

# WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



## DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held May 4, 2009 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Countryman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of four members was determined.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), Debbie Sheltra, Rod Smith, Bob Rusk  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** – William Elliott (excused)
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF MAY 4, 2009** – Chairperson Countryman reported she had a request from the Legislative representative, Ty Cobb's office to agendaize item 10A earlier in the meeting due to time constraints of Mr. Cobb. Therefore, Chairperson Countryman requested agenda item 10A be presented upon Mr. Cobb's arrival. Debbie Sheltra moved to approve the May 4, 2009 meeting agenda as amended. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 6, 2009** – The following corrections was noted: (a) Debbie Sheltra was an excused absence; (b) on page 1, item 5, third bullet, "Reno Women" should be changed to Reno Wheelmen; and (c) to change "Westin" to Weston wherever noted. Bob Rusk moved to approve the April 6, 2009 meeting minutes as amended. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Due to the arrival of Legislative representative, Ty Cobb, at this time, Chairperson Countryman announced agenda item 10A would be heard next.

5. **NEW BUSINESS (Formerly agenda item 10)** – Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than fifteen minutes to provide sufficient time for questions and comments; an extension may be granted by the Chair.

**A. Report From Ty Cobb, Legislative Representative & Discussion of WWV CAB Legislative Concerns** – Ty Cobb, Legislative Representative, will be in attendance to provide an update on the status of Legislative Bills and to hear input from the Board and Citizens regarding their legislative concerns.

Chairperson Countryman noted the CAB had concerns regarding A.B. 54 and A.B. 119. Mr. Cobb reported it was projected that the next biennium would have an approximately \$990 million deficit on top of the current budget shortfall. Efforts would be doubled to determine cost savings and revenue enhancements for the State. There were no specific proposals at the present time to assist with the budget deficit. Mr. Cobb discussed various ideas which are under consideration to assist in solving the deficit. The Legislature would begin voting tonight on finalization of the budget. A.B. 119 regards ensuring water resources match planning. The official stance of the Truckee Meadows area is that growth will occur in the north, but the County has the authority to allow for growth in the south. The Bill passed the Assembly, but was being held up in the Senate due to a question regarding public consensus on the matter. Regarding A.B. 54, the Bill has been revised to give homeowners the option of hooking up and to provide county funding to assist with the transition. The revised Bill has passed the Assembly and was held up in the Senate.

### Concerns/Comments

- Discussion was heard regarding concerns that the revised A.B. 54 would still provide more county authority to force a homeowner with a well or septic system to convert to local watering systems. Mr. Cobb noted A.B. 54 was a County Bill presented to the Legislature by the County Commission. He encouraged individuals to voice their opposition.
- Ginger Pierce noted the county has set aside no funding to assist individuals with hooking up to local watering systems.
- Cliff Low expressed his concern about approving any framework which may provide more county authority in the long-term.
- Regarding A.B. 119, Ginger Pierce reported there were no laws for geothermal in Nevada and explained geothermal laws prevent well water from going bad. She noted A.B. 119 did not include geothermal rules, but that the issue should be addressed.
- Cliff Low questioned why A.B. 119 was put on the ballot if there was already a requirement to ensure water resources matched planning development and that A.B. 119 should pass if it states what was in WC3. Mr. Cobb stated there was contention because it was not put before the County Commission and presented as a County Bill and that WC3 was considered redundant because water had to be identified before development could occur. Discussion followed clarifying individuals want water resources to be identified before lands were subdivided. Chairperson Countryman noted individuals opposing A.B. 119 were developers and that residents were trying to preserve the remaining rural land in Washoe Valley.
- Ginger Pierce noted current laws allow developers to sue the County for water, if zoning changes were approved because of the number of water rights that were issued in the past.
- Board member Sheltra pointed out Nevada sales tax could be increased because current NACs do not require commercial businesses to keep records of sales.

