

LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

March 8, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Steven Anderson	Alexei Luganov
Jason Bailey	Paul Parasugo
Elizabeth Bickmore	Ryan Pearson
Bryce Burrell	AJ Rodrigues
Brian Carlson	Daylin Sigler
Keiba Crear	John Solvie
Richard Donahue	David Stoft
Laura Dye	John Tennert
Jason Eckberg	Todd Tietjen
Adrian Edwards	Andrew Trelease
Dan Fischer	Debbie Van Dooremolen
Sara Gedo	Alan Wolfley
Deena Hannoun	Xiaoping Zhou
Dan Hernandez	

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Chair Charles Trushel called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Introductions

Attendees are listed above.

4. Approve January 10, 2023, and February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes passed.

5. Receive an Informational 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 mentioned that a grant agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for a Las Vegas Wash (Wash) restoration project will be on the upcoming SNWA board meeting agenda.

Charles stated that CLV will have updates to its municipal code that support the water conservation measures led by SNWA. These include non-functional turf definitions, limits to pool sizes and an evaporative cooling moratorium, to name a few.

Tom Brady stated that CNLV will be implementing code changes for evaporative cooling and golf course water budgets.

Priscilla Howell stated that COH approved changes to golf course water budgets at its meeting the prior day and approved changes to evaporative cooling at the previous meeting.

6. Approve Revised LVVWAC Bylaws

Steve Parrish expressed that the changes noted on #11 and #12 in Section C, Functions, may not result in the desired outcome since they do not clearly define if a project will fall within the Las Vegas Wash Long-Term Operating Plan (LTOP) budget or will need to be voted on outside the scope of LTOP as a special project. He also recommended that the language on #2 in Section D, Officers, be changed from "*can be delegated*" to "*is delegated*" in the two sentences that mention the responsibility for presiding over the meeting if the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson is absent. Zane stated that he does not have any opposition to this change. There was no other opposition to this change from the committee. Zane made a motion to approve the change in language in Section D, Officers. The motion passed.

Tom Minwegen stated that, regarding Section C, Functions, the language was vetted previously, and he has nothing more to add. Dan Hernandez made a motion to approve the revised LVVWAC bylaws. The motion passed.

7. Approve the Las Vegas Wash Long-Term Operating Plan 2023/2024 Budget

Keiba Crear presented the proposed 2023/2024 LTOP budget of \$2,640,529, with contributions from BOR and others reducing the total local contribution to \$2,451,199. She presented the distribution and breakdown for each member agency, and added that this budget reflects the annual increase of 2.5 percent.

A motion to approve the 2023/2024 LTOP budget 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 since 2000. He showed that in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, flows decreased, but have returned to normal compared with recent years, and total inflows for 2022 were 195 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. Dan then presented the average annual effluent to the Wash from all four dischargers throughout the valley since 2000, where flows to the Wash were near 190 MGD on average. These trends have aided in the decrease of Nevada's consumptive use of Colorado River water to 224,000 acre-feet in 2022. Dan highlighted CCWRD's recent accomplishments, 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 at six wastewater treatment plants last year. The district had four of its plants recognized as having zero violations or exceedances of effluent limits, with its Flamingo plant receiving the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Peak Performance Award for its 11th straight year. CCWRD also increased its rate for direct non-potable reuse from \$1.05/kgal to \$2.33/kgal to reflect the value of water. Dan highlighted that the amount of phosphorus discharged into the Wash has decreased significantly over the years. He also reviewed CCWRD's 5-Year Capital Improvements Program which totals \$1.2 billion, with more than half of that budget going towards improvements at the Flamingo plant and nearly one-third going towards pipe and lift station improvements. He concluded his presentation by highlighting improvements to the Whitney lift station (\$70 million), the preliminary and primary treatment plant (\$200 million) and the secondary treatment plant (\$220 million). Zane asked Dan to speak about the process that CCWRD put into place to achieve such positive phosphorus levels. Dan stated that all of the aeration basins are designed to focus on phosphorus, and all the carbon that comes into the plant is dedicated to phosphorus. He added that there are also special membranes that aid in the achievement of low phosphorus levels.

Charles presented CLV's wastewater discharger update. The City of Las Vegas Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) includes a 3 mega-watt solar site, treats on average 45 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 the city has one lift station at Lone Mountain that pumps 1 MGD on average. He also mentioned that CLV's collection system is comprised of 1,916 miles of pipelines with more than 46,000 manholes. Charles presented CLV's achievements for 2022, which include 16.3 billion gallons treated and distributed, 178 million gallons of reclaimed water and 66,100 tons of biosolids disposed of or repurposed. He added that the WPCF received the NACWA Peak Performance Platinum Award and has for 23 years. He also highlighted collection systems achievements for 2022, including sewer lines cleaned, pipelines assessed and new sanitary sewers constructed. He also mentioned CLV's sewer rate study which was approved by the city council in September and includes a 4 percent per year increase plus Consumer Price Index as costs have increased significantly. He added that CLV had not done a sewer rate increase since 2005. The city's capital improvement projects include completion of the rehabilitation in the digester and the biological nutrient removal facility. Projects within the construction phase include the filtration facility rehabilitation, process air improvements and upgrades to the SCADA system. Those in the design phase include rehabilitation to both the dewatering facility and the headworks facility, and improvements to site security. He concluded by discussing CLV's challenges and opportunities which include inflationary pressures on the budget, staffing, training, succession planning and security of physical and virtual environments.

Brian Carlson presented COH's wastewater discharger update. He reported on significant achievements in 2022, including 9 billion gallons of wastewater treated with 2.4 billion gallons of reclaimed water delivered and no permit violations. He also reported that COH has received

the NACWA Platinum Award for 18 years. Brian also spoke about the reduction of reclaimed water usage. The peak reclaimed water usage in 2007 was 6,060 acre-feet and in 2022, that number was reduced to 4,087 acre-feet. He added that the Boulder Highway landscape conversion and the removal of Palm Mortuary as a reclaimed water customer will result in a combined reduction of 226 acre-feet. He also spoke to the significant employee recruitment and development program that COH has implemented, stating that 15 percent of technical staff were replaced in 2021 and 2022. He highlighted a few construction projects, including membrane replacement at the Kurt Segler Water Reclamation Facility (KSWRF), part of a 3-year project. Upcoming opportunities for the city this year include workforce training due to turnover, plant capacity expansions, lift station construction, rehabilitation of aging facilities, and water conservation. Brian concluded by mentioning that the Phase 4 KSWRF expansion, which is an 8-MGD capacity expansion, will go through 2026.

Bryce Burrell presented CNLV's wastewater discharger update. He reported that CNLV has 79,345 sewer laterals and 1,209 miles of sewer pipe. 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 past, present and upcoming construction projects which includes the completion of a sludge conveyance upgrade to eliminate the lube pumping system, and the membrane recoating project to replace and restore failing coatings. He mentioned that staff broke ground on a 2.2-million-gallon flow equalization basin, began the membrane cassette expansion installation adding 36 additional cassettes to three empty trains, and is in the design phase of a bioreactor coating refurbishment project which will focus on one to two bioreactors each year.

9. Receive an Update on the Stormwater Quality Management Committee

John Tennert, CCRFCD, gave the update on the Stormwater Quality Management Committee (SQMC). The SQMC met three times in 2022 and reviewed standing items, including quarterly reports, weather monitoring and updates from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). These meetings also included updates on the Lower Las Vegas Wash (Lower Wash), consulting services for the stormwater program and a presentation of the 2021 Annual Report. He discussed three key activities that were ongoing over the past year, which include the 1) draft Construction General Permit (CGP), 2) draft Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, and 3) site-specific criteria for selenium and beneficial use designations for channels tributary to the Wash. John stated that on June 14, 2021, NDEP distributed a draft of the revised CGP for review by various stakeholders, and there were multiple rounds of comments on the permit. He stated that while NDEP was responsive to several concerns expressed by the permittees, there remain concerns with the current version, including the extension of time to issue an approval letter, the provisions related to incidental discharge and the parameter limits. He stated that NDEP held a public hearing in November 2022, and the SQMC requested a follow-up meeting with NDEP but has not received a response. John spoke about the draft MS4 Permit which governs how the permittees implement the stormwater program. He stated that NDEP submitted a draft of the MS4 Permit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 2022, and while NDEP has received comments back from EPA, it has not yet shared those comments with the permittees. Lastly, John spoke about the site-specific criteria for selenium and beneficial use designations for channels tributary to the Wash. In December 2019, the Nevada State Environmental Commission (NSEC) gave the NDEP three years to develop and propose site-specific criteria for selenium in the Wash. He stated that CCRFCD worked with NDEP and an ecotoxicology consultant team to meet this deadline. In October

2022, NDEP met with EPA on two regulatory petitions related to the project. The first petition established site-specific criteria for selenium in the Wash and the second petition established beneficial uses for channels tributary to the Wash. The NSEC adopted both petitions on December 14, 2022.

10. 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 Las Vegas Wash

Keiba gave an update on the Lower Wash and mentioned that staff is working through compliance issues for the project. She stated that the engineering division is working on the final design of Weir 5 and is working with geo-tech to see what Weirs 6–9 may look like. Construction of Weir 5 will hopefully begin in the fall and will be a 2–3-year process.

Todd Tietjen stated that staff is continuing to model water quality in Lake Mead every time BOR provides an update on anticipated future water inflow, outflows and levels. He told the committee to contact him if there are any related questions.

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

The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

12. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned.