



STATE OF NEVADA

STATE WATER PLAN STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING MINUTES -- MEETING OF THE STATE WATER PLAN STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 9:00 am PT

* There was no physical location for this meeting. This meeting was held through Microsoft Teams. *

Video recording of the full meeting: <http://water.nv.gov/waterplans.aspx>

The Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) held a meeting with members of the State Water Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) to provide an overview of the Nevada State Water Plan update process and discuss the roles and responsibilities of the SAG. This meeting was conducted in accordance with Open Meeting Law (NRS 241.020).

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Bunny Bishop called the January 18 meeting of the State Water Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group to order at 9:00 AM, introducing herself and thanking everyone for agreeing to participate in the SAG. Roll call was performed by Nicole Goehring. Quorum was established for the meeting.

Name	Organization	Attendance
Bunny Bishop	Nevada Division of Water Resources	Present
Nicole Goehring	Nevada Division of Water Resources	Present
Kyle Davis	Nevada Mining Association	Present
Doug Busselman	Nevada Farm Bureau	Present
Kim Rigdon	Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission/Western Regional Water Commission	Absent
Ed James	Carson River Subconservancy District	Present
Jake Tibbitts	Eureka County	Present
Jeff Fontaine	Humboldt River Basin Water Authority/Central Nevada Regional Water Authority	Present
Mervin Wright Jr.	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Present
Zane Marshall	Southern Nevada Water Authority	Present
Kara Steeland	Truckee Meadows Water Authority	Absent
Laurel Saito	The Nature Conservancy	Present
Kyle Roerink	Great Basin Water Network	Present
James Eason	Great Basin Water Company	Present
Dave Baker	Nevada Cattlemen's Association	Present
Bert Bryan	Walker River Irrigation District	Present

Justin Huntington	Desert Research Institute, Reno	Present
Justina Caviglia	NV Energy	Present
Joseph Davis	Moapa Valley Water District	Present
Daniel C. Weeks	Nye County Water District	Present

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bunny Bishop requested public comment. There was no public comment.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Bunny Bishop facilitated introductions between and among the NDWR water planning team and the SAG members. SAG members stated their names, organizations and/or affiliations, and favorite water-related activities.

4. STATE WATER PLAN UPDATE OVERVIEW

Bunny Bishop provided an overview of the State Water Plan update process including goals, timeline, and a general outline for the State Water Plan. She acknowledged the importance of local water resource planning and also recognized the need for an updated statewide assessment of water resources. She clarified what the State Water Plan is (a high-level planning and policy document providing options for water management strategies and recommendations for improving water planning) and what the plan is not (e.g., changes in water law, new regulations, and an advocacy document). The SWP update process began at the end of 2021 with a public survey, and the goal is to have a final draft published in the spring of 2025. The plan will include a description of the climate and water resources in Nevada, an analysis of current and future water demands, and recommendations for meeting future demands and improving water planning. Bunny Bishop asked if there were any questions. There were none.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAG

Bunny Bishop reviewed the State Water Plan Stakeholder Advisory roles, responsibilities, and expectations. Each SAG member represents a specific interest group and was selected to provide diverse perspectives for the State Water Plan. NDWR will be responsible for collecting data, convening stakeholders, collating information, drafting sections, and soliciting additional expertise, among other tasks. The SAG will be responsible for providing guidance on content, reviewing sections, discussing challenges and strategies, and brainstorming recommendations, among other tasks. SAG members are also expected to practice active and courteous engagement by contributing to discussions, providing constructive feedback, and attending meetings. All SAG members were provided a charter outlining the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of NDWR and the SAG. Of importance is that the SAG is not a decision-making body, and SAG members should expect the meetings to be structured as facilitated discussions. Bunny Bishop asked if there were any questions. Questions included:

- Laurel Saito, The Nature Conservancy, asked if NDWR would consider adding more people to the SAG and also asked why there is no other state agency representation on the SAG. Bunny Bishop explained that NDWR wanted to keep the SAG at a manageable size (around 20 people). She also explained that State and federal agency representatives are considered “Technical Partners” and will be consulted on an ad hoc basis on sections relevant to the agencies mission(s).

