

**BIG BEND WATER DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

July 12, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Laughlin Regional Government Center
101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada

Committee Members Present:	Deborah Murray	Kathy Ochs
	Fred Doten	Bruce Henry
	Carrie Larson	Danny Laughlin
	Frank Pilj	

Committee Members Absent:	Pam Tyler	Sean Hammond
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Staff Present:	Dave Johnson	Brian Thomas
	Julie Wilcox	Kevin Fisher
	Chaunsey Chau-Duong	Jeff Theuret

Others Present:	Guy Hobbs, Lewis Michaelson
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PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to speak.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Big Bend Water District Citizens Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, July 12, 2017. The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions. Facilitator, Lewis Michaelson, welcomed the committee, introduced himself and staff, and invited the committee members to introduce themselves. He provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

Dave Johnson, Deputy General Manager, Engineering and Operations gave a general overview of the Las Vegas Valley Water District, including its formation, mission, governance, the small systems it operates and its history of conducting citizens advisory committees to seek public input on water-related initiatives.

Receive an overview of the committee process. Lewis Michaelson described the scope of the advisory committee process:

- Understand existing system operations
- Assess needs for future system improvements and maintenance
- Develop thorough understanding of existing financial status and long-term needs
- Recommend a sustainable long-term funding strategy

Mr. Michaelson explained the public nature of the process and committee meetings, noting that they will be publicly posted and that there will be opportunities for public comment at the beginning and end of each meeting.

Mr. Michaelson also presented the process timeline, anticipating that the committee will meet approximately every two weeks over the next two to three months. Following that, the Laughlin Town Advisory Board will receive a presentation in October and the Big Bend Water District Board of Trustees will consider committee recommendations in November.

Mr. Michaelson described the principles for participation in the process, which include listening to all perspectives with an open mind, allowing everyone the opportunity to participate and honoring meeting time constraints. He explained that collaborative problem solving is the preferred deliberation process of the committee and that in times of non-consensus, all perspectives will be documented.

Receive an overview of the Big Bend Water District. Dave Johnson gave an overview of the Big Bend Water District (BBWD). He discussed BBWD's history, including its formation in 1982, becoming an SNWA member agency in 1991 and LVVWD assuming BBWD operations from the Clark County Water Reclamation District in 2008. BBWD currently serves Laughlin residents and visitors through approximately 2,200 water services.

Kathy Ochs asked what the definition of a "service" is. Mr. Johnson responded that a service is an individual point—a meter— where water is provided to a customer.

Mr. Johnson explained that Laughlin's water comes from the Colorado River. He added that BBWD has an allocation just more than 15,000 acre-feet per year (afy) and that the average annual usage by the community is approximately 4,200 afy.

Fred Doten asked how much of BBWD's water allocation comes because of its SNWA membership and how much is original water rights. Mr. Johnson responded that the 15,352 afy are for use by BBWD. That includes the additional water rights BBWD received upon becoming a SNWA member agency. Mr. Johnson committed to provide a more complete breakdown of water rights to the committee at its next meeting.

Ms. Ochs noted that Laughlin uses less than 30 percent of its allocation and asked if the unused portion of those resources are re-allocated. Mr. Johnson explained that those water resources are not re-allocated and that every year, the same amount is available for Laughlin to use.

Mr. Johnson then discussed the BBWD water delivery system and how its components work, including the raw water intake and pump station, the water treatment facility and storage tanks. He said that the water treatment facility is sophisticated for its size in that it provides both ozonation and UV disinfection capabilities. The BBWD distribution system has the capability to serve all customers as well as provide some redundancy, which increases system reliability. He also noted that peak system demand is between 7.5 and 8.5 million gallons per day.

Ms. Murray asked if there was a map available that illustrates which tanks serve which areas within the distribution system. She also asked if at a future meeting, staff could specifically talk about the

redundancy within the water system, especially along Casino Drive. Mr. Johnson responded that a pressure zone map would be provided at the next meeting. He also said that a more specific system reliability discussion would take place later in the presentation as well as during the facility tour.

Ms. Murray added that there had been discussions in the past of using Laughlin town funds to support the installation of an additional water tank. Mr. Johnson added that over the past eight years, significant projects, such as the installation of pressure-reducing valves, have been completed to help loop the system and increase reliability.

Mr. Johnson discussed the capital improvements that the water system has required over the past 10 years, which have totaled more than \$7.8 million. These improvements have addressed Nevada Administrative Code requirements, system reliability, operational efficiency, conservation, water quality and maintenance. He specifically mentioned pipeline improvements along Thomas Edison and Casino Drive that improved system reliability to the casinos.

He explained that service laterals in Laughlin can deteriorate rapidly due to the aggressive soils in Laughlin. To mitigate this, nearly 800 service lines throughout Laughlin have been replaced with polyethylene-coated copper service lines.

Bruce Henry asked what the life expectancy is for the new service laterals. Mr. Johnson responded that, depending on soil conditions and how the laterals are installed, the new service laterals are expected to last between 30 and 50 years.

Mr. Johnson also explained the electrical upgrades at the Bruce Woodbury Pumping Station and the improved reliability those provide to the system.

Mr. Johnson discussed additional miscellaneous projects that have been completed to meet water quality requirements and improve system reliability, including trihalomethane treatment at the 780 Zone Tank, the Casino Drive pipeline relocation, the installation of a pressure-reducing valve from the 1000 to 780 pressure zones and a standby generator for the treatment plant.

Deborah Murray asked what trihalomethanes are. Mr. Johnson replied that they are a chlorinated organic that naturally occurs during the treatment process when chlorine is introduced to water for disinfection. The occurrence of trihalomethanes can be minimized by reducing the water delivery timeframe and maintaining cooler temperatures within the delivery system. There is a federal Safe Drinking Water Act standard for trihalomethanes that drinking water providers must stay below to ensure water is safe to drink. These improvements help ensure that the system remains below that threshold.

Fred Doten asked if the standby generator at the treatment facility is capable of being moved throughout the system. Mr. Johnson responded that there is a protocol in place that allows generators to be moved to different locations to meet short-term needs.

Mr. Johnson said that the capital improvements discussed have been funded with reserves and more than \$1 million in grant funding. He emphasized that any time grant funds are available to either assist with a project or pay for a project, staff applies for them.

He said that staff has identified approximately \$9 million of improvements that need to be made over the next ten years to maintain system reliability and efficiency. He added that part of this process is for the committee to understand the capital improvements and help determine how they will be funded.

Mr. Johnson presented and discussed a list of BBWD's 10-year capital planning projects. He said that over the next 10 years, pipeline improvements will continue, as there are pipes in the system that need to be repaired or replaced. He explained that these replacements are based on a condition assessment conducted by staff to determine the useful life of pipes.

Mr. Johnson discussed the need for an emergency well to be installed near the Colorado River, which would result in improved water quality and reliability. He also explained that it would help avoid future boil water orders like the one that occurred two summers ago after a significant storm event. He noted that some grant funding has already been received to support this project.

Mr. Johnson also explained that money is being set aside for unforeseen projects or emergencies. This will be an "educated catch-all" fund for any unexpected expenditures that need to be made over the next ten years. He also explained the clearwell deck corrosion project. The clearwell is where water goes at the treatment plant before being distributed to the community. There are some structural issues that need to be fixed there.

Mr. Johnson emphasized that the projects within the capital plan are necessary for the system moving forward. He then gave a brief overview of the facility tour, which would include stops at the raw water intake structure and water treatment facility and site visits of the Casino Drive pump station, the 780 and 1000 zone tanks and the Foothills tank.

Mr. Johnson also told the committee that staff is available for additional briefings or to answer any questions that CAC members might have.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

The presentation portion of the meeting concluded at approximately 11:00 am and the committee attended the facility tour. Committee members in attendance included, Fred Doten, Deborah Murray, Kathy Ochs, Danny Laughlin, Carrie Larson and Bruce Henry.

DATE: July 12, 2017

Big Bend Water District

Citizens Advisory Committee

Sign-in Sheet

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