

LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2011-10-11

SUMMARY

**Call to Order**  
**01:00 pm**

Clark County Regional Flood Control District  
600 S. Grand Central Pkwy #108  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gale Fraser Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD), Dennis Porter City of Henderson (COH), David Mendenhall City of Las Vegas (alt. CLV), Richard Mendes Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD), Reed Scheppman City of North Las Vegas (CNLV), Randy Tarr Clark County

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rick Holmes Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), Kevin Eubanks Clark County Regional Flood Control District (alt. CCRFCD), Quang Phan City of North Las Vegas (alt. CNLV), Ron Zegers Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Roger Buehrer, Keiba Crear, Todd Croft, Sandra Donnelly, Doug Drury, Kevin Eubanks, Kathy Flanagan, Dan Fischer, Shaun Fisher, Marissa Foster, Sandra Harris, Gerry Hester, Priscilla Howell, Ebrahim Juma, JenYoon Leong, Kim Maloy, Kirk Medina, Devon Morgan, Jane Pike, Quang Phan, Barney Rabold, Peggy Roefer, Kathy Sertic, Seth Shanahan, Tim Suko

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**ITEM NO.**

Unless otherwise indicated, all members present voted in the affirmative.

**1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Dennis Porter called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**2. Public Comment**

Seeing no request for public comment, Dennis asked for introductions

**3. Introductions**

Participants introduced themselves.

**4. Approve July 12, 2011 Meeting Summary**

Motion to approve the summary passed.

**5. Receive Report on Items Relating to the Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee (LVVWAC) Tentatively Scheduled for the Regular Board Meetings of the LVVWAC**

## **Members**

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has an item to award the contract for Duck Creek Confluence, Upper Narrows and DU Wetlands No. 1 Weir structures. There is also an item to approve a joint funding agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Authority for hydrologic data collection and finally an item to approve the professional services agreement between Flow Science Incorporated and the Authority to assist in the research and evaluation of the impacts of the climate changes on water quality in Lake Mead.

City of Henderson has an item to assume administration of the peer review contract for the termination of the systems conveyance and operations program.

### **6. Receive Reports From Representatives of the Lake Mead Water Quality Forum, Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, and Stormwater Quality Management Committee**

The Lake Mead Water Quality Forum has canceled the October 25 meeting and will meet January 24 at 10:30 am.

In regard to the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, Seth Shanahan stated that its October meeting will also be canceled and they will meet on January 24 at 8:30 am. Updates for the LVWCC include the 19th Green Up volunteer event held October 8 at Lower Narrows Weir with more than 500 in attendance. Half of the 300 acres of revegetation at the Wash was conducted by the more than 7,000 volunteers. Funding from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and in-kind services from Colorado River Commission both contributed to make the event successful. There is a continuing resolution for the budget and the projections will yield about \$500,000 to the Las Vegas Wash (Wash) budget and will increase the amount that can be authorized for the project from \$20 million to \$30 million.

Study teams met October 5 and the Research/Environmental Monitoring study team received a presentation from the Environmental Protection Agency on the potential selenium standards. Although not expected until 2012, they were able to give an outline on the standards. The Administrative Study Team received a presentation on the No Child Left Inside Act, which focuses on environmental education.

Gerry Hester gave the overview of the Operations Study Team by providing detail on the completion of the Lower Narrows and Homestead Weirs. They were two of the last three weir structures scheduled for construction downstream of Pabco Road. The Wash was eroding at one foot per year and lateral migration compromised the south bank at the Lower Narrows and Homestead Weir locations. The Bishop Ranch root cellar was found during a pre-construction walk through. It took approximately one year to excavate and move the structure to the Clark County Museum. Substantial completion was reached in July 2011 and final walk through took place in August 2011. Final cost for the project was \$9,983,998. Change order amounts totaled \$751,776 or eight percent of the total cost. The largest change order amount was due to the flood in December 2010. Non-flood related change order amounts were less than 0.75 percent.

