

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2023
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:06 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, Greg Walch,
and Kevin Bethel

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

John Hiatt spoke concerning item 14. He said he supported the septic conversion program but said that the program would be more cost effective when entire streets were converted to municipal sewer instead of allowing single, voluntary conversions. He suggested that the incentive be reduced for homes that waited to convert. He said that local development policies where new construction pays to extend infrastructure, such as water and sewer, have not served the community very well. There needs to be a system put in place to extend sewer to isolated parcels throughout the county and city.

Diane Henry spoke concerning item 14. She asked about the differences between the 100 percent-funded septic conversion program in Assembly Bill 220 (AB220) and the program being proposed by the SNWA. She also spoke about item 8 and said that increased water rates were adversely affecting mature trees in her neighborhood, while the SNWA and other jurisdictions are looking to plant more trees. She said her neighbors cannot afford to water their existing trees.

Brian Scroggins spoke concerning item 14. He said that he has a parcel that he cannot develop because of septic policies. He said he supported the septic conversion program.

Julie Wignall spoke concerning item 14. She said that the Authority was exerting “hydrologic despotism” on the community by introducing water policies and then enacting penalties on residents that do not comply. She said that the proposed septic conversion program was redundant and a waste of funding when AB220 already created a 100-percent funded program through the Southern Nevada Health District.

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 May 18, 2023.***

FINAL ACTION: Vice Chair Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, and to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 18, 2023. The motion was approved.

2. ***For Possible Action: Appoint a chair and vice chair to preside over the Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2023/24.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to reappoint Marilyn Kirkpatrick as chair and Dan Stewart as vice chair. The motion was approved.

3. ***For Possible Action: Receive a presentation from the Authority’s Youth Conservation Council and direct staff accordingly.***

Youth Conservation Council (YCC) members, Lily Noel and Garrett Ordonez, gave a presentation. A copy of their presentation is attached to these minutes. The Board thanked the students for their participation on the YCC.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

CONSENT AGENDA Items 4 – 6 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.

4. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amendment to the agreement between Black & Veatch Corporation and the Authority for professional engineering design and construction support services for the River Mountains Water Treatment Facility Microbiology Research Laboratory Expansion Project increasing the not to exceed amount by \$715,864.
5. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amended and restated interlocal agreement between the City of North Las Vegas and the Authority for the conversion of approximately 2,142,200 square feet of irrigated turf with water-efficient landscaping and authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the transaction in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.
6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects grants program seeking \$20,000,000.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize funds in an amount not to exceed \$10 million to support the installation of up to 100,000 trees under a new Tree Enhancement Program and authorize staff to implement the incentive as a supplement to the Water Smart Landscapes program.

Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager – Resources, gave an overview presentation on the Tree Enhancement Program. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

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

8. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, between Green Chips, a Nevada non-profit corporation dba ImpactNV, and the Authority to support the installation of approximately 1,000 trees as part of an Urban Forest Initiative and to help fund the project for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

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 Brown and Caldwell and the Authority to provide professional services on the Boulder City Effluent Reuse Project for an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Walton 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 agreement between Parsons Corporation dba Parsons Water & Infrastructure, Inc., and the Authority for program management services for capital projects in an amount not to exceed \$150,000,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson 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 agreement between MWH Constructors, Inc., and the Authority to provide construction manager at risk pre-construction services in support of the Ozone Equipment Upgrade Project for an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000.

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

12. ***For Possible Action:*** Award a contract for on-call repair, maintenance and construction services to MMC, Inc., in the amount of \$2,500,000, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$250,000, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement and up to four renewals.

FINAL ACTION: Director Jones disclosed that MMC, Inc., was a client of his law firm, and therefore, he would be abstaining on the item. Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion was approved with Director Jones abstaining.

13. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve an increase to the maximum incentive issued for Water Efficient Technologies projects associated with consumptive water use reduction for evaporative cooling conversions from \$45 to \$70 per 1,000 gallons of water saved annually, ratify the rebate incentive for wet-to-dry cooling from \$950 to \$1,500 per ton converted, and remove the \$500,000 annual cap for all evaporative cooling projects that fall under the Water Efficient Technologies program.

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

14. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve guidelines for the Authority's voluntary Septic Conversion Program, including authorization for the General Manager, or its designee, to execute agreements and ministerial documents, and issue reimbursements consistent with such guidelines.

Ms. Pellegrino gave a presentation on the proposed program. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

Director Jones said he supported the program. He asked what the potential impact of the program would have on converting septic systems to municipal sewer. Ms. Pellegrino said that there was a wide variability in the costs involved in converting septic systems. She said that projects with sewer nearby could be accomplished on average for \$40,000. If projects require extending sewer main, the costs increase significantly, therefore the program would prioritize projects near sewer main. Doa Ross, Deputy General Manager – Engineering, added that as projects are approved, staff would reach out to neighbors to encourage greater participation.

Vice Chair Stewart said he supported the program, and that additional funding should be secured to ensure the success of the program. He also encouraged the different jurisdictions to work together to reduce costs and have the most impact.

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

15. ***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.

Ms. Pellegrino gave an update on water resources and conservation initiatives. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes. Chair Kirkpatrick pointed out that Southern Nevada was not the only community working to conserve and protect water resources. She said that more than 270 municipalities in the West, such as communities in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, were following Southern Nevada's example and implementing conservation programs. Ms. Pellegrino said that St. George, Utah, implemented an excessive use charge that was modeled after the Las Vegas Valley Water District's charge. Two dozen entities have adopted nonfunctional turf standards. Scottsdale, Arizona, just implemented an ordinance prohibiting turf in front yards. Across the West, communities are looking at Southern Nevada as an example in how to conserve water and deal with potential future water shortages on the Colorado River.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Public Comment

Cheryl Pastore said that some septic system conversions will be more complicated than others which might deter some homes from converting.

Brigitte Solvie said that well owners with pools were being prevented from filling their pools from a water service due to recent changes in municipal water policies. She said that without those services, well owners were unable to fill their pools after draining for maintenance or repairs. She asked for the Board to continue the discussion and find a suitable resolution.

Michele Tombari asked about details with the septic conversion program when private cul de sacs were involved. She also asked if permit fees were part of the eligible costs covered in the conversion program. Staff took her information to answer her questions.

Laura McSwain said she supported efforts to plant trees to lower heat in the Valley. She also said that larger lots have the opportunity to accommodate more trees, but water use thresholds under the excessive use charge do not take that into consideration.

Robert Hillsman said that the septic conversion program was not going to be helpful to areas like section 10 where he lived because sewer lines were not available in that area. He said that excessive use charges were implemented unfairly while he and many of his neighbors were focused on proposed septic legislation.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.