



## **Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 13, 2020 @ Hualapai Cultural Center**

**Originally Scheduled for January 21, 2020 Hualapai Health and Wellness Center**

**9:30 AM**

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Agenda  
February 13, 2020 9:30 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center



**1) Call to Order**

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order at 9:26 am.

The Board accepted additional agenda items and materials as attached to these minutes

**2) Roll Call**

**Board Members**

Charlie Vaughn, Chairman -- present

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman -- present

Lana Keller Robinett, Secretary -- present

Jason Davis, Treasurer -- present

Rory Majenty -- present via phone

**Support Personnel and Guest(s)**

Bill Cyr, General Manager -- present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director -- present

**3) Review and Approve Minutes**

**a) December 19, 2020**

Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Vaughn, and second by Mr. Montana vote (4-0-0).

Mr. Majenty did not vote as he was excused from last meeting

**4) Approval of Invoices**

**a) BBC Consulting – General Manager Services-**

Motion to approve; BBC Consulting 2019 year-end invoice of \$6,514.2, January 2020 invoice of \$7,782.20 and February 2020 invoice of \$9,792.60 by Mr. Vaughn second by Mr. Montana – vote (5-0-0).

**b) Tierra Right Of Way - Environmental Assessment**

Motion to approve 2019 year-end invoice of \$12,758.5 by Mr. Montana second by Mr. Vaughn – vote (5-0-0).

**Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Agenda  
February 13, 2020 9:30 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center**



\*\* Additional Agenda item for Arizona Tribal Energy Association ATEA

Motion to approve ATEA membership fees of \$3,000 by Mr. Montana second by Mr. Vaughn – vote (5-0-0).

## **5) Manager's Report**

The General Manager presented the General Manager's report which focused on the following items. Additional details on each of these items may be found in these minutes under the appropriate agenda item.

- 2020 Budget
- Discussions with Tierra and BLM Kingman
- Educational Network MuraNet
  - Back Haul Contract Secured
- Power Line -other
- Solar GCW
- Initial Discussions with MEC
- Annual Report
- ROW coordination call AT&T Fiber
- Other
  - Prepare December Minutes
  - Prepare January Agenda
  - Assemble / Issue Board Package

## **6) Financial Review**

### **a) 2020 Budget**

The Board reviewed the approved 2020 budget amount notification letter from the Hualapai Finance director Wanda Easter. The amount approved was for a single line item amount of \$2,088,685. The Board also reviewed the spread of those dollars to specific line items that provide for HTUA accomplishing 2020 goals. The spread reviewed by the HTUA Board has also been reviewed by the Hualapai Council and is consistent with the direction that the Hualapai Council desires for HTUA.

### **b) 2019 Budget Expenditures to date**

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Agenda  
February 13, 2020 9:30 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center



The Board reviewed the HTUA financial expenditures for 2019. HTUA expended approximately \$218,640 of the \$251,500 2019 budget.

**7) 2019 Annual Report**

The Board then reviewed the 2019 HTUA annual report. Motion to approve; HTUA 2019 annual report by Mr. Montana, second by Ms. Keller Robinett – vote (5-0-0).

**8) GCW Solar**

**a) General Update**

The Board was briefed on the GCW solar project. Most of the work during this reporting period has been dedicated to completion and submission of the Department of Energy (DOE) Grant. The grant was submitted on time and accepted by the DOE.

Mr. Davis, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Cyr met with Caterpillar management/technicians and technical staff from GCW to discuss the proposed solar Project. A general discussion regarding current operation including continuing technical problems provided a great deal of insight into the current status of GCW diesels and micro grid. Additionally, the group discussed the integration of the proposed solar project into the GCW micro-grid. Primary items discussed were:

- Additional information regarding the operation of the diesels is available thru direct downloads from the diesel generator panel. Caterpillar will forward those downloads directly to GCW and HTUA on a forward going basis. We can expect one or two downloads per month. It may be beneficial if GCW staff was trained in this area.
- Discussion regarding GCW operator training was reviewed. Mr. Davis will be following up to provide GCW staff with additional training. GCW should consider having a lead electrical operator for the diesel generators and the micro-grid. Currently, most if not all operational knowledge is held by Caterpillar. GCW staff could not operate the generators and grid without direct involvement by Caterpillar.
- Caterpillar indicated that they have an operational off-grid diesel/solar micro-grid in southern Arizona (Tucson area). Mr. Vaughn indicated that he would like to visit the Site. HTUA staff will work to co-ordinate a visit/tour for the Board.
- Caterpillar explained that the operating hours by the existing diesels is higher than expected due to a complex technical problem. The fundamental problem is that there are not enough loads connected to the grid to allow for stable operation with

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Agenda  
February 13, 2020 9:30 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center



just one unit. This problem could be reduced if additional load could be connected to the micro-grid. GCW should strongly consider connecting all non-connected load (New Town, Western Town Cabins, new ARFF building and Main Kitchen).

- The group also discussed the annual maintenance requirements for the diesel generators including the major maintenance item for diesel unit 3 this coming year.
- Additional items related to this operational review were provided to the Board in the supplemental additional agenda items –item 5.

**b) Grant**

- i) Draft Application**
- ii) Council Resolution**

The Board discussed the draft application and reviewed the Council resolution. Supporting documents were also included in the supplemental additional agenda items. GCW solar documents were included under item 3.

**c) Vendor Selection**

Final vendor selection has not occurred. Solon has assisted a great deal in the grant preparation process.

**d) Site Selection**

The board reviewed proposed sites. The final site has not been selected; however, the leading site at the junction of Buck and Doe Road and the maintenance road is the current choice and was included in the grant application

**9) Mohave Electric o-operative (MEC)**

Mr. Cyr and Mr. Davidson then updated the Board on their recent conversation with MEC regarding improvements to system reliability including the possibility of buying out MEC assets in Peach Springs. MEC appears interested in working with Hualapai in selling the electrical assets presently servicing and located on the Hualapai Reservation in the Peach Springs area.

The Board felt that continued conversations should occur and that Mr. Vaughn will participate in the meetings when possible. The Board reviewed a list of issues to be discussed including but not limited to;

- Acquisition price of assets
- Operational concerns---switching, trouble response, metering.....

**Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Agenda  
February 13, 2020 9:30 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center**



- How HTUA will gain direct access to power supply which can occur at Round Valley substation
- HTUA access to MEC transmission line from Nelson to Round Valley.
  - Will MEC develop a wheeling rate?
  - Would MEC consider selling an ownership interest to HTUA of this transmission line?
- Other possible areas that HTUA can work with MEC to improve reliability to Peach Springs

**10) Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West**

All work related to the proposed power line was suspended pending clarification of the HTUA approved budget. The Hualapai Finance department believed that the budget dollars approved were solely for the GCW solar project and the funding of the HTUA GM fees. The use of the approved dollars was reviewed by Hualapai Council during its February 1, 2020, regular Council meeting. The Council, having been provided with the proposed spread of the budget of \$2,088,685, agreed with the proposed spread and indicated that HTUA should continue moving forward with developing the plans for the proposed GCW power line. Mr. Davidson immediately informed Tierra Right of Way to continue with their work related to obtaining the right of way from the BLM and the associated environmental impact finding of no significant impact. The Board will be updated next month on the status of the project.

Mr. Majenty left the meeting due to previous commitments.

- a) **BLM Related**
  - i) **Plan of Development**
  - ii) **Vegetation Management Plan**
- b) **NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological**
  - i) **Cultural Report**
  - ii) **Biological Report**
  - iii) **Visual Impact Assessments**
  - iv) **Environmental Assessment report**
- c) **Tucson Electric Power System Facility Study Dolan Springs to Grand Canyon West.**
- d) **Transmission Line Design Contractor RFP**

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Agenda  
February 13, 2020 9:30 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center



**11) Deployment of fixed-wireless 4G LTE network in Peach Springs**

**a) General Update**

Mr. Davidson updated the Board on the deployment of the modems to the individual customers. Some system components needed to be updated and the Board was provided with handouts that documented the changes more fully. Mr., Davidson is hopeful to have all customer end use equipment deployed and operational by the end of February.

\*\* Supplemental additional agenda item 7. Muralnet Wireless Frequency Application Assistance agreement

The Board approved an agreement with MuralNet for assistance with completing the documentation/application to apply for the necessary frequency for continued operation after the pilot program. The frequency will be secured for exclusive use by the Hualapai Tribe. Motion by Mr. Vaughn second by Ms. Keller Robinett vote (4-0-0)

**12) Federal Hydro Power/WAPA/Other Power related**

**a) Request to WAPA for meeting with HTUA and Tribal Council**

The Board was updated on a pending meeting with WAPA and the Council. No firm date has been established at this time

**13) Other Matters**

**a) General Manager's 2020 Contract – Kevin**

The Board then reviewed the candidates and proposed contract for General Manager Services---Mr. Cyr left the meeting while this issue was discussed by the Board. The Board evaluated and ranked all the candidates and made the following motion;

On a motion by Mr. Vaughn and a second by Mr. Davis the Board approved the proposed General Manager contract between the HTUA and BBC Consulting, William L. Cyr vote (4-0-0)

Mr. Cyr returned to the meeting and was informed of the Board's action.

**b) Update on tribal council actions – Kevin**

Mr. Davidson briefed the Board regarding on going Council activity. Primary discussion surrounded the recently opened playground.

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Agenda  
February 13, 2020 9:30 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center



**c) AT&T fiber optic easement and status of negotiation**

Mr. Davison briefed the Board on the AT&T right of way negotiations. Currently Mr. Davidson is looking to propose a list of possible members for the negotiating committee. Mr. Vaugh, Mr. Montana and Mr. Cyr all indicated they would be willing to serve on such a committee.

**d) ATEA Annual Meeting**

**e) Announcements**

**14) Set time and location for next meeting**

The Board set the date and location of the next meeting to be at the Tribal Cultural Center at 9 am on March 19, 2020.

**15) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM