

WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held November 2, 2009 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Countryman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of four members was present. Debbie Sheltra arrived later in the meeting to form a quorum of five members present. At 9:02 p.m., Bob Rusk left the meeting leaving a quorum of four members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), Bill Elliott, Rod Smith, Bob Rusk, Debbie Sheltra

MEMBERS ABSENT – Mark Zane (excused)

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2009** – Bob Rusk moved to approve the November 2, 2009 meeting agenda. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2009** – The following corrections were noted for page 3 of the September 14, 2009 meeting minutes: (a) first bullet from the top, “Washoe County” should be changed to Washoe Valley; (b) item 7D “Tom Hall was named as one of the representatives of the Regional Governing Board” should be changed to: Tom Hall was getting status with the three attorneys working with the Regional Governing Board; (c) item 7D, first bullet, “Chairperson Countryman asked if East Washoe Valley would make Mr. Weston uphold the 5-acre rule density” should be changed to: Chairperson Countryman asked if East Washoe Valley residents were in support of Mr. Weston upholding the 5-acre rule; and (d) item 9A “Bob Rusk noted he would volunteer” should be changed to: Chairperson Countryman volunteered to introduce Mark Zane to the EWVCAB. Rod Smith moved to approve the September 14, 2009 meeting minutes as amended. Bob Rusk seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

- A Community Forum will be held at Bowers Fire Station starting at 7:00 p.m. on December 1, 2009 to provide an opportunity for the community to discuss issues related to West Washoe Valley. Among the topics to be discussed are Volunteer Fire Department issues, including replacement of a water tender and other equipment, as well as retaining fire and emergency service at current levels at Bowers Fire Station. (NOTE: The Community Forum is not sponsored by either Washoe County or the West Washoe Valley CAB.)

Chairperson Countryman mentioned copies of Sarah Tone’s updates for the West Washoe Valley area were available, as well as copies of another handout entitled “Snowplow Operators Need Your Help”. She read an e-mail from Tom Hall regarding the Weston Litigation and the motion by the Washoe County Commission at their October 27, 2009 meeting to support the District Attorney’s recommendations. She suggested Tom Hall be contacted if there were any questions about the Weston property.

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

A. Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Items – Lt. Milt Perry reported there were few service calls last month for this area.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Elliot commented on an accident that occurred a few weeks ago in the early morning hours that knocked out power and closed the road in both directions in his area. He stated he went to investigate and was told by an officer that he could not return to his home the same way he came because it would disrupt the flow of traffic, of which there was none. He requested to know what can be done about inexperienced officers who prohibit residents from returning to their homes in that area when accidents occur or during fire emergency situations. Lt. Perry explained officers directing traffic in accident situations were being trained to allow residents to return to their homes if reasonable to do so, but that the Fire Department determines when residents can return to their homes during fire emergency situations.

B. Fire Safety Issues – Chief Mike Heika reviewed last month’s calls for service. He reported a \$100,000 Fuels Management Grant was received from the State of Nevada for West Washoe Valley to continue fuels management work to the end of the valley. Approximately \$350,000 will be received for fuels management work in Davis Creek Park. Fire Season has been declared over. They were requesting residents have heating systems inspected for safety.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Smith asked about the helicopter logging business. Chief Heika explained it was a fuel-reduction project to thin trees on the mountain to reduce fire danger. Approximately 5% of material could be left on the ground.
- Chairperson Countryman asked what was being done with the trees. Chief Heika reported the trees were being used for wood chips.

- Board member Rusk added he spoke with Tom Lane, the Contract Inspector, about the use of the helicopter. He reported \$600,000 of stimulus funding was being used for the project.
- A question was asked regarding if the land being logged was federal land. Chief Heika replied yes and noted it would be a 3-year project.

7. UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS

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

B.* County Commissioner Updates – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

C.* I-580 Project – Board member Rusk reported the use of concrete has been rejected. Thor Dyson, NDOT, explained the use of concrete was rejected because of the cost. The project was a few days ahead of schedule and may be complete by the end of 2011 or the beginning of 2012.

At this time, Debbie Sheltra arrived at the meeting.

