

LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

January 10, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Steven Anderson	Ryan Pearson
Jason Bailey	Tim Ricks
Elizabeth Bickmore	AJ Rodrigues
Laura Dye	John Tennert
Jason Eckberg	Todd Tietjen
Dan Fischer	Andrew Trelease
Dan Hernandez	Debbie Van Dooremolen
Tom Maher	Xiaoping Zhou
Paul Parasugo	

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Keiba Crear called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Introductions

Roll call was taken; attendees are listed above.

4. Approve November 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes passed.

5. Select a Chair and Vice Chair for the Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee

A nomination was made to select Charles Trushel and Tom Brady as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. The nomination was approved.

6. 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

Zane Marshall reported that SNWA will take its Water Resource Plan and Water Budget to its board of directors on January 19. The resource plan updates river conditions, water banking

figures and conservation initiatives. He reported that there are no major changes in terms of SNWA's long-term conservation goal of 86 gallons per capita per day.

Randy Tarr gave an update on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) air quality requirements stating that at the county's next board meeting, there will be a closed session discussion about ozone requirements becoming more stringent. He invited CCWRD to listen because of the nexus of EPA to selenium.

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 park visitation has continued to remain high since 2020. She reported that in 2022 more than 27,000 people actively participated in the park's events and programs, including NFL GREEN, Astronomy in the Park and Haunt the Wetlands, to name a few. She also highlighted several events planned for 2023, encouraging partnership participation. She reported on the annual sales of the Nature Store, noting that due to park closures, it has yet to have a full year of operation. She also gave an update on facility rental revenue, stating that the park plans to market the facility and its available rooms more in 2023. Elizabeth gave an update on the recently released Wetlands Park Navigator mobile app which provides audio tours, maps, trail information and other links and is funded by Wetlands Park Friends through a grant from REI. She reported on stewardship at the Wetlands Park, which includes various volunteer programs that help maintain and keep the park clean. She stated that more than 5,300 people have volunteered for this program since 2014. She also spoke about a new art gallery at the park that will allow for more opportunities for local artists' work to be seen by the community. She also gave an update on various development projects and spoke about a partnership with CCWRD (plans to construct a main sewer line and fencing within the park), the Hollywood Boulevard extension project, and outflow channels and drainage for the Cadence Master Planned Community. Elizabeth also spoke about endangered species coordination as it relates to the Las Vegas bearpoppy and the Yuma Ridgway's rail. She briefly highlighted a maintenance plan, a barriers plan and an interpretive plan that fall within the overarching Wetlands Park Master Plan, and she reported on the Loop Trail Completion Project, which is funded by Assembly Bill 84, and the completion of the Nature Play Corner. She concluded by reviewing a capital project wish list which includes fencing, signage, rest areas and additional trailheads.

Keiba asked if there is more information that can be shared about the maintenance plan and stated that perhaps there is an opportunity for collaboration or to help reduce redundancy on projects. Elizabeth replied that collaboration would be great, and she will work with staff. Zane asked for clarification in regard to the Yuma Ridgway's rail compliance, stating that there is also a federal compliance process that needs to take place for Las Vegas Wash Long-Term Operating Plan activities. Keiba stated that staff is working with the county and is also putting together a biological assessment to submit to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in the next couple of weeks.

8. Receive an Update on Regional Water Quality

Todd Tietjen provided the update and began by showing lake surface elevation (1,045 feet) and stated that the Hoover Dam upper intakes are not being used. He added that the 24-month study from the BOR shows a decrease of approximately 20–25 feet as the spring water demands begin, and that by the end of the calendar year, lake elevations will be at approximately 1,025 feet. Todd showed longer term projections that have been modeled related to flow scenarios, intake

temperatures and total inorganic nitrogen (<5.3 mg/L). He also displayed various models of uncertainty quantification related to both in-flows and returned water. Along with lake surface elevations, Todd presented mid-December data for lake temperatures, lake conductance, dissolved oxygen (DO) levels and pH levels, as well as DO levels at the inflow from the Colorado River. He reported that there are toxin-producing algae present in Lake Mead (frequent detections, low concentrations) and in Lake Mohave (consistent detections, low concentrations). He added that Laughlin raw water has seen low-to-intermediate detections through the winter, but no detections in any finished water samples as all treatment facilities are set up to destroy any toxins. He also reported that SNWA and CLV will be increasing chlorophyll and phosphorus monitoring in Las Vegas Bay until March to ensure that ongoing plant maintenance work does not impact lake conditions, and that staff is working to develop a plan to assess oxygen depletion in the Colorado River arm of the lake given the likely increase in temperature of the Lake Powell release this year. Adrian Edwards asked to collaborate with SNWA staff to communicate to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) about the total inorganic nitrogen information. Todd said that staff will work with the member agencies to do so. Zane asked if Todd would update the committee on the water quality database project. Todd stated that the current database was written in 2006 and is in need of updating, and while no data is being lost, there are performance issues. He added that SNWA's I.T. department is working on a plan to update the database system, which will be externally managed and should be completed next year.

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

Steve Parrish reported that CCRFCD had two items on the Nevada State Environmental Commission agenda in December to adopt the regulatory petitions regarding the site-specific criteria for selenium for the Las Vegas Wash and to establish beneficial uses for the channels tributary to it. He stated that on December 28, the commission met, and the regulations were adopted. He also stated that a draft MS4 permit has been developed by NDEP, and while they have received comments on the draft from the EPA, they have not yet shared those with the permittees.

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

Keiba reported that the next facilitated LVVWAC meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. and will be held in person. She stated that a review of the LVVWAC bylaws will be listed on the agenda as will an item related to funding for special projects.

11. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned.