



## **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 11, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.  
BOCC Chambers Pahrump, NV**

**Members:**

Unfilled - Area 1 (Carrant Creek/Smoky Valley)  
Unfilled - 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:**

Savannah Rucker

1. **(00:00:35) Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **(00:01:23) Roll Call – All Present: Mr. Goedhart, Mr. Holden, Mr. Lach Mr. Jackson & Mrs. Williams.**
3. **(00:01:34) Mission Statement – “Protect, Provide and Preserve the water resources of Nye County.”**
4. **(00:01:50) Approval or Alteration of Agenda for August 9, 2022.**  
General Manager Daniel Weeks asked that item #5 be struck from the meeting's agenda.
5. **(00:02:00) Consideration of Minutes to Prior Meetings.**  
**Item # 5 was removed from the agenda.**

**6. (00:2:17) General Public Comment First.**

Nye County resident John Bosta spoke about various Nevada State and Federal laws. Nye County resident Borrás Carlyle spoke about development in Tonopah. Nye County resident Amy Nelson complimented the Board. Nye County resident Victor Fuentes thanked the water board for the support offered to his Church. Fuentes went on to express his displeasure with the Federal government. Nye County Resident Annette Fuentes thanked the water board members for all their support. Nye County resident DC Shuley spoke about water waste in Pahrump.

**7. (00:14:16) Board Comments.**

Mr. Lach responded to resident Carlyle's comments and directed the Manager to look into the 9/28/22 meeting mentioned in Tonopah.

**8. (00:22:03) Disclosure Of Ex-Parte Communications and Possible Conflict of Interest.**

Commissioner Strickland disclosed that she was a water well drilling contractor and broker of water rights. Mr. Goedhart disclosed that he managed a dairy that holds water rights in Nye County. Mr. Lach disclosed that he own property in Pahrump as well as water rights. Mr. Jackson disclosed that he was a water well driller and a holder of water rights. Mrs. Williams disclosed in relation to items #13 and #14 that she was a member of the Private Well Owners Ass. and assisted in requesting the \$285,000 in federal grant funding.

**9. (00:24:18) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and consideration to accept and submit, modify and submit or reject a letter from the Members of the Nye County Water District Governing Board to the Nevada Division of Water Resources and the Nevada State Engineer requesting that Reports of Conveyance for Nevada Water Permits 76691 and 76692 be prioritized and addressed by the State Engineer and the Division of Water Resources as soon as possible.**

Nye County property owner Ramez Reno spoke about his property and how the delayed applications were affecting his business. Nye County resident John Bosta spoke about the applications and suggested the board move forward with the letter. Nye County resident Amy Nelson spoke about the issue and criticized the state's services to Pahrump. Nye County resident Victor Fuentes spoke to the issue and offered support to the item. Mr. Lach motioned to send the letter with an edition to add a request of an explanation as to why it took so long for the state to address the issue. Mr. Goedhart seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 5-0 to approve the action.

**10. (00:42:26) PRESENTATION – Presentation by Coeur Mining, Inc. on the company's current Water Rights and intended water uses in Nye County.**

The board discussed the concept that the County could retain it's current water rights and work with Coeur Mining to use the water resource temporarily.

11. **(01:43:48) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and consideration to: (1) Support the request from Coeur and recommend that Nye County withdraw its related water applications in Nevada Hydrographic Basin #229. Or, (2) Oppose the request from Coeur and recommend that Nye County retain its related water applications in Nevada Hydrographic Basin #229.**

Mr. Bruce Jabbour spoke to the matter from Tonopah and questioned the calculation used to determine water usage. Nye County resident John Bosta spoke to the powers of the Water District Governing Board and suggested the board develop and deliver the water to Coeur Mining. Nye County resident Victor Fuentes spoke to the matter and criticized the state agencies protesting water applications. Nye County resident Amy Nelson spoke to the matter and complimented the board members on their preparedness.

Mr. Lach made a motion to oppose the request from Coeur Mining Inc. and Mr. Holden seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 5-0 to approve the action.

12. **(02:04:31) PRESENTATION – Presentation by Anglo Gold on future mining operations in Nye County pending the purchase of Coeur Mining Inc.**

Anglo Gold made a presentation on their expanding operations in Nye County.

13. **(03:55:12) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and decision to accept the conditions of, and enter into, a Nye County ARPA Recovery Plan and Policy Sub-Entity Grant Agreement with Nye County. The funds have been designated for use in a proposed cloud seeding program for the Spring Mountains east of Pahrump in conjunction with the Nye County Private Well Owners Association. The total amount of the grant funding is \$285,000.**

Mr. Goedhart made a motion to approve the contract. Mr. Lach seconded the motion. Mr. Holden abstained from the vote and the result of the vote was a unanimous 4-0.