Construction of the Duck Creek Confluence Weir, the Upper Narrows Weir and DU Wetlands No. 1 Weir are planned together. Gerry showed several photographs of head cuts in the project area. Head cuts in the project area move very slowly through caliche thus; other downstream sites had higher priorities. Bids initially opened August 29, 2011. The engineers estimate for the project was \$20,161,284 and the lowest bid received was nearly 16 percent below the estimate. The third lowest bidder protested the bid based on a newly enacted state law that requires the contractor to

list him/herself as a subcontractor. All initial bids were rejected and the bid opened again on September 29, 2011. The prime contractor was required to list themselves, automatically, as sub-contractors in the new bid package. The new lowest bid was 18 percent below the engineers estimate. The bid is expected to be awarded October 20, 2011 and the notice to proceed is expected on November 20, 2011. Substantial completion of the DU Wetlands No. 1 weir is expected by June 26, 2012. Substantial completion for the entire project is anticipated by February 24, 2013 and the project close out is expected by March 21, 2013.

Kevin Eubanks reported on the Stormwater Quality Management Committee. The final plan was submitted plans in August. NDEP issued a 30-day public notice to inform the public. The comment period closes October 31.

## **7. Approve the Las Vegas Washs 2012-2013 Budget**

Seth distributed an updated budget detail and displayed slides of the same. There have not been any changes to the dollar amount for any of the projects discussed previously. The research and studies budget is listed and the capital improvement budget will come before the LVVWAC in December. The local contribution portion of the research and studies projects are \$10,000 and the remainder of the cost is offset by grants. Total operating budget is about \$1.7 million and the local contribution is about \$662,345. The biggest change is that North Las Vegas is now contributing. Motion to approve the budget passed.

## **8. Receive a Presentation by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on Perchlorate Remediation**

Todd Croft of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection gave the presentation. In the Las Vegas valley, there were two primary manufactures of perchlorate: the U.S. Navy (which became Kerr-McGee and is now TRONOX), and, Pepcon which is now AMPAC. An illustration showed the distinct color changes coming from the two factories which indicates the concentration and strength of the perchlorate. Todd displayed a conceptual model of perchlorate loading in the Las Vegas Wash which shows how groundwater moved through the channel in the Wash. The initial discovery of perchlorate was in 1997 and sampling studies in Lake Mead showed the source was coming from the Wash. By 2001, full scale pumping began for groundwater treatment. By 2007 the Athens Road modeling had begun along with system optimization. In 2009 and into 2010, both companies were conducting tests and facing financial hardships. By 2011, Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT) was created through the TRONOX bankruptcy process. AMPAC worked with NDEP to assure permitting. Both companies are working on capture and treatment of perchlorate. TRONOX has multiple well fields and is operating a full scale system removing about 1,449 pounds per day of perchlorate. AMPAC is running a mitigation system with multiple well fields as well and today has removed 3,484 tons of perchlorate. Capture of perchlorate is currently a little better than 90% at Athens Road. A summary slide showed the historical values of perchlorate concentrations at three locations; Lake Mead, Willow Beach, and the Colorado River aqueduct, all of which have decreased about 90%.

On-going activities include investigation of the Wash and BMI areas to evaluate other potential perchlorate sources; continued evaluation of remedial technologies and consideration of opportunities to further refine capture and treatment. Future work from TRONOX/NERT includes additional remediation, remediation systems operation (post bankruptcy). Future work from AMPAC includes expanding remediation systems to source area and transition to sustainable, long-term remediation system. NDEP recognizes that significant benchmarks have been made by

both companies including: full-scale remediation systems; 90% reduction in perchlorate loading to the Wash; and significant improvement in Colorado River water quality. These benchmarks were achieved without an enforceable standard, however the federal government is moving forward with development of a maximum contaminant level goal.

#### **9. Review LVVWAC Annual Operating Plan and Regional Water Quality Plan**

Annually, both the LVVWAC Annual Operating Plan and Regional Water Quality Plan are reviewed. With the closure of the Clean Water Coalition, Dennis suggested that we meet in December or January to make those changes.

#### **10. Set Next Meeting Date and Propose Items for the Next Meetings Agenda**

Members agreed the next meeting would be held December 13, 2011 at 2 p.m.

#### **12. Public Comment**

Seeing no request for public comment, Dennis adjourned the meeting