



# Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board

**DRAFT:** Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held November 12, 2014 at the Spanish Springs Library at (7100A Pyramid Lake Highway)

**1. \*CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** - The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by David Espinosa, Chair. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Dawn Costa-Guyon, At-Large, Charity Rosasco, At-Large Alternate (arrived at 6:20), David Espinosa, Chair, and Ken Theiss, Vice Chair.

**Excused Absence:** David Schneck, At-Large Alternate, Catherine (Cathy) Gustavson, At-Large, James (Jim) Scivally

**2. \*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Ralph Theiss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. \*PUBLIC COMMENT** –

- Lori Wray spoke about the sign code in Washoe County. She said she is opposed to the new draft code because it will allow new billboards and electronic signs. It's the 505 draft code which says all signs on poles will be called free standing signs. There has been no analysis by staff. Under the draft code, business owners can put up electronic signs on their property. This will open the door for lawsuits. She said Washoe County Staff should bring you this draft, and explain it. They need feedback from everyone. She said they would like more community input and involvement.
- John Hara said he is on the board of scenic Nevada. He said this task force has been meeting with county staff working on ordinance on sign control. For example, the Wild Orchid sign. He said they aren't protesting signs. He spoke about the digital billboards with messages. He said there is no control over the messages that go up on the digital billboards. They have moved into a content neutral area. These are ultra bright and will fundamentally change the community, especially at night. John asked the CAB board to agendaize this topic. The planners have an open house regarding this and are lightly attended. There is not enough feedback. There might be additional open houses. David Espinosa said he will attempt to get this on the future agenda.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014:** Ken Theiss made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting of November 12, 2014; Dawn Costa-Guyon seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014:** Ken Theiss made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 10, 2014; Dawn Costa-Guyon seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**6.\* PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS**

A.\* Washoe County Commissioner – Commissioner was unable to attend. Commissioner Hartung can be reached at (775) 328-2007 or via email at [vhartung@washoecounty.us](mailto:vhartung@washoecounty.us) (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB).

**7. \* PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS/UPDATES**

A.\*Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) – For more information call (775) 328-3001 or visit online at [www.washoesherriff.com](http://www.washoesherriff.com).

Alex Kukulius gave a brief update:

- Daylight savings time: He reminded everyone to check the batteries on smoke detectors.
- Check your wood stoves and chimneys.

**8. \*UPDATE WATER MERGER** - An update on the Department of Water Resources and Truckee Meadows Water Authority merger. Washoe County Director of Community Services, Dave Solaro will be available to answer Citizen

Advisory Board member and community questions following the presentation. For additional information, please visit [tmwa.com/consolidation](http://tmwa.com/consolidation), email [consolidation@tmwa.com](mailto:consolidation@tmwa.com) or call 1-844-DWR-INFO (844-397-4636). (This item is for information only and the CAB will take no action.)

- Dave Solaro Community Services Department Director asked if anyone was Washoe County Water customer. BCC have been working on this since 2009 with Truckee Meadow Water Authority (TMWA); transitioning to a more regional management of water.
- Board of County Commissioner gave them the full go ahead. As of December 31, Washoe County will be out of the water purveyor business
- He said this is the best way to go and they are implementing it.
- They have received very little feedback. He said he made a point to come to the CAB to discuss this topic.
- The board has made this a priority for water conservation in the future.

Questions and Discussion:

- John Bradbury asked if this is going to include more than just WC. Dave Solaro said STMGID will also merge with TMWA. The majority of water will be from TMWA. There will be smaller water utilities as well who will still manage their own. TMWA will be owner/operator. Dave Solaro said there are (Capital Improvement Projects) CIP that will maintain the tanks on a 3 year basis.
- Ken Theiss asked about wells. There was someone from Washoe Valley who came out to inspect the well and water level, making sure the county isn't drawing down their well. Dave Solaro said he wasn't familiar. Dave said inspectors come out to sample water, but wasn't aware of them checking the level. TMWA will take over the aquifer and water system and water supply; surface or ground water. Dave said to contact Scott Estes at TMWA. Dave said he would send over that information. David Espinosa said he would like to get a representative from TMWA to come up and speak.