- Laurel Saito, The Nature Conservancy, asked if NDWR will be meeting with the Nevada Indian Commission and the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. Bunny Bishop answered yes. NDWR recognizes there are many tribes in Nevada that each have their own challenges and concerns, and groups such as the Nevada Indian Commission and the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada will be consulted as “Technical Partners.”
- Kyle Davis, Nevada Mining Association, asked for clarification that the State Water Plan will be a guiding document for NDWR and not a regulation. Bunny Bishop confirmed that the State Water Plan is a guiding document and not a regulation.
- Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County, recommended NDWR review NRS 277, which includes the State and Local Government Cooperation Act. NRS 277 encourages “communication, cooperation and coordinated working relationships between state agencies and local government” when a state agency adopts a plan that may affect a master plan adopted by a local government. He recommended working with a NACO (Nevada Association of Counties) representative, who could communicate information about the State Water Plan to county representatives. Bunny Bishop thanked Jake Tibbitts for this information and stated she would look into the requirements and engage NACO.
- Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County, mentioned the passage of Senate Bill 150 by the Nevada Legislature, which requires governing bodies to develop and maintain a water resource plan. He recommended NDWR synthesize relevant local data and water management strategies contained in current water resource plans as part of the data collection process. Bunny Bishop informed Jake Tibbitts that NDWR water planning staff were currently in the process of reviewing all available local and regional water resource plans.

6. **NEXT STEPS FOR THE STATE WATER PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

Bunny Bishop discussed the next steps for the State Water Plan update process and solicited input from the SAG members. NDWR will send a short questionnaire to SAG members to initiate discussions during the next SAG meeting, and the water planning staff will begin drafting sections for the SAG to review. The next SAG meeting is planned for May 2023 and will be scheduled via a Doodle Poll. NDWR would like to have in-person meetings but recognizes the challenges associated with SAG members residing all across the state. NDWR will work to identify a meeting format that works for everyone while also fosters discussions. Bunny Bishop asked if SAG members had any input on meeting logistics:

- Daniel C. Weeks, Nye County Water District, offered Nye County meeting space for any southern Nevada meetings.
- Kyle Davis, Nevada Mining Association, mentioned he recently served on a Nevada Department of Transportation advisory committee and found that hybrid meetings did not work well for discussion. Instead, having everyone virtual or in-person facilitated better discussions.
- Laurel Saito, The Nature Conservancy, mentioned the Desert Research Institute has a northern and southern Nevada campus and may be a good option for a meeting space. Justin Huntington offered to help obtain DRI meeting space if NDWR desired to use the space.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bunny Bishop requested public comment. Public comments included:

- Daniel C. Weeks, Nye County Water District, acknowledged the importance of gathering this group of people together to help develop the State Water Plan. He mentioned that

Nye County has extensively reviewed the previous Nevada State Water Plan (1999) and looks forward to participating in the update process. Nye County has engaged in comprehensive planning, and county staff are happy to help other counties with planning needs. Daniel C. Weeks thanked Bunny Bishop for the invitation to participate in the SAG.

- Jeff Fontaine, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority/Central Nevada Regional Water Authority, mentioned the upcoming Nevada Water Resource Association Annual Conference (January 30, 2023 – February 2, 2023) will have a session on water planning. Bunny Bishop will be a presenter, and the session will be a good opportunity to discuss local water resources plans, both as they relate to the State Water Plan and how they are linked to land use.
- There was no additional public comment.

8. **ADJOURNMENT** – (Discussion/For Possible Action)

Bunny Bishop requested a motion to adjourn. Joe Davis, Moapa Valley Water District, moved to adjourn; Laurel Saito, The Nature Conservancy, seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am PT.
