

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**August 26, 2011, 10:00 A.M.**

**Washoe County  
Central Conference Room  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Building C  
Reno, Nevada**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Determination of a Quorum**

Chairman St. John called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

**Voting Members Present:**

Dan St. John, Chair  
Kyle West, Vice-Chair  
John Flansberg  
Trevor Lloyd  
John Martini (left at 11:25 a.m.)  
Austin Osborne (arrived at 10:12 a.m.)  
Randy Pahl

**Voting Members Absent:**

John Mosley  
Tim Thompson

**Voting Alternates Present:**

Kerri Lanza

**Voting Alternates Absent:**

Fannie Ely  
Bob Kershaw  
Neil Krutz  
Rosemary Menard  
Kathy Sertic

**Staff Present:** Jay Aldean, Danielle Henderson, Laura McAuley, Greg Salter, Paul Urban, Lori Williams

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Aldean reminded Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members that the TAC meetings are public, recorded and transcribed as such.

Chairman St. John announced that he is retiring from Washoe County at the end of September and this would be his last TAC meeting. He stated that Kyle West would move from Vice-Chairman to Chairman.

Kerri Lanza asked if the agenda includes approval of minutes. Staff stated that the item was inadvertently left off but asked for comments or corrections to the minutes of the July 8, 2011 TAC meeting.

Ms. Lanza referred to the last paragraph on page 4 of 5 and stated that her comment regarding University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) did not include “purchasing” property; she was referring to existing agreements between Reno and UNR. Staff noted the revision and offered to bring the minutes back for approval at the next TAC meeting.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman St. John called for public comments.

Paul Urban congratulated Mr. St. John on his retirement and thanked him for his work with Washoe County and the TAC.

Chairman St. John called for additional comments and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

#### **5. PRESENTATION: VIRGINIA STREET BRIDGE UPDATE**

*Charla Honey, Engineering Manager, City of Reno*

Presentation and discussion regarding the Virginia Street Bridge Project. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff.

John Flansberg reported that Reno staff did a fantastic job on the public process on the Virginia Street Bridge; however, additional concerns were noted. He stated that additional public outreach would be scheduled with a follow-up report in October. He explained that a bridge type was not specified.

Chairman St. John asked if Reno had received input from the judges. Mr. Flansberg stated he had not. Ms. Lanza asked for contact information, which Mr. St. John agreed to provide.

#### **6. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MONTHLY REPORT (for possible action)**

*Jay Aldean, Interim Executive Director, TRFMA*

*Report on activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project, including but not limited to, project scheduling and funding. Will include update on documents and process for Internal Technical Review currently underway. Possible action to accept the report and provide direction to staff related to flood project scheduling and other items as set forth in the report.*

Mr. Aldean reported that Neil Krutz, Mr. Urban and he attended a meeting with Corps the previous day to discuss the Flood Project and the Alternatives Formulation Briefing (AFB). He stated that he received a call prior to this meeting saying that the AFB would be scheduled for September 20, 2011 (although it has not been confirmed by Headquarters). He stated that the Corps is considering holding the AFB in San Francisco, or possibly Sacramento. He added that the Corps does not have travel funding available, which led to the request to hold the meeting near the Division or District office.

Mr. Aldean stated that staff developed a list of issues that staff will bring up with the Corps as being pertinent to the draft report, which is being reviewed by Division and Headquarters. He noted that Ms. Henderson would review the issues under her presentation (Item 7).

Mr. Aldean reminded members of the discussion at the last TRFMA meeting that there must be unity and consistency in moving forward to the AFB.

Mr. Aldean reported that Corps' District staff offered their assistance in addressing the Sparks Interior Drainage situation. He stated that the Corps provided a scope of work, which he offered to provide to Mr. Martini. He reported that the hope is to get the contract in place by the end of September, which could be up to \$100,000 (or even more depending on additional items). The Corps is looking to provide floodplain mapping and review of the storm events. He added that it may not be necessary for Manhard to review the interior drainage (as previously thought). Mr. Urban clarified that the work would be reviewed to eliminate duplication of efforts.

Mr. Aldean mentioned that the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) might be scheduled in February although more likely in March. He explained that the CWRB occurs after the document has been released to the public with all the comments collected and addressed. He stated at that point, a recommendation for the final product is made to go to the Corps' chief for signature, which hopefully could be completed by spring 2012.

