



Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2019

Held on November 25, 2019

Hualapai Health and Wellness Center

9:00 AM

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1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Joe Montana at 9:13am.

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 -- excused

Support Personnel and Guest(s)

Bill Cyr, General Manager -- present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director -- present

3) Review and Approve Minutes

a) October 23, 2019

Motion to approve minutes by Ms. Lana Keller Robinett, and second by Mr. Davis vote (3-0-2).

4) Approval of Invoices

a) BBC Consulting – General Manager Services-

Motion to approve invoice of \$5,978.40 by Mr. Davis second by Ms. Lana Keller Robinett, vote (3-0-2).

b) Tierra Right Of Way - Environmental Assessment

Motion to approve invoice of \$2,702 by Mr. Davis and second by Ms. Lana Keller Robinett vote (3-0-2).

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5) Manager's Report

a) October 2019 - (previously tabled)

Being initially delayed for the start of the meeting Mr. Vaughn joined the meeting at this point

The General Manager reviewed the following report with the Board

Areas of Primary Focus

➤ Solar Option for GCW Power Supply

Work related to the Solar RFP was front and center again this this month. The following activities surrounding this power supply option included.

- Revised Solar RFP to solicit smaller system to provide 50 % of GCW power supply requirements
- Review New Solar RFP proposals
- More detailed discussion at Board meeting

➤ Environmental Assessment for Power Line to Grand Canyon West

- Work with Kevin and Tierra on revision to POD---has been submitted to BLM however no response as of yet
- Preliminary review of possible vegetation management plan for power line

➤ Review of Power Line Route Through Hells Canyon

Mr. Davidson and Mr. Cyr met with Jack Linley for a field visit of the power line right of way in the Tenney Ranch/Hells Canyon area. Mr. Linley is an experienced line worker with over 30 years of constructing 69 KV power lines in and around the Southwest Desert. The take aways from this meeting were as follows

- There should be no problem with construction of the line within the proposed ROW
- The project can be easily completed in a multiyear stage in approach
- The multiyear staged in approach lends its self to
 - constructing the line with Hualapai employees thus lowering the overall cost for construction
 - One to three experienced line workers along with 4 or 5 hardworking Hualapai members (who would be trained by experienced line workers - on the job training) could construct the line over a three year period or quicker depending on the availability of budget

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dollars. At the end of the construction period staff would be reduced to match operation and maintenance workload.

- The 90 foot single metal poles proposed for the Hells Canyon area could be replaced with 55-60 foot 3 pole structures that could be installed and maintained without helicopters thus reducing initial costs and continuing maintenance costs.

➤ High Speed Wireless Internet Deployment –Peach Spring

- MuralNet is looking to move forward and a letter has been generated seeking participants. To be discussed with Board at Board meeting.

➤ Hualapai Council / HTUA Joint Meeting Presentation

- Board member Joe Montana , Mr. Davidson and Mr. Cyr met with the Hualapai Council immediately after the September HTUA Board Meeting.
- The meeting request letter, meeting agenda and meeting material are included in this Board package -Section Item Number 6 “Summary of Meeting with Hualapai Council on September 26, 2019”.
- After the presentation and subsequent discussions the Council directed HTUA to prepare the 2020 budget proposal in the following manner;
 - Provide a budget that allows the Hualapai Tribe to move forward on both fronts
 - Reduce the size of the Solar project so that it supplies 50% of the GCW energy requirements
 - Provide a budget proposal for the power line that
 - Allows for obtaining ROW from BLM-complete environmental assessment work
 - Preserves the \$1.9 million grant
 - Provides for completing the engineering of the power line
 - Development of an implementation plan that allows for the construction of the power line over a 3 or 4 year period.

➤ 2020 Budget

- Budget has been revised to reflect direction received from Council during September 25, 2019 HTUA/Hualapai Council joint meeting.
- Budget includes monies for a smaller solar project and to continue developing power line option
- Budget request letter completed and sent on to Wanda Easter

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b) November 2019

The General Manager reviewed the following report with the Board

➤ Solar Option for GCW Power Supply

No significant progress on this item in October or November; however, I did attend a webinar on battery safety. The battery seminar was very informative and discussed the fire that occurred in Phoenix earlier this year, in summary here are the primary take aways from this seminar

- Primary problem is called "Thermal Run Away"
- Thermal Runaway occurs most often in a valve regulated acid (VRLA) battery when the rate of internal heat generation exceeds the rate at which the heat can be expelled. ... If your VRLA battery experiences thermal runaway, the heat it generates will destroy it. The battery can eventually hit temperatures of more than 1,000° F. At that point the flammable electrolyte can ignite or even explode when exposed to the oxygen in the air.
- Thermal runaway happens usually during charging. The temperature quickly rises to the melting point of the metallic lithium and causes a violent reaction. ... During a thermal runaway, the high heat of the failing cell can propagate to the next cell, causing it to become thermally unstable as well
- Battery manufacturers are working on different systems to prevent this occurrence
- Battery manufacturers are also working on ways to detect the start of thermal runaway and then take measures to mitigate the situation causing the thermal runaway condition.
- The best example out there is the exploding cell phone batteries a few years ago. ---If you remember they were banned from airplanes.
- The actual fires seem to occur due to the high buildup of pressures in the battery buildings or trailers. The pressures get so high that the building itself explodes and it is that explosion that causes the fires.
- If we obtain a system with battery storage we will have to review very closely that battery manufacturers system very carefully. Some are building trailers that will fail in strategic points so as not to cause a complete catastrophic explosion.

➤ Environmental Assessment for Power Line to Grand Canyon West

Work in this area continues with a primary focus this month on a vegetative management plan. The vegetative management plan is included for Board review in the Board package

➤ High Speed Wireless Internet Deployment –Peach Spring

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- Over the last month there were several conference calls/meetings with MuralNert, Hualapai IT, and a meeting with the Tribal Chair.
 - IT department will assist with getting antenna installed
 - Permit has been obtained
 - HTUA will need to manage day to day
 - Bill Cyr to perform this function initially
 - Customer database
 - Cost for the back haul bandwidth at \$1,395 a month for 50 MB
 - Planning Department will pay for the month of December however an additional \$16,470 will need to be budgeted for 2020 (Planning, HTUA, IT?)
 - HTUA is working on obtaining frequency spectrum from FCC
 - We have obtained detailed equipment specifications
 - Customer devices will not be the ones presented to the Board last month
 - Only one device will be required that combines both antenna and router
 - Device does not need to be placed in window unless signal strength is weak
 - MuralNet will assist with actual install
 - They have provided propagation map
 - Antenna will be 120 or 90 or 60 degrees
 - Approximate 4 mile propagation range
 - Our service area is about 1.5 miles
 - Overall backhaul bandwidth may become an issue—may limit initial deployment to 25 homes
- WECOM to Provide Additional Bandwidth to Peach Springs

In a related item to MuralNet, we learned that the IT Department/Tribe is moving forward with bringing in a fiber(s) optic line from Kingman that will improve the bandwidth available in Peach Springs. The Tribe sent a letter of support to a project by WECOM to bring a fiber optic line to Peach Springs sometime next year. WECOM obtained a grant of \$1.8 million from the USDA. The grant has a match requirement of 25%, so the total project cost is approximately 2.4 million. They will be providing 10 Giga-bytes total with 100 MB to each home. WECOM intends to run a fiber to each home/business on Mohave Electric existing poles. As of yet they have not provided a projected cost for the service.

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Kevin and I met with the Tribal chair and Mikel Allen and Ben Roberts of the IT Department. The intent of the meeting was to obtain a better understanding of the project. In the end all parties agreed that any service provided by WECOM should not be exclusive or handcuff the Hualapai Tribe from offering an alternative service.

This project should be considered as the negotiations regarding the ATT fiber ROW lease move forward. If the Tribe wishes to continue developing its independence/sovereignty it must proceed with cation with third-party communications suppliers if it does not want to have an outside entity create a monopoly on this service similar to the one Mohave Electric has in Peach Springs today.

HTUA has registered for the necessary bandwidth.

➤ 2020 Budget

- Waiting to hear back from council on 2020 Budget proposal

6) Solar RFP-General Update

a) RFP Addendum - (previously tabled)

The RFP addendum was reviewed with the Board. The primary change in the RFP was directed by Hualapai Council to "provide 50% of the electric energy requirements presently consumed at GCW".

b) Revised Proposals - (previously tabled)

Updated Solar proposals reflecting the RFP addendum were reviewed with the Board

- i) Indian Energy
- ii) Solon
- iii) AGM
- iv) Stockbridge

c) Battery storage webinar (new)

Mr. Cyr discussed the technical details of the safety concerns surrounding batteries used to store solar energy. Specifically; (may refer to previous discussion under 6.b and delete this section)

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7) Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West

a) BLM Related

i) POD Update - (previously tabled)

The Board was provided with an updated POD. The updates reflected minor changes as a result of BLM review

b) NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological - (previously tabled)

i) Three month extension request (now 4 month extension)

The Board reviewed a request from Tierra Right of Way for a time extension to complete the EA work. The need for the time extension is primarily due to BLM concerns regarding going around recently discovered mine sites on the proposed ROW and the BLMS request to have the proposed ROW hug more closely existing dirt roads in the area.

Motion to approve 5 month time extension until the end of May 2019 by Mr. Montana second by ?? (4-0-1).

c) Tucson Electric Power System Impact Study Dolan Springs to Grand Canyon West - (previously tabled)

i) Facility Study

Project continues to wait for funding

d) 2020 Power Line Final Design Proposals - (previously tabled)

The final design specifications for the GCW line were provided to the Board

i) IMEG

ii) Salient

iii) T&D/QSpec

e) Vegetation Management Plan

The BLM is now requiring that a vegetative management plan for maintaining the ROW underneath the power line be prepared and submitted as part of the environmental review process. The proposed vegetative management plan was prepared and submitted to BLM. The Board was provided with a copy for their review.

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8) Budget

i) Budget Request - (previously tabled)

The 2020 budget request was provided to and reviewed by the Board.

ii) Energy Infrastructure Development Grant Notice - (previously tabled)

A notice of grant for Tribal Emery Infrastructure was provided to and reviewed by the Board.

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

- a) Correspondence / project update (new)**
- b) Bandwidth/back haul (new)**
- c) Permit/Equipment (new)**

The Board was updated on items a, b and c. The board was informed that Mr. Davidson and Mr. Cyr had been working on ensuring the system gets installed before the end of December. Coordination has been taking place with IT staff for antenna placement on the structure used by the Grand Canyon Corporation. The board was also informed that the "free demonstration" will actually cost some monies for the back haul from Peach Springs to Kingman. IT is working with HTUA to solicit a quote for the services from WECOM. The board was also updated on the efforts to date to acquire the necessary temporary license from the FCC. The acquisition of that FCC temporary license is on track for a December 9 in service/issuance date. The FCC license will be good for 30 days. HTUA will have to apply for a permanent license as soon as the temporary license is received. The Board was also presented with technical information of the various components of the system including antenna, computer to manage system and customer end use equipment. All of this equipment is being provided at no cost from MuralNet.

d) Review of Applications (new)

The board was presented with and reviewed the 24 applicants for the program. Mr. Davidson provided a detailed list along with a map detailing applicant information and the location of their home.

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Motion to approve applicants by Mr. Vaughn and a second by Ms. Lana Keller Robinett, Vote (4-0-1)

10) Federal Hydro Power/ WAPA/Other Power related

The Board was provided with and reviewed the items in a, b, c below.

- a) BCP 10 Year Plan Technical Review - (previously tabled)
- b) BLM - Hoover Engineering and Operations Committee (new)
- c) Palo Verde Market Prices (new)

11) Other Matters

- a) Update on tribal council actions – Kevin

The Board discussed the Council's recent opposition to the White Hills Wind farm. The Board felt the Council should be informed that the White Hills wind farm project may present a good path for a power line to serve CCW. Could be used as a bargaining point.

- b) Tribal Energy Innovation Fellowship - (previously tabled)

The Board reviewed the information on the Tribal Innovation Fellowship

- c) AT&T fiber optic easement and status of negotiation – update

Mr. Davidson informed the Board that a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) had been signed with AT&T and that they were expecting the results of the appraisal later this week. In addition, AT&T is asking for some direction on the disposal or leave in place an old coaxial cable that is in the existing ROW.

- d) Honoring Nations Application

The Board reviewed the information on the Honoring Nations Application. Mr. Davidson informed that he and Mr. Cyr will begin work on filing out an application.

- e) Announcements

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None

12) Set time and location for next meeting

December 19th, 9:30 AM Health and Wellness Center

13) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Davis second by Mr. Vaughn, Vote (4-0-1)