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## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

### MINUTES

**June 16, 2021**

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) conducted this meeting using Video and Teleconference as shown below:

**Video and Teleconference Meeting Only**  
No Physical Meeting Location  
(Authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20.)

#### Water Board Members

Peter C. Pumphrey, Chair, Chalfant  
Amy Horne, Ph.D., Truckee  
Keith Dyas, Rosamond

Eric Sandel, Vice-Chair, Truckee  
Kimberly Cox, Helendale  
Essra Mostafavi, Bishop

#### State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel  
Marina Perez, Office of Public Participation

Jenalyn Guzman, Office of Public Participation

#### Water Board Staff

Mike Plaziak, Executive Officer  
Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer  
Katrina Fleshman, Executive Assistant

Scott Ferguson, Supervising WRC Engineer  
Patrice Copeland, Supervising Engineering Geologist

[View the full Agenda and listen to the audio of this meeting](#)

**REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, June 16, 2021, @ 10:00 a.m.**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Pumphrey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and discussed procedures to adhere to the Governor's Executive Order during this COVID-19 emergency, the meeting will be video and teleconference only with no in person attendance. Chair Pumphrey introduced Bob Lloyd with AGP Video and asked Mr. Lloyd to give direction to the public that wish to speak.

Chair Pumphrey introduced the Water Board Members, Water Board staff and State Water Board staff.

#### **1. PUBLIC FORUM**

No public comment

## 2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Dyas, seconded by Member Cox to approve the Amended May 13, 2021, meeting Minutes as presented. Chair Pumphrey called for a roll call vote and the motion carried per the following votes:

Chair Pumphrey	Aye
Vice-Chair Sandel	Aye
Member Cox	Aye
Member Dyas	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye
Member Mostafavi	Aye

[View the adopted May 13, 2021, Amended Meeting Minutes](#)

## 3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Pumphrey read the Resolution for former Board Member, Don Jardine. The Water Board members and staff expressed their appreciation for Mr. Don Jardine's great work with the Lahontan Water Board.

Member Sandel brought up the issue mentioned by Member Cox at Lahontan's last meeting regarding the problem with local Marijuana grows and the effects on local water. Mr. Sandel indicated the Community Alliance Water System sent an email expressing their concern as well. Mr. Sandel asked if there is anything the Water Board can do as a Water Board to encourage something at the state level. Executive Officer, Mr. Plaziak replied the email was forwarded to the State Board Chair, Joaquin Esquivel, and as well as Eileen Sobeck, the Director for the State Water Board. Mr. Plaziak further indicated he has been asked by Ms. Sobeck to prepare a briefing paper on that concern. Lahontan Staff is looking into elevating that issue. This will be a collaborative effort with other agencies. Attorney,

Member Sandel asked Lahontan staff to keep the Marijuana Grows concern on the agenda and keep the Water Board up to date on the progress. Counsel Beryt indicated she does not have information on that at that this time, but can work with Mr. Plaziak to either set up a separate agenda item, where we can bring expertise on this topic or prepare some information for an Executive Officer report or other, outlet to get that information to the Water Board.

Dr. Horne mentioned that a few years ago during a WQCC meeting, there was a terrifying presentation regarding the chemicals in the waters and effects on the animals. Seemed it was elevated to the Federal level.

Member Sandel wondered if the counties or even cities could make water theft a higher value, penalty than what it currently is. Member Sandel went on to say one of the things from the notes from last, last meeting, that the sheriff wasn't interested because the valley of the water was \$50 or something, so it was scarcely a misdemeanor.

Chair Pumphrey indicated the last Chairs meeting they discussed the Drought and how serious it really is at this time. Another discussion was COVID and the end of the Governor's Order. There is a lot of uncertainty on the issues of going back to in-person meetings.

Chair Pumphrey indicated the next WQCC meeting will be held via Hybrid and Sacramento location, on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

#### 4. Water Board FY 21/22 Priorities

Water Board staff presented an overview of the region's priorities for the coming fiscal year and will conduct an interactive workshop between Water Board staff and Water Board members. Water Board staff will also present a summary of violations and enforcement activities for the 2020 and prior calendar years and discuss priorities for the upcoming 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Mr. Plaziak introduced Mr. John Yu as our newest employee. Mr. Plaziak also introduced Lahontan's Leadership Coach, Dee Wright who also joined the meeting.