Mr. Urban clarified that the above discussion is speculation based on what staff is hearing from the Corps.

Chairman St. John stated there seems to be angst among the elected officials on the labeling of the 100-year plan, particularly in downtown Reno and asked if progress is being made. Mr. Aldean stated that Alternative 3C includes a "50-year plan design level" for downtown, although it is actually only 2.5 bridges (Lake Street is only proposed to be replaced as a pedestrian / emergency vehicle bridge). He stated that staff has agreed that all of the pertinent flood walls need to be included for downtown, in addition to freeboard for the bridges. He explained that in 2008 the Reno City Council approved a scenario of 100-year plus two feet of freeboard for the downtown bridges, which does not meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards. He summarized that the issue has not been resolved with the TRFMA or Reno City Council.

Mr. Urban stated that the acceptable height of downtown bridges and floodwalls by elected officials does not necessarily provide the level of protection needed. Chairman St. John mentioned that the project is very close to moving forward; however, the obstacles are still there.

Mr. Flansberg noted that at the last Council meeting, members expressed a big concern that the perception is that all the elements for downtown Reno are being pulled from the project although Reno citizens will be asked to pay the majority of the fees. He added that most likely the issue will be further discussed at the next TRFMA meeting. Chairman St. John reiterated that the project is close and added that it would pass the 100-year storm although it would not meet the FEMA 100-year criteria. He asked if Reno wants the TRFMA to pay for the full replacement of the Lake Street Bridge. Mr. Flansberg stated that the issue needs to be resolved because the bridge needs to be functional. He mentioned that other elements need to be resolved as well. Mr. Aldean agreed and stated that downtown protection would be covered by the flood rates because they must be done.

## **7. REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION BRIEFING (AFB) ISSUES (for possible action)**

*Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager, TRFMA*

Discussion on location and schedule and items that may be discussed or decided at the AFB. Possible action to accept report and/or provide direction to staff.

Danielle Henderson stated that she is preparing a staff report for the next TRFMA meeting. She stated that Mr. Aldean did a great job of summarizing the issues. She reported that at the last TRFMA meeting, a lengthy discussion ensued over Alternative 3C and what is included. She stated that the TRFMA developed a list of issues and concerns that they want to have brought forward at the AFB. She reviewed the list as follows:

- Level of protection for downtown Reno – bridges, floodwalls, etc.
- Home elevation program
- Interior drainage issues and the North Truckee Drain
- How might the 6,700 acre-feet of water rights (under the Truckee River Operating Agreement) be credited toward the cost share under Section 113

Ms. Henderson summarized that staff has been meeting with the Corps team at the District level at least once a week in person, in addition to numerous phone calls. The focus is on how to present the issues and concerns without being offensive and while being concise and to the point. She reiterated Mr. Aldean's comment that the Corps is developing contracts to get more information to provide answers to the Board and the public. She added that staff is working with the Corps to develop the agenda for the AFB, which must be approved by Division and Headquarters.

Mr. Aldean requested that Ms. Henderson explain the issue behind the 6,700 acre-feet. He explained that federal language stated that if 6,700 acre-feet of water rights was "fixed into the river", the Flood Project would receive credit for the value. He questioned how much of the 6,700 acre-feet actually exists and what the value would be currently. Greg Salter, Legal Counsel, stated that the full 6,700 acre-feet of water rights has not yet been identified. He stated that a meeting is scheduled for August 29, at which time more information would be available.

Ms. Henderson explained that Senator Reid passed Section 113 to provide cost share credit for restoration and recreation projects, water rights and monitoring that have been completed. She stated that typically those items are not eligible for early construction cost share credit and the Corps is taking a very conservative stance on the language of Section 113, which stated that "funds expended to purchase water rights...will be credited", as opposed to the value. She added that at the time of purchase, water rights cost approximately \$40,000 per acre-foot, which is now decreased to approximately \$1,500 per acre-foot. She summarized that at the time, it seemed to be a great way to pay the local share and get the project constructed. She added that the issue needs to be explained to the TRFMA.

Chairman St. John asked how the issue was addressed in the previous rate study. Mr. Aldean stated it was not included because the Corps had not developed any guidance language for the issue.

