



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.mscomm.com/~rwqcb6>
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150
Phone (530) 542-5400 • FAX (530) 544-2271

Gray Davis
Governor

MINUTES
JUNE 13 – 14, 2001

Regular Meeting

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
The Whiskey Creek Restaurant
524 North Main Street
Bishop

Dr. Cooley, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on June 13, 2001.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Brissenden, Hope Valley
Beatrice Cooley, Ph.D., Bishop
Eugene B. Nebeker, Ph.D., Lancaster
Jack Clarke, Apple Valley
Eric Sandel, P.E., Truckee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

LEGAL COUNSEL

Steven H. Blum, State Water Resources Control Board

STAFF PRESENT

Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer
Robert S. Dodds, Assistant Executive Officer
Hisam Baqai, Supervising WRCE
Cindi Mitton Chief, Mono/Owens Watershed
Mike Plaziak, Chief, Mojave Desert
Doug Feay, Assoc. Engineering Geologist
Joseph Koutsky, Associate WRCE
Tim Post, Acting Chief, Antelope Valley Unit
Christy Hunter, Assoc. Engineering Geologist
Elizabeth Rafferty, Assoc. Engineering Geologist
Lisa Dernbach, Sr. Specialist Eng. Geologist

Lauri Kemper, Chief, Lake Tahoe Watershed
Chuck Curtis, Chief, TMDL Unit
Scott Ferguson, Chief, Northern Watersheds
Judith Unsicker, Environmental. Specialist IV
Jeremy Sokulsky, WRCE
Marietta Christoffersen, Office Technican
Susan-Marie Hagen, Executive Assistant

ADDRESSING THE BOARD

Bryan Schweickert, (LADWP) Los Angeles District of Water and Power
Ross Johnson, South Tahoe Public Utilities District
Melvyn Arthor, Mono Basin Ecological Preserve and Wetlands Mitigation Bank
Jim Haen, City of South Lake Tahoe
John Moynier, Mammoth Community Water District
Mark Davis, Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority

1. Executive Officer's Report (Harold Singer)

Mr. Singer highlighted several items from the written report.

Mr. Singer advised the Board that he would be appealing a decision made by the USDA Forest Service for the Toiyabe National Forest regarding a completed environmental assessment and record of decision on using herbicides to deal with non-native plant species. The appeal will request the USFS to provide a commitment to monitoring and reporting, and to amend its decision to reflect this inclusion.

The date of the next Board meeting was discussed. The July Board meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. A Board meeting in August 2001 is being considered.

The Board took a dinner break and the Chair reconvened the meeting at 7:30 pm. All Board members were present.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Melvyn Arthor, addressed the Board on behalf of the Arthor Family and the proposed Mono Basin Ecological Preserve and Wetlands Mitigation Bank.

Mr. John Moynier of the Mammoth Community Water District updated the Board on its combined efforts with Lahontan staff, especially Cindi Mitton and Michelle Ochs, and the District's progress regarding continued waste discharges at Laurel Pond.

3. MINUTES

The following minutes were approved: Board Meeting of May 10-11, 2001 in South Lake Tahoe.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Brissenden, seconded by Mr. Clarke **and unanimously carried** to adopt the May minutes as proposed.

4. **ADOPTION OF UNCONTESTED CALENDAR**

The Executive Officer, Mr. Singer, recommended the following changes to the Agenda and Uncontested Calendar:

- Items # 10, 15, 22, amended with late revisions.
- Items # 23 and 29, removed from the Uncontested Calendar and to be considered separately.
- Item # 8, removed from the Agenda.

Questions and comments from the Board regarding:

- Item # 10, Mr. Brissenden. Cindi Mitton responded from staff.
- Item # 12, Mr. Brissenden. Tim Post responded from staff..
- Item # 15, Dr. Nebeker. Hisam Baqai responded from staff.
- Item # 16, Dr. Nebeker. Hisam Baqai responded from staff.
- Item # 18, Mr. Brissenden and Dr. Cooley. Tim Post responded from staff.
- Item # 22, Mr. Brissenden. Scott Ferguson responded from staff.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Sandel, seconded by Dr. Nebeker **and unanimously approved** to adopt as proposed Items # 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30; to adopt Items # 15 and # 22 with late revisions; to remove Items # 10, 23, and 29 from the uncontested calendar for further discussion by the Board; and to remove Item # 8 and # 20 from the agenda.

10. **CR Briggs Corporation and Bureau of Land Management, Briggs Project Gold Mine, Inyo County.** Cindi Mitton, Lahontan Regional Board Staff responded to questions from the Board. Chris Eckert of CR Briggs added additional information.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Dr. Nebeker **and unanimously carried** to accept staff's recommendation as proposed and adopt Item# 10 with late revisions.

23. **Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (LRSWMA), Lassen County, U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Lassen County Sanitary Landfill, Lassen County.** Mark Davis, LRSWMA, responded to questions from the Board.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Sandel **and unanimously carried** to accept staff's recommendation as proposed and adopt Item # 23.

29. **City of South Lake Tahoe – Trout Creek Restoration Project – Modification to an Exception to a Prohibition Contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region.** Lauri Kemper, Lahontan Regional Board Staff, gave a brief presentation and highlighted comment letters included in the Board's information packet. Mr. Jim Haen, of Haen Engineering representing the City of South Lake Tahoe on this project, also made a presentation.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Brissenden, seconded by Mr. Sandel **and unanimously carried** to accept staff's recommendation as proposed and adopt Item # 29.

25. **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Priorities and Status.** Chuck Curtis, Lahontan Regionals Board staff, presented an update on the status of the TMDL program priorities and answered questions from Board members.
26. **Haiwee Reservoir - Copper Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Inyo County.** An informational presentation was given to the Board by Jeremy Sokulsky, Lahontan Regional Board staff. Bryan Schweickert, staff for LADWP, concurred with Mr. Solulsky's comments.

The evening meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Regular Meeting, Continued
8:30 a. m ., June 14, 2001

Chairperson Cooley called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Board members present included: John Brissenden; Jack Clarke; Eugene Nebeker, Ph.D; and Eric Sandel.

No one from the public addressed the Board concerning an item not on the agenda.

27. **Indian Creek Reservoir - Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Alpine County.** Judith Unsicker, Lahontan Regional Board staff, gave an informational presentation and answered questions from the Board. Ross Johnson, manager of wastewater operations for South Tahoe Public Utilities District, made additional comments.

OTHER BUSINESS**1. Executive Officer's Report (continued from 6/13/01 evening session)**

Petition to the State Water Board by People Against Radioactive Disposal concerning the Board's decision to issue Molycorp a permit for the continued use of P16. Board members will be apprised of the process and notified if it is scheduled for a hearing or dismissed.

Update on current status of 205-J and 319 grant proposals received and recommended by Lahontan Regional Board staff for federal grant funds administered by the State Water Board for planning and implementation of non-point source projects within Lahontan's region.

Planned reorganization and addition of staff for the Lahontan region: two second-line supervisors and one unit chief position for the South Lake Tahoe office; and two unit chief positions for the Victorville office.

The Quarterly Non-Compliance Report has been included in the Board member packages.

31. Reports by Chairperson and Board Members

Dr. Nebeker reported on three items:

- A publication Mr. Singer provided on how the State Water Board defines what "safe" drinking water is and how hazardous levels of carcinogens and other potentially harmful chemicals (ie. MCL, MTBE, Chromium 6) are determined. He suggested an educational workshop for Board members.
- A recent article from the L A Times on Piute Ponds.
- An article from an American Academy of Sciences publication about environmental regulation and how it might be appropriate to adapt and change the nation's policies and procedures in dealing with some of these issues in the future.

Jack Clarke reported on the recent State Water Board's Budget workshop in Sacramento. Five concept papers were presented on some of the state's most pressing anticipated water-related problems up through 2003: aquifer protection; core regulatory problems; watershed improvement; agriculture and non-point source problems; and water rights backlog. The representatives from the SWRCB regions discussed these problems and the majority decided that the area of greatest concern was core Regulatory.

John Brissenden suggested that a workshop be presented on Caltrans and projects throughout the Lahontan region. Mr. Singer and Lauri Kemper noted that Caltrans prepares an annual report to staff. The next report will be due in November.

Dr. Cooley announced the opening of a new environmental and nature gallery of Galen Rowell's photography in Bishop. She also expressed a preference for a curved arrangement for the Board table set up so that all Board members could see each other during meetings.

32. CLOSED SESSION

The Board members met in closed session on June 14, 2001 from 10:15 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. to discuss Items (a) and (i). The Board reconvened in open session at 10:52 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the June 13-14, 2001 meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Prepared by: _____
Susan-Marie Hagen, Executive Assistant

Adopted: October 10, 2001