Michael Plaziak, Executive Officer, gave presentation on the Lahontan's Vision, Missions, Values and Goals.

#### DISCUSSION BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS AND WATER BOARD STAFF

- All goals should be to implement the Law. We are going beyond the statues that guide us.
- Letter and spirit of the law should go hand in hand.
- Chair Pumphrey feels we are on the right track.
- Morale in the office would benefit from allowing staff to transfer between positions/roles (allowing internal staff to transfer from program to program).
- Process for staff within the office. Staff transfers between programs within the region. Need to make opportunities available for staff.
- Member Cox feels staff opportunities should be a priority.

Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer, gave discussion on the Executive and Divisional Objectives proposed for fiscal year 2021/2022.

#### WATER BOARD TOOK A BREAK FROM 12:15PM TO 1:15PM

Water Board staff, Patrice Copeland, Supervising Engineering Geologist, gave presentation on the South Lahontan Basin Division Objectives.

Water Board Staff, Scott Ferguson, Supervising WRC Engineer, gave presentation on the Annual Enforcement Report.

Ben Letton, Assistant Executive Officer gave presentation on the Program Resources and Organizational Challenges.

#### DISCUSSION BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS AND WATER BOARD STAFF

- Water Board Members agree with the Priorities and Goals given by Mr. Letton.
- How can we use the 4 R's (4-hour days for Reflection, Release, Recalibration, and Results) to take rocks out and put rocks in? This 4-hour is the theory behind prioritizing our workload. The details of how we will incorporate this process are to be determined. However, it is expected that as additional projects get priority then some other projects might drop below the line in terms of priority. We will be adjusting the input from staff.
- Chair Pumphrey indicated regarding the request for an additional Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) located in the South office (VVL), the Water Board would be happy to take action on that when more information is available.

- Board member Dyas asked, other than asking for an additional AEO, what other ideas does the staff have for increasing participation with the VVL office. Mr. Letton responded the EO and the AEO are making more frequent personal visits to the South Office.
- Member Dr. Horne asked about the need for more staff in the VVL office. Is that living and working in the VVL office, or just working on an assignment in VVL? Ms. Copeland indicated good customer service requires working/living in region where assignment is located. Field presence is important.
- Member Mostafavi mentioned that she has a colleague that works for DTSC that has been very successful in streamlining work flow and creating more efficient processes through automated permit enrollment systems.
- Member Horne supported Member Mostafavi's comment and suggested that staff should pursue every opportunity possible to create more automated systems. Also suggested utilizing project team between offices, unit and programs to help create more capacity among staff.
- Action plan/task focus – Water Board staff discussed finding ways to systematize parts of work.
- Staff reiterated the earlier comments regarding the cannabis grow issues and the staff shortage.
- Staff discussed the writing of permits between the VVL staff with the Tahoe staff. Staff emphasized that in order to write good permits, field presence is very important.

Michael Plaziak, Executive Officer, gave presentation on the Organizational Outlook for the Lahontan challenges and opportunities.

#### DISCUSSION BY WATER BOARD MEMBERS AND WATER BOARD STAFF

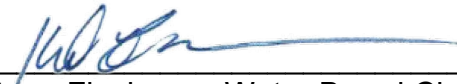
- Dr. Horne wonders if there could be a Strategic Narrative for Water Board members. Mr. Plaziak indicated staff recognizes the need to involve the Water Board in the Strategic Narrative.
- Dr. Horne asked about how performance targets are determined and how do we account for permitting needs that come through the door during the course of the work planning year. She emphasized that staff should take the 4R Days and 4R Meetings that are proposed throughout the fiscal year seriously. She considers this very important for success of the Strategic Narrative, Regional Goals, work planning, etc.
- Chair Pumphrey feels the Water Board's role is not clear. If we want it to be clear, we need clarification of the Water Board's role. Does feel that part of the Board's role is to establish broad priorities and broad policies.
- Mr. Jehiel Cass recommended to the Water Board, when negotiating permitting actions for following year, consider setting schedule of meeting for a two-year period. Water Board members Horne and Dyas agrees a two-year schedule is a good idea.

#### 5. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board did not go into Closed Session

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m. on June 16, 2021.

Prepared by:  Adopted: 10-06-2021  
Katrina Fleshman, Water Board Clerk