**8. TAC REPRESENTATION AT AFB (for possible action)**

*Jay Aldean, Interim Executive Director, TRFMA*

Discussion regarding who will represent the TAC at the upcoming AFB. Possible action to determine representative(s) to the AFB and/or provide direction to staff.

Mr. Aldean reported that the TRFMA is composed of six members (two from each entity), two of which can attend the AFB (so that there is not a quorum). He explained that the AFB is a non-public meeting. He added that the TAC falls under the same Open Meeting Law restriction so four TAC members could attend.

Chairman St. John asked for input on who would like to attend. Mr. Flansberg and Mr. Martini agreed that Reno and Sparks need to be represented. Mr. Martini stated that Neil Krutz or he would attend on behalf of Sparks. Mr. Aldean reiterated that the tentative schedule is September 20 in San Francisco or Sacramento.

Chairman St. John asked if Storey County or Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) wished to attend. Austin Osborne stated that Storey County would delegate its representation to Washoe County, Reno or Sparks because they are directly impacted. Randy Pahl agreed that NDEP would delegate its representation as well.

Ms. Lanza requested that staff lobby for the Sacramento location if possible. Chairman St. John summarized that Reno, Sparks and Washoe County would all send a representative (to be determined).

**9. UPDATE OF TRACTION PROJECTS (for possible action)**

*Jay Aldean, Interim Executive Director, TRFMA*

*Paul Urban, Project Manager, TRFMA*

Report on TRAction projects' progress. Possible action to accept report and/or provide direction to staff.

Mr. Aldean provided an updated list of Truckee River Action (TRAction) projects. He stated that comments were received from staff and incorporated into the list. He stated that Lori Williams had not had a chance to review the information to ensure that costs to date were accurately reflected.

Members reviewed the list and Mr. Aldean explained some of the columns and costs. He added that the list is an informational item that was requested by TRFMA Member Aiazzi.

Mr. Osborne mentioned the Rainbow Bend project and asked if there is any plan to revisit the issue. Mr. Aldean stated that discussion occurred with the Corps as to whether or not the project is needed because they were not going to force the issue of risk and uncertainty in the walls, which the residents did not like. Mr. Urban added that it is a hydraulic mitigation issue, which could become part of the Corps project. Mr. Osborne asked if the level of protection provided for the Flood Project would impact the wall. Mr. Urban stated it would probably result in higher walls.

Chairman St. John mentioned the numbers listed for project budget of approximately \$36 million and the spent to date amount of approximately \$29 million. He asked if the delta (~\$7 million is what is anticipated to be needed to complete the projects. Mr. Aldean stated that amount is probably pretty close to what will be required and mentioned that many of the projects came in under budget. Mr. St. John suggested clarifying the actual amounts prior to presentation to the

TRFMA. Ms. Henderson clarified that the column for “TRFP Contribution” is completely based on the 1/8-cent sales tax. Staff discussed whether donated properties should be included. Ms. Henderson explained that during the cost share evaluation, appraisals would be done so the property values could be included.

Mr. Flansberg agreed with Mr. St. John that the Board would be most interested in the “cost to complete.” Mr. Aldean agreed.

Mr. St. John suggested moving Rainbow Bend from the “Future Planned Projects” to the “Approved On-Going TRAction Projects”, with which Mr. Aldean agreed. Ms. Lanza requested updating the status of Virginia Street Bridge to summer 2013.

#### **10. DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE LOCAL RATE PLAN TO BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR SETTING FLOOD RATES (for possible action)**

*Jay Aldean, Interim Executive Director, TRFMA*

Clarification of previous discussion about how flood fees and rates will be determined and charged to residents and businesses to pay for the flood project. Possible project descriptions, sizes, benefits, costs, revenue requirements and maximum amounts to be financed will be discussed. Possible action to accept report and/or provide direction to staff.

Mr. Aldean reported that he worked with staff on the PowerPoint Presentation where many edits were made. The highlights and discussion focused on the different alternatives and cost sharing. Mr. St. John asked about a project with no restoration or recreation in an effort to lower the cost. Ms. Henderson reported that in order to build a project in the river, restoration and recreational mitigation would be required.

Chairman St. John asked about the Hidden Valley Home Elevation Program and asked how those Washoe County residents could be asked to fund the project when they would not be protected from flooding. Mr. Aldean reiterated that some elements would be paid locally.

