## COLORADO RIVER REGIONAL SEWER COALITION

#### November 12, 2008 Board of Directors' Meeting 2360 McCulloch Blvd., North, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403 Police Facility

## ATTENDEES

## Voting Membership Present

Mayor Jack Hakim Mayor Mark Nexsen Bill Cox Andy Jones Tom Sockwell Jim Nafsey Scott Leedom Lori Wedemeyer Cliff Edey

## Also Present

Tracy Tucker Terry Bracy Susan Betts Charlie Cassens Greg Froslie Doyle Wilson City of Bullhead City Lake Havasu City Chemehuevi Indian Tribe (by phone) Colorado River Sewage Systems (JV) Mohave County (by phone) Metropolitan Water District Southern Nevada Water Authority (by phone) Town of Parker La Paz County Board of Supervisors (by phone)

Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano (by phone) Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano (by phone) Bullhead City Lake Havasu City Lake Havasu City Lake Havasu City

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nexsen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll call was taken and it was determined that there is a quorum.

1. Secretary's Report-Mark Nexsen

The September 16, 2008 minutes were presented for approval. Vice Chairman Hakim made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Andy Jones seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. Motion carries.

2. Treasurer's Report - Cheryl Sallis

The Treasurer's report was presented which reflects an available cash balance of \$182,737.01. The operations fund has a balance of \$188,626.27, while the legislative advocacy fund has a negative balance of \$5,889.26. Andy Jones made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Vice Chairman Hakim seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. Motion carries.

3. Report on BLM Record of Decision issued September 3, 2008 for the Conveyance and Operations Program of the Clean Water Coalition – Susan Betts

Susan Betts reported that this item is to advise the members of the board of the decision of the BLM that recently took effect that they would go ahead and issue permits that would be required for the Clean Water Coalition to extend their project to build pipelines across BLM land and other lands to discharge into Lake Mead. There is no action from the board that we are requesting today as again we just wanted to advise the board in case members of the board were not familiar with the decision. This is a result of an analysis of an environmental assessment process and agencies involved include the BLM, the National Parks Service, the US Army Corp of Engineers, Colorado River Commission of Nevada and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The decision to go ahead and issue these permits will allow the Clean Water Coalition as I said to construct the discharge lines and they're basically making this decision on the fact that discharging in the North portion of Lake Mead will give them better mixing action in the lake and thus better water quality from the agencies that are discharging currently in the Las Vegas wash. The Clean Water Coalition includes the water treatment wastewater treatment agencies.

4. Progress report on the CRRSCo priority project – Greg Froslie

Greg Froslie reported that PBS&J have been working on a very tight schedule to work on updating the project priorities list. Additionally they've been gathering some information for you and the other board members that will be traveling to Washington, DC next week. The TAC committee met with them on November 7, 2008 to focus on finalizing that information and then we also have another TAC meeting that will be scheduled here for later this month or early December to meet one more time before the final report is submitted to the board in late December.

PBS&J presented a preliminary report which is attached.

5. Lobbyist report and update:

Tracy Tucker reported the following:

- There has been a lot of change in Washington as well as a major shift in power which is going to result in some positive changes for CRRSCo, mainly with the election of Obama and with the democrats increasing their majority in the house and some in the senate.
- They are reorganizing the priorities and the economic prices has really put a lot of attention on cities and the infrastructure of our cities namely transportation, wastewater, water issues.
- We are going to see over the next four years a major focus on rebuilding our local economies, rebuilding our infrastructure within our cities.
- The most immediate highlight of the Obama administration is the idea of the economic stimulus.
- Members of congress plan to try and move a bill that will incorporate funding assistance for state and local government. How that will be outlines as we're hearing right now is that they won't earmark special projects in the bill, but they may potentially put lumps of money into the economic stimulus bill that will then go on to the effective agencies.
- So for example; on to EPA, Department of Transportation or other agencies for them to be then issued out on a formula basis or on a priority need basis that will be determined in this legislation.

- If congress is unable to pass that bill in this lame duck session, President Elect Obama has already declared that in the beginning of his term that will be one of his big priorities so they will come back and address that issue.
- Campaign pledges that President Elect Obama had made are now being followed up on and we're reading a lot of reports and talking to people with the transition team who have indicated that his priority is to increase funding for water treatment facilities, to move forward with the national infrastructure bank proposal that he had that would bring \$60B to the table for infrastructure issues within our country.
- The highlight climate change which is also water plays a key role in that. We're already primed and ready for these legislature initiatives that are coming down the pike, but we're also going to be putting special focus on any new opportunities that come and how we might be able to take advantage or look for opportunities there as well for CRRSCo.
- The highlight of the trip is going to be the multi-agency meeting that Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett is pulling together out of the Department of Interior. So far the participants we have heard are going to be the Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Agriculture.
- Chairman Nexsen asked if the people that they're going to be meeting with will be there come February?
- Tracy Tucker commented that it's going to be a combination. It's going to be some people who will not be here in February and then there will be career staff. We've asked them to make sure to book career staff.
- They will be working on getting meetings with the committee staff that are handling the economic stimulus and who also has jurisdiction over waste water and water issues as well as we have a meeting arranged with Senator Kyl's office and working on a meeting with Congressman Mitchell.
- Tentatively a conference call has been arranged between Mayor Nexsen and Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez who is one of the co-chairs of the United States Conference of Mayors Urban Water Council. The conference of mayors is coincidentally is having their Urban Water Council meeting next week.
- The Conference of Mayors has been collecting data and information on their economic stimulus proposal to congress and many of the CRRSCo issues have been submitted as part of the waste water priorities for the conference of Mayors survey and report that they are going to produce to congress on the needs across the country.
- The final two items that have been talked about are doing a January meeting in Washington, a symposium kind of summit meeting and we're waiting right now to see if we can get an additional co-sponsor from the Federal Government. If we don't get another cosponsor our suggestion is that we might put it on hold until we can get someone from congress from the Governor's office to help sponsor the event to broaden the number of people who will attend and we're still working very hard to work on different committee hearings here in Washington.
- The final item is that Brandon Avila has been doing website updates to the CRRSCo website. Anyone's comments will be incorporated. All of the studies that have been done thus far including the Governor's report are on the website.

Chairman Nexsen commented that he received a call from the Phoenix office of Senator Kyl asking that Mayor Hakim and Nexsen come down to his office tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. They are looking forward to that meeting.

6. Travel Authorization

Chairman Nexsen reported that Board Members received an email regarding authorizing the funds for Mayor Hakim, Nexen and Bob Leuck to Washington. Everyone through email had

agreed to authorize those funds, but what is really need is a public vote. Butch Hull made a motion to approve travel expenses for participation in advocacy meetings scheduled for November 20-21, 2008, Andy Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the motion with all in favor.

- 7. Chairman Nexsen briefly discussed the CRRSCo budget. He explained that since there had been so much activity over the 6-9 months that a budget of expected expenses over the next year would be of help. He also would like to revisit membership dues and funding for advocacy efforts. He would like to put this item on the next agenda for further discussion and any proposals as to how we need to deal with membership fees, funding for advocacy,
- 8. Staff report and update regarding BOR partnership Doyle Wilson & Bob Leuck Doyle Wilson reported that progress has been made. Becky Blasius of BOR has prepared a proposal for a cooperative ground water quality monitoring program along the lower Colorado River. In essence this is a program to build a database for data collection of all sorts of information that's related to ground water quality and to develop this so it's accessible to anybody out in the public. A website would have to be generated. The scope of this starts next year and goes until 2014 with the BOR's participation, it's 50/50 match with in kind services on our part and we would take over ownership at the end of that time period as purposed. The ground water quality aspect of it may be kind of limited. I'm not sure how many wells are out there that we can get information for. I really think we need to include surface water quality as well which is just the opposite of that here. We need to be talking with agencies, memberships within CRRSCo, but other agencies too to see if we can't get all this information. They also brought up the suggestion of possibly cooperating with Southern Nevada Water Authority since they already have an extensive database of their own to maybe join with them to work with that. We are moving ahead.
- 9. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2008.

# ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Hakim made a motion to adjourn. Jim Nafsey seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. Chairman Nexsen declared the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.