

LAHONTAN VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

TRUCKEE CANAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
Fernley City Hall, Fernley, NV
October 22, 2003

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

THOSE ATTENDING:

Ed Depaoli, Albert Raney, Mayor David Stix, Jr., Jeannette Dahl

REVIEW, MODIFY AND APPROVE PROPESED AGENDA

The agenda was accepted.

REVIEW MEETING NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Meeting notes were reviewed and accepted

REPORT: HAZEN WATER SITUATION-ALBERT RANEY

Albert Raney reported that Hazen is reliant on recharge of the Truckee Canal. When there is a drought, the wells go dry. There are approximately 80 wells in the area. If the Truckee Canal is closed, more wells could be lost, wildlife could be affected and the aesthetic nature of the area could be lost.

Albert Raney requested copies and documentation of the aerial photos taken of the Bench area showing the before and after affects of the water stripping.

DISCUSS ISSUES REGARDING PUBLIC RECREATION ON TRUCKEE CANAL

The ownership of the Truckee Canal easement was discussed.

Mayor Stix is planning to meet with Betsy Reiki from Bureau of Reclamation to discuss the use of the Truckee Canal as open space for the housing development going in on both sides of the canal. The City of Fernley approved this development with the dedication of open space and with the provision that the Canal can be used for open space. The City would have the responsibility of maintenance, if needed, due to recreational use. The City would also assume liability for recreational use but the Truckee Carson Irrigation District would retain liability for flooding. The City will own the Canal property as open space. Mayor Stix will have the City attorney look into the fee property and the patent property.

Ed Depaoli explained that when the water in the canal is not flowing, it smells very bad and is not a good situation for recreation.

Mayor Stix reported that the salt load in the river is coming out of Dead Ox Meadow and that there is a denial of Truckee Meadows to revamp the system and clean up the Truckee River. Truckee Meadows wants to trade TDS by holding salts up river until a wet year, and then send them down stream.

Charts provided by Roger Le Sueur regarding flows to the Truckee Canal were discussed. Roger Le Sueur will be asked to explain the charts at the next meeting.

The final TROA draft was discussed. The Water Quality Settlement Act is not complete and must be in place for TROA to work. It will take time for comments and changes to be made on the TROA. There was a question as to the possibility of Truckee Carson Irrigation District being included as an entity in TROA.

DISCUSS CROSS COUNTY LINE PURCHASING ISSUES

The authority of counties to purchase land outside of their own county was discussed.

Churchill County is asking for an opinion from the Attorney General as to the legality of counties purchasing property outside of their county boundaries.

Mayor Stix will ask City of Fallon attorneys to request an opinion regarding cross county boundary purchases from the Attorney General. The question to be answered is, "What authority did Reno/Sparks rely on when they purchased lands outside their authority?"

DISCUSS GOALS/OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES

Goals, objectives and strategies were discussed in the process of discussing other agenda items.

DISCUSS OTHER BUSINESS

Rod Hall, Desert Research Institute, completed two studies of the river that show the river benefits from the Truckee Canal being open. The canal forces TDS out of Fernley basin. Any salt in the Fernley area had been leached into the area years ago.

NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA ITEMS

The next Truckee Canal Working Group meeting will be held November 20, 2003, 6:00 pm, at Fernley City Hall.

Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- Report on Hazen water situation – Stuart Mackie
- Discuss cross county property purchases
- Discuss TROA – TCID added to entities represented
- Report on meeting with BOR
- Explanation of flow chart provided by BOR – Roger Le Sueur

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.