
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

March 10-11, 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

Don Jardine, Vice-Chair, Markleeville
Eric Sandel, Truckee
Kimberly Cox, Helendale (Absent March 11, 2021)

State Water Board

Elizabeth Beryt, Office of Chief Counsel
Sean Maguire, Executive Office

Water Board Staff

Mike Plaziak, Executive Officer
Ben Letton, Acting Asst Executive Officer
Robert Tucker, Sr. WRC Engineer
Laurie Scribe, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Trevor Miller, WRC Engineer
Timothy Middlemis-Clark, WRC Engineer
Katrina Fleshman, Executive Assistant

Daniel Sussman, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Scott Ferguson, Supervising WRC Engineer
Patrice Copeland, Supervising Engineering Geologist
Jan Zimmerman, Senior Engineering Geologist
Mary Fiore-Wagner, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Wendy Wyels, Retired Anuatant
Michael Suglian, Scientific Aid, South Lake Tahoe

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

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 10, 2021, @ 1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Pumphrey called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.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. Mr. Pumphrey then introduced the Water Board Members, Water Board staff and State Water Board staff.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

No Public Comments.

2. MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Member Dyas, seconded by Member Jardine to approve the January 13-14, 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 Jardine	Aye
Member Cox	Aye
Member Dyas	Aye
Member Sandel	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye

[View the adopted January 13-14, 2021, Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS BY WATER BOARD CHAIR AND WATER BOARD MEMBERS

Sean Maguire, State Board Liaison, gave presentation on the State Board's 2021 Strategic Board Work Plan. Which included, 2020 Key Accomplishments, and Highest Priorities for 2021.

Member Jardine indicated he will be giving a history talk on the East side of the Sierras, Monitor Pass, with the Historical Society, about Snowshoe Thompson, when he resided up on Monarch pass and will talk about other things. Member Jardine indicated he is not quite sure when they're planning that out and will give Water Board an update.

Dr. Horne had an issue she wanted to bring up with the Water Board. She has been following reports put out by the Water Policy Center at the Public Policy Center of Institute of California (PPIC). Dr. Horne indicated PPIC has issued several reports about managing California's Headwater Forests. Unfortunately, these reports stop at the Sierra crest and do not include the Lahontan Region.

Dr. Horne indicated she has spoken to PPIC about including the Lahontan Region in their reports and also emailed the lead author. So far, however, Dr. Horne's efforts have not gone anywhere.

There are several reasons any discussion of managing California's headwater forests should include the Lahontan Region. One is that our region supplies 30% of Los Angeles' water. Also, restoring headwater forests is just as important in the Lahontan Region because water quality and water supply here is just as affected by wildfires the west slope. Wildfires pose the same threat to the health and property of people who live in the Lahontan region as elsewhere in the state. Our forests were heavily damaged during the railroad building and Comstock eras and need restoration just as much as other forests.

Dr. Horne thinks it is time to elevate the message to PPIC so that they take us seriously, and asked Water Board members for their thoughts on the best way to do that.

Chair Pumphrey proposed sending this issue on to the state board and to other groups within the region. Mr. Pumphrey also stated we, as a Water Board, could authorize the Executive Officer to send a letter expressing Lahontan's concerns. Chair Pumphrey also suggested it might be useful to send that along to our friends from Los Angeles

Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and ask if they have any concerns that California is not planning for their headwaters. Chair Pumphrey added that he can help with contacting LADWP.

Member Sandel agreed with Chair Pumphrey and added that we could run the letter by Sean Maguire at the State Board and other contacts we have in the region. Member Sandel also suggested we could ask the Water Policy Center at PPIC to come to one of our meetings and fill us in on what they do there.

Mike Plaziak replied that he will do whatever he can do to help, including contacting the staff at LADWP.

Dr. Horne stated these are all good ideas, and she will draft something for people's consideration, and think about what we should do next.

Chair Pumphrey indicated the last Chairs call was devoted to re-introducing all the Chairs as there are new Board Chair members. There was an update on the equity, initiative at the state board level. At the end of March, the State Board is going to be conducting listening sessions with all the Water Board employees as part of putting together a draft resolution, which the State Water Board is expecting to take up in April. The next Chairs meeting is May 14, 2021.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Water Board staff, Michael Plaziak, Executive Officer, provided an update to the Water Board and public on standing items and activities in the Lahontan Region, including the items below.

- Personnel Report
- Harmful Algal Bloom
- Confined Animal Facility Update
- Development of Nonpoint Source Permits for Discharges from Certain Land Management Activities on Federal Land (with permit adoption around February 2023)
- City of Barstow Nitrate
- Status of the City of Barstow Perchlorate Plume
- Update on Spills - sunken 40-foot Pleasure Craft Vessel

QUESTIONS BY THE WATER BOARD

Member Sandel asked Mr. Plaziak how long the Sunken boat was in Lake Tahoe. Mr. Plaziak indicated it was sunk in January 2021, and Lahontan was notified in February 2021.

5. *RESCISSION OF WASTEWATER RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS, BOARD ORDER NO. 6-94-84, FOR THE RUNNING SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT, SNOW VALLEY SKI RESORT WASTEWATER RECLAMATION PROJECT

Water Board staff asked the Water Board to consider rescinding wastewater reclamation requirements for a recycled water pipeline project that was never constructed.

6. *RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, BOARD ORDER NO. 6-88-21, FOR MELINA SQUARE, HESPERIA

Water Board staff asked the Water Board to consider rescinding waste discharge requirements for an onsite wastewater treatment system that is now connected to a community sewer system.

Chair Pumphrey asked if any Water Board member or anyone from the public would like to request discussion and remove the **items #5 and #6** from the uncontested calendar to be considered separately. No Board members asked that these be considered separately.

Chair Pumphrey asked that if any members of the public participating in the meeting would like to hear these separately to please use the raise the hand feature in Zoom if they would like to request discussion. No hands were raised.

Motion: Moved by Member Sandel, seconded by Member Dr. Horne to (**Item 5**) rescind the wastewater reclamation requirements for a recycled water pipeline project that was never constructed and (**Item 6**) rescind waste discharge requirements for an onsite wastewater treatment system that is now connected to a community sewer system.

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 Jardine	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye

7. PUBLIC HEARING - ORDERS FOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, HOT CREEK FISH HATCHERY, MONO COUNTY

Chair Pumphrey indicated that this hearing will **NOT** be conducted according to the technical rules of evidence. The Board will accept comments that are reasonably relevant to the matter under consideration.

Chair Pumphrey asked all persons who expect to testify on this Permit and Order, to please raise their right hand and take the following oath:

"Do you swear the testimony you are about to give is the truth?" If so, answer "I do."

a) **Renewed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.**

Water Board staff, Wendy Wyels, Retired Annuitant, stated that she had taken the oath. Ms. Wyels gave presentation and asked the Water Board to consider adopting a renewed permit, which contains new effluent requirements and removes other requirements.

Motion: Moved by Member Dr. Horne, seconded by Member Dyas to adopt a renewed permit, which contains new effluent requirements and removes other requirements. 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 Jardine	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye

b) **Time Schedule Order**

Water Board staff, Wendy Wyels, Retired Annuitant, stated that she had taken the oath. Ms. Wyels further asked the Water Board to consider adopting a Time Schedule Order providing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife time to comply with the new effluent limitations and requiring tasks to assess sources of nitrogen.

Motion: Moved by Member Sandel, seconded by Member Dyas to adopt a Time Schedule Order providing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife time to comply with the new effluent limitations and requiring tasks to assess sources of nitrogen. 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 Jardine	Aye
Member Dr. Horne	Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie MacNair, Regional Manager, with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, stated she has taken the above oath. Ms. MacNair thanked the Lahontan staff for working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Ms. MacNair further indicated she is pleased to have a new tentative permit and associated TSO on today's board agenda and is committed to dedicating staff to help this process and to provide data and scientific support.

Terry Jackson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, stated he has taken the above oath. Mr. Jackson gave presentation on the efforts of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to clean the Hot Springs Fish Hatchery. Mr. Jackson indicated the Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking forward to working with the Lahontan basin plan unit, to come up with a good plan.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Water Board staff, Ben Letton, Acting Executive Officer, introduced the Climate Change plan. Thanked former and current staff for their hard work on this Action Plan.

Water Board Staff, Laurie Scribe, Senior Environmental Scientist, gave presentation on the Lahontan Climate Change Action Plan. In 2019 the Board adopted Resolution R6T-2019-0277, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy. This resolution directed staff to prepare an action plan to provide details on tasks, that Water Board staff will implement, to further the goals identified in the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy. Ms. Scribe indicated Water Board staff will update the Water Board annually on prior years accomplishments and ongoing efforts.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Dr. Horne asked Ms. Scribe how many technical advisory committees the staff currently involved in. Ms. Scribe indicated the number would probably be handfuls not hundreds, but she will research that information and get that information to the Water Board.

Dr. Horne asked what the status of the State Board's efforts to develop a general permit for large habitat restoration projects, and where they are at in the process. Ms. Scribe replied that is in draft CEQA document and draft permit are scheduled to be released to the public within the month. Dr. Horne asked for an email update on that issue and wants to know when it gets completed.

Member Sandel stated he is in support of documenting climate change related actions on our Green Sheets and within Lahontan permits. Chair Pumphrey agreed with member Sandel and indicated his support as well.

11. CLOSED SESSION

The Water Board, without the public present, went into closed session at 4:05 p.m. regarding Closed Session Item(s) h. Discussion of Personnel Matters. Authority: Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. on March 10, 2021.

REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, March 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Pumphrey called the meeting to order at 8:59 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 Zeke Turley with AGP Video and asked Mr. Turley to give direction to the public that wish to speak. Mr. Pumphrey then introduced the Water Board Members, Water Board staff and State Water Board staff.

9. PUBLIC FORUM

No public participation

10. DISCUSSION OF WATER BOARD 2019 – 2020 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND STRATEGIC NARRATIVE

Water Board staff, Michael R. Plaziak, Executive Officer gave an overview of the Accomplishments and Strategic Narrative that Water Board staff will talk about in today's meeting.

- Outline
 - Unique characteristics of the Region, update Staffing Resources
 - Organizational Challenges FY 20/21
 - Accomplishments by Division & Admin –2019
 - Accomplishments by Division & Admin –2020

- Organizational Outlook for FY 21/22
- Plan to Develop FY 21/22 Priorities by May 2021

Water Board staff, Michael R. Plaziak, Executive Officer gave presentation on the below items, and introduced Ben Letton to discuss the top 3 accomplishments for the different units.

- Performance Targets
 - FY 2019/2020
 - FY 2020/2021
- Challenges for FY 20/21
 - COVID Restrictions
 - COVID Contact Tracing
 - Furloughs –2 days per month
 - Cannabis Program Redirect
 - Retirements and staff promotions

Water Board Staff, Ben Letton, Acting Assistant Executive Officer, summarized the top 3 accomplishments for the Compliance & Planning Division.

Water Board Staff, Patrice Copeland, Supervising Engineering Geologist, summarized the top 3 accomplishments for the South Lahontan Basin Division.

Water Board Staff, Scott Ferguson, Supervising Engineering Geologist, summarized the top 3 accomplishments for the Regulatory and Cleanup Division.

Water Board Staff, Ben Letton, Acting Assistant Executive Officer, summarized the top 3 accomplishments for the Administration Unit.

Water Board staff, Michael R. Plaziak, Executive Officer gave closing presentation on the Organizational Outlook for 2021/2022, Water Board goals and the 2021/2022 Workplan Development. Mr. Plaziak indicated we will bring an update to the Water Board at the July Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY THE WATER BOARD

Member Dyas mentioned on the last bullet on slide 10, he liked the way staff describe the long-suffering effort to convince Bishop Area Wastewater Authority (BAWA) to form a more efficiently manage effluent disposal in the area.

Dr. Horne indicated it is good to see Water Board accomplishments. Dr. Horne asked what Lahontan is doing to get resolve on unresolved issues. Dr. Horne also stated there is some need to attend to the emotional and mental health of staff. Mr. Plaziak replied what we are working through, the prioritized leader training to focus on staff, in order to better understand and communicate with staff. Mr. Plaziak also replied that Lahontan is going through the process of establishing the Vision, Missions and Values plan. Not only for staff, but stakeholders as well. Management is also looking at how we can prioritize within those goals, to help with those unresolved areas.

Dr. Horne asked Lahontan staff, as you go through implementation of the action plan, how are you getting that information to the staff? Mr. Plaziak replied management has shared the action plan with staff, we did Engagement Survey, Leadership Training, we have monthly Open-Door meetings with all staff, and we discuss how we can prioritize effectively.

Member Jardine indicated he would like to know who within the water Board staff is familiar with Alpine and Truckee River Agreement.

Eric Sandel asked when will the Prioritized Leader Modules going to be completed and passed down to line staff. Mr. Plaziak replied the contract ends on April 12th and we are hoping to extend that. Unit Supervisors have 3 modules, and Executive staff have 5 modules. Mr. Plaziak estimated the Modules will be completed by the end of July or so, and staff is collaborating with supervisors to develop those work plans.

Chair Pumphrey would like to look at the Accomplishments and Action Plan by bringing it back to the Water Board as a single Agenda Item in June 2021. Mr. Plaziak indicated staff will set that up.

Member Dyas replied that he agrees with Mr. Pumphrey's approach to devote an entire meeting to the subject Priorities and Accomplishments, and having it heard in June 2021.

Dr. Horne stated for a long time Water Board struggled on how they can do strategic planning with staff and Water Board. Dr. Horne suggest for the June meeting doing a Workshop type meeting in Breakout rooms and give Board Members a chance to listen to staff. Chair Pumphrey asked Legal Counsel Beryt if Water Board is restrained by the Brown Act if we use Breakout rooms to meet in smaller groups. Legal Counsel Beryt replied that she will review the guidelines and get back to the Water Board.


Chair Pumphrey asked that Water Board get answers regarding the requirements of Breakout rooms with Board members, and smaller groups bringing discussion to the larger group, in the one item Board Meeting in June. Mr. Pumphrey asked Water Board Staff to bring this discussion and give the information to the Board at the May Board Meeting.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Was heard on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, immediately following the Regular Board Meeting at 4:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Water Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m. on March 11, 2021.

Prepared by:  Adopted: 5/13/2021
Katrina Fleshman, Water Board Clerk