

**WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION  
RENO CITY COUNCIL  
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**JOINT MEETING**

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

PRESENT:

**John Breternitz, Washoe County Commissioner  
Bob Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner\*  
Kitty Jung, Washoe County Commissioner**

**Robert A. Cashell, City of Reno, Mayor  
Dan Gustin, Reno City Councilmember  
Jessica Sferrazza, Reno City Councilmember  
Sharon Zadra, Reno City Councilmember  
David Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember\***

**Geno Martini, City of Sparks, Mayor  
Mike Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember  
Julia Ratti, Sparks City Councilmember  
Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember  
Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilmember  
Phil Salerno, Sparks City Councilmember**

**Scott Kelley, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member\*  
Barbara McLaury, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member  
Estela LeVario Gutierrez, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees,  
Vice President  
Ken Grein, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member  
Nancy Hollinger, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member  
Dan Carne, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member**

ABSENT:

**David Humke, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman  
Bonnie Weber, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chairperson  
Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilmember  
Barbara Clark, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, President**

The Commission, Board, and Councils convened at 8:33 a.m. in joint session in the Reno City Council Chamber, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada, with Mayor Cashell presiding. Also present were Washoe County Clerk Amy Harvey, Washoe County Manager Katy Simon, Washoe County Legal Counsel Melanie Foster, Reno City Clerk Lynette Jones, Reno Assistant City Manager Mary Hill, Reno Chief Deputy City

Attorney Tracy Chase, Sparks City Clerk Linda Patterson, Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey, Sparks City Attorney Chet Adams, Washoe County School District (WCSD) Superintendent Paul Dugan, and WCSD Legal Counsel Randy Drake.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the roll for their respective entities, and the Commission, Councils, and Board conducted the following business:

**09-112            AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Agenda Subject: “Approval of the agenda for the Reno and Sparks City Councils, the Washoe County School District and the Washoe County Commission Joint Meeting of February 9, 2009.”**

On motion by Councilmember Zadra, seconded by Councilmember Hascheff, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke, Commissioners Weber and Larkin, Councilmembers Dortch and Aiazzi, Trustee Kelley, and President Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

Note: Washoe County did not have a quorum for this motion.

There was no public comment on this item.

**09-113            AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Agenda Subject: “Public Comment (three-minute time limit per person) – (Additional Public Comment on specific agenda items will be limited to three-minute time limit per person after each agenda item and must be related to the specific agenda item.) Comments to be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and to the Reno and Sparks City Councils, Washoe County School District, and the Washoe County Commission as a whole.”**

Sam Dehne commented on his appointment as an honorary California Superior Court Judge, his attendance at local government meetings, and his advice to local government that was ignored regarding the current economic situation.

Shaun Griffin, Storey County Community Chest, Inc. Executive Director, requested the Storey County Community Center be included in the regional list of projects seeking federal stimulus funds. He said the environmental assessment was done and everything was ready to build. He noted just under a third of the required funds to build the facility were raised so far, while Storey County provided the land and paid for the permits and planning. He explained it would be a free public use facility where comprehensive health, dental, child care, and before and after school programs would be provided. It would include a technology center and a place for performing arts and to hold public gatherings for the residents of Storey County and northwest Nevada. He

explained Storey County was including the Center in its list of projects requesting federal stimulus money, but he would appreciate any additional help.

Public comment was closed.

**09-114      AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Agenda Subject: “Approval of Minutes - November 17, 2008.”**

**\*8:50 a.m.** Commissioner Larkin arrived at the meeting giving the County Commission a quorum.

On motion by Councilmember Salerno, seconded by Mayor Martini, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke and Commissioner Weber, Councilmembers Dortch and Aiazzi, Trustee Kelley, and President Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

There was no public comment on this item.

**09-115      AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Agenda Subject: “Staff Report. Discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the selection of a preferred governance model for the Truckee River Flood Project and initiate any associated legislative changes required to implement it. (Washoe County)”**

Naomi Duerr, Truckee River Flood Management Project Director, conducted a PowerPoint presentation “Governance Models for the Truckee River Flood Project,” which was placed on file with the County Clerk.