**9. \*NORTH SPRINGS FLOOD DETENTION PROJECT (2008)** – Presentation and discussion on the North Spanish Springs Flood Detention Project. The existing North Spanish Springs Flood Detention Project was completed in 2008. Staff from the Washoe County Community Services Department will present an overview of the project history and finances. Staff will also discuss both near and long-term needs regarding project financing and potential impacts to program participants. Staff will be available after the presentation to answer questions. Staff contact is Dwayne Smith, Engineering and Capital Projects Division Director. 775-328-2043, email [desmith@washoecounty.us](mailto:desmith@washoecounty.us) (This item is for information only and the CAB will take no action.)

Dwayne Smith handed out information regarding the North Spanish Springs Floodplain Detention Facility and reviewed the history of the project:

- Dwayne said everyone who lives in Spanish Spring pays a fee for this project; debt servicing of bonds that were used to fund the project.
- The project was the outcome of flood events in Spanish Springs and unincorporated areas of Washoe County.
- Calle de la Plata Road and Pyramid Highway experienced major flooding and damage.
- Washoe County Commissioners directed staff to look at alternatives.
- \$5.34 was the fee in 2003.
- In 2008, the facility was completed with several miles of channels, sediment basin, main detention basin which is approximately 90 acres.
- City of Sparks contributed to the project funds.
- Reduced impacts in unincorporated and collects water and meters the water.
- The facility 24 hour/ 100 year event.
- The facility captures the storm waters.
- Total cost of the facility was approximately \$14 million. Cash \$2.8 million and bonds. The rate structure was created in 2003, and increased in 2006. The rates were predicated on growth. With the decrease in the economy, there were no connection fees for over 5 years and we used the cash reserves to pay on the bonds. Dwayne said they still don't have connection fees coming in which is not sustainable approach.
- Board of County Commissioners directed staff to come back with recommendations. A consulting company, FCS, was hired to make analysis. The outcome is that we look at change in fee structure and benefiting area.
- The expanded boundary recommendation mirrors the hydrographic basin.
- Dwayne briefly reviewed how the facility works; this facility is for large and can handle 100 year floods. They aren't designed to handle the micro bursts that Spanish Springs occasionally experiences. He said we must maintain our ditches and storm drains because they are the veins of the storm drain. Our roads do a great job keeping those clear. Please help us to keep culverts clear.

