

# EAST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

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## DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the East Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held August 19, 2008 at Nevada Division of Forestry, 885 Eastlake Blvd. Washoe Valley, Nevada

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Dave Harrison, Chair.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Patrick Cates, (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Dave Harrison, Chair, Nancy Samon, Valerie Williams, Secretary (arrived at 7:03 p.m.) and Ann York.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Ann York moved to approve the August 19, 2008 agenda as posted. Nancy Samon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Ann York moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2008 meeting as submitted. Nancy Samon seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ann York moved to approve the minutes of the Joint meeting of the EWVCAB and WWVCAB of May 28, 2008 meeting as submitted. Nancy Samon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**
  - There were no updates, announcements or correspondence presented.
6. **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ITEMS** – Sgt Louis Gazes, Washoe County Sheriff's Department was available to attend this meeting to discuss public safety issues and recent calls for service.

### Comments and Concerns

- Concerns were raised regarding a resident who has panthers apparently without a permit to have exotic animals.
  - Sgt. Gazes reported that they have caught several burglary suspects identified as driving Escalades. Most of the criminal activity was in Southwest Reno and the Galena areas.
7. **RENO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND PLEASANT VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY ITEMS** – A representative of the Reno Fire Department was not available to address fire safety issues and report on recent calls for service. Suzy Rogers, 9-1-1 Emergency Communications reported on the wildfire on Ridgecrest in Reno that burned several dwellings. Ms. Rogers also provided emergency information for calling 9-1-1 for an emergency call for service. Ms. Rogers discussed the differences between calling 9-1-1 from a household wire line phone and using a cellular phone. Ms. Rogers urged citizens to make sure that guests in your home know your street address in case they need to call for emergency service.
  8. **LIAISON REPORT** – Jane Countryman, WWVCAB Liaison to EWVCAB was available to present a report on the last WWVCAB meeting. Ms. Countryman reported that they discussed the South Valleys Area Plan and encouraged everyone to attend the public hearing on September 9, 2008. Sarah Tone had presented a report on the bear issues and encouraged everyone to have bear resistant trash receptacles and do not leave food out where bears can look for or find it. The WWVCAB will meet every other month on a trial basis. They are planning to schedule traffic controls issues on a future agenda.
  9. **COUNTY COMMISSION/COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATES:** Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator was available to report on Washoe County issues and events. Ms. Tone provided copies of the new Citizen Advisory Board brochure. Ms. Tone reported that according to Asst. Sheriff Emerson, the accident with the helicopter was pilot error. The helicopter is reported to be will be back in service soon. Repair costs have been paid for by donation. Ms. Tone confirmed that bears have been seen on the east side of Washoe Valley. Dave Harrison stated concern that hikers are leaving food along trails for hikers but does attract bears and makes them familiar with food and human contact.
  10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments heard under this item will be limited to items not on this agenda. Any time limits for this public comment item and public testimony during an agenda item will be set by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting, but will be not less than three minutes per person. Testimony during an agenda item shall be limited to the subject of the agenda item. Comments are to be made to the CAB as a whole.
    - Ginger Pierce read a statement into the record regarding air quality issues. Ms. Pierce reported that Noel Bonderson, Air Quality reported that dust has been found to be contaminated with lead. Monitors will be placed at the Galena Creek Bridge and at the Pleasant Valley Elementary School and the adjacent residence.
    - Bob Rusk reported that Falcon Capital (Serpa) is requesting a permit to divert water from Browns Creek out of Washoe Valley. The hearing is scheduled for October 9, 2008 901 S. Stewart Street, in Carson City. The previous application was denied just prior to Falcon Capital filing this application. Mr. Rusk urged everyone to attend the hearing and request denial by the Water Master.
    - Dave Harrison urged everyone to attend the Cooperative Weed Management Area meetings on September 9, 2008.
    - Nancy Samon stated that there was a tragic incident at a local park where an un-leased dog came after a horse and injured the rider and the horse had two broken legs and had to be euthanized. Ms. Samon urged everyone to keep dogs on leashes and not to let their horses roam.

- Dave Harrison asked for further public comment and hearing none, closed this item.
11. **NEW BUSINESS** - (The staff contact listed on items for Community Development may not be in attendance but can be contacted with code and policy questions.)

**A.\* Washoe Lake Water Levels Update** – General discussion regarding natural resources in the Washoe Valley Basin: Historical and recent water levels, general hydrology, NDOT wetlands mitigation and other special projects, and public water use. Representatives from the Nevada Department of Transportation, Washoe County Parks and Open Space, Nevada State Parks, and Washoe County Department of Water Resources will be available to answer questions. (This item was information only and no action was taken.)

Jeanne Ruefer, Planning Manager, Department of Water Resources presented information on the water sources and East Washoe Valley water levels from 2001 to 2008. Declinations have been minimal at lake level and greater as the elevations raise. Ms. Ruefer provided the data on the wells that have been replaced or deepened during the reporting period. Ms. Ruefer addressed that questions that had been submitted to her. Ms. Ruefer stated that Washoe County has established a well mitigation board for domestic well owners who have been impacted by municipal wells. Studies will also include evapotranspiration which will utilize satellite imagery.

Lori Bellis, Biologist, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) identified the location of the water rights for the wetlands. The wetlands are managed by NDOT for wildlife which is required by contract with the Army Corps of Engineers as a result of the wetlands that were replaced when the highway was constructed. The data is compiled at the end of each year.

Steve Silva, Division of State Parks was available to address questions. Mr. Silva stated that it is the plan to fully staff the Washoe State Park if the budget allows.

Cheryl Surface, Parks Planner, Washoe County Parks and Open Space was available to address questions. Ms. Surface stated that they do not have water rights to keep the fish pond and Davis Creek Park from going dry.

#### **Comments and Concerns**

- In response to questions raised, Ms. Ruefer stated that DWR will be taking another look at the baseline to update the existing model. Ms. Ruefer stated that at the present time, Washoe Valley is in balance with consumption, melt and recharge.
- Bob Rusk stated concern that Falcon Capital is trying to get approval for use of Browns Creek and Third Creek. The customer would be Incline Village.
- In response to questions raised, Ms. Ruefer described the alluvial aquifers for Washoe Valley.
- In response to questions raised, Mr. Ruefer stated that DWR offers a service to help property owners locate sites for new domestic wells.

**B. Election of Officers** – Elections were held and the following board members were elected as follows: Dave Harrison, Chair, Patrick Cates, Vice Chair, and Valerie Williams, Secretary and Ann York, Liaison to WWVCAB to serve for the 2008-2009 Term of Office.

**C. CAB's Meeting Schedule and Community Forums** – Sarah Tone facilitated discussion to change the CAB's meeting schedule from "every" month to "every other month." Discussion and recommendation may include creating Community Forums, as a new public engagement method for citizens to receive and exchange information in a format that would not be subject to the Nevada Open Meeting law, as no action/decisions would be taken. Community Forums may use one or more of the following models, but would not be limited to only: Facilitator-driven; workshop on specific topics; roundtable discussion; panel discussion; town hall; community fair and/or conversations with your commissioner. Note: community forums may take place at regional locations with involvement of more than one citizen advisory group (e.g. citizen advisory boards (CABs), neighborhood advisory boards (NABs) and citizen advisory council (CAC)). Ms. Tone stated that this is just one option and other options are encouraged. Ms. Tone suggested that the community forum would be information only. **MOTION:** Patrick Cates moved to recommend keeping the meeting once a month schedule. Nancy Samon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Comments and Concerns**

- Dave Harrison stated concern that going every other month would make it difficult to keep community interest and it does not represent the community as the CAB should.
- Nancy Samon stated concern that going every other month is a way to shut out community comments and would the time line requirements for applications. Ms. Samon also stated that she sees a lot of disillusionment by citizens because Washoe County staff and Elected Officials do not listen to the citizens voices.
- It was stated that the cost savings would be better served by cutting back on a couple of planners.
- Concern was stated that there should be more posting locations for the agenda.

- Jane Countryman stated support for the points that have been made for keeping the meetings to once each month.
- Gary Houk stated that in the future, Washoe County could let consultants know that they will be asked to attend the CAB meetings to present their findings.
- Ginger Pierce encouraged putting signage out for public viewing.

## 12. OLD BUSINESS

**A.\* Nuisance Ordinance Committee Update** – Jane Countryman reported that there are two more meetings scheduled for review and finalization of the draft ordinance. (This item was information only and no action was taken.)

**B.\* Action Plan Reports EWVCAB** (Action Plan Reports are informational only)

1. **Area Traffic & Safety Concerns including the RTC 2040 Update** – Report on traffic safety on East Washoe Valley roadways.
2. **Scenic By-Ways Committee Report** – Bill Naylor reported that an application has been drafted for the Scenic By-Ways. Mr. Naylor provided the EWVCAB and WWVCAB with one copy of the draft application for review and requested that the CAB agendaize the application on the next agenda for discussion and possible approval. Dave Harrison, CAB and the audience thanked Bill and Marilyn Naylor and Carol Christensen for their work on the draft application.
3. **I-580 Extension Report** – There was no updated information on the construction of the I-580 extension presented.
4. **Parks and Recreation and Open Space Report** - Cheryl Surface, Washoe County Parks and Recreation was available to report on parks and recreational activities and proposed improvements in the Washoe Valley area. Ms. Surface also provided printed information in combination with her report. Following her report, Ms. Surface was available to address questions. Ms. Surface stated that no changes will be made prior to CAB and community approval. Opposition was stated to paved trails along Washoe Lake. Mr. Silva stated that the Ranger at the State Park has radio communications for emergency calls. There is a Ranger that lives in Washoe Valley and is available for emergency calls. Concerns were raised that the State Parks Department is not available to testify to the negative impact of increased development adjacent to the Washoe State Park. Ms. Surface stated that development applications do come to the Parks Departments for comments.
5. **Area Plan Update** – Dave Harrison urged everyone to attend the public hearing on September 9, 2008 and state their opinions on the Area Plan Update.

**13. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** (This item is limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.

- **Next Agenda Items:** Paved trails at State and County Parks, Scenic By-Ways Application.

**14. ADJOURNMENT** – Nancy Samon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m. Valerie Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary