

The meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 08, 2014 at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 4401, Las Vegas, Nevada.

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

George F. Ogilvie III
Berlyn D. Miller
Bob Coffin
J. Brin Gibson
Duncan R. McCoy
Puoy K. Premsrirut
Steve Sisolak

SPECIAL COUNSEL, ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Special Counsel, Attorney General
Special Counsel, Attorney General

Ann C. Pongracz
Jennifer T. Crandell

COMMISSION STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Executive Director
Chief of Finance and Administration
Assistant Director of Engineering and Operations
Manager, Hydropower Program
Assistant Hydropower Program Manager
Natural Resource Analyst
Natural Resource Analyst
Senior Accountant
Senior Energy Accountant
Senior Energy Accountant
Office Manager
Administrative Assistant II
Administrative Assistant II

Jayne Harkins, P.E.
Douglas N. Beatty
Robert D. Reese
Craig N. Pyper
Lisa M. Ray
Jason L. Thiriot
Warren Turkett
Gail L. Benton
Richard M. Sanders
Kalora E. Snyder
Judy K. Atwood
Melissa Dibert
Carla Miguel

OTHERS PRESENT; REPRESENTING

Overton Power District No. 5
Self
Southern Nevada Water Authority

Terry Romero
Kenny Kuykendall
Jordan Bunker

**COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION
OF NEVADA
MEETING OF JULY 08, 2014**

INDEX

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
A.	Conformance to Open Meeting Law	1
B.	Comments from the public. (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.)	1
C.	<i>For Possible Action:</i> Approval of minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting	1
D.	<i>For Information Only:</i> Introduction of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada’s fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budget recommendation	1
E.	<i>For Information Only:</i> Status update on State of Nevada, Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Hoover Visitor Center/Air Slots Refunding Bonds	9
F.	<i>For Information Only:</i> Presentation of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada Power Delivery Group’s annual Safety Report	9
G.	<i>For Information Only:</i> Status update on Staff’s development of proposed changes to Chapter 538 of the Nevada Administrative Code, to implement the provisions in the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011 (H.R. 470) passed by Congress, and otherwise update the Colorado River Commission of Nevada’s regulations	10
H.	<i>For Information Only:</i> Status update on the hydrologic conditions, drought, and climate of the Colorado River Basin, Nevada's consumptive use of Colorado River water, and other developments on the Colorado River.....	10
I.	Comments from the public. (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.)	11

**COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION
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MEETING OF JULY 08, 2014**

INDEX (Continued)

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
J.	Comments and questions from the Commission members	11
K.	Selection of the next possible meeting date.....	11
L.	Adjournment	11

The Colorado River Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman George F. Ogilvie III at 1:05 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

A. Conformance to Open Meeting Law.

Executive Director Jayne Harkins confirmed that the meeting was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

B. Comments from the public. (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.)

Chairman Ogilvie asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

C. For Possible Action: Approval of minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting.

Commissioner McCoy moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Miller and approved by a unanimous vote.

D. For Information Only: Introduction of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada's fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budget recommendation.

Chief of Finance and Administration Douglas N. Beatty presented the draft fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budget recommendations to the Commission.

The draft budget request for the Commission's funds for the upcoming biennium; fiscal 2016 (beginning in July of 2015) and fiscal 2017 (beginning in July of 2016), is as follows:

The draft budget request is the beginning component in the State budgeting process which consists of three phases. The first phase of the State process is the agency request phase. During this phase, Commission staff develops the draft request budget, reviews the draft with the Commission's Customers, and then presents the budget to the Commission for review and approval.

Once reviewed and approved by the Commission, the budget is formatted into the State Budget format and submitted to the Governor for the next phase of the budget process. This submittal must be completed by the end of August. Upon submittal to the Governor, the second phase of the State process begins. During this phase, the Governor incorporates the Commission's request, as he determines, and in accordance with his overall state-wide objectives into the Governor's Executive Budget. This Executive Budget provides the budget request for all Executive Branch agencies and is the final product presented to the Nevada Legislature when it convenes in calendar year 2015.

Once submitted to the Legislature, the third phase of the budget process begins. During this process, the Legislature reviews and adjusts the budget as part of the Legislative process. Various committee and subcommittee hearings are conducted on the Executive Budget, and the Commission Executive Director will be requested to attend and testify during the hearings that will focus on the Commission's portion of the Governor's Executive Budget. Upon completion of all desired committee and subcommittee hearings, the Legislature will ultimately adopt their final, binding budget and the Commission's portion of that budget will be incorporated into the Controller's accounting system as the governing document for the Commission's funds and accounts.

Staff completed the Customer meetings and presented this draft budget to the Power Customers and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), the Commission's Water Customer. The budget was reviewed in detail during the meetings and resulted in requests from both the Power Customers and the SNWA to refine the proposed allocations of requested new positions. Staff is currently in the process of refining the allocations and will be providing new budget sheets to the Customers and the Commission shortly.

To outline the accounts or funds utilized by the Commission, the Commission has four funds that accommodate all activities. The first fund is the Commission's fund 4490, the Colorado River Commission Fund. This fund accounts for the majority of the administrative costs of the agency and includes all positions authorized.

Fund 4501, the Power Delivery Project Fund, provides for the power and related costs of the Commission's non-hydropower purchases. This fund also provides for the direct costs of activities related to the Energy Services Group, headed by Gail Bates, and for the Power Delivery Group, headed by Bob Reese.

Fund 4502, the Power Marketing Fund, provides for the cost of hydropower resources and direct charges related to this function.

Fund 4497, the Research and Development Fund, accommodates the federal dollars associated with the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP). At the current time the fund is holding the monies related to the two reserve funds of the LCRMSCP, one being the habitat maintenance fund and the other being the remedial measures fund.

In general, the budget request presented represents a status quo budget; no new programs or activities are anticipated or requested. The budget provides for the ongoing activities of the agency and continues the Hoover Power Allocation process which began over a year ago and is scheduled to conclude in fiscal 2017.

Commissioner Sisolak asked, in regards to fund 4490, if the request for four new Natural Resource Specialist positions, a new Deputy Director and a new Special Counsel, Attorney General is necessary at this time. Other government agencies, at all levels, are trimming budgets and staff to only the necessary numbers. Currently, the Commission

has two Special Counsel, Attorney Generals as well as outside law firms on retainer to handle various legal needs. Mr. Sisolak inquired if all six new positions are required at this time in this budget cycle.

Commissioner Coffin requested further detail on the needs and justifications of these new positions. Mr. Coffin also asked what justifications would be given to the Budget Office regarding these new positions.

Ms. Harkins stated that when the time arrives to discuss the proposed budget with the various committees and subcommittees involved in the State budget process, Staff will present the upcoming needs of the Commission to the Budget staff. Over the next two fiscal years, which are encompassed under this requested budget, the Commission will be involved with many new contract negotiations with both the federal government and new entities allocated hydropower resources from Hoover Dam. The position requests would not be filled immediately, or necessarily occupied for the entirety of the next fiscal year biennium, but the request would put the authorization in place to fill the positions at such time when work load demands justify the new position. This is especially important for the Special Counsel, Attorney General as the Attorney General's office will also need to include this position in their office's budget request. During the Customer review of this requested budget, Ms. Harkins noted that, during the biennium, Staff would inform Customers when a position needs to be filled and meet with them to discuss the justifications for filling the position at the time it needs to be filled.

Current projections of anticipated work load, especially in the Hydropower Program Group, are immensely larger than current levels. Not only will negotiations be needed to satisfy the new commitments to Hoover power, but also the renegotiation of current contracts related to power scheduling and transmission will be required by 2017. As Lake Mead continues to decline, more work on conservation and restoration programs begins for the Natural Resources Group. These are complex partnerships involving Upper and Lower Basin States as well as the federal government. Work also continues with the federal government on matters relating to Glen Canyon operations and the LCRMSCP. As these programs grow, greater involvement by Staff will be needed to ensure the Commission's responsibilities are fulfilled.

The addition of a new Special Counsel, Attorney General comes at a critically important time as well. In this biennium, new contracts must be negotiated between the federal government, many other states, local governments, and other entities. Ann C. Pongracz, one of the Commission's current Special Counsel, Attorney General, has announced her impending retirement in the near future. By adding a new Special Counsel, Attorney General now, before her retirement, Staff hopes to find someone who can be involved with all of the processes of executing the new contracts and stay on at the Commission to oversee these contracts after Ms. Pongracz retires.

Commissioner Coffin asked what determined the division of billing for the new Natural Resource Specialists and the Deputy Director.

Ms. Harkins stated the division of cost amongst the groups for each Natural Resource Specialist is based upon the current expectations of work load. Some of the upcoming work will encompass the work of several of the groups, so each one will contribute to that cost. The same is true of the Deputy Director, who will be working with all of the groups; and the cost will be distributed amongst all working groups.

Commissioner Coffin asked if the new position requests are based upon a specific requirement from the federal government for new responsibilities, or if this is based upon a current under-staffing of the Commission.

Ms. Harkins stated that the current staffing level of the Commission meets most of its needs. Some areas, including natural resources and hydropower, currently have outside contractors to help Staff meet the demands of those concerns. Over the next two years these demands will continue to grow along with several new responsibilities being introduced that the Commission will need to meet.

Commissioner Coffin noted that, as the budget process continues, Staff will need to formulate a clear and concise justification for the new position requests. The same will be true for the Commission's Customers. While they may be more understanding of the demands, they also have customers of their own who will also bear the responsibility and cost of paying for these positions. Providing them a concise presentation on the need of the added expense will be an asset to them as well.

Commissioner Sisolak asked, in regards to water conservation, how much of the Commission's work in this area is also provided by the SNWA. A duplication of services could be possible when the SNWA currently staffs a large conservation department.

Ms. Harkins responded that the Commission does work very closely with the SNWA, but there is no duplication of water conservation services between the two entities. The Commission works closely with the SNWA regarding matters relating to the Colorado River, Hoover Dam, other Basin States, and other water providers to come up with Basin-wide conservation programs. The SNWA is the local community representative in matters relating to pumping water from Lake Mead, local water supplies, and water conservation efforts in the Las Vegas valley.

Chairman Ogilvie noted, for clarification, that this issue is addressed frequently between Ms. Harkins, as Executive Director of the Commission, and John Entsminger, as General Manager of the SNWA. While the agencies support each other in some overlapping areas, a duplication of efforts benefits neither entity. The SNWA remains an important customer of the Commission and Mr. Entsminger monitors closely any issues pertaining to staffing, work efforts and costs to Customers. Chairman Ogilvie stated that, under certain circumstances, a duplication of efforts may be necessary as the Commission and the SNWA are working toward two different missions in the same area. Under current statutes regulating the Commission, using SNWA staff and resources for certain tasks would amount to abdication of responsibilities assigned to the Commission under the Nevada Revised Statutes.

Chairman Ogilvie also stated, for benefit of the general public who may not be aware, the Commission is not a general fund agency of the State. All Commission staff and operating costs are fully funded by the Commission's Customers. In this regard, the Commission works more as a private enterprise than a State agency in that the Commission requires the input and support of the Customers to make changes to the budget. The new positions requested, as noted by Ms. Harkins, may or may not be filled. Due to timelines related to the State budget process, the Commission is required to attain authorization for these positions now, as waiting would mean waiting another two years to propose them again. As the biennium progresses, and a need arises to staff one of the open positions, Customers would be notified and given an opportunity for input before Staff would begin the process of hiring new employees.

Commissioner Sisolak stated that despite this, the Commission's Customers are still his constituents and tax payers of the State.

Chairman Ogilvie noted for the record that that is not entirely correct. Some of the Commission's Customers are private enterprises, with private customers of their own, who pay for their portion of the services provided by the Commission.

Commissioner Sisolak asked how many of the Commission's Customers meet that definition.

Mr. Beatty responded that a significant number of the Hydropower Customers are private enterprises. The Commission also works with NV Energy and the SNWA.

Commissioner Sisolak responded that even NV Energy and the SNWA are ultimately citizens that are tax payers and therefore constituents. At the County, in dealing with more than thirty different budgets, over one hundred new positions were requested in the last budget cycle. Only six of those positions were authorized county-wide. One agency requesting six positions may be excessive.

Commissioner Coffin commented that Staff is currently doing a great job on what may be short staffing for the current needs. If the six requested positions are staffed, there may be a possibility to pick up some of the one hundred plus employees who were recently released from the SNWA and Las Vegas Valley Water District.

Commissioner McCoy stated that the current draft budget request will be up for more discussion and approval in August, before being officially submitted for consideration to the Governor. While the request may seem out of scale, it was noted that this request must cover the next two fiscal years, not just the upcoming year. It is important to ensure that the Commission can and will meet its mission over the next budget cycle. It becomes incredibly difficult to request new positions or other new spending after the budget has been finalized. Keeping this in mind, the request does not seem so out of scale as it may first appear.

Commissioner Gibson requested that a staffing analysis of the last twenty years be completed. This would allow the Commission to review the staffing needs over a substantial amount of time to take note of trends and fluctuations in staffing numbers.

Chairman Ogilvie noted that Commissioner Sisolak raised important concerns over the staffing request contained in this draft budget. Chairman Ogilvie requested that a more detailed description of the jobs and the justifications for the positions be included with the budget request up for vote at the August meeting.

Mr. Beatty continued his presentation of the draft budget request and moved on to travel spending. The travel budget includes an increase for in-state and out-of-state travel for both fiscal years 2016 and 2017. This increase is related to the Hoover Power Allocation activities that will continue through 2017. The increase also reflects expanded in-state travel for fiscal year 2017 to accommodate the Legislative schedule during the 2017 session. The next Legislative Session will begin in January of 2015, but spending for that session will be covered under the fiscal 2015 budget that was approved previously.

A large portion of general administrative spending is attributed to the Commission's contracts. This includes legal and financial services. The contract charges are reviewed closely by the Commission's Customers and no concerns were raised over these expenses during the Customer review.

Commissioner Sisolak asked for more detail on the research and development contracts listed.

Mr. Beatty responded that the contracts related to budget amounts are delineated under the statutes governing the Commission. The amounts are set by the statute. This has been a part of the Commission's annual budget since the formation of the SNWA when the Commission's focus was redirected towards negotiations and operations of the Colorado River. The amounts are required to be budgeted into each fiscal year budget even though they are not always used. Spending of this money is required only when need arises under one of the specified categories of the statute.

Commissioner Sisolak asked if the amounts budgeted can fluctuate from year to year.

Mr. Beatty responded that the amounts have not changed. The budgeted amount written into the Commission's statutes allows for inflation. This reference in Statute has not been used. Prior to the creation of the SNWA, the Commission was responsible for ensuring the work under these statutes. With the creation of the SNWA these costs were then budgeted into SNWA's charges. Approval from the Commission would be required on expenditures or on contracts prior to enacting activity. These funds have not been needed in recent budgets, namely the last five years of budgets have not used this money.

Commissioner Sisolak asked what happens to the unused funds budgeted and if the amounts would be returned to the State's general fund.

Mr. Beatty responded that the Commission does not collect these funds until they are needed. If needed, these charges would be billed to the SNWA. During budget cycles where these funds are not needed, the SNWA's billing is reduced and does not include monies for these costs.

Ms. Harkins noted for the record that the Commission is not a general fund agency, and therefore none of the money collected by the Commission would ever be turned over to the State's general fund. Monies collected by the Commission and not used are returned to the Commission's Customers.

Commissioner Sisolak asked for more detail regarding the water contracts listed in the budget request.

Ms. Harkins responded that two contracts are listed, one for Sara A. Price, Esq. and one for Fennemore Craig P.C., as water contracts. Ms. Price worked previously for the Attorney General's office and was assigned to the Commission. Her services for the Natural Resources Group have been utilized under an independent contractor's agreement after her departure from the Attorney General's office. The Fennemore Craig P.C. contract is for the services of Lauren J. Caster who is working with the Commission on matters involving the *Navajo Nation vs. the United States Department of the Interior et. al.* lawsuit.

Commissioner Sisolak asked if Ms. Price was a retiree from the Attorney General's office.

Ms. Harkins responded that she did not retire from service. She left the Attorney General's office to raise her family and work privately as an attorney.

Mr. Beatty continued his presentation of the draft budget request and moved on to dues and registration fees for services used by the Commission. The fees associated with this type of service have been greatly reduced over the last several budget cycles. The Commission continues to keep its Customers apprised of the organizations that the Commission is a member of so that they may have input on where and how these funds are spent.

Water Special Projects details the cost related to a water symposium for the Colorado Basin States that will be hosted by the Commission in partnership with the SNWA and other Basin States. The event is preliminarily set for fiscal year 2017. A registration fee will be assessed for participants that will offset some of the costs associated with this event; however, at this time that rate has not yet been established.

The equipment budget includes standard costs associated with the replacement and repair for Commission office supplies, including furniture, and for the purchase of materials for new employees. This budget also includes the cost of a replacement vehicle for one of the Commission's vehicles that is aging out of useful service. This budget also includes a

requested amount for replacement of computer equipment to meet new standards set by the State's Enterprise Information Technology Services.

The requested budget also details the costs associated with Staff and the type of work that they perform. A detailed listing of cost allocations per employee was included in the briefing materials. These allocations were based on historical trends of employee work loads and demonstrated the cross-department work of some employees. Administrative employees are also included to show the cost breakdown of each employee and to which group they charge their time.

The Power Delivery Fund budget request highlights a significant decrease in proposed costs to the group. The largest expenditure continues to be the power purchases section of this budget. Reductions in other areas over the last few budget cycles have carried savings forward into this budget request. The formation of the Silver State Energy Association has helped expand these savings by taking responsibility for the power sales and trades of our existing Customers. This fund also includes contracts related to the operation and maintenance of the Commission's power facilities.

The Power Marketing Fund is associated with the costs incurred by the association with hydropower from the Hoover Dam. The major portion of this spending is used for the Power Sales portion of the budget. The remainder is used for power purchases and purchasing assessments. This budget request has also been reduced by the refinancing of the Hoover Visitor Center / Air Slots Refunding Bonds.

The Research and Development Fund is used exclusively for the LCRMSCP with the federal government. These reserve funds do not reflect a large change from previous years, but some interest has accrued. These funds can only be used by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the LCRMSCP. Oversight committee approval is required before funds could be released to the federal government. The cost amounts of these programs are set by the federal government.

Commissioner Premssirut requested an analysis of the costs related to the renegotiation of the Hoover Customer contracts. Because these contracts only come up for renewal every fifty years, it would be helpful for the Commissioners to see the changes associated with the renewal process as no one currently at the Commission was a part of those negotiations.

Ms. Harkins noted that before the August meeting of the Commission, some additional information will be assembled relating to the budget request introduced today. Information regarding the new positions will be assembled for the Customers and Commission review at the August meeting. Commissioner Gibson's request of a staffing analysis will be completed to go along with this information. Commissioner Premssirut's request for information relating to the costs associated with the renewal of the power Customer contracts will also be assembled.

Mr. Beatty noted that the adjustments requested by the Customers and the Commission will be completed and sent to all Commissioners as well as the Customers before the August meeting.

Chairman Ogilvie requested an executive summary be included with the changes to note the justifications for each item.

Commissioner Sisolak asked if the Commission has ever had more than the two assigned Deputy Attorney Generals currently at the Commission.

Mr. Beatty responded that yes, in the past, the Commission has had more than two Deputy Attorney Generals. Approximately ten years ago the Commission was assigned a new Deputy Attorney General when work load increased. They were with the Commission for approximately two years until their project had been completed.

Commissioner Sisolak requested an itemized listing of the costs for the position of Special Counsel, Attorney General to highlight the difference between the salary, benefits and overhead costs associated with the position. Mr. Sisolak also requested a more detailed explanation for the draft budget request highlighting the four new Natural Resource Specialists, namely how Staff arrived at a number of four new positions.

Mr. Beatty responded that in regards to the Special Counsel, Attorney General, some of the itemizations of the costs associated with the position are not available. The Attorney General's office only supplies the information regarding salary. The other costs associated with the position are set by the Attorney General's office.

E. *For Information Only:* Status update on State of Nevada, Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Hoover Visitor Center/Air Slots Refunding Bonds.

Ms. Harkins noted that final payment for this refinancing was completed on June 24, 2014. With this refinancing complete, the average savings will be \$877,720 per year. The total savings over the life of these bonds tops over \$28 million. The present value savings exceed over \$17 million. These savings represent a percentage of Refunded Par of more than sixty-three percent. This refinancing represents the highest savings in the history of the State of Nevada.

F. *For Information Only:* Presentation of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada Power Delivery Group's annual Safety Report.

Ms. Harkins presented the American Public Power Association's annual Safety Award to the Commission. This is the fourteenth consecutive year that the Commission's Power Delivery Group has received this award. The award represents that there were no lost hours to safety concerns or injuries during the year 2013. The Commission has received this award for every year of eligibility with the American Public Power Association.

Assistant Director of Engineering and Operations Robert D. Reese presented the Safety Report to the Commission.

A copy of the report is attached and made a part of the minutes. (See Attachment A.)

Mr. Reese thanked the Commission for the support to ensure the safety of the Staff.

G. For Information Only: Status update on Staff's development of proposed changes to Chapter 538 of the Nevada Administrative Code, to implement the provisions in the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011 (H.R. 470) passed by Congress, and otherwise update the Colorado River Commission of Nevada's regulations.

During the June 10, 2014 meeting, the Commission approved revisions to Chapter 538 of the Nevada Administrative Code to implement the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011. On June 23, 2014, these changes were also placed on the Legislative Commission meeting agenda and approved during that meeting.

Staff is currently working on a draft proposal to establish the allocation criteria of the Commission's 11.5 megawatts of power. When completed, following public comment, these proposals will be brought to the Commissioners for review.

Western Area Power Administration (Western) has stated that new allocations for Hoover power will be announced in August 2014. These announcements will be a draft notice open to public comment. Almost thirty Nevada entities applied to Western under the Hoover Power Allocation Act.

During this process, Staff has been a part of several meetings involving all of the other current Hoover Contractors. These include the Arizona Power Authority and Southern California Edison, along with cities in southern California that receive power directly from Hoover Dam. These meetings are working to draft proposals of the new contracts to be negotiated with Western.

H. For Information Only: Status update on the hydrologic conditions, drought, and climate of the Colorado River Basin, Nevada's consumptive use of Colorado River water, and other developments on the Colorado River.

Natural Resource Analyst Warren Turkett provided a report on the following:

- Unregulated Inflow into Lake Powell
- Storage Conditions
- Reservoir Storage
- Lake Powell End of Month Elevations
- Lake Mead End of Month Elevation Projections
- Lake Mead Elevations
- Precipitation – Colorado River Basin

- U.S. Drought Monitor
- U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
- Precipitation for October 2013 – June 2014
- Monthly Precipitation for Las Vegas, NV
- Cumulative Precipitation for Las Vegas, NV
- Clark County Regional Flood Control District Rain Gages
- Water Use in Southern Nevada
- Water Use Comparison

A copy of the report is attached and made a part of the minutes. (See Attachment B.)

I. Comments from the public. (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.)

Chairman Ogilvie asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

J. Comments and questions from the Commission members.

Chairman Ogilvie asked if there were any comments or questions from the Commission members. There were none.

K. Selection of the next possible meeting date.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Suite 4401.

L. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Jayne Harkins, P.E., Executive Director

APPROVED:

George F. Ogilvie III, Chairman