

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 18, 2023  
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:02 a.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Justin Jones

STAFF PRESENT John Entsminger, Colby Pellegrino, Dave Johnson, Doa Ross, Kevin Bethel,  
and Tabitha Simmons

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](http://snwa.com/apps/snwa-agendas/index.cfm)*

Laura McSwain spoke concerning the tentative budget and policies that contribute to and exacerbate drought conditions in the Las Vegas Valley. She spoke concerning parts of Southern Nevada becoming uninhabitable due to excessive heat. She said that the Authority's conservation goal of 86 gallons per capita per day was a death nail for her neighborhood and the community at large. She said that excessive use charges were skewed unfairly as a penalty and constitutionally prohibited. She said that the charges make caring for legacy trees unsustainable. The water conservation policies adversely impact property values and financial security.

Christopher Allen, Shaily Jain, Caleb Brooks, Anna Benda, Karina Mirkovich, and Laura McSwain submitted written public comments. A copy of their comments are attached to these minutes.

**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 meetings of March 16, 2023, and April 20, 2023.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, and to approve the minutes from the regular meetings of March 16, 2023, and April 20, 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: Renew the Amended and Restated Interlocal Contract between the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Authority, which authorizes the General Manager of the District to serve as the General Manager of the Authority and utilize the staff and resources of the District to manage the affairs of the Authority.***
3. ***For Possible Action: Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an agreement between The WLB Group, Inc., and the Authority to provide professional services for the trail design services for the Warm Springs Natural Area Phase IV in an amount not to exceed \$168,432.***
4. ***For Possible Action: Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects grants program seeking \$743,329.***
5. ***For Possible Action: Approve and authorize the Chair to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an interlocal agreement among the City of Henderson, the City of Las Vegas, the City of North Las Vegas, Clark County, the Clark County Regional Flood Control District, the Clark County Water Reclamation District, and the Authority to establish funding allocations and the budget for Las Vegas Wash activities in Fiscal Year 2023/24 and approve the Authority's allocation of \$808,096.***

6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amended and restated retail access form of service agreement for network integration transmission service among Nevada Power Company, doing business as NV Energy, the Colorado River Commission of Nevada and the Authority, and authorize the General Manager or his designee to approve future term extensions and ministerial or administrative changes to this agreement.
7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a resolution updating the authority of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's NRS Chapter 332 Authorized Representative, authorizing the General Manager, or designee, to continue as the Authority's authorized representative, as defined by NRS 332.025(1) of the Local Government Purchasing Act, and, to the extent authorized by the Act, to develop, award, and execute contracts subject to certain fiscal and other limitations.

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 a professional services agreement between Research Triangle Institute, doing business as RTI International, and the Authority for an amount not to exceed \$224,939 for the evaluation of remotely sensed evapotranspiration and consumptive use modeling implementation in the Colorado River Basin.

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

9. ***For Possible Action:*** Conduct a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for the Authority and subsequently adopt a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24.

John Entsminger, General Manager, gave a presentation on the tentative budget. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

Chair Kirkpatrick opened the public hearing. Ed Uehling said the Authority was formed for the benefit of the people of Southern Nevada, but instead residents were impacted by constantly increasing rates and water use restrictions. He said that the organization also continued to borrow money. He said that the Authority claimed to be conserving water, but instead it was transferring water from existing users to other users, particularly homebuilders. Instead of putting restrictions on existing users, the Authority should look for new sources of water. He complimented the cooperative project in Southern California to recycle water and augment Nevada's water supply, but he said that project had not been implemented. He said that water rates should be double for new customers in Southern Nevada.

Daniel Braisted said that there should be a third-party management audit conducted on operations at the Authority and Las Vegas Valley Water District. He said that it appeared that the organizations spend large amounts of money and that the operations should be audited. He also said that a system should be developed to transfer excess water from the Missouri River into the Colorado River Basin. Director Gibson said that the Authority and the Water District are audited annually by highly-rated public accounting firms to ensure the fiscal integrity of the organizations.

Chair Kirkpatrick closed the public hearing.

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

10. ***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 – Resources, gave an update on water resources and conservation initiatives. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

### **Public Comment**

Ed Uehling said that the Authority's efforts to remove grass in Southern Nevada was causing thousands of trees to die, which will cost billions of dollars as the Valley suffers from increased heat. He said that the Authority has shown no interest in addressing heat island effects. He said that the Authority's operations and management should be audited. He suggested that perhaps the organizations could be operated by hundreds of less employees for less money.

Daniel Braisted said that he observed water waste near Bruce and Charleston but could not find a phone number or way online to report water waste. He suggested that the Authority make it easier for residents to report water waste.

Alicia Revzin said that she lived in the downtown corridor outside of the medical district. She said that the water rates and fees were not only negatively impacting current residents but also the future generation with a lack of trees. Trees, shrubbery, and greenery are needed to combat pollution from nearby roads and freeways. She said that the increased carbon dioxide levels from the removal of grass and trees would deplete the ozone layer, increase heat in the valley and deplete water in Lake Mead. She said that the decisions that the Authority was making lacked basic scientific understanding of how the ecosystem functions. She said that she cannot financially plan for her family because she had to spend every penny just to bring water to her home. She urged the reconsideration of the excessive use charges.

Michelle Benda said that she had lived in her downtown neighborhood for 20 years. When she bought her house, her yard had native Mesquite trees, which they have kept. They removed some of the grass that was in the yard and have tried to be good stewards of water and their landscaping. Although they follow the Authority's watering schedule, they are still being negatively impacted by the new fees and charges. She asked for reconsideration of the fees and fines.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 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.**