- Cliff Low commented on the importance of acknowledging votes and cited some Bills. Mr. Cobb noted the following:
  - ❖ S.B. 311 regarded fluoridation, but the argument would be to cast a new vote given the interim from the last vote.
  - ❖ There would be opposition to RTC5 because the Bill was too convoluted; Mr. Cobb noted the Bill would increase the gas tax.
  - ❖ S.B. 372 requires individuals to be twenty-one years of age or older in stand alone bars and to allow food to be served in such bars. The original bill also required grocery stores to provide an air tight area for smoking, but it was amended out. As amended, S.B. 372 would prohibit smoking in any area of grocery stores.
  - ❖ S.B. 286 regarded domestic partnerships.

Mr. Cobb commented on how current Bills may be in conflict with previous Bills and encouraged individuals to read the Bills to better understand what is trying to be achieved.

- Board member Rusk requested to know what can be done to balance the State's budget. Mr. Cobb stated he could not provide specifics, but there was going to be an innovative approach to balance the budget that would meet previous maintenance of effort with education in order to receive stimulus funding for education and would not raise taxes. Board member Rusk asked if there would be support from the other side of the aisle for this concept. Mr. Cobb stated every bit of leverage rests with the Minority Party in the Senate, which was the Republican Party.
- Chairperson Countryman stated she was opposed to S.B. 286 because it was in conflict with how voters voted on the issue.
- Ann York asked to know the probability of raising or not raising taxes and why. Mr. Cobb reported taxes and institutional reforms were being reviewed to determine which taxes or revenue enhancers could be raised. Board member Sheltra noted sales tax was for discretionary spending.

**6. UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairperson Countryman announced the following:

- ❖ The Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009.
- ❖ She was not able to attend the CAB Chair meeting, but information was provided regarding the swine flu, the \$47 million Washoe County budget shortfall, which the County was addressing; and that the role of Community Outreach Coordinators would be changing as of July 1, 2009 to provide more assistance to County Commissioners whose internship funding had been cut; therefore, CAB attendance by Community Outreach Coordinators would be reduced.
- ❖ The Washoe County Fire and EMS Master Plan project was scheduled for the June WWVCAB meeting agenda to allow for public input. A proposed town hall meeting regarding the project would also be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009. The website, [www.sierrarapidfire.org](http://www.sierrarapidfire.org), provides information regarding fire coverage and moving staff from the Bowers Volunteer Fire Department to the presently unused Station 39 on Joy Creek Road.

Board member Sheltra announced the West Washoe Association would be holding their annual clean-up event of West Washoe Valley including Old 395 on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at Wilson Commons Park.

**7. ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

**A. Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items** – Lt. Tim O'Connor reported the area has been relatively quiet since his last presentation. He encouraged individuals to keep an eye on foreclosed homes which were attracting juveniles for parties and home fixture theft. Pickup truck tail gates were a hot commodity for theft, especially on late model Fords. He also reminded individuals to lock vehicles and homes because the majority of vehicle and residential burglaries were due to crimes of opportunity and for juveniles to see who could obtain the most "prizes".

**Concerns/Comments**

- Discussion was heard regarding "bump" keys, which are special keys that bump door locks out of place. Lt. O'Connor noted the following website to visit for more information, [Tee702@aol.com](mailto:Tee702@aol.com). Ginger Pierce reported one suggestion to prevent the use of "bump" keys was to install a chain lock into the house frame.
- Lt. O'Connor also reported some residential burglary crimes were committed through dog door access and by FLORD magazine salespeople and cited some examples. He noted salespeople were required to have permits.

**B. Fire Safety Issues** – Susie Rogers, City of Reno Emergency Communications, reported redistricting has changed and that non-emergency 911 calls would still be routed to the Reno Dispatch Center, but dispatched to Washoe County South Dispatch in Incline Village. She noted fire season was approaching. Discussion followed regarding emergency response by Carson City. Maria Lopes, Reno Fire Department Division Chief, reviewed April calls for service. Fire safe projects were being planned for West Washoe and the South Valleys. Captain Jeff Nevin, Sierra Fire, reported open burning was on-going and was scheduled to end at the end of May. He noted a couple of small fires occurred at the south end of the valley. An evacuation drill was again being scheduled for the Galena area and would be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the fire station on Joy Lake Road.

### Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra requested to know if the small fires were caused by controlled burns. Capt. Nevin reported they were. Board member Sheltra requested NDF inform Sierra Fire when controlled burns were smoldering in areas. Ms. Rogers suggested residents call 911 to report suspicious smoke in an area.
- Discussion followed about having Chief Greene provide more information at the next meeting regarding the reported staff change from the Bowers Volunteer Fire Department to the fire station at Joy Lake Road.
- Board member Rusk complimented Sierra Fire on their efforts with two recent small brush fires.

### **8. UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Liaison Report** – Ann York, EWVCAB, reported Scott Munson from Washoe County District Health was in attendance at the EWVCAB meeting to announce the first application would be held on May 21, 2009 at Little Washoe Lake. Spraying for white top would be completed from May to June. Sarah Tone had reported the South Valleys Area Plan was appealed by Mr. Weston and would be re-presented to the Regional Governing Board on May 14, 2009. Advertising for the lots could not occur until the project was approved. NV Energy representatives reported transmission wires were upgraded and that transmission problems were occurring because of birds.

**B. County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates** – Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported bonuses were not approved by the Planning Commission or supported by staff therefore were off the table. More budget hearings would be held and the budget would be approved on May 19, 2009.

**C. I-580 Project** – Board member Rusk reported he would provide an update at the next meeting.

### **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A.** Cliff Low mentioned the Great Truckee Meadows Clean-up event would be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Volunteers can sign up at [ktnv.org](http://ktnv.org).

### **10. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Update on South Valleys Area Plan (SVAP)** – Jane Countryman will provide an update on the South Valleys Area Plan status, upcoming review dates or relevant information regarding the finalization process. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Board member Rusk reported the Regional Planning Commission unanimously approved the second presentation of the South Valleys Area Plan, which may help win the appeal process filed by Mr. Weston.

### Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra requested to know that, since Mr. Weston had already filed in court, if that action would stay the County from hearing any further information on the matter. Sarah Tone stated she would request an answer to this question from the County attorney.

**B. Update on Road Closures in West Washoe Valley** – Jane Countryman will provide an update on wind monitors proposed for the West Washoe Valley area during high wind events.

Chairperson Countryman reported she checked with NDOT and the two stations on Old 395 have been in operation since May 1, 2009. Tests would be conducted during a two-week period and Reno Roads Division would be monitoring reports. An organization meeting would be held to set the protocol for closing old US 395.

### **11. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)** – Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than fifteen minutes to provide sufficient time for questions and comments; an extension may be granted by the Chair.

**B. Status Regarding Citizen Advisory Board Meetings** – Sarah Tone or Lorrie Adams, Community Outreach Coordinators, will present a report regarding the status of CAB meetings and the resolutions presented at the April 28, 2009 Board of County Commissioners meeting. Because of budget reductions, the County Commission is considering making some changes to funding for CABs, which may include combining CABs, reducing the number of meetings, consideration of holding community forums in place of CAB meetings and a number of other options. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Sarah Tone reported tonight would be her last meeting with the WWVCAB, but that she would still provide follow-up assistance for Board member concerns. She distributed information regarding CAB meetings and explained the County Commission decided to reduce funding for CABs therefore CAB meetings could be held every other month with community forums held in the months that CAB meetings were not held or work with another CAB. Discussion was heard regarding concern about being able to continue to provide input on County issues or development projects. Following discussion, the Board decided holding CAB meetings every other odd month with Community Forum meetings to be held in the interim. Chairperson Countryman suggested the WWVCAB website be updated on upcoming permit applications. Discussion followed about the pros and cons of collaborating with the EWVCAB.

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

**Future agenda items:** (a) Washoe County Fire and EMS Master Plan Project presentation; (b) Ambulance Service from Carson City; (c) Relocation of Bowers Fire Department staff to Joy Lake Road Fire Station

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Bob Rusk moved to adjourn the meeting. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.