WHITE PINE COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, March 17, 2020
6:00 p.m.
White Pine County Library Conference Room
950 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

III. Public Comment

IV. New Business
   A. *Discussion/for Possible Action – Approval of the February 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes..

V. Unfinished Business
   A. *Discussion/for Action – Updates and Edits to the White Pine County Water Resources Plan
   B. *Discussion/for Possible Action – BARCAS II Study
   C. *Discussion/for Possible Action – Update on Sidwell GIS project

VI. On-Going Business
   A. Referral of Items from County Commission

VII. Reports – Comments from Committee Members, Reports, Water Committee Members, and Meetings Attended

VIII. *Discussion/Action – Committee Vacancies, Resignations, Appointments

IX. Next Meeting Time and Date Announcement

X. Public Comment

XI. *Adjournment
Asterisks (*) Denotes possible action items of the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee

Public Commentary: A period devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. (NRS 241.020(2)(c)(3).)

Public Comment: Public Comment during the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee meeting on March 17, 2020 will be for all matters both on and off the agenda and be limited to three minutes per person. Additionally, public comment of three minutes per person will be heard during the individual action items. The Board reserves the right to reduce the time or limit the total time allowed for public comment. The Board may prohibit comment if the content of the comments is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational, or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers. Persons are invited to submit comments in writing on the agenda items and/or attend and make comment on the item at the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee meeting.

Note: All times are approximate except for items agendized at a specific time. Action may be taken on all items except where otherwise indicated. Items not scheduled for a specific time may be considered at any time and in any order to promote efficiency. The Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration and may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion at any time. Sponsorship of an Agenda Item by a member of the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee may not signify agreement with the requested action.

Notice to persons with disabilities: Members of the public who are disabled and require special assistance or accommodation at the meeting are requested to notify the W.P. County Clerk’s Office at 801 Clark Street, Suite #4, Ely, NV 89301 or by calling (775) 293-6509 at least two (2) days in advance.

I, Elanie Calderwood, did on the 11th day of March 2020 post four (4) notices of the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee Agenda in the County of White Pine, to-wit: At the White Pine County Library, White Pine County Courthouse, White Pine County Administration Offices, and Ely City Hall. The meeting notice is also posted to the White Pine County website at http://whitepinecounty.net and on the State of Nevada Public Notices website at http://notice.nv.gov. An additional copy of the Agenda along with supporting material, if any, are on display and available at the front counter of the White Pine County Clerk’s Office at 801 Clark Street, Suite #4, Ely, NV 89301.

[Signature]

Elanie Calderwood
WHITE PINE COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, February 18, 2020
5:00 p.m.
White Pine County Library Conference Room
950 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Perez, Rod McKenzie, Norris Hendrix, Steven Carter, Frederick Partey, Ernie Flangas, Cody Odgers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Perea, Dave Baker

PUBLIC PRESENT: James Woolsey, Great Basin National Park, Travis Godon, White Pine County Commission, Jose Noriega, USFS

I. Call to Order: Rod McKenzie called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

III. Public Comment none were made

IV. New Business

A. *Discussion/for Possible Action – Approval of the Joint January 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Norris Hendrix made the motion to approve the minutes. Steven Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Jill Perez abstaining.

V. Unfinished Business

A. *Discussion/for Action – Updates and Edits to the White Pine County Water Resources Plan Rod McKenzie gave an update on the Water Plan, he had a few minor corrections from what was emailed to the board members. He had a discussion with the District Attorney on how to finalize the plan. The plan will need to go to the Regional Planning Commission for approval, after it is approved by the RPC it will then need to be sent to the White Pine County Commission for approval. It will be in draft form until approved by the WPC Commission. Frederick Partey made a motion to respond to the email in which the draft plan was attached, and to have members review the plan and send any comments or changes to the plan to Rod by Monday March 2, 2020. The approval of the plan will be on the next meeting’s agenda for approval. Jill Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed. It was discussed that the current voting committee members will be listed in the plan.

B. *Discussion/for Possible Action – BARCAS II Study Dr. Frederick Partey reported that progress has been made. He has gone to the county commission a received authorization to move forward and has been working with USGS and DRI. They are currently in the introduction stage. The next step is to
refine the study and present to the County Commissioners to receive seed money to start collecting the data. At the next meeting an updated version will be presented for approval to go to the Commission.