14. **(04:09:12) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and decision to: (1) Approve the proposed agreement between the Nye County Water District and the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the Desert Research Institute, to prepare, maintain and operate a cloud seeding program in the Spring Mountains for the period of 11/01/2022 to 12/31/2027. Or, (2) Reject the proposed agreement between the Nye County Water District and the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the Desert Research Institute, to operate a cloud seeding program in the Spring Mountains. The proposed contract amount is \$300,000.**

The Chair suggested the matter be tabled and no vote was taken on the matter.

15. **(04:34:31) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – Discussion, deliberation and consideration to offer further direction to staff to develop and fund a new Salt Cedar eradication program within the confines of Nevada Hydrographic Basin #162.**

Direction was given to the General Manager to work with Nye County Science staff to generate an inventory of Salt Cedar trees in Basin #162.

16. **(05:29:36) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and consideration to accept and submit, modify and submit or reject a letter from the Members of the Nye County Water District Governing Board to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission requesting that complaints for unusually high connection fees from Great Basin Water Co. be prioritized and addressed as soon as possible.**

Mr. Holden made a motion to accept and submit the letter as presented. Mr. Lach offered a second to the motion. The vote was unanimous 5-0 to send the presented letter to the PUC.

17. **(05:35:47) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and consideration to accept and submit, modify and submit or reject a letter from the members of the Nye County Water District Governing Board to the Nevada Division of Water Resources and the Nevada State Engineer to accompany a water waste complaint lodged by a Pahrump resident against a property located at 2221 W. Cordova Pl.**

Mrs. Williams made a motion to accept and submit the letter to the Nevada Division of Water Resources as presented. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. Mr. Lach was not present during the vote and the remaining members all voted unanimously 4-0 to submit the letter as written.

18. **(04:57:36) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and consideration to (1) Accept and submit, modify and submit or reject a letter from the Nye County Water District Governing Board to the Nye County Planning Department requesting the implementation of a new review process for all proposed large scale Solar Generation facilities located within Nye County. Or, (2) Direct staff to draft and return to the board with a new Nye County Water District Ordinance requiring all Utility-Scale Solar Power projects to comply with requirements imposed by the Nye County Water District Governing Board.**

Mr. Lach made a motion to accept and submit the prepared letter to the Nye County Planning Department. Mr. Jackson offered a second to the motion. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lach and Mr. Holden voted to approve the motion. Mrs. Williams and Mr. Goedhart voted against the motion. The motion passed 3-2.



19. **(05:55:47) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Discussion, deliberation and consideration to direct staff to establish dates and times for Nye County Water District Board Members to participate in Nevada Open Meeting Law training sessions offered and recommended by Nye County staff.**

Mr. Goedhart made a motion to direct staff to set the time a date of Open Meeting Law Training, Mr. Jackson offered a second to the motion and the vote was a unanimous 4-0 to direct the manager to schedule the proposed OML training. Mr. Lach was away from the meeting as the motion and vote were made.

20. **(06:00:54) SUPPORTING REPORTS – Organization Member, Staff and County Liaison.**

Nye County Commissioner Debra Strickland and liaison to The District gave a lengthy explanation about a potential Bill Draft Request that was not considered by the State Legislature due to the Central Nevada Water Authority missing a deadline. Mrs. Strickland requested that additional backup be submitted to the meeting and produced a report from Jeff Fontaine the Director of the Central Nevada Water Authority which was accepted by the board in a unanimous 5-0 vote. The report was added to the backup material following the meeting.

21. **(06:16:45) Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the date, time and location of the next Water District Governing Board for Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the BOCC Chambers.**

Mr. Goedhart made a motion to accept the date for the next meeting of the Nye County Water District. Mr. Lach offered a second to the motion and the board voted unanimously 5-0 to approve the date.

22. **(06:21:19) 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 Bosta made comment about The District's procedure on Item #20.

**23. (06:22:44) Board Comments – (This item limited to announcements and to proposed future workshops or agendas and should not revisit matters addressed during the meeting.)**

Mr. Goedhart requested that information which he had would be shared with the board. Mr. Holden requested that the manager investigate creating a local process by which the board could address water waste by individuals and companies. Mr. Lach proposed that the board consider the effects of State Order 1293a and propose a new methodology by which to control the development of existing parcels in Pahrump. Mr. Lach said, "The graph doesn't look good where we hit a point where there just isn't water there." Mr. Holden mentioned the large the number of parcels that the county sells due to back taxes. Due to time constraints the chair requested that the matter be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

**24. (06:35:40) Adjourn.**

WDGB Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/13/22

WDGB Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/13/22