8.* PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Ginger Pierce reported she met with Al Coyner from the Mines and Minerals Division in Carson City about Ormat and received information about the use of reclaimed resources by Ormat. A Homeowners meeting was held on October 28, 2009 where she made residents aware of the Weston issue. Ms. Pierce discussed varying water temperatures in the area and how she checks temperatures monthly.

B. Susie Rogers, City of Reno Emergency Communications, announced the new Manager began October 1, 2009.

C. In response to Board member Sheltra's question from the September 14, 2009 meeting regarding response time in the June shooting involving Mr. Nash, Chairperson Countryman read an e-mail from Jim Gubbles, REMSA, which stated REMSA and Care Flight were contacted and that a second unit was on stand-by at Damonte Ranch, but that they were not allowed to enter until the criminal investigation of the area was complete. When allowed to enter, it was a seven-minute response time. Board member Sheltra requested this issue be agendaized for the next meeting because Sierra Fire Protection District paramedic service was administering first aid on the scene before REMSA arrived.

D. Board member Rusk reported funding has been secured in Washington D. C. for Winter's Ranch. The purchase of the Winter's Ranch area should be complete in approximately a year.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A.* NDOT Report on Wind Monitoring Equipment/Data for Old 395 – Jae Pullen and Thor Dyson, NDOT, will present a report and recommendations regarding the data obtained from the wind monitoring project on Old 395. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Thor Dyson introduced Jae Pullen, Mike Fuess, and Bob Alessandrelli, a member of the consultant team. With a PowerPoint® presentation, Jae Pullen reviewed the current system to measure wind thresholds. He stated the system was based on a report completed by UNR in 1995 that used different classification of vehicles to determine wind thresholds. They re-evaluated locations where crashes were occurring and it was determined those locations were 395 and State Route 429 North and South. Sensors will be installed on State Route 429 South and Washoe Valley, which will also provide hard data for blowing snow. Readings on 429 during severe wind events were meeting wind thresholds for prohibiting vehicles. He noted variable wind measurements at the prohibitive vehicle threshold on 429 will activate first with 395 to soon follow. Wind speeds have been monitored since May 1, 2009. He reviewed sustained wind speeds. He reported the project has been divided into two phases. The first phase was to receive recommendations from Washoe Valley, which was done at a stakeholder's meeting last week. A community meeting was also being planned for next spring. Some concerns from truckers were lack of adequate parking and adequate detours.

Concerns/Comments

- Discussion was heard clarifying a letter was sent to the CAB Liaison, Sarah Tone, to invite WWV and EWV CABs to the stakeholders meeting held last week. The WWV CAB Board members had no knowledge of the invitation. Mr. Pullen and Mr. Alessandrelli stated that comments and recommendations were still welcomed from the CABs.
- Board member Sheltra stated she contacted John Medole, Executive Director of Associated General Contractors (AGC) – Northern Division during the Legislative session to discuss opening up East Lake for trucks during high wind conditions as an alternate route.
- Thor Dyson commented on the importance to the trucking industry and contract industry for trucks to get through the valley unencumbered. He stated he would be willing to consider the use of East Lake Road, but that the County controls that road and the road is not structured for long-term use by trucks.
- Discussion was heard regarding the lack of truck parking and alternate detours.
- Thor Dyson noted another issue was defining which trucks could be allowed on 395 and 429 during high wind conditions.
- A question was asked regarding if the design of 395 had been reviewed or if the use of wind deflectors on the west side of 395 was considered. Mike Fuess stated they would review that suggestion as well as any and all options presented.