**\*8:45 a.m.** Councilmember Aiazzi arrived at the meeting.

During discussion on the Army Corps of Engineers’ requirements, Ms. Duerr reminded everyone that the Flood Project was a best fit solution designed to deal with 100 to 117 year floods. She noted there would always be a flood that would be larger than the Flood Project was built to handle.

Ms. Duerr explained the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) narrowed the choice of governance models to either a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or a Regional Flood Control District. She advised Clark County used a Regional Flood Control District and it was designed the way Clark County wanted it because of a special provision in State statutes. She noted the statute was a broad brush for the remaining counties, which did not fit the Truckee River Flood Project. She indicated legislative changes would be needed because of that issue and because rates, tolls, and charges could not be enacted by Flood Control Districts. She also advised statute set up Washoe County’s funding mechanism as an ad valorem tax instead of being able to use a 1/4 sales

tax, which was Clark County's funding mechanism. She said using an ad valorem tax for funding was not an option because the County had reached the cap.

Ms. Duerr said all three entities endorsed the FPCC approach, but the City of Sparks indicated a preference for a JPA. She noted one key issue that came up during all of the discussions was the potential for exiting from the agreement. She stated the only way to terminate a Regional Flood Control District was to terminate the entire District, but terminating a JPA was not as clear. She noted the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Interlocal Agreement contained a clear exit strategy. She stated another issue was the need for statutory change and the likely supporters and opponents to that change.

Ms. Duerr discussed the contents of the memo from the Flood Project's legal team dated February 7, 2009, which was placed on file with the County Clerk.

Ms. Duerr said whichever option was chosen, an Interlocal Agreement could be crafted to deal with any issues. She concluded the presentation by presenting the following recommendations: Select a Governance Model or at least register a preference, approve submittal of a bill draft, and support the bill draft through the legislative process.

Commissioner Breternitz asked about the rationale behind the City of Sparks preferring a JPA. Shaun Carey, Sparks City Manager, said the JPA was a proven model based on the success of TMWA and it would allow for the crafting of an individual solution that would work best with the three entities' current economic conditions. He said because the Sparks industrial area was heavily impacted by floods during the last 12 years, the City of Sparks wanted to make sure the City Council had an opportunity to consider the impact of any tolls, rates, and charges. He indicated the City of Sparks felt that structure would be best administered through a JPA.

In response to Councilmember Aiazzi asking if there was an argument for using a Flood Control District, Greg Salter, Washoe County Deputy District Attorney, explained the Flood Control District's advantage was it would be a separate entity and any liability that happened during the District's construction or operation would be absorbed by that entity. He advised the participants in a JPA would remain individually liable if the JPA failed to make payments. He stated a District would also severely limit any legal challenges because the public would only have 30 days to challenge the establishment of the District and that statute of limitation did not exist within a JPA.

Councilmember Aiazzi noted Ms. Duerr stated the local cost would be 35 percent. Ms. Duerr confirmed that was the standard national estimate, but that amount might be limited due to some activities undertaken by United States Senator Harry Reid and with the hope the Corps would approve the Project's plan instead of the Corps' plan. She advised the total cost was estimated to be \$1.2 to \$1.6 billion and the local share would be \$400 to \$500 million.

Councilmember Aiazzi asked what the local share was projected to be when the sales tax passed. Ms. Duerr replied the local share was projected to be \$200

million when the sales tax passed 10 years ago, but only eight of the 45 projects needed to complete the Flood Project were identified then. She said inflation usually doubled in eight years, so it would be around \$400 million now and there was no doubt the cost had gone up.

Councilmember Aiazzi asked if there was any idea what the public thought about the Flood Project now because a \$200 million jump in 10 years was significant even counting for inflation. Ms. Duerr said some estimates were done on the cost to an average homeowner and an average business based on a 15-year time period so the people would understand the cost to them. She stated the numbers came in very low and close to the \$5.41 that the residents of the City of Sparks already paid. It was felt if those residents accepted that rate, then the rest of the community would accept those rates also. Councilmember Aiazzi reminded everyone the community was not willing to pay for schools just six months ago.

Councilmember Aiazzi questioned if a model that could impose its own rates, tolls, and charges should be chosen without going to the public. He indicated because of that, he was leaning towards going with a JPA so local government could keep an eye on it. He also did not know if those tolls could be enacted in the statute. Ms. Duerr explained as an example, TMWA charged a rate for water use and every so often a rate increase was required. She noted the increase would be driven by facilities costs and the TMWA Board had to determine if the proposed increase was reasonable using a process that included public hearings. She felt whichever model was chosen, a very similar process would be followed to provide a mechanism to establish reasonable rates the community could agree with. She noted the rate would not be considered a tax because it would be a rate based on a benefit or use. She advised even though the citizens would not vote on the rate, they would have an opportunity to register any concerns.

In response to Councilmember Smith asking about what direction was being requested, Ms. Duerr replied authorizing language needed to be established in statute that would not commit to doing something but would authorize doing it. She stated moving forward with a bill draft request (BDR) would allow going forward with the model addressed in the BDR, but there would not be the authorizing language to do the other model. She clarified if the Flood Project went to the Legislature to amend all of the statutes, then anything could be done. She understood the FPCC preferred to go to the Legislature with one approach, make the changes, and then enter into an Interlocal Agreement to implement that approach. She thought the BDR language would be ready by the FPCC meeting this Friday, whichever model was chosen.

Councilmember Schmitt felt going with a JPA and addressing all of the legal concerns would be a positive move because it could potentially benefit other agencies, such as TMWA. Mr. Salter said he would bring it up with the legal team.

Commissioner Larkin noted the FPCC worked five years to get to this point. He agreed with Ms. Duerr that either the JPA or the Flood Control District should be chosen because they would fall under two different enabling pieces of legislation. He

said if two different channels for enabling legislation were taken to Carson City, they could fall under two different committees. He said the FPPC had been working with Nevada Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick and her staff to navigate through the murky waters that occasionally occurred in Carson City. He noted the City of Sparks had taken the position to move forward with a JPA, which he personally favored because there was experience using a JPA with TMWA. He said while there was a good Flood District model in Las Vegas, he felt Washoe County should not move forward with the largest public works project in its history using a model no one locally had experience with.

Commissioner Larkin recommended moving forward with the JPA model with the caveat that there were issues with the overall funding levels and with the Corps.

In response to Councilmember Sferrazza asking about the amount of damages that occurred during the 1997 flood, Ms. Duerr replied that 10 years ago the damage was roughly \$1 billion dollars in six counties and \$700 million in Washoe County. She advised the 2005 damages were somewhat less than \$100 million because the water did not top the levies everywhere, which caused less damage.

Councilmember Sferrazza noted the amount spent on the damages for the 1997 flood would equal the amount being spent on the Flood Project if it happened today. Ms. Duerr advised it was estimated those same damages with today's build out would be closer to \$1.5 to \$2 billion. Councilmember Sferrazza said she was leaning towards going with a JPA, but the problem was a JPA could not issue General Obligation (GO) bonds. She asked if that would be something that could be changed in the Legislature so it would allow one entity to issue the bonds. Ms. Duerr replied a JPA had the authority to issue revenue bonds, which have a higher cost of issuance and a higher interest rate. She said the consultants calculated if \$50 million in revenue bonds were sold versus the same amount of GO bonds, the difference would be \$6 million in costs and interest. She explained the JPA could sell bonds through a county bond bank, which was done in Clark County. She noted Washoe County also had a county bond bank, but a change would have to be made in the JPA to allow the county bond bank to issue securities for the type of flood control project anticipated.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Carrigan, seconded by Councilmember Smith, it was ordered that the Truckee Meadows Flood Project move forward with the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Governance Model.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Jung with Chairman Humke and Commissioner Weber absent, it was ordered that the Truckee Meadows Flood Project move forward with the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Governance Model.

Councilmember Aiazzi commented two years ago the Legislature did not think TMWA should have been formed the way it was, and he asked if the Legislators had been asked which model they would prefer. He said he was willing to go with the

JPA, but what direction would be given to staff if the Legislators did not approve of the JPA. Councilmember Sferrazza said there was Legislative support for the JPA and Ms. Duerr had testified to that fact before the FPCC several times.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Gustin with Councilmember Dortch absent, it was ordered that the Truckee Meadows Flood Project move forward with the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Governance Model.

Councilmember Sferrazza said she wanted to clarify that everyone's language included the GO bonds, the bank, and the liability issue. Ms. Duerr stated one issue she did not see a way to change was that a JPA would be a partnership and there would not be a way to indemnify the parties. She said when there was a partnership it would first go to the corporate and then to the partners, which a Flood District would stop. She said secondly she could not commit that the Legislature would agree to a change regarding the 30-day issue, but staff could certainly try.

Amy Harvey, County Clerk, stated she heard the motion by the City of Reno but not a vote. Mayor Cashell asked if everyone had voted and they confirmed they had.

**09-116            AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Agenda Subject: "Staff Report. Discussion and potential direction to staff regarding Shared Services. (Reno)"**

Mary Hill, Reno Assistant City Manager, provided a brief history of the creation, evolution, and actions of the Regional Shared Services Team (RSST) as outlined in the staff report dated February 9, 2009.

Ms. Hill discussed the draft *Interlocal Agreement for General Vehicle Maintenance and Resource Sharing*, which was attached to the staff report. She noted the Agreement had been reviewed and approved the by Reno City Council and it would be agendized by Washoe County, the City of Sparks, and the Washoe County School District (WCSD) sometime in the next month. She explained a financial plan would be worked out once the Agreement was approved so reimbursements could be handled in a streamlined manner.

Ms. Hill stated the staff report also contained a draft *Interlocal Agreement for Park Maintenance*. She explained the redistribution of the workforce would be a swap and that there would be no financial implications at all. She discussed the benefits that would be achieved in time, fuel savings and wear and tear on vehicles. She noted that Agreement would come before the Reno City Council on February 11, 2009 and would be circulated to the other entities in the next month.

Ms. Hill discussed the RSST's major accomplishments as outlined in the staff report.

In response to Trustee Grein noting the WCSD was not part of the discussions involving the sharing of services for parks, Ms. Hill indicated the WCSD's involvement would be welcome. Trustee Grein felt in addition to sharing services for parks, there would also be an opportunity to share printing services and building inspections and maintenance. Ms. Hill replied a WCSD representative attended the meetings and she was sure it would be discussed.

Mayor Cashell thought the goal was the elimination of services so there would be one mechanical shop and one parks department to do everything. He felt there was nothing being done to help reduce budgets. Ms. Hill replied those things that were done were things that could be done quickly, but the RSST was not through so there would be the opportunity for further exploration.

Commissioner Breternitz asked how additional areas would be included in the process to ensure as many opportunities and options as possible were being looked at by the RSST. He agreed with Mayor Cashell that ultimately service organizations should be combined to increase efficiencies. Ms. Hill explained the RSST focused on six areas that could provide immediate savings and it was hoped to retire some of those six at some point and to move on to look at new areas. Commissioner Breternitz felt there should be some agreement by the affected entities before moving forward with looking at new ideas. He asked if that should be done by a representative of each entity or in a big forum such as this joint meeting, which he felt would be cumbersome from the discussion standpoint. Katy Simon, County Manager, indicated it was a great time for the RSST to receive further direction regarding the criteria the entities wanted the RSST to be looking at. She stated from the County's perspective, it would be welcome to have an elected official from each agency provide direction on the criteria for bringing back new ideas. She noted the RSST had been operating under a consensus, but it might be time to bring forward non-consensus options.

Councilmember Gustin advised an agenda item coming before the Reno City Council addressed the 10 to 12 percent in estimated savings for Parks and Urban Forestry achieved by changing the way things were currently being done. He said if looking at having one maintenance yard do one type of work and another yard do a different type of work would add to the savings and he would support doing that.

Councilmember Sferrazza stated staff had done a good job but had done all they could. She felt it was time for a formalized committee of elected officials, working with staff, to consider looking at one issue, such as Community Development, for six months so some real changes could be made towards becoming more efficient.

**\*9:38 a.m.** Trustee Kelley arrived at the meeting.

In response to Trustee Gutierrez asking if there would be a cost analysis done within this process, Ms. Hill replied one would be done.

**9:42 a.m.** Mayor Cashell temporarily left the meeting and Mayor Martini assumed the gavel.

Commissioner Jung said it would take political will by the elected officials to flesh this out. She felt a committee of elected officials could change how building inspections were handled today. She also felt police services could be looked at after some success with other areas and after it could be demonstrated to the public that it could be done in a way that was nonthreatening in terms of shared services. She stated staff had done a great job of putting everything on the table and tackling what they could.

Mayor Martini felt this needed to start with some small successes first and move on from there. He commented the City of Sparks would be in dire straights if they were included in the Fire Contract along with the City of Reno and the County. He recommended being sure of what was being done before moving forward with any consolidation.

**9:45 a.m.** Mayor Cashell returned to the meeting and resumed the gavel.

Councilmember Zadra suggested adding audit and the occupancy of each entity's buildings to the list. She felt there could be openings in the government owned buildings that would allow another entity to stop renting from a private source.

In response to the call for public comment, Buzz Harris, Associated General Contractors, said he was speaking on behalf of the Association and many other associations related to the area's construction industry. He stated regarding bringing together the Building and Safety Departments, the people associated with the industry would like this to come together in the most efficient way possible. He discussed the regional building department approach used in Pike's Peak, Colorado that was working very well. He felt with the staffing cuts happening across the board there could be cross training between the building departments, which would create a lot of efficiencies. He indicated the members of the association would like to help out in any way they could.

Mayor Cashell closed public comment.

Councilmember Aiazzi wondered if staff could be asked to move forward with looking at consolidating the Building Enterprises. He felt creating a subcommittee was not on today's agenda and it would have to be put on a future agenda. Councilmember Sferrazza did not think an appointment could be made today, but maybe they could agree to head in that direction and let each jurisdiction appoint its members. Councilmember Aiazzi agreed and felt picking one thing off at a time would be a lot easier than using a scattered approach.

Councilmember Schmitt suggested using caution before jumping into the building concept, because he thought there were some legal issues with all three building enterprises having their own Enterprise Funds and having different scales. He felt there should be discussions with the legal departments about how those entities were different and how they could be combined instead of giving them direction to go ahead and combine them. Councilmember Aiazzi interjected the direction was not to combine all three building enterprises but to look at all of the issues involved in doing so.

Councilmember Schmitt stated three to five years were spent looking at Parks and there were some recommendations on consolidating the warehouses, maintenance yards, and so forth. He felt because of the extreme amount of work already done that could be moved forward quicker.

Commissioner Breternitz understood that certain things might appear to be shooting from the hip, and he certainly would not want to do that when talking about services that affected a lot of people and businesses in the community. He thought it would be important to come away from this meeting with something that would be considered a jump start, which he felt could be to simply agree to form a committee of elected officials, have the entities make their appointments to the committee, and then start holding discussions.

For the County, Commissioner Breternitz made a motion that all entities engage in formulating a committee with one or two representatives from each of the elected boards. Commissioner Larkin seconded the motion.

Mayor Cashell thought the County and City Managers should pick the three areas to focus on, come back before the Cities and County to then set up a committee. Commissioner Breternitz agreed there should be some dialogue with senior staff, but he wanted to get this committee idea on each entity's next practical agenda so the entities could determine the committee's members.

Commissioner Breternitz amended the motion to include directing the County Manager to bring the structure for making committee appointments back to the Commission at the next practical Commission meeting. Commissioner Larkin agreed with the amendment. The motion carried unanimously 3-0 with Chairman Humke and Commissioner Weber absent.

Councilmember Carrigan reminded everyone that the voters indicated year after year they did not want any consolidation of fire, police and governance, but everything else was pretty much on the table. He agreed there could be some legal issues regarding the Enterprise Funds.

Councilmember Ratti felt a range of solutions including everything from cooperation to possible consolidation should be looked at, and she was not sure if there was any fiscal or any other meaningful analysis that indicated one solution was better than another. She thought each category of services would be very different regarding

what would work with each jurisdiction's political environment and for the bottom line. She advised past experience working in human services showed bigger was not necessarily cheaper or better. She said if there were X number of clients to serve, X number of people were necessary to serve those clients, which should also be true regarding building inspections. If there were X number of buildings needing inspections, there had to be X number of people available. She felt possible savings at the management level should be investigated.

Councilmember Salerno stated the last time the citizens in Sparks voiced their opinion about consolidation was just prior to the current budget problems and cutbacks. He had no idea where they stood now, but he felt they would probably be interested in having consolidation of certain services looked at.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Carrigan, seconded by Councilmember Ratti, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the City of Sparks direct the City Manager to bring the structure for making the committee appointments back to the City Council at the next practical City Council meeting.

For the WCSD, on motion by Trustee Grein, seconded by Trustee Hollinger, which motion duly carried with President Clark absent, it was ordered that the committee appointments be brought back to WCSD at the next practical WCSD meeting.

Councilmember Sferrazza commented it was felt no one would vote for the Animal Shelter consolidation when it was being considered. She said its passage received 60 percent of the vote, which was a consolidation of services and which she believed was supported by the citizens in the City of Sparks. She suggested picking one subject to focus on, which was how it was done for the Flood Control District. She explained legal and staff did their analysis, and then the subject was fleshed out.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Zadra, seconded by Councilmember Aiazzi, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Dortch absent, it was ordered that the City of Reno direct the City Manager to bring the structure for making the committee appointments back to the City Council at the next practical City Council meeting.

Commissioner Larkin advised the staff reports needed to be accepted and acted upon as well, which was not done. Mayor Cashell replied that was absolutely correct. Commissioner Larkin requested the agreements be brought back to each governing body with more specificity because the agreements right now were not very specific.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke, Commissioner Weber, Councilmember Dortch, and President Clark absent, it was ordered that the staff report be accepted and its direction be agreed with for Agenda Item 8.

**Agenda Subject: “Staff Report. Staff Report Discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the Economic Stimulus Package. (Washoe County)”**

Dave Childs, Assistant County Manager, noted United States Senator Harry Reid requested a prioritized regional list of projects, which was worked on by the staffs of the County, the Cities, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), the Washoe County School District (WCSD), the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) and the Truckee River Flood Management Project.

Mr. Childs noted the Senate version of the federal stimulus package was somewhat different than the House version, which meant the kinds of projects that might get funded have changed and required staff to be flexible in putting together the list. He discussed the project categories that were likely to obtain federal funding and those that would not. He said the most promising projects were those that matched the federal criteria and were ready to go or, “shovel ready”.

After discussion regarding the definition of “shovel ready,” Mr. Childs explained the federal government defined it as being ready to turn the dirt on a project, or some portion of a project, within 90 days after the President signed the legislation. Mayor Martini said projects could be “shovel ready” but federal funding could involve Environmental Impact Studies (EIS’s). Mr. Childs replied if EIS’s were required for a project, it would not be considered “shovel ready.”

Mr. Childs said there was an effort to balance projects between the various types of trades to get the maximum amount of people in the Truckee Meadows back to work. He stated in the spirit of collaboration, the staff of the Cities of Reno and Sparks and the County all agreed schools needed to be built.

Mr. Childs reminded everyone that this was just a list, which was an expression of need and availability. He discussed the Truckee Meadows Federal Stimulus List: “Most Promising Projects Identified in Each Category – February 2009.” He noted the most promising projects were highlighted in yellow and Storey County’s Community Center in Virginia City was on the list. He said the list contained the projects with the most promise, but they were not in priority order. He discussed which projects had the greatest potential for obtaining funding. He stated the RSCVA submitted its list after the regional priorities were established so the RSCVA’s projects were put at the end of the list. Mayor Cashell requested the Storey County Community Center in Virginia City get a yellow highlight.

Councilmember Carrigan felt the first priority should be “shovel ready” projects, the second should be what would put the most people to work, and the third should meet the criteria in the federal stimulus package. He did not feel balancing the projects between the entities was important because people who worked in the City of Sparks did not live just in Sparks but throughout the County. He indicated his priority

would be to take a look at the revitalization of the older schools, which would be more important than the City of Sparks getting its due. Mr. Childs reiterated it was more about trying to balance the trades and that the entities that got the funding had the capacity to do the work.

Maureen McKissick, City of Reno's Grant and Fund Development Manager, said project ready evaluations would be presented to the Reno City Council on Wednesday and staff was asking for prioritization on what appeared to be in the Senate version of the bill.

Commissioner Jung agreed the priorities should be if a project was "shovel ready" and if it would stimulate the area economically. She advised data showed the money that was put into the infrastructure of a metro area had a greater payoff economically than that going out into rural areas. She believed the intention of the package was to look at environmental design and energy savings as well as how the most trades could be put to work with the projects.

Steve Driscoll, City of Sparks Assistant City Manager, advised that in addition to staff looking at the number of trades that would be involved during construction, they also look at the number of jobs that would be created in the area after construction was done.

Councilmember Aiazzi asked if the Senate bill was being done by project, such as for energy. Mr. Childs replied he understood there would be some money for energy projects and, if the House and Senate versions were reconciled, there would be money for K-12 school facility rehabilitation, transit and highways, potentially some for fire stations, water, and waste water. He said the projects would be decided by the specific federal agency that received the funds.

Councilmember Aiazzi said if \$40 million was asked for and only \$10 million was received that would be where consensus would end and that was why he would rather make decisions now on some of these things. He suggested taking the percentages and spreading it out over a group so there would not be an argument about the \$10 million if it came in. He felt if the whole \$50 million needed for the Meadowood Interchange did not come in, it would be more prudent to do the rehabilitation project in Sparks for \$4 million.

Councilmember Schmitt asked where the State would be involved in all of this. Mr. Childs said some federal funds automatically would go to the State, such as water and wastewater funds. He cautioned everyone not to put too much weight on this list because it did not drive where the funding would come from or go to, but was an indication of the priorities within the Truckee Meadows.

Trustee Carne asked once the bill was signed, how long would the entities have to make the final decisions as a group. Mr. Childs stated for example, the highways area already had agreements regarding how the funding process worked and that process

would go forward. He said for energy projects there would be a call from the Nevada Department of Energy to submit the projects and it was agreed that if one of the entities got the entire amount of funding it would be good for the region.

Trustee Carne asked how something got back to the entities to agree or disagree. Ms. McKissick replied it would depend upon the funding mechanism regarding what would come before the entities. She said the formula funding for the energy block grants would be distributed to each local jurisdiction and the money coming for education would come through the State. She said the congressional language would have to be looked at to see how the money would be distributed to see if it was formula or discretionary.

Commissioner Jung said she asked staff to come up with a decision matrix that could be used as an algorithm so no politics would be involved, but staff did not have the time to do that because everything was still a moving target. She felt it would be premature to create that matrix until the area “gets what it gets” and it was determined what would be possible. She cited the RTC pavement index as an example of a decision matrix that took away any politics and that would be the best way to figure out what would provide the best economic, social, and environmental boost based on the language of the bill.

In response to Councilmember Hascheff asking if the WCSD would qualify for solar improvement funds, Ms. McKissick said that money would go to the Cities of Reno and Sparks and the County, but not to the WCSD. Councilmember Hascheff indicated that was something that should be a topic of conversation with the people back in Washington DC because the WCSD was an entity that could create jobs as well as anyone else and that also had needs.

Mayor Cashell encouraged everyone to send an e-mail to the State’s delegation to encourage them to put education back into the bill. He said he reminded Senator Reid during a conference call that the region had 50-year old schools that needed money for revitalization. He said Senator Reid replied that was being worked on.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilmember Sferrazza advised there would be a Tax Committee meeting regarding going after local government funding tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. She also noted there would be a fire contract labor relations session coming up, and she felt the County Commissioners should be invited to attend that session since they were a party to the contract.

Commissioner Jung commented the County was willing to work with the School District and the Cities of Reno and Sparks to make strategic cuts that would keep as many free programs as possible whole and to communicate the programs available throughout the area to the public.

Trustee Gutierrez introduced the new School Board Trustees, which included herself, Barbara McLaury, Ken Grein and Scott Kelley.

\* \* \* \* \*

**10:32 a.m.** There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Board, and the Councils, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, the meeting was adjourned.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DAVID E. HUMKE**, Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
**AMY HARVEY**, County Clerk  
and Clerk of the Board of  
County Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ROBERT A. CASHELL**, Mayor  
City of Reno

\_\_\_\_\_  
**LYNNETTE R. JONES**, City Clerk  
City of Reno

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**GENO MARTINI**, Mayor  
City of Sparks

\_\_\_\_\_  
**LINDA K. PATTERSON**, City Clerk  
City of Sparks

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ESTELA GUTIERREZ**, Board of Trustees  
Vice President, Washoe County School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KEN GREIN**, Clerk  
Washoe County School District

*Minutes Prepared by Jan Frazzetta,  
Washoe County Deputy Clerk*