

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD**

October 6, 2015

Website – <http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com>

CALL TO ORDER

Travis Roundy, Chairman for the Utility Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm at the North Las Vegas City Hall, Room 112, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard N., North Las Vegas, NV 89030.

WELCOME

Chairman Roundy welcomed the members, staff, guests, and general public to the meeting. Introductions were made by all Board Members and CNLV Staff Members.

ROLL CALL

Travis Roundy, Chairperson	Gay Shoaff, Member
Russell Collins, Vice-Chairperson	Luis Zepeda, Member
Doris Carter, Member	
Sheldon Bleak, Member	

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS

Jo Cato, Member

STAFF PRESENT

Randall E. DeVaul, P.E., Utilities Director
Christopher Craft, Deputy City Attorney II
Romina Chapman-Wilson, Utilities Business Services Manager
Frazier Speaks, WRF Operations Supervisor
Martin Johnson, WRF Operations Supervisor
Sherri Hoffman, Office Assistant
Phoenix Calabro, Recording Secretary

GUEST PRESENT

Councilwoman Anita G. Wood

VERIFICATION

Phoenix Calabro, Recording Secretary, verified that the Agenda and Meeting Notice was properly posted on the bulletin board at City Hall, the bulletin board at the Public Safety Building, the bulletin board at the North Las Vegas Public Library, the Aliante Library, and the Alexander Library in compliance with N.R.S. 241, "The Open Meeting Law."

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

BUSINESS

ITEM 1. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2015

A motion was made to approve meeting minutes from April 7, 2015. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Roundy noted the upgrade of the City's Automated Meter Reading System to an Automated Metering Infrastructure will be discussed prior to the additional agenda items.

ITEM 2. Discussion on upgrading the City's Automated Meter Reading System to an Automated Metering Infrastructure (For Possible Action)

Presented by: Randall E. DeVaul, P.E., Utilities Director

Demonstration provided by: Romina Chapman-Wilson

❖ History

- 2003-2012: All older non-automatic meter reading (AMR) meters/radios were replaced AMR type meters/radios.
- Eliminated need for staff to walk and read meters.
- Meters were read electronically by a drive by pickup truck.
- Reduced meter readers from 12 to 3.
- 2011: Testing and implementation of INNOV8s.
 - One unit replaced both the register and the radio.
 - It contains no external wires which minimized tampering.
 - Unfortunately, no external wires means the new INNOV8's cannot be used with any other software system.
- 2015: 10 year battery life results in need to change out batteries and registers
 - Replacing 4,000-6,000 batteries and registers per year
 - Number will continue to increase
 - Question is: Do we spend \$800,000-\$1 million per year to continue to use 12 year old technology?

❖ Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

- Next Generation Meter – Smart Meter
 - More accurate billing & reading
 - Admin portal – data immediately available for staff
 - Option for customer portal – more information and custom alerts
 - Eliminate staff performing reads – focus on maintenance & repairs
 - Reduce amount of usage disputes
- 2013: Began Virtual Network Pilot Program
 - 105 test units installed throughout the service area - Apex/Kapex to the Shooting Complex
 - Eliminates drive by reading completely
 - Maintenance only
 - Web based reading & data

❖ Next Steps

- Prepare a Request for Proposal to select a smart meter and begin conversion of 87,000 accounts
 - Estimated cost \$12-22 million
 - Focus on new developments first to eliminate the need to read meters
 - Develop financing plan to convert the balance of the service area

❖ Questions/Comments

- Mr. Collins asked what the life expectancy of the new meter. Mr. DeVaul said we need to start looking at possible replacement after 10 years. The manufacturer said that the design expectancy is about 20 years, but the meter should be replaced after 10 years for accuracy. Ms. Chapman-Wilson said the meter battery is similar to a D size battery that is encased so that it does not corrode. She also said according to a study most utilities change out their meters on an average of seven years.
- Ms. Carter asked about a warranty program. Ms. Chapman-Wilson said the details of the warranty program would be addressed in the Request for Proposal. Mr. DeVaul said there is a pay as you go program option.
- Ms. Chapman-Wilson provided demonstration of the Automated Metering System.
- Mr. Collins asked about a financial forecast for the new system. Mr. DeVaul said that would be provided during the RFP process.
- Mr. Collins spoke about the public relations program needed to inform customers and address the myths about the meters. He gave an example of Nevada Energy.
- The replacement cost of the register and the battery versus the entire meter including all parts was discussed.

- Ms. Shoaff asked to verify the number of Utilities customer accounts. Ms. Chapman-Wilson said there are 87,609 customer accounts as of yesterday.
- Mr. Collins asked to verify if we would replace about 1,000 meters per month with the new program. Mr. DeVaul confirmed yes.
- Mr. Roundy asked if the City of North Las Vegas is the first to use this program. Mr. DeVaul confirmed the City of North Las Vegas is the first to have a pilot program for the new meters.
- Ms. Shoaff requested additional info regarding the cost of the program.

A motion was made in support of preparing a Request for Proposal to upgrade the City's Automated Meter Reading System to an Automated Metering Infrastructure. After the Request for Proposal, the board would like to discuss the findings before proceeding. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. Notice of Proposed Southern Nevada Water Authority Charge *(For Possible Action)*

Presented by: Randall E. DeVaul, P.E., Utilities Director

- ❖ Lake Mead's current water elevation is 1,082 Feet
- ❖ If the Lake Level drops below 1,000 feet, SNWA can no longer pump water from Lake Mead to meet the Valley's water demands
- ❖ The new Intake Number 3 can draw water from elevation 875
- ❖ On December 10, 2014, the SNWA board adopted the Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC) recommendation to construct a new pumping station to draw water to a lake level of 875 and to implement a Drought Protection Charge to fund the new pump station
- ❖ The new charge will begin January 1, 2016 and be phased in over a 3 year period based on meter size
- ❖ SNWA Rate increase chart was shown.
- ❖ NRS 237.030-237.110, "Adoption of Rules Affecting Businesses" require a Business Impact Statement be published in the LVRJ to solicit comments from potentially affected business customers
- ❖ The BIS was published in the LVRJ on September 14th and 21st
- ❖ The BIS requests any comments regarding the proposed increase by October 7, 2015
- ❖ City Council will consider any comments received at their October 21 Council Meeting and set a public hearing on November 4th to consider approval of the Drought Protection Charge

A motion was made in support of the Proposed Southern Nevada Water Authority Charge. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4. Discussion on Federal EPA's Administrative Order to upgrade the City's Pretreatment Program *(For Information Only)*

Presented by: Randall E. DeVaul, P.E., Utilities Director

- ❖ City has had an industrial pretreatment program since at least June 1990.
- ❖ In 2011, the City opened it's new, state of the art Water Reclamation Facility to treat sanitary sewage discharging from North Las Vegas. The permitted plant provides an extremely high level of treatment, almost to the level of drinking water. Prior to that, sewage flows were directed to either the City of Las Vegas or Clark County treatment facilities.
- ❖ In September, 2014, EPA conducted a compliance Inspection of the City's pretreatment program. In March 2015, the City received the results of the program, which found the City never updated the pretreatment ordinance after the City's treatment facility went online.
- ❖ They also found errors in the permitting of significant industrial users in the system, specifically letting permits expire without renewing and inadequate compliance follow up.
- ❖ On June 26, 2015, the City received via email a copy of an Administrative Compliance Order from the EPA setting key milestones to correct deficiencies in the program.
- ❖ Milestones of EPA's Administrative Order were discussed.
- ❖ The IPP inventory of all non-domestic users has already been submitted to the EPA
- ❖ The City is working with a consultant to conduct the Headworks Analysis report, revisions to the pretreatment ordinance, Enforcement Response Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Interlocal Agreement with the County.

- ❖ It is the City's intent to meet all milestones to make improvements to the Industrial Pretreatment Program
- ❖ USEPA Administrative Compliance Order CWA-309(a)-15-011 requires City Council approve an Industrial Pretreatment Program by March 1, 2016
- ❖ The Industrial Pretreatment Program requires modification to Section 13.24 and 13.28 of Title XIII of the North Las Vegas Municipal Code
- ❖ No changes in fees or penalties are proposed
- ❖ Recommended changes to Section 13.24 and 13.28 will solidify the City's Industrial Pretreatment Program and insure compliance with the Clean Water Act. The recommended changes were discussed.

- ❖ Questions/Comments
 - Mr. Collins spoke about enforcement of the Clean Water Act and possible fines.
 - Mr. DeVaul said there is a total of 26 industrial users in the City of North Las Vegas. He also said within the total 26 users, there are 3 users in Nellis Industrial Park near Craig Road and Walnut Road.
 - Mr. Collins asked about the MS4 permit. Mr. DeVaul said the Public Works Department manages the MS4 program. Mr. Collins asked for a synopsis of Public Works MS4 inspections.

ITEM 5. Discussion on modifying Title XIII Section 13.24, Wastewater Collection System and Section 13.28, Industrial Pretreatment Program *(For Possible Action)*

- ❖ USEPA Administrative Compliance Order CWA-309(a)-15-011 requires City Council approve an Industrial Pretreatment Program by March 1, 2016
- ❖ The Industrial Pretreatment Program requires modification to Section 13.24 and 13.28 of Title XIII of the North Las Vegas Municipal Code
- ❖ No changes in fees or penalties are proposed
- ❖ Recommended changes to Section 13.24 and 13.28 will solidify the City's Industrial Pretreatment Program and insure compliance with the Clean Water Act. Recommended changes discussed.

A motion was made in support of modifying Title XIII Section 13.24, Wastewater Collection System and Section 13.28, Industrial Pretreatment Program. Mr. Collins mentioned the motion is contingent on City of North Las Vegas City Attorney's Office review. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6. Director's Report *(For information Only)*

Presented by: Randall E. DeVaul, P.E., Utilities Director

- FY 14-15 Accomplishments
 - Water Conservation
 - Customer Service Enhancements
 - Laboratory Certification
 - SCADA Alarm System
 - Apex/Kapex
 - Northeast Interceptor
 - Capital Improvement Plan
 - Reorganized Water Operation Division
 - Drop Inlet Cleaning
 - Sloan Channel
 - LEAPmbr System
- FY 15-16 Goals distributed at meeting
- Infrastructure Initiatives
 - APEX/KAPEX
 - NE Interceptor
 - Carlton #1 Tank Recoating
 - Pecos Road Sewer Relining
 - Flower/Perlitter Water Line Replacement
 - Water Reclamation Facility Off Site Improvements

- Regional Issues
 - SNWA third straw now operational
 - Now drawing from Lake Mead Elevation 875 (without Low Level Pump Station, it will be able to draw water from elevation 1,000)
 - Intake will protect water customers from water quality issues associated with declining lake levels
 - Sale of Lake Mead Water to California
 - SNWA Board approves agreement with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to bank water
 - Will allow SNWA to bank up to 150,000 acre feet of unused water to temporarily supplement California's drought-stressed water supplies to meet demands.
 - In return, SNWA will receive \$45 million, which will be added to the agency's Rate Stabilization Fund to help defer or reduce the impact of future water rate increases
 - Drought Update
 - Current Lake Elevation 1082
 - Was projected to drop below 1075 as soon as January 1, 2016, but record breaking rains in May and June actually raised water level by 2 feet and it is now projected to remain at 1082 on January 1, 2016
 - If the Lake drops below 1075, the Secretary of the Interior could declare a shortage and SNWA's allotment could drop from 300,000 acre feet per year to 287,000 acre feet per year
 - Currently using 228,000 acre feet per year
- Questions/Comments
 - Mr. Collins spoke about Nellis Airforce Base and required permit to use reclaimed water.
 - Mr. Collins spoke about the reorganization of the Water Reclamation Facility.
 - He also spoke about several complaints at the Sunrise Manor Advisory Board meeting regarding Water Reclamation Facility odor.
 - He spoke about the Nevada Water Environment Association Tri-State Seminar held the third week of September at South Point Hotel and Casino.
 - Mr. Zepeda spoke about how he worked for the City of El Paso and how they used reclaimed water.
 - Mr. DeVaul spoke about the Desalination Plant in California.
 - Mr. Collins reported a water leak. Mr. DeVaul stated we take water waste seriously and follow up when water leaks are reported.

BOARD SCHEDULE

The next scheduled regular meeting is Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

Travis Roundy made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.