



MEETING MINUTES

**February 14, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
BOCC Chambers Pahrump, NV**

Members: Unfilled - Area 1 (Carrant Creek/Smoky Valley)
Charles “Heath” Miller - Area 2 (Tonopah/Manhattan)
Edwin Goedhart - Vice Chair, Area 3 (Beatty /Armargosa Valley)
Helene Williams - Chair - Area 4, Position 1 (Pahrump Valley)
Bruce Holden - Area 4, Position 2 (Pahrump Valley)
Ernie Jackson - Area 4, Position 3 (Pahrump Valley)
Michael Lach - At Large

Board of County Commissioners: Debra Strickland
Staff: Daniel C. Weeks
Finance: Elizabeth Jordan

- 1. **(00:0:49) Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**

- 2. **(00:01:44) Roll Call – All Present: Mr. Jackson, Mr. Goedhart, Mr. Lach, Mr. Miller & Mrs. Williams, Mr. Holden was absent from the meeting.**

- 3. **(00:02:23) Mission Statement – “Protect, Provide and Preserve the water resources of Nye County.”**

- 4. **(00:02:35) Approval or Alteration of Agenda for December 13, 2022.**

The General Manager requested that item #5 be struck from the agenda and that Item #15 be read prior to Item #9.

6. (00:03:00) General Public Comment First.

Nye County Commissioner Frank Carbone thanked the general manager for the detailed information provided in the backup.

Nye County resident Frank Esposito expressed his concern about water conservation in Pahrump. He said he had 22 acres of property with plans to develop. He described a process by which septic water could be reused and recycled.

7. (00:05:57) Board Comments.

Mrs. Williams mentioned a number of Bills being considered by the State legislature.

8. (00:09:40) Disclosure Of Ex-Parte Communications and Possible Conflict of Interest.

Mr. Goedhart disclosed that he was the holder of water rights in Nye County but that he did not believe that would cause any conflict with his duties as a member of the Nye County Water Board. Mr. Lach disclosed that he was a water rights holder in Nevada and that he would abstain from any vote that might benefit himself. Mr. Miller disclosed that was the holder of water rights in Nye County. Nye County Commissioner Debra Strickland disclosed that she was a contactor and a water rights broker and explained that she could not have a conflict of interest because she makes no decisions for the board.

15. (00:11:30) PUBLIC HEARING – Discussion and deliberation to adopt, amend and adopt, or reject Nye County Water District Resolution No. 2023-01: A Resolution to Augment the 2022-2023 Budget of the Nye County Water District. This augment is due to an America Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Policy, sub entity Grant Agreement with Nye County in the amount of \$285,000.00.

Mr. Goedhart made the motion to adopt the Resolution as written in the amount of \$285,000. Mr. Lach made offered a second to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0. Mrs. Strickland introjected to say the vote should have been calculated as 5-1 as Mr. Holden was not present.

9. (00:17:26) PRESENTATION – Presentation by BEC Environmental, Inc. on a potential 2023/2024 Title XVI - Water Reclamation and Reuse: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning Grant through Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

BEC Environmental Inc.'s Eileen Christenson delivered an extensive presentation on the potential grant for water planning.

10. (00:36:15) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – (1) Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend or reject a proposal for Work Order #2 under the existing BEC Environmental, Inc. Master Services Agreement for Grant Application Technical Support Services for the Nye County Water District in the amount of \$19,900 to apply for a 2023/2024 Title XVI - Water Reclamation and Reuse: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning Grant Application through Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). And (2) select either option A) a feasibility study to promote flood control and redirect floodwaters to allow for recharge of aquifers in the Pahrump Basin 162 or option B) a feasibility study to allow for importation of water from the southern portion of

Basin 162 to the northern portion of Basin 162 for purposes of water conservation and reuse within the Pahrump Basin.

Nye County resident John Koneig made the statement, "RIBs are good. All of the water companies in town use RIBs. They put water into the ground where we need it." Nye County Commissioner Frank Carbone explained that RIBs do work.

Mr. Lach made a motion to approve the \$19,900 for option A to create a feasibility study to explore creating flood control measure that will also contribute to directing floodwaters into Rapid Infiltration Basins. Mr. Goedhart offered a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-1 with Mr. Holden absent from the meeting.

11. **(00:44:37) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – Discussion, deliberation and possible direction to staff in regard to the most recent data from the Cloud Seeding project currently conducted by the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the Desert Research Institute. Supplemental backup data provided by Nye County Water District Science Staff John Klenke.**

The matter was discussed. No action taken or direction offered.

12. **(00:59:11) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – Discussion and deliberation of the most current reports and findings of the Nye County Water District on the currently accepted groundwater recharge and yield values within Nevada hydrographic Basin #162.**

The matter was discussed at great length. No action taken or direction offered.

13. **(01:39:08) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and possible direction to staff to draft and send a letter to the Nye County Commission expressing the Nye County Water District Governing Board's opinion that high-density Multi-Family dwellings should be subject to a water rights relinquishment in the amount of 3:1 to the proposed use.**

The item was tabled and no action was taken.

14. **(01:57:58) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – Discussion, deliberation and possible suggestion and direction to staff on determining the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the General Manager or other Nye County Water District staff in addressing leaking domestic well systems.**

Staff was directed to not enter personal property without the owner's permission and to direct all reports of leaking domestic well systems to Nye County Emergency Service.

16. **(02:04:26) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – Discussion, deliberation and possible suggestion and direction to staff on establishing the Nye County Water District's review process of utility scale solar projects and proposed extensive water use approvals.**

Mr. Lach directed the Manager to seek the opinion of the Nye County Commission if that body wanted the support or opposition opinion of the Nye County Water District on matter of water use.

17. (02:21:14) SUPPORTING REPORTS – Organization Member, Staff and County Liaison.

Nye County Commissioner Debera Strickland requested that additional backup material be accept by the board which was granted by Chair Helene Williams.

Mr. Lach made a motion to accept the additional backup. Mr. Goedhart offered a second to accept the additional back materials. The motion passed 4-2. With Mr. Holden absent and Mr. Jackson out of the room.

Nye County Commissioner Debra Strickland gave a report on the most recent meeting of the Central Nevada Rural Water Authority. Mrs. Williams requested the manager schedule a field excursion for the Nye County Water District membership to tour the Nevada Nuclear Security Site.

18. (02:32:06) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion and deliberation to set the date, time and location of the next Water District Governing Board meeting for Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pahrump Commissioners Chambers.

The board voted unanimously to approve the date of next meeting of the Nye County Water District as Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

19. (02:33:06) Closing General Public Comment – Up to three-minute time limit per person. Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period.

Nye County resident John Koenig commented that “Discussion Only” items did not afford the public the opportunity to comment. Nye County resident Victor Fuentes said that he listened to the whole meeting and that in his experience Hydrologists rarely agree.

20. (02:40:00) Board Comments – (This item limited to announcements and to propose future workshops or agendas and should not revisit matters addressed during the meeting.)

Mr. Lach thanked the public and commissioners for attending the meeting.

21. (02:42:05) Adjourn.

WDGB Chair

Date: _____

WDGB Manager

Date: _____