

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2023
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:03 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair
Dan Stewart, Vice Chair
Scott Black
Olivia Diaz
Jim Gibson
Justin Jones
Steve Walton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT John Entsminger, Colby Pellegrino, Dave Johnson, 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

Shelley Caiazzo, Anthem Country Club, spoke on item 15 and thanked the Board and staff for their assistance and consideration.

Scott Browne spoke concerning his Las Vegas Valley Water District water bill and the excessive use charge. He said that he was on social security and would need an increase in payments to cover the increase to his water bill. He said he was converting some of his grass to artificial turf. He asked that the Water Smart Landscapes rebate be increased from \$3 to \$5 per square foot to supply additional incentive for residents to conserve water.

Joe Stubit, Boulder City, thanked the Board for consideration of item 11 to help conserve water in Boulder City.

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 January 19, 2023.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, and to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 19, 2023. The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA Items 2 – 7 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.

2. ***For Possible Action: Adopt a resolution authorizing the formation of a nonprofit corporation for the operation of the SNWA Water Efficiency Improvement Fund and delegating to the Board Secretary the authority to act on behalf of the Authority in its capacity as the single Member of the fund.***
3. ***For Possible Action: Adopt a resolution declaring certain real property as surplus, approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, a Purchase and Sale Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions, and authorize the General Manager, or his designee, to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the sale of the surplus property to Duesco, a Nevada General Partnership, for a fair market value of \$7,900.***
4. ***For Possible Action: Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning program seeking \$1,000,000.***

5. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to enter into an assistance agreement, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Authority to accept a grant in an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 to participate in weather modification activities in the Upper Colorado River Basin and authorize the General Manager, or designee, to approve future modifications only if the future modifications do not increase the Authority’s substantive obligations.
6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to enter into an assistance agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Authority for a riparian restoration project at the Las Vegas Wash, accept funding in the amount of \$900,500, provide a matching contribution of up to \$358,933, and authorize the General Manager to sign future modifications to the assistance agreement that do not fiscally impact the Authority.
7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, a grazing lease agreement between the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Authority authorizing the Authority to graze cattle in the Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area and the Tamberlaine Allotment for an amount not to exceed \$122,000 per season of use.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

8. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amendment to the existing agreement between Black & Veatch Corporation and the Authority to include professional design services to support the Horizon Lateral project for an increased amount of \$197,996,000, resulting in a total amount not to exceed \$253,896,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Jones 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 Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. and the Authority to provide an engineering services evaluation on Intake No. 3 and Low Lake Level Pumping Station for an amount not to exceed \$1,448,215.

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

10. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an interlocal agreement between the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada, and the Authority for the upgrade of cooling tower drift elimination equipment on approximately 4,800 tons of cooling system capacity, and authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the transaction in an amount not to exceed \$108,000.

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

11. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an interlocal agreement between the City of Boulder City and the Authority for the removal of an estimated 913,474 square feet of irrigated turf to Water Smart Landscaping and to authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the transaction in an amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.

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

12. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an interlocal agreement between the City of Las Vegas and the Authority for the removal of an estimated 1,312,000 square feet of irrigated turf to water efficient landscaping and authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the agreement in an amount not to exceed \$3,006,000.

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

13. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to enter into an assistance agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Authority to construct an erosion control structure within the Lower Las Vegas Wash, to accept funding in the amount of up to \$6 million and authorize the General Manager to approve future modifications only if the future modifications do not fiscally impact the Authority.

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

14. ***For Possible Action:* Receive an update regarding the Authority’s development of a water investment rating tool to evaluate new water uses within the Las Vegas Valley, as well as other efforts to work with the development community on water sustainability issues, and direct staff to work with applicable economic development organizations to develop an approach for the tool’s uniform implementation and utilization.**

Dave Johnson, Deputy General Manager – Operations, gave an update presentation. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

Director Jones asked if there was a threshold for which proposed development projects would be evaluated. John Entsminger, General Manager, said that the Authority had been working with the economic development community to develop the rating tool, and was seeking input from the Board on how best to implement the tool. He suggested that the tool could be implemented on various levels, such as the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA), Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED), or zoning/business licensing departments. Director Jones said that LVGEA and GOED projects should be evaluated for projected water use and that further implementation at the zoning and licensing levels should be discussed.

Director Jones asked how the tool could be applied to projects using private groundwater rights instead of municipal service. Mr. Entsminger said that the tool looked at water use and, therefore, could be applied to any project regardless of the proposed source of water.

Director Gibson said that evaluating the proposed water use of new development projects was essential and recommended that the tool be used to look at virtually every proposed project. He said that this type of tool would require those involved with development projects to evaluate potential water usage at an early stage, which he supported.

Chair Kirkpatrick supported the concept of using the tool broadly for projects, but she questioned the impact on permitting timelines. She was concerned about adding another layer to the permitting process. Vice Chair Stewart said he supported the tool but also cautioned that implementing the tool should not negatively impact the already burdensome permitting process. Director Gibson said that the responsibility should fall on the developer to disclose the proposed water use so that the tool could be applied. Mr. Entsminger said that the proposed tool was a concept that would require further discussion with staff from all the permitting jurisdictions and staff from the economic development departments and organizations before it could be implemented.

Vice Chair Stewart suggested that the tool be as objective as possible. He recognized that some impacts, such as societal impacts of projects, would require some subjectivity, but he asked that the tool be as objective as possible.

Director Walton asked if the tool was refined enough that it could be used preliminarily on currently proposed projects before it was formally adopted. Mr. Johnson said that the tool had already been used at a high level to evaluate some larger proposed projects and that data had been useful in refining the tool.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

15. ***For Possible Action:* Remove the maximum annual incentive amount for cool-to-warm season turf conversions within the Authority’s Water Efficient Technologies rebate program.**

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

16. ***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 initiatives, activities on the Colorado River, and water resource acquisition and development.**

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

Director Jones asked if staff was able to provide suggestions to customers for reducing their water consumption when they call in reporting high water bills. Ms. Pellegrino said that staff walk customers through steps to help identify causes of high water use and potential remedies.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Public Comment

Scott Browne said that his water rate will double in the coming year. He said that with the increased revenue that will be coming in from the higher water rates, the Water Smart Landscapes rebate should be increased from \$3 to \$5 per square foot of converted grass. He also said that Assembly Bill 220 at the Nevada Legislature proposed that water use could be curtailed during a federally declared shortage. He disagreed with the proposed law.

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Robert Wengert spoke concerning water and energy technologies that his company provides. He asked for assistance with coordinating contracts with the federal government and the other Colorado River Basin states.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 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.