Mr. Salter made recommendations for changing some wording for instance to “Could the public afford the project?” as opposed to the “The public could not afford the project”.

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Aldean summarized that this item would not be included on the TRFMA September 9 meeting agenda. He added that he would request of Chairman Smith to schedule a caucus meeting to discuss the rates and the FCS contract. He added that staff is considering an extra meeting for September 23 to discuss some of these items in a caucus meeting. He summarized that the Board would be asked to make some very important decisions.

Ms. Henderson reminded members that a very public process was held by the Community Coalition Group, which resulted in the Locally Preferred Plan. She added that of course the major goal of the project is flood protection; however, they specifically requested recreation and restoration.

Mr. Aldean asked Mr. Salter if he is comfortable with presenting this plan to the TRFMA Board. Mr. Salter stated that in regard to the question of whether the locals can afford to build a project without Corps funding, the “no” answer would fail the Churchill County test. Ms. Henderson suggested asking the question but not providing an answer.

Mr. Salter reported that there might be a way of providing the restoration and recreational projects using a separate source of funding, perhaps the Nature Conservancy or Southern Nevada Land money.

Chairman St. John agreed with Mr. Urban's comments and summarized that the Locally Preferred Plan could not be built with local funds alone. He stated that the project should have been approached via a Flood Agency as is done across the country in this industry. He stated that \$1 million in lobbying fees to revise Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) could have made that option possible.

Chairman St. John thanked Mr. Aldean for his presentation.

**11. POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) AMONG THE TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND OTHER AGENCIES FOR THE TRUCKEE RIVER BASIN CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT STUDY (for possible action)**

*Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager, TRFMA*

Report and discussion on the proposed climate change study (purpose, scope, budget, schedule and related items) and MOA terms and conditions. Possible action to accept report; approve and authorize the TRFMA Chair to sign the MOA; and/or provide direction to staff

Ms. Henderson reported on the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Climate Change Study. She reported that the Flood Project has provided an in-kind match through the Manhard Model. She summarized that staff would like to bring the agreement to the TRFMA Board for review and signature. Mr. Aldean reiterated that the only contribution from the TRFMA is in-kind for use of the model.

Mr. Flansberg asked if there are any liabilities. Mr. Aldean stated the only possible liability would be to Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) in that someone could question the yield of the watershed. He clarified that TMWA provided \$25,000 to the project so they would be included in the process. Ms. Henderson added that TMWA signed the agreement.

Mr. Aldean reported that the study would provide information on the impacts to future flooding, both duration and peak, which will help in the future. Ms. St. John added that most progressive water agencies are providing this type of information.

**12. DETERMINE DATES AND LOCATION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (for possible action)**

*Dan St. John, Chair*

Discussion regarding, and possible action to amend, the meeting location and dates for the remainder of 2011 which are currently set for the Washoe County Central Conference Room on:

Friday, September 30, 2011

Thursday, November 3, 2011 (October's meeting)

Thursday, December 1, 2011 (November's meeting)

Thursday, January 5, 2012 (December's meeting)

Mr. Flansberg reported that Thursday mornings are bad for Reno. Ms. McAuley stated that some of the meeting dates were changed because they were in conflict with holidays. Ms. McAuley agreed to check the schedule.

Mr. Aldean stated that it would be easier for staff to hold meetings at the Flood Project office, rather than bringing all the equipment to the County. Staff agreed to poll Sparks' representatives as to the location.

**13. REVIEW FLOOD MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY DRAFT AGENDA**

*Jay Aldean, Interim Executive Director, TRFMA*

Possible action to make recommendations to the Flood Management Authority on any of the Truckee River Flood Management Authority meeting draft agenda items (see attached agenda). Action may include recommendations to project staff regarding clarification, addition or removal of agenda items, and recommendations to the project staff or the TRFMA regarding any of the listed or proposed agenda items.

Ms. Lanza reported that the Virginia Street Bridge project update was pulled from the TRFMA agenda.

Chairman St. John asked if an update is scheduled on the Interior Drainage issue. Mr. Urban stated it would be discussed at the next TAC meeting. He added that current discussions are focused on whether or not the North Truckee Drain is a tributary. He reminded members that the Corps offered \$100,000 to provide further work on the issue.

**14. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman St. John asked for member comments, of which there were none.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by TRFMA TAC in session on November 15, 2011.