- Ralph Theiss said the ditch of the north side of Calle De La Plata is filled with debris. He asked if there a Washoe County program to clear these out. Dwayne said its Washoe County's responsibility to clear those. Dwayne gave kudos to the roads crew on their progress even with a smaller staff. Dwayne said they respond when customers make requests.
- Dawn asked who cleans the ditches. Dwayne said it is a Washoe County crew. The inmate program is very sought after and is busy with other projects. Dave said they use the inmate program in the parks.
- John Burberry talked about area near the middle school. Someone was out to flush the storm drain, and he wanted them to flush other storm drains flushed as well. He said it needs to be pumped out more regular. Dwayne said some channels are owned by the developers. John said he thought they are County owned. Dwayne said he has discussed this with the developers. Dwayne said it is important to maintain the Washoe County ditches. However, there are private drainages, HOAs, developers, etc. Dwayne said he would like to come out and talk to folks regarding the maintenance of the flood channels. John said the drainage goes out to the open field, but if not the channels aren't cleared, it will back up 12-14" water standing on the road. John said it's been a few years since they cleared sentiment in eagle canyon.
- Ben Hitchins, Community Services Department, Director of Finance. He said the beginning recommendations came from CAB regarding the flood problems. We looked at different scenarios and Sparks helped with reserves. He said they don't have options other than to increase rates. Board of County Commissioners gave staff direction to review and propose what that would look like to raise rates.
- Ben reviewed the fees:
  - The original fees were \$5.24 (2003)
  - Increased in fees to \$7.34 (2006); the fee hasn't been modified since 2006.
  - The original assumption was that they would receive \$280K a year would come in from the development community; in reality, they only received \$5K in 5 years, which is a deficit of 1.6 million.
- If county doesn't pay bond holders, there are ramifications for the County; they reduce the County's credit rating and would have to pay more for debt. Those bonds were acquired in 2006.
- In 2014, \$7.9 million was still left on the bond as outstanding balance; \$792K as annual debt. \$497K received from rate payers.
- The rate increase proposes a 1-time fee increase or to phase it in over a few years.
- The rate would go from \$7.34 to \$9.31 per month.
- An increase in the boundaries would help with keeping the rate increase down; 6 additional commercial and governmental customers.
- A rate increase in phases over 2 years: it would be a \$1 dollar increase in the first year, and 2<sup>nd</sup> year would be an increase to \$9.54. \$9.54 is higher than the \$9.31 because it was deferred.
- City of Sparks has a quarterly bill for sewer, flood control; they already have a storm fee. Washoe County doesn't charge unincorporated customers.
- Ben said we need to increase rates, assuming no growth. The Board of County Commissioners ordered staff to bring back ordinances to establish funding for development.
- Washoe County can defer payment until occupancy. Some of the buildings take several years until occupancy. We have to repay the debt service to be in compliance with bond conveyance. They can refinance that for a lower rate.

#### Comments and questions:

- Mrs. Theiss asked about semiannual billing. Ben said Commissioner Hartung said some people want to pay in advance, but they are looking into that. Ben said the savings would be minimal; customers like to see they have a credit. Ben said they are looking to many different options. Those with a credit balance will have the option of opting out on receiving a paper bill. We will give an option on paperless billing.
- Ken Theiss asked about commercial billing. Ben said it's based on acreage. Ben said they receive \$7,000 from commercial customers per year. Ben said \$7,000 will become \$15,000 due to change in methodology. Using a new standard.
- David Espinosa said the current plan is based on 'no growth.' Ben said yes, we can't base it on assumption of growth. Ben said if there is significant growth, and they defer until occupancy, it will trickle in. Ben said they can pay off the bonds if we they had the cash. Commissioner Hartung said it doesn't make sense to refinance at this time because we have the best rates, and not to drag out the loan longer. If the debt can be paid off sooner, that would be great.
- Dave Solaro said we want to cover the debt service. As soon as the debt is paid off, the only fee would be the maintenance. The rates will drop dramatically. That is the goal to pay it off and we maintain it.
- David Espinosa asked a clarifying question. We will raise the rates, any increase in occupancy, any additional money raised, that will go into building up the cash reserve. The cash reserve is specific for this project. Ben

confirmed. It's an enterprise fund. The general fund and enterprise funds are separate. Monies coming in can only be used for this project.

**10.\*CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** – This item is limited to announcements by CAB members and topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.

- Sign code
- TMWA representative
- Detention program - Scott

**11.\*PUBLIC COMMENT** – Limited to no more than three (3) minutes. Anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The public are requested to submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Board chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.

- Ann Swayder asked why they haven't done a street sweep. Dave Solaro said it is upon the citizen requests. He said they have a work plan based on historical plans in the past. He encouraged people to call (775) 328-2180 to request the road crew to come out.
- David Espinosa said he was born in Spain and mentioned how interesting the contrast is between US and Spain. He said they are struggling to have their voices heard in Spain. Here, the citizens speak out and are being heard. He said he likes to end on a positive note; we have amazing opportunities that we are afforded. It's important to be heard and challenged. He thanked everyone for coming out.

**12. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion: Ken Theiss made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dawn Costa-Guyon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Misty Moga, Administrative Recorder Services

Number of CAB members present: 4

Number of Public Present: 13

Presence of Elected Officials: 0

Number of staff present: 4