gives a more modern look and improves user experience, while being mobile friendly, utilizing new technology to display information and better exhibiting photos and videos. The old LVWCC logo was approximately 20 years old and was not mobile friendly. This refreshed logo design is ideal for website banners, report covers, outreach materials and more. She also highlighted how the new logo more appropriately represents and defines the LVWCC, with a visual of the Las Vegas Wash (Wash) with Frenchman Mountain, a weir, wildlife and wetland vegetation. Tom Minwegen asked if the LVWCC was involved in the creation of the logo. Debbie stated that all redesign work was done internally, and the logo will be presented at the next LVWCC meeting on October 26. She added that it was presented to the LVWCC's Administrative Study Team who oversees education and outreach activities. Keiba Crear also added that when the logo is presented to the LVWCC, there will be an opportunity for input and feedback.

**7. Receive an Update on the Clark County Wetlands Park**

Elizabeth Bickmore gave an update on the Clark County Wetlands Park (Wetlands Park) and reported that the Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. She highlighted the opening of the Exhibit Hall and Nature Store, and the return of programming, field trips and events, and stated that visitation in 2021 has remained strong. Elizabeth gave an update on the construction progress of the Nature Play Corner which will include interpretive signage, wayfinding and the play area itself, stating that the project will be completed in winter 2022. She gave an update on land management and highlighted some Wetlands Park capital projects which include constructing fencing and barriers to enclose specific areas of the park, a signage project to identify each weir, and loop trail completion. She briefly discussed land management resources and partnerships with the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Division of Forestry. Elizabeth provided an update on Clark County Public Works projects that impact the Wetlands Park. These include the proposed Hollywood Boulevard extension and the TransWest energy corridor right-of-way project that will cross through the south end of the park. She stated that access for this project is a concern for the park. Elizabeth also spoke about staff's coordination efforts with the Cadence community's Sports Park channel and CCWRD's sewer line extension.

**8. Receive an Update on the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife's Recommendation to Open the Wetlands Park for Fishing and Approve Letter of Opposition from the LVVWAC**

Elizabeth also reported on the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife's recommendation to open the Wetlands Park for fishing. She stated that this advisory group, while not affiliated with CC, reports to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, who provide recommendations to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). She gave a timeline of events and stated that at their August 3 meeting, the advisory board tabled one item (fishing in the Wetlands Park) and moved forward with another (urban fishing opportunities). On August 31, the Wetlands Park, along with CCWRD, SNWA, CC Park Police and CC Parks & Recreation, gave the advisory board a tour of the park, answering questions and discussing concerns. Letters of opposition to allowing fishing at the Wetlands Park were written by CC, CCWRD, COH, CLV and CNLV. She stated that the Wash and the Wetlands Park are designated as non-contact bodies of water, and for the time, NDOW will keep these waters closed to fishing. Priscilla asked if there was a date that a decision would be made. Elizabeth stated that a decision will not likely be made until sometime next year. Zane Marshall asked if public comment could be submitted to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Elizabeth

stated that the local wildlife boards make recommendations to the state and once a proposal or item goes before the state board, there will be an opportunity for public comment.

Daniel Hernandez made a motion to approve the letter of opposition from the LVVWAC. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. Receive an Update on Regional Water Quality**

Todd Tietjen provided an update on regional water quality and stated that even with the drought and low lake levels, water quality remains high in Lake Mead and Lake Mohave, primarily due to water passing through the lake quickly. He stated that there are a few localized issues, especially where tributaries enter the lake, and that while the low lake levels might be making it slightly worse, it is not creating a new problem. Todd stated that there are toxin-producing algae present in Lake Mohave that have caused NPS to close some areas to contact. He added that while they are finding mostly low concentrations, the majority are found in mid-lake locations and are a product of aggregation by the wind. He stated that this is an emerging problem that will need to be monitored. Todd reported that modeling of Lake Mead is becoming more important in considering nearer term conditions in the lake and is helping guide staff. He presented lake surface elevation levels, lake temperatures (as warmer water begins to leave Lake Powell, Lake Mead's water temperatures will increase), lake conductance, dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, pH levels, chlorophyll concentrations in the Colorado River and Las Vegas Bay and secchi depth (transparency) within the lake. Todd also presented DO levels at the inflow from the Colorado River. Zane asked if these levels could change with a flood flow event at Glen Canyon Dam or a large storm event within the canyon. Todd responded that, conceptually, it could, but there is not sufficient data to answer that question. He also presented temperature levels at Lake Mohave, stating that usually cooler water flows from Lake Mead to Lake Mohave, but that can change as lake levels lower and warmer water flows into Lake Mohave. Todd showed a modeling slide presenting different climate change scenarios and lake surface elevation scenarios. He concluded by reporting that the LVVWAC's Regional Water Quality Plan was most recently revised in 2012 and will be updated this year, adding that the document will be routed to LVVWAC members for input and feedback.

**10. 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 Wash**

Zane reported that the Lower Las Vegas Wash project is moving forward and contractors have been selected. He stated that SNWA's environmental teams are working on compliance initiatives for phase one, and added that the project should stay within its proposed timeline.

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

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

**12. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned.