

Meeting Minutes
BOARD FOR FINANCING WATER PROJECTS
May 21, 2025

9:00 am.

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

Held virtually using Microsoft Teams:
Meeting ID: 249 672 702 659

Members present:

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

Public present:

Legal counsel present:

Katie Armstrong, Deputy Attorney General

NDEP staff present:

Benjamin Miller
Sheryl Fontaine
Matt Livingston
Chris Flores
Hanna Bingham
Daniel Morgan
Ross Cooper
Brandon Bishop

1) Board for Financing Water Projects regular meeting

1) Call to order

Vice Chair Andrew Belanger opened the meeting and invited introductions from board members and those present in person and on the phone.

2) Introduction/establish quorum

Vice Chair Belanger established a quorum as all board members were present.

3) Public comment

There was no public comment.

4) Approval of minutes from February 19, 2025, regular meeting

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

5) Capital Improvements Grant Program Funding Update

Benjamin Miller, with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) gave an update on the Capital Improvements Grant Program. As of May 9, 2025, \$230,407.06 in the bank, with \$24973.96 reserved for administration, and \$193,755.13 committed to bonds not yet disbursed. Treasurer's interest at \$5,188.69. No new projects for consideration with \$16,866.66 of uncommitted funds.

The 33.9 million of the governor's budget is expected to be approved and Mr. Miller provided an overview of the proposed projects that have come forward for funding. Staff is speaking with systems to make sure the projects are ready to proceed when the bonds are issued.

6) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Update

Mr. Miller stated as of May 9th the DWSRF base program has \$125,121,068. Within the base program the DWSRF has committed \$158,623,434. With just under 6.1 million aside for bond debt services. \$169,803,342 are total committed and potential project loans.

Mr. Miller provided information on Emerging Contaminates totaling \$16,000,000 with \$6,000,000 being total funds being committed and \$10,000,000 for projects currently in discussion with the SRF. Continually, Mr. Miller stated that there are no Lead Service Line commitments.

Overall, there is \$185,803,342 in total DWSRF funding for committed and potential project loans. With \$49,248,324 Principal Forgiveness funding that can be committed to projects.

7) Nevada Drinking Water Priority List-Effective May 2025

Mr. Miller stated there is an annual requirement for all projects to be renewed by the existing water systems in addition to new projects added. Staff have reviewed all projects and there is a total of 199 projects on the list. Mr. Miller continued with an overview of the project classifications.

Vice Chair Belanger asked what strategies are used for projects with acute issues to make sure they receive funding.

Mr. Miller stated that within the acute category there is one project currently being funded with conversations being had with other systems about funding as some are not ready to proceed.

Ross Cooper commented that class one receives the most points automatically which is based on acuteness.

Vice Chair Belanger stated to confirm that those projects get funded first based on the priority ranking hence the letter of intent that puts projects up the list. Mr. Cooper agreed with the statement.

Board Member Mike Workman motioned to approve Resolution D07-0525 Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The motion was seconded by Board Member Abigail Yacoben. The motion carried unanimously.

8) Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)

NDEP staff recommended the board approve an additional funding increase of \$9,000,000 for project loan commitment to Truckee Meadows Water Authority, jointly funded by the City of Reno, of planning, designing, and pursuing the first indirect potable reuse project in Nevada.

Mr. Miller presented further that the original SRF commitment was approved by a BFWP resolution in August 2024. The need for additional funds is due to the possible grant rescinding from the Bureau of Reclamation. TMWA is requesting the loan authority increase to cover potential loss of this funding.

Board Member Yacoben asked when TMWA will know whether they are going to receive the grant portion and if so, do these funds come back into the SRF.

Mr. Miller responded that there is no estimated time for receiving the grant, but they are still completing environmental work with BOR. Once the project is complete these funds will be de-obligated and come back to the SRF should they not spend the funding.

Vice Chair Belanger asked if this additional amount would fall under the 1% special funding loan?

Mr. Miller responded yes.

Board Member Jeremy Hutchins asked if federal politics is the concern?

Mr. Miller responded that the BOR is going through a massive reorganization because of the initial pause in all federal grant funding and they have not been able to confirm the commitment of that grant.

Mr. Cooper stated that his understanding is the additional \$9,000,000 will be retained by the system to be spent on this project whether BOR gives TMWA the grant.

Board Member Workman motioned to approve Resolution D08-0525 Truckee Meadows Water Authority Advanced Purification Water Facility (APWF) Project Loan Commitment. The motion was seconded by Board Member Yacoben. The motion carried unanimously.

9) Language Access Plan

Mr. Miller reminded the board of the February board meeting discussion about the implementation of the Language Access Plan for review and comments. There were no public comments on the policy.

Mr. Miller asked the board to approve a resolution for policy to be submitted.

Board Member Yacoben commented to confirm that this policy has been reviewed by the state's attorneys to be consistent with what other boards are doing.

Board Member Workman asked if this is a requirement to have this policy.

Mr. Miller confirmed yes, it is a state statute requirement and is being presented to the board to approve just as any other policy would.

Board Member Workman followed up with asking if there have been applicants in the past that have needed assistance.

Mr. Miller responded there has not been anyone coming forward needing this accommodation.

Board Member Andrea Seifert added that the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water has had translation services provided and it was a smooth process.

Board Member Yacoben motioned to approve Resolution D09-0525 Language Access Plan. The motion was seconded by Chairman Bruce Scott. The motion carried unanimously.

10) Board Policy

Mr. Miller presented that NDEP staff have drafted a scale policy for the capital improvement grant program. To establish funding levels for eligible recipients sent to the board for review and to be confirmed by Deputy Attorney General Katie Armstrong.

Ms. Armstrong confirmed that the board does have the capability to implement a capital improvement grant eligible recipient scale.

Chair Bruce Scott asked to confirm that this policy is only for the Clean Water SRF.

Mr. Miller confirmed that eligible recipients are defined under statute in the Clean Water program whereas purveyors of water are under the Drinking Water program to which a scale already exists.

Vice Chair Belanger and Chair Scott prompted discussion on further understanding about deductions on second home vacation account reductions. As those communities that were designed to be secondary homes, non-primary residencies would not be funded at the same level.

Mr. Miller stated that Staff have kept the scale similar between eligible recipients and purveyors of water. To prioritize projects to communities with full time residents.

Vice Chair Belanger asked based on the May workshop discussion, this policy is temporary until a scale revamp is implemented in the future.

Mr. Miller stated that this policy is a start for Staff. To eventually make these scales clearer and simpler for systems to understand and bring forward a new policy to the board at a future date for review and approval.

Vice Chair Belanger accepts a motion to adopt the May 21st, 2025, policy on funding levels for eligible recipients. So moved by Board Member Yacoben. The motion was seconded by Board Member Workman. The motion carried unanimously.

11) Board comments

12) Public comment

13) Adjourn the Board for Financing Water Projects meeting

The board meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.

2) ATTACHMENTS