

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

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

April 19, 2022

2:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Tom Brady, *City of North Las Vegas (CNLV)*  
Keiba Crear, *Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD, alt.)*  
Dan 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)*  
Andrew Trelease, *Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD, alt.)*  
Charles Trushel, *City of Las Vegas (CLV)*

### **Also Present:**

Steven Anderson	Tom Maher
Jason Bailey	AJ Rodrigues
Elizabeth Bickmore	John Solvie
Michael Boyles	Abigail Sumanis
Brian Carlson	John Tennert
Richard Donahue	Todd Tietjen
Laura Dye	Debbie Van Dooremolen
Adrian Edwards	Dan Ybarra
Dan Fischer	Xiaoping Zhou
Joemel Llamado	

#### **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 January 11, 2022 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**

Dan Fischer mentioned that the Clark County Commission and the CCWRD Board of Trustees approved an updated agreement with Republic Services that clarified the partnership between the two agencies.

Priscilla asked when the Las Vegas Wash (Wash) budget needs to be approved by the individual boards. Keiba Crear stated that it needs to be approved by each board before July 1.

6. **Approve Revised LVVWAC Bylaws and Amended and Restated Cooperative Agreement**  
Motion to approve the revised LVVWAC bylaws and the amended and restated cooperative agreement passed.

7. **Approve 2020-2021 Accomplishments Document**

Todd Tietjen gave an overview of the 2020-2021 LVVWAC Accomplishments Document. He highlighted accomplishments that included protecting Lake Mead as a water source for southern Nevada and downstream users; managing and optimizing water reclamation facilities; meeting or surpassing federal, state and local standards and regulations; preserving and enhancing the natural, cultural, historic and recreational values of the watershed and Lake Mead; sustaining water resources for future generations; and building community awareness and support for regional watershed management.

A motion to approve the 2020-2021 LVVWAC Accomplishments Document passed.

8. **Receive an Update from Wastewater Dischargers**

Dan Fischer provided CCWRD's wastewater discharger update. He began by showing a graph of the average annual influent flows from all four dischargers throughout the valley for the past 20 years. He showed that in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, flows decreased, but in 2021 returned to normal compared with recent years, and total inflows for 2021 were 192 million gallons per day (MGD), on average. Dan also presented the same information analyzed by total monthly average as well as by each discharger's monthly average. He also showed annual data for direct non-potable reuse, which has decreased over the years, specifically beginning in 2017 with the closing of CCWRD's Desert Breeze reuse facility and the CLV's Durango Hills reuse facility. He presented CCWRD's accomplishments for 2021, including the collection system, with its primary job of bringing sewage to the plant and keeping foul air in the pipes, and the treatment plant, with its primary job of treating more than 39 billion gallons of sewage last year. Dan also reviewed the CCWRD's 5-Year Capital Improvements Program which totals \$1.1 billion, with more than half of that budget going towards improvements at the Flamingo plant and another third going towards pipe and lift station improvements. He concluded his presentation by highlighting improvements to the Whitney lift station (\$62 million), the preliminary and primary treatment plant (\$205 million) and the secondary treatment plant (\$191 million).

Charles Trushel presented CLV's wastewater discharger update. The City of Las Vegas Water Pollution Control Facility includes a 3 mega-watt solar site, treats on average 43 MGD and reuse from the facility is diverted to two golf courses. Charles mentioned that the Durango Hills Water Resource Center has 10-MGD capacity but is currently off-line. He stated that CLV's collection system is comprised of 1,854 miles of pipelines with more than 43,000 manholes. The city's capital improvement projects include rehabilitation in the digester, the biological nutrient removal facility, dewatering, filtration and headworks, a replacement of the process air blower, upgrades to the SCADA system and improvements to site security. He concluded by discussing CLV's renewable energy efforts including the sale of renewable natural gas and the partnership with Southwest Gas, and beneficial use from sludge hauling and the partnership with Western Elite.

Adrian Edwards presented COH's wastewater discharger update. He reported on significant achievements in 2021, including 9.4 billion gallons of wastewater treated with 2.3 billion

gallons of reclaimed water delivered and no permit violations. He also reported that COH has received the National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Award for 17 years. Adrian spoke about the reduction of reclaimed water usage. The peak reclaimed water usage in 2007 was 6,060 acre-feet and in 2021, that number was reduced to 4,043 acre-feet of reclaimed water used; it has continually decreased over the past five years. He highlighted a few operational projects, including condition assessments on more than 293 pieces of equipment, the initiation of a pilot for AI-based Predictive Maintenance and upgrades to the SCADA software and hardware. He also spoke to the significant employee recruitment and development that the city has experienced in the past year. Adrian spoke about construction on the Summerhouse Lift Station and the rehabilitation of the Lake Las Vegas Lift Station as well as repairs to the West Aeration Emergency Basin. Upcoming opportunities for COH this year include plant capacity expansions, lift station construction, rehabilitation of aging facilities, training of new staff members, and water conservation. Adrian concluded by mentioning the Phase 4 Kurt Segler Water Reclamation Facility expansion, which is a 8-MGD capacity expansion that will go through 2026.