- Board member Smith expressed concern that, for the next eighteen months, residents will continue to fight the same issues. Thor Dyson reviewed NDOT's assistance on this issue to-date. Board member Smith suggested limiting speed on the highway.
- Board member Sheltra asked about the cost to escort traffic at 30 mph. Mr. Dyson explained it would be an expensive cost because of the lack of staff. Lt. Perry stated the only way there could be enough personnel to escort traffic would be to call personnel in on their days off. He commented that what needs to be examined is how often truck accidents occur and how much can realistically be spent to combat this issue.
- Board member Sheltra commented that it was West Washoe Valley who presented this problem because it is West Washoe Valley residents affected by this issue, but that a solution is not forthcoming. She suggested posting a flashing 30 mph sign similar to school zone signage.
- An audience member requested clarification that questions and concerns needed to be presented in writing and that CABs would be included in future meetings to come up with a viable solution at the end of eighteen months. Mr. Pullen clarified that was correct. Mike Fuess explained the importance of including participation from all entities to come up with a viable solution and getting expert opinion.
- A suggestion was made to divert vehicle traffic to Old 395 during high wind conditions. Mr. Fuess commented on the potential traffic congestion on Old 395. Mr. Dyson encouraged suggestions continue to be forthcoming.
- Chairperson Countryman commended Mr. Dyson's efforts with this issue. She stated she hoped this study with reinforce the importance of residents' lives in the rural areas.
- Board member Elliott asked about wind studies for the bridge. Mr. Dyson stated wind studies were analyzed and wind sensors were installed. He noted recommendations for Washoe Valley would be provided at the second stakeholders meeting to be held in the spring for discussion.
- Board member Sheltra requested a copy of the draft recommendations be provided two weeks in advance of the next stakeholders meeting.
- A comment was made that individuals need to live in the area to get a better understanding of concerns.
- Chairperson Countryman expressed her appreciation for tonight's presentation. Discussion followed regarding previous efforts to address this issue.

B. Discussion on Review of Parcel Maps by CABs – The WWV CAB will continue their discussion from the July 6, 2009 meeting and make possible recommendations to the Washoe County Planning Commission or the Washoe County Commission to change Washoe County Code, Chapter 110 to require CABs to review Parcel Map applications.

There was no one in attendance to present this issue.

C. Update on Fire and Emergency Services to West Washoe Valley – An update on efforts to maintain career staff and necessary equipment at the Bower's fire station, feedback on boundary realignments, upcoming meetings, telephone survey and any reports from individuals who have attended meetings to discuss the possible reduction in service levels proposed for West Washoe Valley. The CAB may take action to submit a recommendation to the County Commissioners and/or the County Fire Board regarding the community's desire relating to level of services. Chairperson Countryman reported various CAB members were meeting with County Commissioners and citizens and that consensus from most was that no decisions will be made until the study is complete. Chief Heika, Sierra Fire Protection District, concurred that no changes will be made until after the study was complete.

Concerns/Comments

- Chairperson Countryman stated concerns were that boundaries need to be re-aligned and that this fire station serves more areas than West Washoe Valley. She stated that, in her opinion, it was time Washoe County take back authority over the Truckee Meadows and Sierra Fire Protection Districts to do what is needed to serve the unincorporated county area. She stressed the importance of providing information regarding this issue to the community.
- Chief Heika thanked the community for their support of the Sierra Fire Protection District. He announced they received in writing that changes in staff at the station will not affect grant funding.
- Discussion was heard about being more vocal against Arrow Creek and communicating with other areas providing service or upset by the possibility of losing staff.
- Chairperson Countryman stated an independent telephone study was being completed because Chief Greene and some Washoe County staff members were concerned about the current study being completed. She noted she received an e-mail from some residents that stated questions from the independent survey related to the possibility of raising taxes.
- Board member Sheltra noted they still had the letter signed by Chairman Larkin which stated the State would turn over the station and that one of the conditions was that services at this fire station would not be lessened or removed. Discussion followed clarifying this letter was received when the first station went from 473 to 474.
- Teresa Morris asked if there was a website regarding this information. Chairperson Countryman stated it was rapid fire.com.

- Board member Rusk suggested continuing discussion on this issue until after the study is complete. He requested the Weston property issue remain on the agenda until the issue is resolved.

At this time, Bob Rusk left the meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS – 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.

There was no New Business agendized for review.

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

Future agenda items: (a) Weston Property Issue (standing item)

Board member Sheltra requested to have REMSA at the next meeting to discuss the lack of response during the June shooting incident in the area. Lt. Perry explained policies during emergency situations. Chairperson Countryman requested key people discuss this issue before agendizing the item.

Chairperson Countryman announced the next meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2010 and future agenda items should be submitted to her by December 17, 2009. A Developing Services Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the County Commission Caucus Room, which will include a status report from Kurt Latipow on the Fire Service Master Plan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. William Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.