

## NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2021

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marvin Fuller called the meeting of the NTMWD Legislative Committee to order at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, by teleconference. Chairman Fuller advised the following:

In accordance with the COVID-19 public health threat and the related March 16, 2020 action by the Office of the Governor, temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, NTMWD will hold its meeting by telephonic conference call.

In lieu of physical attendance, the public may teleconference into the meeting by calling toll free (1) (844)-621-3956 and entering the following access code: 928 587 040. Members of the public wishing to make public comment during the meeting should follow the instructions for on-line registration listed under Item II. below no later than the start time of the meeting. The meeting will be recorded, and the audio recording will be available on the NTMWD website after the meeting.

Chairman Fuller called the roll and confirmed attendance by teleconference for Directors Marvin Fuller, George Crump, Joe Farmer, John Murphy, Richard Peasley, Lynn Shuyler, and Keith Stephens.

Members of the Executive Committee were in attendance as well as other Board members. Lauren Kalisek and James Aldredge with Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend were present via teleconference as well as Ron Lewis with Ron Lewis & Associates, Snapper Carr with Focused Advocacy and Carlos Rubenstein with RSAH2O. Interim Executive Director Rodney Rhoades along with other members of the NTMWD management team were in attendance.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR TELECONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ONLY)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON-LINE REGISTRATION: Prior to the start of the Legislative Committee meeting, members of the public wishing to provide public comment must submit via email to <a href="mailto:PublicRelations.Info@ntmwd.com">PublicRelations.Info@ntmwd.com</a> their first and last name, organization, comment topic, mailing address and email address. During the public comment portion of the meeting, speakers will be recognized by name and asked to provide their comments. The time limit is five (5) minutes per speaker, not to

exceed a total of thirty (30) minutes for all speakers. The Committee may not discuss these items, but may respond with factual or policy information. Public comment is provided for committee meetings held by teleconference during the COVID-19 health threat to confirm the opportunity for two-way communication with the public during the meeting.

There were no public comment requests.

#### III. OPENING REMARKS

A. <u>Chairman/Interim Executive Director/Committee Champion Status Report</u> concerning legislation and regulatory matters, budgets, current projects and ongoing programs of the District.

Chairman Fuller and Interim Executive Director Rhoades stated that they had no opening comments. Government Relations Advisor David Kelly stated that his remarks will be made during the discussion items.

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider approval of Legislative Committee meeting minutes – December 2, 2020

Upon a motion by Director Lynn Shuyler and a second by Director Joe Farmer, the Legislative Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Legislative Committee held on December 2, 2020.

B. Consider request from City of Rockwall to support legislation regarding Board Member removal by appointing Member City

At 11:06 a.m. Chairman Fuller declared the need for an Executive Session of the Legislative Committee to discuss Items IV. B and V. A on the agenda pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

Open Session reconvened at 12:09 p.m. No action was taken in Executive Session. Director Fuller requested a motion from the Committee to refer the matter to the full Board without a recommendation or any other motion. Director Richard Peasley made a motion to direct Counsel to respond to the City of Rockwall that further action will not be taken by the District and inform the full Board of this action by the Committee. Legal Counsel, Lauren Kalisek, requested clarification from Director Peasley on the intent of his motion and provided guidance on options available to the Committee. Director Peasley then withdrew his motion. A motion was made by Director George Crump to refer this item to the full Board for consideration without a recommendation from the Committee; however, the motion died for lack of a second. Director Fuller asked if there were any other motions. No other motions were made and no action was taken.

#### V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discuss Public Utility Commission wholesale rate review legislation

This item was discussed during Executive Session.

## B. Discussion regarding meeting schedule with State Legislative Delegations

David Kelly advised that next Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. a meeting is scheduled with Representative Justin Holland with Directors from Rockwall and Royce City attending. Next Thursday there is a meeting scheduled with Representative Jeff Leach with Directors from Plano and Allen attending. Two additional meetings are planned for next week (on Tuesday or Thursday with times pending). One is with Senator Angela Paxton with Directors from Plano and Allen attending. The other is with Representative Candy Noble with Directors from Wylie attending. Chairman Fuller will attend each of these virtual meetings as well. Agendas and talking points for these meetings will be prepared in advance and provided to Directors.

## C. Update on the 87th Texas Legislature and introduced legislation

David Kelly advised that the Texas legislature convened yesterday and legislative members were sworn in. He advised that during the last legislative session a bill was introduced by Representative Jeff Leach that would require the District to video record and post its meetings on the internet. That bill failed; however this session a similar bill has been introduced by Representative Jared Patterson from Frisco that would require all political subdivisions that serve areas of over 5,000 population to video record and post meetings. Mr. Kelly advised that the District passed its own resolution to do that prior to COVID and staff is prepared to begin that when so directed.

Snapper Carr with Focused Advocacy advised that Dade Phelan was named Speaker of the House. Tomorrow, the members will take up the rules then adjourn until January 26, 2021. Committee assignments have not been made and are not expected until February. He added that everyone was required to be tested for COVID prior to the session and everyone wore masks. He noted there was an increase in security.

Ron Lewis with Ron Lewis and Associates noted that it was an unusual day with the activities for the day being shortened considerably. He pointed out that the new Speaker of the House is involved with water matters and understands the importance of water in the state of Texas.

## D. Update on Red River Boundary Compact Commission and Oklahoma Legislative Action

David Kelly advised that the Oklahoma legislature will convene on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and he anticipates that next week there will be bills filed on behalf of the District to establish the Oklahoma Boundary Commission. Mr. Kelly advised that more information will be provided next month. He added that he expects the Legislative Committee to meet again on February 10<sup>th</sup> with a focus on this issue. In response to a Director's question, Mr. Kelly advised that the District's financial

contribution will be discussed at that meeting as well. He reviewed that the Board passed a resolution in 2019 that authorizes the Executive Director to expend up to \$500,000 in support of establishing a new boundary. He advised that he plans to bring this matter back to the Committee and then to Board to reaffirm this resolution for the Interim Executive Director. Interim Executive Director Rodney Rhoades advised that the funds are allocated and detailed budget information will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

- E. Opportunity for Committee members to provide feedback on meeting
  - No feedback was provided.
- F. Opportunity for Committee members to request potential future agenda items (No substantive discussion of items will take place at this time)

There were no potential future agenda items requested.

### VI. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:34 p.m. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be called by the Chairman with proper notification to all members.

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MARVIN FULLER

Chairman