C. *Discussion/for Possible Action – Update on Sidwell GIS project. Cody Odgers reported that he has submitted items to Sidwell, he has it broke down into the seven different categories as requested by the committee. He hopes to have a new format to present at the next meeting for approval.

VI. On-Going Business

A. Referral of Items from County Commission Travis Godon reported that the commission approved to hire Resource Concepts Inc., as a contractor for Natural Resources; hopefully they can start by April, 2020. They will call in for meetings, and give an update quarterly. The combination of PLUAC and WAC will be looked at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2021 7/1/2020.

B. Review, Recommendations – Division of Water Resources, Monthly Report No comments was made.

C. Reports – USGS, BLM, US Forest Service, National Park Service, NDOM, Division of Water Resources, SNWA, State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, Robinson Nevada Mining Company, Ely Shoshone Tribe, and The City of Ely Jose Noriega reported that USFS is doing more treatments this spring and working on SNPLMA Projects. They did meet with Kennecott on the Tamerlane project. He also reported that Nicole Bolton has taken a job in Idaho and will be leaving the area in March.

James Woolsey reported that the National Park Service is also working on SNPLMA project.

Dr. Fredrick Partey reported that RNMC is continuing to dewater out of the Ruth Pit, 7 P is running

VII. Reports – Comments from Committee Members, Reports, Water Committee Members, and Meetings Attended

VIII. *Discussion/Action – Committee Vacancies, Resignations, Appointments There currently is two vacancies on the committee.

IX. Next Meeting Time and Date Announcement the next meeting will be 03/17/2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

X. Public Comment none were made

XI. *Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Asterisks (*) Denotes possible action items of the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee
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Natural Resources

From: Kyle Roerink <kyle4gbwn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Kyle Roerink
Subject: Vegas Pipeline Opponents Claim Victory as Court Rules Against Appeal

For Immediate Release

March 10, 2020
Kyle Roerink,
Executive Director
Great Basin Water Network
702-324-9662, kyle4gbwn@gmail.com

Las Vegas Pipeline Opponents Claim Victory as Court Rules Against Appeal

Southern Nevada Water Authority Fails to Convince Judge

Baker, Nev — In yet another victory in court for the Great Basin Water Network and White Pine County, Nevada’s Seventh Judicial District Court Judge Robert Estes has denied an appeal by the Southern Nevada Water Authority — invalidating water rights for the Las Vegas water grab and pipeline.

The proposed 300-mile pipeline would siphon billions of gallons of groundwater per year from remote basins in Eastern Nevada, piping it to Las Vegas to feed green lawns, golf courses, and sprawl development. The resultant declines in the water table would decimate hundreds of springs, thousands of acres of wetlands, and impact Great Basin National Park and numerous National Wildlife Refuges.

Residents of Eastern Nevada and lovers of the Great Basin have been fighting the pipeline proposal for over 30 years. The Great Basin Water Network has partnered with White Pine County to fight the project in court, represented by public interest water attorney Simeon Herskovits with Advocates for Community and Environment.

“Judge Estes saw clearly through the various subterfuges and false reasoning advanced by both SNWA and the State Engineer, and he systematically ruled against them on every significant point..."
in contention," said Herskovits. "In our view, the rigor and care in Judge Estes’s ruling makes it highly unlikely that any part of this ruling would be subject to reversal on appeal. Under any reasonable reading, this powerful ruling should sound the death knell for this fatally misguided and potentially devastating groundwater export proposal."

The Southern Nevada Water Authority’s pipeline proposal has lost repeatedly in both state and federal courts. In 2013, Judge Estes remanded the water rights applications back to the Nevada Division of Water Resources, finding many conflicts under the law. Following through on the remand, in 2018, the Division denied the water rights applications. Southern Nevada Water Authority then appealed the remand, resulting in today’s order from Judge Estes.

Additionally, in 2017 a federal district court judge remanded portions of the federal Environmental Impact Statement for the pipeline’s right of way back to BLM, finding it insufficient in its proposed mitigation measures and suggesting that some impacts may not be mitigated.

"SNWA has no right-of-way for the pipeline and no rights to water with which to fill the pipeline," said Kyle Roerink, GBWN executive director. "This project is dead in the water. It’s time for SNWA to finally move on."

The Great Basin Water Network was formed to protect the water resources of the Great Basin for current and future residents — human, animal and plant.

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Kyle Roerink
Executive Director
Great Basin Water Network
702-324-9662