

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

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

January 11, 2022

2:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Tom Brady, *City of North Las Vegas (CNLV)*  
Priscilla Howell, *City of Henderson (COH)*  
Zane Marshall, *Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)*  
Tom Minwegen, *Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD)*  
Steve Parrish, *Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD)*  
Colby Pellegrino, *Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD)*  
Randy Tarr, *Clark County (CC)*  
Charles Trushel, *City of Las Vegas (CLV)*

### **Also Present:**

Jason Bailey	Alexei Luganov
Elizabeth Bickmore	AJ Rodrigues
Michael Boyles	David Stoft
Dan Chan	Abigail Sumanis
Keiba Crear	John Tennert
Richard Donahue	Todd Tietjen
Mark Dunbar	Debbie Van Dooremolen
Adrian Edwards	Xiaoping Zhou
Dan Fischer	
Dan Hernandez	

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

Priscilla Howell called the meeting to order at 2:01 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 October 19, 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. Approve the Las Vegas Wash 2022/2023 Budget**

Keiba Crear presented the Las Vegas Wash (Wash) long-term operating budget for fiscal year 2022/2023, stating that the items listed in the budget can be found in the Las Vegas Wash Long-Term Operating Plan (LTOP). Funded actions are broken into six core elements: erosion &

stormwater, jurisdictional & regulatory, public outreach, funding, shallow groundwater and environmental resources. The total operating budget is \$2,576,126 and staff is anticipating to receive \$220,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), \$42,500 from other contributions and \$2,313,626 from local contributions. Keiba discussed the local contributions further stating that CCRFCD will pay 50 percent of the erosion & stormwater actions from the LTOP, totaling \$580,120 after grant deductions. She stated that the wholesale delivery charge will cover 44 percent of the remaining contribution (\$762,743), dischargers will cover 43 percent (\$745,407), and CC will pay the remaining 13 percent, which totals \$225,356. Keiba added that this will be the first budget as the Wash program enters into LTOP conditions.

Zane Marshall made a motion to approve the budget. After the motion, but before the vote, Tom Minwegen reiterated comments he made a year ago and stated that he wanted to discuss the formation of a work group to review the LVVWAC's funding. Priscilla proposed that an item be put on the next meeting's agenda (April 19) to do so. Tom indicated that he was unsure how to vote, due to issues mentioned at the previous year's meeting. He initially voted no, but upon Priscilla's commitment to include a work group discussion item for the next meeting, he voted yes with that commitment. Legal confirmed that an item needed to be noticed on the agenda prior to having that discussion. The motion to approve the Wash LTOP budget for fiscal year 2022/2023 passed.

#### **7. Receive Update on the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee**

Debbie Van Dooremolen, SNWA, provided an update on the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC). The LVWCC's mission is to stabilize and enhance the valuable environmental resources of the Wash. The Operations, Administrative and Research and Environmental Monitoring study teams, as well as LVVWAC oversight, have been instrumental in helping the LVWCC to fulfill its mission. All 44 action items from the Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan have been implemented, with 31 items either complete or being addressed by others and 13 noted as ongoing. Regarding stabilization, seven weirs were benchmarked in 2021, with crews removing vegetation and re-establishing grades. In addition, the consultant continued working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to gain approval of the Letter of Map Revision. Debbie reported on water quality, stating that all sampling and monitoring programs were conducted per their regular schedules this year. Comparing 2021 to 2020, the data showed that selenium was down at 8 of the 10 sites, perchlorate was down 10-20 percent at the two downstream sites, and orthophosphate and total phosphorus were down 7-11 percent and 8-37 percent, respectively. Data for all the projects was uploaded into the Lower Colorado River Water Quality Database. For the Las Vegas Wash Wildlife Management Plan, a record number of Yuma Ridgway's rails were recorded during the 2021 surveys. One southwestern willow flycatcher territory was recorded (the first since 2013) and three detections of a yellow-billed cuckoo were made. The night surveys recorded four different snake species and two different amphibian species. Regarding vegetation enhancement and management, 21 acres were revegetated in 2021, and 570 acres have been revegetated overall. Tamarisk is down more than 98 percent, and the 2020 monitoring report states that approximately 80 percent of sites maintained or increased vegetative cover. For cultural resources, the 2011 programmatic agreement expired, and stakeholders are in the process of discussing a new agreement for BOR lands. Staff also reviewed and found no cultural resource concerns for the Hollywood Boulevard extension/bridge plans. For education and outreach, the Wash Team hosted two Green-Ups, attracting more than 500 volunteers. Staff also continued extensive virtual outreach, using videos created with Nevada Division of Environmental

Protection (NDEP) grant funds. In total, staff reached more than 2,500 students virtually and approximately 600 individuals in person. For data resources, the new logo and website design is complete and staff have already seen increased user engagement and time spent on the site since its launch in October 2021. The Wash Facebook page reached 1,387 followers, and staff continued to distribute the monthly e-newsletter and maintain the water quality database. For 2022, the LVWCC will meet virtually on January 25, will plan for a tour on April 26 and will meet again on October 25.

**8. Receive an Update on the Stormwater Quality Management Committee**

John Tennert, CCRFCD, gave an update on the Stormwater Quality Management Committee and began with a brief history of the program, noting its substantial expansion since the first permit was issued in 1991. He gave an overview of permit compliance and the role of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NDEP. John explained the role of CCRFCD, which is as coordinating agency for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit implementation as well as chairing the committee. CCRFCD also funds maintenance of regional flood control facilities, including those with water quality features, and maintains contracts with outside technical consultants. The permittees' role is to enact and enforce ordinances, implement street sweeping and maintain the storm sewer system, maintain municipal industrial facilities, inspect construction and industrial sites using best practices and implement public outreach programs. John also discussed the detention basin program, which requires entities to build and maintain water quality features in select basins. He stated that an analysis was conducted in 2021 to demonstrate the permittees are on target to meet goals and permit requirements. John reported that the committee has been operating under an administratively extended permit since 2015, and on April 13, 2021, NDEP distributed a draft of the new permit. In June, the permittees met with NDEP. Most of the permit edits and concerns were minor; however, the two primary concerns were about language that existed before but was removed that specified the permittees would not be liable for non-compliance by other permittees, and about the lengthy standard provisions included in the permit that are clearly not applicable to the MS4 permittees. Staff is awaiting a revised draft from NDEP. John reported that NDEP also issued a draft Construction General Permit (CGP), the statewide permit that applies to all construction, regardless of entity. He noted that there were some concerns with that permit as well, primarily language noting a shift from four days to 60 days for permit authorization; also, the period of time to require growth of vegetative cover was increased to three years, the timeframe for notification of incomplete application was removed and there were some conflicts between requirements associated with the CGP and 404 permits. He stated that the permittees are scheduled to meet with NDEP on January 13 to review the revised draft CGP. John gave an update on the selenium project and stated that a total of 31 fish samples were collected from August to October 2021, noting that locations and carp were selected to coincide with historical sampling. The results will be presented to NDEP on January 26. He concluded by stating that there is no evidence that water quality is being impaired by stormwater.

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

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. It was proposed that an item noticing the formation of a work group to review the funding formula for the LVVWAC be included on the agenda.

**10. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned.