

# WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



## DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held February 4, 2008 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Struffert called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., with a quorum of five members present.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Hans Struffert (Chairperson), Jane Countryman, Rod Smith, Debbie Sheltra, William Elliott  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** – none
3. **CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2008 MEETING** – Chairperson Struffert certified that the agendas for the February 4, 2008 WWV CAB meeting were posted at the designated locations by 9:00 a.m. three working days prior to the meeting date in accordance with the requirements of the Nevada Open Meeting Law.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2008** – Debbie Sheltra moved to approve the agenda for the February 4, 2008 meeting. William Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
  - A. **DECEMBER 3, 2007** – Board member Countryman commented that she had reviewed the tapes of the meeting, and during one portion of the meeting there were several people talking at once and it was difficult to hear what was being said. She stated that she would like to make the following comments: Under New Business, Item 11 (Current Water Supply Issues), Comments/Concerns, Bullet No. 2 should state that there would be some impact from the well. She proposed that it read: “The well impact to West Washoe Valley would have some impact, however Washoe County staff predicted it should be minimal.” ; under the same bullet, she requested that additional language be included after the existing last sentence which would read: “However, they will also maintain the current wells and rotate use as deemed necessary.”; under Bullet No. 4 of the same item, Board member Countryman requested that language be added after the second sentence which would read: “.....development based on their projections and estimates however the test well has not been evaluated yet for its supply nor is the impact known”; in the third sentence of the presentation portion of Item 11, Board member Countryman stated that she believes that staff was referring to “well number two” rather than level two and this should be corrected; Board member Countryman requested that the content of the overall discussions be paraphrased under this agenda item and proposed the following language be added following the Comments/Concerns expressed: “Concern was expressed by residents on individual wells that the only option is to request a well mitigation hearing which is a lengthy process and certainly not an immediate resolution to a problem. It was also conveyed during discussion that the Franktown Estates development’s water system cannot stay as is, and that regardless of concerns of either individual well owners and/or Franktown Estates property owners, it is the county’s obligation to ensure adequate water to the Franktown Estates development.” Debra Sheltra moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2007 meeting with the proposed revisions. Jane Countryman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - B. **JANUARY 7, 2008** – Rod Smith moved to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting as presented. Jane Countryman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairperson Struffert reported that a CAB Chair meeting was held on January 30, 2008. The committee dealing with the proposed Nuisance Ordinance was commended for doing an outstanding job with this difficult job. The County Manager has requested that the CAB solicit volunteers to serve in the upcoming elections. He reported that a countywide evacuation plan is being developed, and input will be sought from the CABs. Chairperson Struffert commented that there were two representatives from the Sheriff’s Department at the meeting to address concerns which have been expressed regarding their non-attendance at CAB meetings. It was noted that the Sheriff’s Department has stated that they don’t have the manpower for them to attend meetings. It was requested that the CAB ask that the officer who was formally attending the CAB meetings do so again.

Chairperson Struffert announced that the Sierra Fire Protection District will hold a Training Class and Practice Evacuation here on April 12 and 19, 2008. All residents are invited to attend.
7. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS** - These reports are based on need as determined by the departments as well as the availability of presenters.
  - A. **Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Items** – There was no one in attendance to present a report;
  - B. **Regional Dispatch Report** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.
  - C. **Fire Safety Issues**
    1. **Reno Fire Department** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.
    2. **Sierra Fire Protection District**
      - A. **Sierra Fire Protection District Sierra Fire Protection District Strategic Plan Update Presentation** - Chief Mike Green was in attendance. He apologized to the people who came for the previously scheduled planning session that was cancelled at the last minute. He commented that a newsletter has been sent out. In the newsletter it

talks about ongoing planning, and this is being reviewed to decide how best to proceed. Chief Green reported that he would like to discuss the situation and get some input tonight.

He stated that the District is running out of funds, and this will affect the service which can be given. There are options, and the most effective approach is for the community to be involved. Chief Green presented background information about the District, including funding sources and governance. He pointed out that in the change from a state agency to a District, it was understood that the revenue would decline over a period of years due to property tax caps and the impact of annexation. He noted that per an interagency agreement with the state, the District is required to have \$1,000,000 in the bank which can only be used for wildland fires, and by next year the District will not meet that requirement. Chief Green discussed the fact that due to various interagency agreements, 75% of the service calls are outside of the District's area. This is partially due to the location of the District's fire stations and the impact that annexation has had on the situation. These calls are not reimbursed to the District, but on the other hand the District needs the services of adjacent agencies to assist them because of the distances between the District's fire stations.

#### **Concerns/Comments**

- A question was asked regarding whether or not the fire stations would have had access to additional state financial resources if they were still under the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) rather than the District structure. Chief Green responded that it was his understanding that the funding issues would have been the same.
- An audience member commented that under NDF, there were additional state resources available for catastrophic fires. Chief Green stated that there was some legislative action that occurred in 2007. It enabled the District to go from a 473 older style District to a 474 District. Once this is done, they can then merge with another 474 District. If this were to happen, it would enable the new merged District to get an increase in the tax rate during their first year. One of the options proposed was to give the service back to the NDF. He noted that this step would not change the tax rate and revenue issue.
- Board member Countryman commented that her concern would be that NDF would concentrate on fire issues and not EMT services. Chief Green agreed that NDF's focus would be more global in nature rather than the needs of the local area.
- It was noted that the tax rate was increased a few years ago specifically for the provision of EMT services, so the rate would need to be lowered if the service was taken away. Chief Green stated that this issue could be addressed in a proactive manner before there needs to be service delivery reductions. He commented that the unique challenge for this District is that because of the outlying nature of the fire stations, a long term solution should be researched and consolidation of services may be the most advantageous solution.
- Board member Sheltra commented that Reno does not want the District, and so merging with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District probably isn't an option. It was noted that it is felt that if the District was merged into Reno, there is a subsidy issue and one possible way to address that would be raise the tax rate. Board member Sheltra asked what the tax rate for fire protection was for the City of Reno and was told that this information was not known at this time, but it is higher. Chief Green pointed out that the Washoe County Commissioners want community input and a proposed solution brought back to them.
- Chairperson Struffert asked Chief Green when his report is due back to the Board. Chief Green responded that he will be bringing a new planning process back to them on February 12, 2008 and also to say he wanted to present to the Homeowners Groups and the CABs and inform them of what the situation is. There was complete concurrence with that. He wanted to get the affected parties so they could brainstorm on a solution and go back to the CAB with the input received and ask for the best idea. Then, that recommendation would be presented to the Board.

Chairperson Struffert stated that since the meeting with the Board would be so soon, there should be a motion to the extent that, under no circumstances, can they agree or even entertain a reduction in service and that it is the basis for finding alternatives to the problem. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion.

#### **Concerns/Comments (Continued)**

- Board member Sheltra asked how the tax rate increase would work if the District merged with another District. Chief Green explained that the rate could be raised the first year more than the cap, and then the 3% cap would be in place for subsequent years. She asked that the CAB be informed what the best long term solution would be if the tax rates were raised such as merging with NDF, Truckee Meadows, North Tahoe, etc. Chief Green responded that he felt that merging with Truckee Meadows might be the better solution because of the proximity of this District to them. Board member Sheltra expressed her concern that if the District merged with Truckee Meadows, the District would experience a reduction in service. Chief Green responded that he will take these concerns to the Board, but he encouraged citizens to also voice them directly to the CAB's elected officials.

Motion carried unanimously. It was suggested that the motion include the statement that the CAB would be willing to consider an increase in the tax rate. Chairperson Struffert replied that there may be other alternatives that would not entail this. Chief Green commented that he will bring back options for further discussion.

**3. Washoe County Fire Service** – Chief Michael Green reminded those present of the training announced earlier in the meeting that will be taking place on April 12 and 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

**8. UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Liaison Report** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.

**B. County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates** – Sarah Tone, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, was in attendance. She announced that on February 9, 2008 there would be a community fair at Galena High School from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. The Fair will give citizens an opportunity to meet with representatives from various public entities and agencies in order to ask questions and receive information. She distributed flyers and asked that those present tell their neighbors about the opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues with their governmental representatives. Ms. Tone announced that the budget would be heard before the Commissioners on February 12, 2008. She reported that the reason that the Sheriff's Department has not been sending a representative to the CAB meetings is that they have lost three members, and they had to take the people that used to go to CAB meetings to fill those positions. Since there is a shortfall in the budget, they could not replace those positions. The Sheriff's Department has said that they will attend as much as they can, and also they will be sending e-mail updates to the Community Outreach Coordinators for presentation at the meetings. Questions or concerns will then be taken back to the Department by the Coordinators.

A Leadership Training Class is taking place at the cooperative extension. Information was sent to CAB members in the mail. She noted that she would be attending the class.

**C. Nuisance Ordinance (Proposed)** - Board member Countryman stated that she was not able to attend the last meeting due to a scheduling conflict. An audience member reported that the information discussed at the meeting was reported in the newspaper and it dealt mainly with noise levels from off-road vehicles.

**D. I-580 Project** – No new information was presented.

**E. South Valleys Area Plan** – Board member Rusk reported that there have been three meetings since the last CAB meeting. On January 17, 2008, Sandy Monsalvo met at Bartley Ranch with the commercial people in old Washoe City. He reviewed an excerpt from the meeting regarding an incorrect rumor about changing the commercial corridor from "general commercial" to "neighborhood commercial". He commented that it was good that this was clarified. Board member Rusk commented that Board member Countryman was in attendance at the meeting on January 23, 2008, along with several other people. He reviewed some of the issues discussed at the meeting. He reported that on January 29, 2008 he called Rosanna Combs, Director of the Regional Governing Board, and asked the status of TMSA as it related to the application submitted by Mr. Weston. She responded that the first deadline that she anticipated they would miss was in June, 2008. That is when the County Commissioners can move it forward. The next opportunity for application would then be in December, 2008. The last meeting was held on January 31, 2008, the working group met without staff and formulated five options which he reviewed. Board member Countryman commented that she was at the meeting with the commercial landowners and supported Mr. Naylor in his statement to them that this side of the valley did not support the neighborhood commercial zoning and that had never been the intent. She announced that the next meeting of the working group will be on February 13, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Bartley Ranch in the schoolhouse.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A.** Board member Countryman commented that the CAB needs to be aware that approving cluster developments, such as Franktown Estates, where they have the water system is inviting Washoe County to control the water in Washoe Valley. She noted that as stated at the December, 2007 meeting, Washoe County is required by law to take care of those developments above and beyond people on individual wells. She urged everyone to attend the South Valley Area Plan meetings and stand up for their water rights. An audience member commented that on February 12, 2008 at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. at the County Commissioner's meeting there is a public hearing to form a general improvement district for the water system for Franktown Estates.

**B.** Cliff Low commented that he hasn't heard any information indicating that the well was being put in to facilitate more customers of the system. He stated that he was at a workshop that all affected people were invited to attend last Saturday, and he didn't hear anything along those lines.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Mitigation of Traffic Hazard for Left Turns from Joy Lake Road (Parker Ranch Road)** – There was no one present to give a report.

**11. Approval of January 7, 2008 Minutes (Reopened)** – Board member Countryman noted that there were typographical errors in the January 7, 2008 meeting minutes that were not brought forth when this item was discussed earlier in the agenda. Debbie Sheltra moved and Bill Elliott seconded to approve the January 7, 2008 meeting minutes with the following corrections: Page Two, Agenda Item 8E, 6<sup>th</sup> line should read "...Weston's property...". Also, Page Two, Agenda Item F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bullet, 3<sup>rd</sup> line should read "...twelve feet wide and three feet high." Motion carried unanimously.

**12. NEW BUSINESS** – Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than ten minutes, unless an extension is requested and granted by the Chair.

**A. 1-580/Meadowood Complex Landscape and Aesthetic Presentation** - Barb Santner from Places Consulting introduced herself and Casey Thomas from CH2M Hill. An informational PowerPoint© presentation was given. Ms.

Santner noted that this presentation was given at the RTC Board meeting on December 21, 2007, and Commissioner Humke recommended that it also be given to some CAB and NAB meetings. She announced that there is a group stakeholder meeting scheduled for February 26, 2008 at the Meadowood Court, and CAB members are invited to attend to provide input. Ms. Santner noted that there is a plan developed for landscaping that requires irrigation and one that does not. If irrigation is needed, a funding source would need to be acquired. Board member Elliott asked what the period for construction is. Ms. Thomas responded that it was eighteen months to two years.

**B. Electrical Power Supply To The West Washoe Valley Area** – Linda Bissed and Brian Costello from Sierra Pacific Power Co. introduced themselves. Mr. Costello gave a presentation on how the system serves the area. He stated that Washoe Valley is served from the Steamboat Substation which is located on Mt. Rose Highway roughly in the Sierra Summit area. The main line system is mostly an overhead line which is approximately seventeen miles in length running from the substation to West Washoe Valley. Mr. Costello reviewed the measures built into the system that would cause the power to go on and/or off. He noted that there are automatic closers on the lines that will cause the lights to go off and on automatically twice before it shuts down and won't allow the lights to go back on until someone comes and checks the line. Personnel don't always know when this happens or a fuse goes out unless residents call in. He stated that if you are seeing your lights going off and on a lot, you should call Sierra Pacific Power at 834-4100 to alert them to the problem. A discussion was held about calling this number and getting an automated system.

**Comments/Concerns**

- Board member Countryman asked when the telephone poles are replaced/refurbished. Mr. Costello responded that the poles are on a ten-year test cycle and line patrols are done on an annual basis. He pointed out that you can't tell a pole's condition by how it looks on the outside.
- Board member Sheltra asked if all of the growth that has occurred in the south valleys which is on the same line would cause the line to be overburdened which is creating these problems. If this is true, could more power be brought to Washoe Valley from Carson City. Mr. Costello replied there was a small problem with overloading in one area, but bigger wire was installed a couple of years ago which addressed the issue. He noted that as far as Washoe Valley is concerned, it is not a supply issue. Getting power from Carson City wouldn't be possible because their system is a 12,500 volt system versus the 25,000 volt system currently in place in Washoe Valley so they are not compatible.
- Board member Countryman asked if someone should call Sierra Pacific Power every time their power goes on and off. Mr. Costello answered affirmatively. She noted that it happens frequently.
- Cliff Low noted that he kept a log of power off/on instances last Sunday morning and they numbered thirteen. He asked what level of responsibility the power company accepts for damage to electronic devices due to these outages. Also, he wanted to know if this type of system was common throughout the area. Mr. Costello responded that it was but reiterated that the type of system in place is based on the density of the area being served.
- It was noted that there are some power poles on Franktown Road that cause lots of noise on an AM radio. Mr. Costello gave out his card for people to call and give him further information on this issue.

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

**Next Agenda Items** – (a) Sierra Fire Protection District services funding/options; (b) Todd Dyson-Light barrier at south end of valley; (c) Todd Dyson - Rerouting commercial traffic in high wind conditions; (d) Todd Montgomery - Mitigation of traffic hazard for left turns from Joy Lake Road (Parker Ranch Road); (e) Under Community Liaison's Report discussion of attendance at CAB meetings by Sheriff's Department.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m. Bill Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Jane Countryman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.