

Meeting Minutes
BOARD FOR FINANCING WATER PROJECTS
November 13, 2024
9:00 am.

Bonnie Conference Room
 901 South Stewart Street, 1st floor
 Carson City, NV 89701

Held virtually using Microsoft Teams:
 Meeting ID: 221 572 121 541

Members present:

Bruce Scott, Chair
 Andrew Belanger, Vice Chair
 Jeremy Hutchins
 Mike Workman
 Abigail Yacoben
 Andrea Seifert, ex-officio member

Legal counsel present:

Katie Armstrong, Deputy Attorney General

NDEP staff present:

Jason Cooper
 Benjamin Miller
 Sheryl Fontaine
 Matt Livingston
 Chris Flores
 Kyle Casci
 Dustin Dietch
 Hannah Bishop-Moser

Public present:

Mitch Andreini, Canyon General Improvement District
 Peggy Frantz, Canyon General Improvement District
 Dave Hart, Canyon General Improvement District
 Russell Bierle, Gerlach General Improvement District
 Kirk Swanson, DOWL Engineering
 Dylan Carey, Keller Associates
 Alex Tanchek, Silver State Government
 Sienna Stierman, Elko County

1) Board for Financing Water Projects regular meeting

1) Call to order

Chair Bruce Scott opened the meeting and invited introductions from board members and those present in person and on the phone.

2) Introduction/establish quorum

Chair Scott established a quorum as all board members were present.

3) Public comment

There were no public comments.

4) Approval of minutes from the August 21, 2024, regular meeting

Board Member Mike Workman motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Abigail Yacoben. The motion carried unanimously with Board Member Jeremy Hutchins abstaining.

5) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Update

[See staff report, Exhibit 5](#)

Jason Cooper, with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) gave an update on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). As of October 28, 2024, there was \$113,201,387.03 in the bank, with \$168,215,167 committed funds not yet disbursed. Over the next three years, the lowest cash balance would be \$63,891,438.

6) Capital Improvements Grant Program Update

[See staff report, Exhibit 6](#)

Mr. Cooper stated as of October 28, 2024, there was \$1,192,126.64 in the bank, with \$25,192.79 reserved for administration, and \$1,103,406.97 committed to projects not yet disbursed. The Governor's office and administration have expressed concern that bond proceeds are being managed and spent effectively to avoid IRS audits. Between June 26th and October 28th \$4,860,685.67 has been disbursed from the bond. NDEP is forecasting to disburse \$784,341.68 with \$425,641.27 remaining in the program. This represents 95% of the bond proceeds spent.

7) Approval of the Nevada Drinking Water Priority List- Effective November 2024

[See staff report, Exhibit 7](#)

Mr. Cooper gave a presentation outlining the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Priority List Effective November 2024 ranking criteria. The ranking reflects the policies and goals of NDEP regarding the use of the DWSRF.

Mr. Cooper began by discussing how projects are ranked:

- **Class 1:** Address demonstrated illnesses that are attributed to a public water system. These projects are for significant non-compliance, such as court-ordered

compliance issues and acute health risks as defined by NDEP and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- **Class 2:** Address systems with chronic contaminants.
- **Class 3:** Address rehabilitation of a deteriorated system.
- **Class 4:** Address systems that need refinancing. These projects incurred debt after July 1, 1993, and followed federal requirements.

There are four new projects added to the list.

The priority list currently has 199 projects with a total estimated cost of \$1,060,610,755.

Vice Chair Belanger motioned to approve the Nevada Drinking Water Priority List Effective November 2024. The motion was seconded by Board Member Workman. The motion carried unanimously.

8) Gerlach General Improvement District

[See staff report, Exhibit 8](#)

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) staff recommended the board approve a \$670,600 project loan commitment to the Gerlach General Improvement District for their Garden Spring Rehabilitation project. Matthew Livingston presented the staff's technical recommendation; Chris Flores presented the staff's financial recommendation and Mr. Cooper presented the staff's loan condition recommendations. The estimated project cost is \$695,600 of which \$670,600 will be a principal forgiveness loan from the DWSRF, and the remainder, \$25,000, will be covered by the Gerlach General Improvement District.

Vice Chair Belanger commented that the fixed water rates may need consideration to be increased in the future for the system to be able to sustain operational costs.

Mr. Cooper stated in Nevada's Statutes there is a requirement for a water system to have financial sustainability. The definition of this includes paying the costs related to maintenance, operations, depreciation, capital expenses, and maintaining credit worthiness and establishing adequate fiscal controls.

Board Member Yacoben motioned to approve Resolution D08-1124 Gerlach General Improvement District Project Loan Commitment. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Belanger. The motion carried unanimously.

9) Canyon General Improvement District

[See staff report, Exhibit 9](#)

NDEP staff recommended the board approve a \$1,500,000 project loan commitment to the Canyon General Improvement District for their tank and meter project. Mr. Livingston presented the staff's technical recommendation; Ms. Flores presented the staff's financial recommendation and Mr. Cooper presented the staff's loan condition recommendations. The estimated project cost is \$1,523,400 of which \$1,500,000 will be a principal forgiveness loan from DWSRF, and the remainder, \$23,400, will be covered by Canyon General Improvement District.

Board Member Workman inquired as to how often user rates are reviewed. Mitch Andreini with Canyon General Improvement District responded that a user rate recommendation is considered after each yearly audit of the water system.

Board Member Workman motioned to approve Resolution D09-1124 Canyon General Improvement District Project Loan Commitment. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Belanger. The motion carried unanimously.

10) Board comments

There were no board comments.

11) Public comment

There were no public comments.

12) Adjourn the Board for Financing Water Projects meeting

The board meeting adjourned at 10:11 am.

2) ATTACHMENTS