Dan Ybarra presented CNLV's wastewater discharger update. He reported that the CNLV has 76,875 sewer connections and its water reclamation facility is a 25-MGD facility (currently treating 19.7 MGD) and is a membrane bioreactor and enhanced biological nutrient removal facility that discharges to the Wash. He reported on current and upcoming capital improvement projects which include a sludge conveyance upgrade to replace cavity pumps and install piston pumps, with a completion date of mid-June 2022 and a total cost of \$1.9 million. The recoating of the membrane basin is another project currently underway and will include a multi-coat system of 12 membrane trains, with a total cost of \$3.5 million. The membrane capacity replacement will increase the plant capacity to 35 MGD at a cost of \$19.1 million. Dan also discussed the flow equalization basin project, which is currently out to bid, and is a 2.2 million gallon, 3-cell configuration.

**9. 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**

Andrew Trelease spoke about the upcoming Stormwater Quality Management Committee meeting in May and mentioned that the CCRFCD's consulting team has finalized its approach for the tributaries and site-specific criteria for selenium in the Wash, and the draft report for the site-specific criteria will be delivered to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on May 9.

Zane Marshall mentioned that the Lower Las Vegas Wash (Lower Wash) stabilization program will receive \$3.1 million in funding through the Bureau of Reclamation and that additional federal funding is being pursued.

Keiba gave an update on the Lower Wash and mentioned that flow to the Lower Wash was shut off for a few hours to try and confirm the geo-tech for the design of Weir 5 and future Weirs 6 – 9. Construction of Weir 5 is expected to begin in January 2023.

**10. Discuss Formation of Work Group to Review LVVWAC Participation and Funding**

Tom Minwegen had asked in a previous meeting that this discussion be included on the agenda and stated that after 20 years as a committee, this is an opportunity to conduct an assessment

and look to improve the LVVWAC and advance the program beyond what is currently being done. He suggested that a S.W.O.T. (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis be conducted, and added that the CCWRD is a unique, individual utility agency that does not fall under the municipalities' regulations. Priscilla asked if SNWA staff would be able to assist in forming and managing a work group. Zane stated that he feels that Tom needs to lead the work group as this is an initiative that CCWRD has requested. He stated that the other member agencies have indicated that they support the current funding formula and added that perhaps a subcommittee be formed to assess the formula. Tom responded that he will not lead a work group or subcommittee and stated that it should be led by a facilitator. Zane stated that the budget does not currently allow for a facilitator, to which Tom responded that it be added to the budget. Keiba stated that she could review the budget and investigate facilitator costs. Dan Hernandez stated that Clark County has used facilitators on a case-by-case basis, but they are project specific. Zane asked Tom what his expectations are for a facilitated workshop. Tom responded that expectations are unknown at this time and added that the committee discards CCWRD's requests, and he feels that committee participation is unequitable. Zane responded that the committee has not discarded CCWRD's comments but has deliberated, discussed and made decisions as they relate to the budget. Tom stated that the funding formula, issues and initiatives have significantly changed with the Las Vegas Wash Long-Term Operating Plan (LTOP). Zane stated that the funding formula has not changed, but the costs have changed because of diminished federal funding sources. Keiba stated that the committee continues to follow the Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan. Dan Fischer asked if a quorum of members is needed for a subcommittee. Steve Anderson stated that it depends if the subcommittee will be charged with making decisions or bringing decisions to a noticed and posted LVVWAC meeting for a decision or vote, subject to Nevada Open Meeting Law. Zane stated that this subcommittee needs to be made up of senior management or other decision makers and posted as a public meeting and perhaps led by a facilitator in a workshop format.

A motion to investigate holding a workshop, led by a facilitator, to review LVVWAC participation and funding passed.

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

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Keiba stated that as the committee moves into LTOP conditions, there will be two meetings per year, held in April and October. She added that the amended and restated cooperative agreement and the Wash interlocal agreement will be emailed to the committee and will need to go before boards and councils by July 1. Priscilla stated that an item for the next meeting will be to give an update on the LVVWAC participation and funding workshop.

**12. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned.