

Agenda for Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2019 @ 9:00AM
Hualapai Multi-Purpose Building



1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vaughn 9:43 AM.

2. Roll Call

a. Welcome to New Board members

Chairmen Vaughn welcomed new Board member Jason Davis. Mr. Vaughn provided a short brief on HTUA history and the proposed power line to Grand Canyon West.

Mr. Davis indicated his preference for future power supply to be renewable based and specifically solar. He indicated that he was uncomfortable with fixed power lines due to reliability concerns and the possibility of non-Tribal customer's connection to any new power line. Mr. Vaughn indicated that that HTUA had done a great deal of planning and evaluating over the last three years and that the Board's current position was that a fixed power line was in the best interest of both GCW and the entire Hualapai Tribe. Mr. Cyr, related to Mr. Davis that he had over 30 years of experience with the utility industry with 12 years serving as the General Manager of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe's electric utility Aha Macav Power Service. Mr. Davis indicated that it was his preference to solicit bids from solar vendors for a renewable power supply at GCW.

b. Roll Call

Board Members

Charles Vaughn, Chairman Present

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman Present

Secretary-Vacant

Treasurer-Vacant

Rory Majenty Absent

Jason Davis Present

Lana Keller Robinett arrived at 11:15---delayed due to car problems and road construction

Support Personnel and Guest(s)

Bill Cyr, General Manager Present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director Present

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3. Review and Approve Minutes April 3, 2019

Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Vaughn with a second by Mr. Montana---vote 3-0

4. Approval of Invoices

a. Tierra Right of Way

The Tierra right of way invoice was approved for payment \$9,647.07. Motion by Mr. Montana with a second by Mr. Vaughn ---vote—3-0

b. BBC Consulting –General Manager Services

The BBC Consulting invoice was approved for payment \$5,342.10. Motion by Mr. Montana with a second by Mr. Vaugh ---vote—3-0

5. Managers' Report

Mr. Cyr presented the managers' report

6. Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West

a. BLM Related – Request letter to consider Diamond Bar Road Alternative

Mr. Davidson briefed the Board on a request by BLM to document in writing HTUA's desire to include the Diamond Bar Route as an alternative power line route. After a brief discussion, Mr. Vaughn signed the letter as drafted by Mr. Davidson

b. NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological

• Cultural Report

The Board was provided with the recently received Cultural Report for review.

• Biological Report

The Board was provided with the recently received Biological Report for review.

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- **Public Outreach for upcoming meetings on Environmental Assessment**

The Board was briefed on the upcoming public information meetings. They will be held in Peach Springs, Dolan Springs and Meadview on May 21, 22 and 23. Each meeting is scheduled from 4 pm to 6 pm. The public meeting will not be held without Hualapai Council concurrence on moving forward with the GCW power line project. Said concurrence will be sought from the Council at the May 4th Council meeting after the Power Line project PowerPoint schedule to be given to the Hualapai Council by Mr. Cyr on that date. Mr. Vaughn requested that the Peach Springs meeting be conducted first.

- c. **Tucson Electric Power System Impact Study Dolan Springs to Grand Canyon West**

Mr. Cyr briefed the Board on the latest draft of the subject interconnection study. Mr. Cyr has sent Tucson Electric a series of technical questions and is hopeful to get responses to those questions in the next several weeks. Mr. Montana wanted to clarify with Tucson Electric that they totally understand the operation of the existing GCW generators currently and after the power line is constructed. Mr. Montana wanted to ensure that Tucson Electric was not including the tribe's generators in their calculation of total capacity available at GCW.

- d. **WAPA Interconnection Study**

Mr. Cyr briefed the Board that the study was ongoing and schedule for completion would be in late June early July

- e. **NextEra Proposals**

- i. **White Hills Wind Farm**

The Board was briefed by Mr. Davidson regarding s presentation by NextEra regarding the White Hills Wind Project scheduled to be given to the Hualapai Tribal Council on April 30.

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ii. Grand Canyon West Solar Array

Mr. Cyr and Mr. Davidson briefed the Board regarding recent interaction with NextEra and their desire to provide a solar option presentation for GCW electrical power requirements. NextEra sent out an email indicating that they had been requested by tribal council members to present a solar project proposal for GCW.

The author of the email was contacted and an initial phone conversation was followed up by a more detailed call with Kevin Davidson, Mr. Cyr and about 4 or 5 representatives of NextEra. The bottom line of that follow up call is that NextEra does not have an actual proposal for presentation to the Hualapai Council at this time. They could not answer any technical questions regarding the operation, output or any other specifics of the proposal. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, they indicated that they had not installed any solar solution of the magnitude required for GCW that operated off the grid. Mr. Davidson asked NextEra if a ball park estimate for such a project would be in the 8 to 12 million dollar range, to which they indicated that \$8-\$12 million is a representative estimate at this time.

NextEra requested load data from HTUA to support the development of a proposal. The Board indicated that NextEra should be directed to the GCRC organization for the load data for the GWC operation.

NextEra also indicated that they will visit GCW during the period when they will be in town making a presentation to the council and public regarding the White Hills wind project discussed above(April 30—May 1). They indicated that they were available to meet and discuss the solar option; however, the Board felt it would be more appropriate to obtain further direction from the Hualapai council prior to doing so.

7. HTUA Economic Model

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i. Updated Power Point for Hualapai Council

At the April 3, 2019, meeting, the Board directed Mr. Davidson and Mr. Cyr to present the underlying economic model for the GCW power line to the Tribe's finance director, Wanda Easter. The economic model along with the proposed Council power point was presented and reviewed by Ms. Easter on April 18th, 2019. Ms. Easter quickly understood the underlying proposal and made some interesting suggestions. Specifically,

- self-financing should be considered for interest savings and may allow for quicker project approval in light of hurdles presented by the Hualapai Constitution.
- A rate should be developed that would be assessed to GCRC for power purchases from HTUA. That rate should cover all the costs HTUA requires to serve its first customer - GCRC's operations at GCW.
- Other projects are under consideration for self-financing and as such should be considered as competing projects for funding

ii. Council presentation on May 4, 2019

Mr. Cyr then went through the entire power point presentation as revised per their direction. Once the review was complete the Board felt comfortable with Mr. Cyr providing the presentation to the council on May 4th, 2019, at the regularly scheduled Hualapai Council meeting.

8. Federal Hydro Power/ WAPA/Other Power related

a. Boulder Canyon Project –Federal Register Notice –Request for Rate Change

The Board had no questions on the provided information.

9. Other Matters

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a. Update on tribal council actions – Kevin

Mr. Davidson briefed the Board on the Tribe's interest in a new Cry House and his departments work in soliciting a new 1 million dollar DOE grant for solar.

b. AT&T fiber optic easement and status of awarded contract – update – Kevin

Mr. Davidson briefed the Board on the status of these negotiations. At present, the attorneys are discussing the background and working towards that first initial face to face meeting

c. Schedule Election of Board Officers

Election of officers will occur at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

d. Announcements

None

10. Set time and location for next meeting

May 22, 2019---Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Center -9 AM

11. Adjourn