

**SOUTH TRUCKEE MEADOWS GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner
Bonnie Weber, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
John Berkich, Assistant County Manager
Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel
Paul Orphan, Engineering Manager

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

03-30STM AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the agenda for the September 23, 2003 meeting be approved.

03-31STM MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 19, 2003 be approved.

03-32STM MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2003 be approved.

03-33STM MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 24, 2003 be approved.

03-34STM COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
AGREEMENT – EPA – WELL NO. 9

Paul Orphan, Engineering Manager, presented background regarding the research and development agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He stated that the Local Managing Board (LMB) met on September 15, 2003 and voted unanimously to recommend approval of Alternative 2, which would construct a permanent treatment facility using the US Filter GFH Treatment Process. He stated the facility plan, which the Board of County Commissioners adopted for the South Truckee Meadows on August 20, 2002, calls for keeping Well No. 9 in service, drilling additional wells on the east side of the valley, and treating these wells at the South Truckee Meadows water treatment facility, which is scheduled to come online in 2008. The grant would enable the District to keep Well No. 9 in service until the treatment plant is operational. If the well is not treated, it will have to be taken offline when the new arsenic standards come into effect in January 2006. The grant would also enable the well to be treated on-site, which would be less costly. He addressed the concerns about boron in Well No. 9, clarifying that there is no drinking water standard for boron and the testing of Well No. 9 has shown the concentration of boron to be at .1 mg per liter. The literature indicates that the only concern with boron is plant growth, and this does not become a factor until the boron level is over 1.0 mg per liter.

In response to Commissioner Galloway, Mr. Orphan confirmed that there would be an ongoing cost to keep the well in operation throughout the life of the well. Additional wells would be treated through a future Truckee Meadows water treatment plant and this would be a County plant with STMGID participation. He confirmed there would be a thorough presentation given at the workshop to be held November 10, 2003 on the facility plan, and he would bring forward a statement from Washoe County regarding any and all proposals relating to STMGID.

Chairman Humke inquired regarding plans to drill additional wells east of U.S. 395 when history has shown that wells in this area have had many problems and contain great amounts of boron. Mr. Orphan responded that the major quality concern of the existing Trans-Sierra wells was arsenic, and in the past there was no way to treat the water. The facility plan calls for the construction of a regional water treatment plant and to pipe and treat the well water at the plant. Chairman Humke stated that, although there is no Federal standard for boron in drinking water, citizens find it offensive and believe it to be harmful. The Chairman inquired about the cost of drilling a new production well and if the LMB would be willing to cap the well and abandon it. Mr. Orphan responded that the LMB has already invested \$300,000 to \$400,000, and they do not desire to walk away from this investment. He verified that the LMB is following up on concerns about boron and is waiting for results of the testing and plant materials being analyzed by the University and the Cooperative Extension for boron content.

Pamela Galloway, local citizen, expressed concerns about the decline of water quality in her neighborhood and the water coming from Well No. 9. She stated the

neighborhood does not want this water. She confirmed that they did take their water sample to UNR, and the test result showed the boron level was .4 mg per liter.

John Busse, resident of Virginia Foothills, requested that the Board table their decision until a new contract is in place and time has been allowed to have an opportunity to assess the entire project. He stated there are many facets to the project and time is needed to determine what is best for all citizens involved.

In response to Commissioner Galloway, Mr. Orphan stated there is no set deadline in the contract, but his understanding is that the EPA is already concerned that the project is two months behind because it is their demonstration project. He believes the grant could be lost if the project does not proceed directly.

Commissioner Shaw inquired if Pamela Galloway and John Busse had addressed their concerns at the LMB meeting, and they confirmed that they had.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated he did not want to lose the grant money, and Chairman Humke offered to contact the EPA to request more time.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, suggested that the Board accept the grant money, put it in the bank, and then decide whether or not they want to use the money for the project. If it was determined that the money would not be used, it could be sent back to the Federal government.

In response to Commissioner Sferrazza, Mr. Orphan stated the grant could be accepted and returned if it was determined not to be of use. Commissioner Galloway stated he would not support that idea because it would be in bad faith to accept the money and then return it if indeed the project did not go forward.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Agreement with the United States EPA, which would provide up to \$308,000 in donated equipment and services to equip STMGID Well No. 9 with arsenic removal water treatment equipment, be continued until after the November 10, 2003 workshop and the item be placed on the first available agenda after the workshop. It was further ordered that staff be directed to contact the EPA to determine if there is a possibility of accepting the grant money with the understanding that it may be returned if the Board decides not to go forward with the project and to bring the item before the Board at an earlier date if the response from the EPA is favorable.

03-35STM MANAGEMENT REPORTS – SEPTEMBER 2003

In response to Chairman Humke, Paul Orphan, Engineering Manager, explained the four major leaks and the costs involved to repair them.

Following discussion, on motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that receipt of the District's management report for the month of September 2003 be acknowledged.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Schmidt, resident of Washoe County, addressed the Board concerning CP00SV-001, Reptile Ridge, and stated that Reptile Ridge is the most approved Comprehensive Plan Amendment ever to appear before the Board of County Commissioners.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, disagreed that returning grant money would be bad faith.

Al Hesson, local resident, noted the number of Iraq civilian casualties of war as compared to the casualties of September 11, 2001. He read an article stating President Bush could face a tough re-election.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Paul Orphan, Engineering Manager, informed the Board that staff would have the operating agreement on the Boards' agendas for next month, and clarified that this agreement is between the Board of Trustees for STMGID and the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Weber requested a presentation at the next STMGID meeting explaining the history of how the Board of County Commissioners came to be the Board of Trustees of STMGID.

In response to Commissioner Galloway and Chairman Humke, Mr. Orphan confirmed that any questions he received from the Commissioners would be addressed at the workshop.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

DAVID HUMKE, Chairman
South Truckee Meadows General
Improvement District

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex Officio Secretary, South Truckee
Meadows General Improvement District

*Minutes Prepared By:
Lori Rowe, Deputy County Clerk*