

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Revised Minutes
July 24, 2019 @ 9:00AM
Cultural Center



1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by Chairman Vaughn

2. Roll Call

Board Members

Charlie Vaughn, Chairman -- Present

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman -- Present

Lana Keller Robinett, Secretary -- Excused

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 June 26, 2019

Motion to approve minutes By Mr. Vaughn second by Mr. Montana vote (4-0-1 excused)

4. Approval of Invoices

a. BBC Consulting –General Manager Services

Motion to approve BBC Consulting services for July 2019 of \$4,200 by Mr. Montana second by Mr. Vaughn Vote (4-0-1 Excused). Mr. Cyr to resubmit invoice with correct billing date.

b. Tierra Right Of Way -Environmental Assessment

Motion to approve Tierra Right of Way services for July 2019 of \$13,920.99 by Mr. Vaughn second by Mr. Montana Vote (4-0-1 Excused)

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5. Manager's Report

The managers report was presented by Mr. Cyr

- Solar Option for GCW Power Supply

Mr. Cyr discussed how it appears that the solar option for suppling today's energy requirements for GCW may be less costly, on an initial and continuing operation basis cost basis, than the power line option. Mr. Cyr pointed out that the power line would allow for addition growth at GCW (about 3 times) over GCW current electrical energy requirements but he also indicted that the power line as designed today will not be able to support significant additional load such as the energy requirements for pumping water out of the Colorado River up to the Grand Canyon rim at GCW. The Board then had a general discussion of the solar option vs. the power line option. Three of the Board members felt that the power line option was still the best option for moving forward citing Council directive to develop a power line for GCW, the power line's ability to serve some additional economic development and better reliability with the power line and that a significant amount of time and money have been spent on legal and technical resources in the actualization of the power line project.

The board requested that Mr. Cyr prepare a cost comparison between the solar and power line options along with the pros and cons for both. The board requested that this analysis be completed for the August board meeting.

The Board then had a general discussion of the solar option vs. the power line option.

- Environmental Assessment for GCW Power Line

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The Board was briefed by Mr. Cyr and Mr. Davidson on the status of the environmental work related to GCW. Mr. Cyr indicated that it appeared that the BLM was introducing unnecessary delays into the project by not quickly processing the ROW application or providing timely responses to work submitted by HTUA environmental consultants Tierra Right of Way. Mr. Cyr also indicated that he felt that the BLM was not honoring the special government-to-government relationship that is supposed to exist between recognized Native American tribes and the Federal Government. The board had a general discussion resulting in a request to draft a letter for Hualapai Tribal Council Charmin to the immediate supervisors of the BLM Kingman office. The letter will discuss concerns regarding project delays and the Government to Government relationship that should be afforded to the Hualapai Tribe as it pertains to the grant of a ROW for the power line.

- **WPA Interconnection Study Results**

Mr. Cyr and Mr. Davidson reported on the results of the interconnection study performed by WAPA. The bottom line result is that to provide significant amounts of power to GCW, the WAPA 500 kv or WAPA 345 KV system will need to be tapped into. WAPA suggested that a potential interconnection point could be established if the White Hills wind generation project moves forward. If the project does move forward, the Hualapai Tribe may be able to leverage its status as a Native American Tribe to motivate the developer to pay for the interconnection equipment at no cost to the tribe. Construction of a new transmission line from GCW back to White Hills represents an additional cost to this option.

WAPA also indicated that it would go back and redo the interconnection study recently complete by UES—power line from Dolan Springs to GCW.

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6. Budget

a. 2019 to Date

The Board was updated on HTUA expenditures to date--- approximately \$127, 000 out of a budget of \$250,000

b. 2020 Direction

The Board discussed on how best to address the 2020 Budget submission. Either option for a GCW power line or a solar option will require a budget amount of between \$7 and \$15 million. The Board indicated that a special meeting between HTUA and the Tribal Council should occur in the next several months to discuss the direction the Hualapai Council would like to move forward with.

7. Proposal to Deploy Wireless High-Speed Internet in Peach Springs by Mural Net

Brian Shih of Mural Net, at Tribal council request, provided the HTUA Board with a presentation on a proposal to provide high speed wireless services to the Hualapai Tribe. In a nutshell the proposal would see the installation of high speed internet to 20 homes or businesses in Peach Springs. The Board viewed the proposal favorably. Mr. Shih indicated that wireless frequencies for Tribes along with governing rules will not become available until November 2019.

The Board also reviewed an agreement that establishes the terms, objectives and a statement of work. The Board took no action on the proposal, instead waiting for more information on the system and the frequencies along with rules that is scheduled to occur in November. Mr. Davidson will keep the Board informed as the November date comes into focus.

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8. Solar RFP

a. RFP Update

Mr. Davidson updated the Board on the status of the solar RFP including potential bidders and addenda that had been issued including the extension of the bid due date to August 8, 2019.

b. Blue Lake Rancheria – California

The Board was also briefed on a teleconference with the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe. They have a significant solar installation that can carry their entire electrical needs with the solar plant; however, they continue to remain connected to the grid and purchase grid power due to economics.

c. NREL Study “2018 Utility Scale Photovoltaic-Plus Energy Storage System Costs Benchmark”

The Board was provided with a technical report on utility scale Solar systems with battery back-up. This report contains a variety of facts and economic data related to the solar plant with storage. HTUA will be able to utilize this report as a bench mark to evaluate solar proposals.

d. Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program

The Board was presented with information on “Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program” that could be utilized to finance the Solar or Power Line project. This program will be investigated more fully based on direction received from the Hualapai Council.

9. Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West

a. BLM Related

i. Plan Of Development Revision

The revised plan of development was provided to the Board

b. NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological

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i. Public Outreach meetings Summary as sent to BLM

Summary of the Public meetings along with the Biological and Cultural report have been submitted to the BLM for review, BLM has not responded with any comments as of this date.

The board had re-affirmed its desire to draft a letter for Hualapai Tribal Council Charmin to the immediate supervisors of the BLM Kingman office.

The letter will discuss concerns regarding project delays and the Government to Government relationship that should be afforded to the Hualapai Tribe as it pertains to the grant of a ROW for the power line.

Mr. Davidson will reach out to the USDA to determine if they will extend the grant deadline one more time or possibly convert these funds to support the solar option.

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

i. Facility Study

Tucson Electric Power continues to wait for a \$100,000 to fund a facility study.

HTUA will await further council direction prior to funding the facility study.

d. WAPA Interconnection Study Update

The WAPA interconnection study was discussed and placed into the minutes under item 5 Managers report

10. Federal Hydro Power/ WAPA/Other Power related

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The Board was informed about an upcoming CRSP meeting in Phoenix on August first. Mr. Cyr and Mr. Davidson will not be attending. The Board was reminded of the CRSP/WAPA presentation made to the Board in Peach Springs earlier this year.

11. Other Matters

a. Update on tribal council actions – Kevin

No New Tribal Action Items were brought forward for discussion.

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

Mr. Davidson briefed the Board on the Status of the ROW negotiations regarding the existing fiber optic line that crosses the HTUA reservation. The review should be complete in four months. They are now looking for a third-party appraiser to evaluate the value of the ROW. A site survey will be completed and the lead attorney has initiated preliminary discussions with AT&T.

c. Announcements

No announcements

12. Set time and location for next meeting

Next meeting will be at 9:00 am Wednesday August 21 at the Health and Wellness Center

13. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM Motion by Mr. Vaughn second by Mr. Montana vote (4-0-1 excused)

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