

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes  
April 3, 2019



1. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 1:11pm by Chairman Vaughn—Note: Original meeting date was scheduled for March 21,2019 however scheduling conflicts postponed meeting until April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

2. **Roll Call Board Members**

Charles Vaughn, Chairman – Present

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman - Present

Secretary- Vacant

Treasurer- Vacant

Rory Majenty – Via Telephone

**Support Personnel**

Bill Cyr, General Manager – Present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director – Present

3. **Review and Approve Minutes from February 27, 2019**

The minutes were approved as written 3 – 0 on a motion by Mr. Montana and a second by Mr. Majenty.

4. **Approval of invoices**

a. The Board reviewed and approved the following invoices

- i. Invoice from Tierra ROW for \$2,933.75 Motion by Mr. Majenty second by Mr. Montana (3 for 0 against).
- ii. Invoice from BBC Consulting for January General Manager Services for \$7,255.80 Motion by Mr. Majenty second by Mr. Montana (3 for 0 against).
- iii. Invoice from BBC Consulting for February General Manager Services for \$7,376.15 Motion by Mr. Majenty second by Mr. Montana (3 for 0 against).
- iv. Invoice from BBC Consulting for January General Manager Services for \$8,375.15 Motion by Mr. Vaughn second by Mr. Majenty (3 for 0 against).

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5. Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West

(a) Environmental The board reviewed a written summary by Mr. Davidson, included in Board package, of the recent meeting with the Friends of the Arizona Joshua Tree Forest recently held in Kingman Arizona. The bottom line is that the Friends of the Arizona Joshua tree Forest are not supportive of a power line that would be constructed in the Diamond Bar Road right of way.

Mr. Davidson then updated the Board regarding a recent conversation with Andy Whitefield of the BLM Kingman office. Mr. Whitefield is now indicating that the construction of the transmission line along the row of the Diamond Bar Route may not be in compliance with the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP). He will be getting back to Mr. Davidson in the next few days to discuss removing the Diamond Bar Road route as a primary alternative.

Mr. Davidson also briefed the Board on recent work completed by Tierra Right of Way. We can expect completed cultural and biological assessment reports in the next few weeks. Additionally, Mr. Davidson updated the Board on work related to a public outreach meeting to the communities of Dolan Springs, Meadview and Peach Springs. The Board recommends that the first meeting should occur in Peach Springs and then the other two locations thereafter. The Board further indicated that the public meetings do not occur until the Hualapai Council is briefed on the project status. The Council briefing should occur in early May and the public meetings can be scheduled after with Council concurrence. Mr. Davidson reminded the Board that the \$1.9 million grant is in jeopardy if we do not conclude environmental work by this fall.

Finally, Mr. Davidson provided a map showing the location of 3 new cultural site findings that occurred while trying to make minor adjustments to route alignment to avoid 3 other cultural sites and a stand of junipers. All of the cultural and biological reports will be available in the pending reports from Tierra and as such will be available for public comment during the public outreach phase of the project.

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(b) Status of Final Transmission/Substation Design The Board was provided with detailed Line, Substation, and GCW site construction costs. Mr. Cyr compared the construction estimate provided by IMEG several years ago to recent cost estimates recently received on the most costly components of the project including but not limited to poles, conductors, hardware, and substation transformers. Mr. Cyr reported that the 12.6 million dollar estimate by IMEG is still valid today and can be used for developing economic models. A more detailed cost will be required after final route selection is made.

**6. Water/Wastewater/Electric/Telecommunication services to all parts of Hualapai Reservation – HTUA Strategic Plan**

**(a) Power Point Presentation for Hualapai Council**

Mr. Cyr then went over a proposed Power Point presentation to the Hualapai Council on the status of HTUA's efforts in developing HTUA with a specific emphasis on the GCW power line. The Board made numerous suggestions on corrections and additions to the presentation. The Board recommended that Mr. Cyr make the corrections and then schedule a meeting with Wanda Easter to go over the presentation in detail with a primary focus on the financing and economics of the proposed project.

Mr. Cyr indicated that the economics are such that the transmission line can be constructed and financed if most of the dollars presently allocated to the operation of diesel generators at GCW was re-allocated to HTUA to pay for the transmission line debt and support continuing HTUA operational costs. In this scenario Mr. Cyr is estimating a net saving back to the Hualapai Tribe of approximately \$300,000 per year.

Mr. Cyr also informed the Board that according to preliminary results from UNES interconnection study, the addition of the pumping load associated with the anticipated

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Colorado River water allocation could not be technically supported by the proposed GCW power line from

Dolan Springs. Mr. Cyr indicated that additional electrical infrastructure will be required to support the pumping load and as such should be included in the project estimate associated with the pumping of said Colorado River water. It is Mr. Cyr's opinion that the construction of the proposed GCW power line today would place HTUA in a position to manage and operate the required electrical infrastructure for the future pumping load. The construction of the GCW power line will establish HTUA as a "brick and mortar" operation and provides the HTUA organization with operational experience that can be leveraged to manage the construction and then the necessary pumping load infrastructure.

It would be advantageous for the Hualapai Tribe's utility to manage the pumping load infrastructure project from both an economic and operational point of view. From an economic point of view HTUA can leverage any construction dollars to HTUA's best interest. It is important to realize that the necessary infrastructure will be built and it will be much better to keep said money in the HTUA economy and not send it off the reservation to other utilities. Secondly, if HTUA builds out the necessary infrastructure, it can leverage the knowledge gained to continue to operate the facilities after they are built. It is important to note that third-party contractors and consultants will be required to assist in a project of the pumping load scale; however, the project should be financially directed by as many of the Hualapai's entities as possible.

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7. Federal Hydro Power/WAPA/Other Power related

(a) WAPA Interconnection Study

Mr. Cyr updated the Board on the status of the WAPA interconnection study. A one line diagram was presented to the Board depicting the power line routes that would be studied. WAPA indicated that the study is scheduled for completion in June 2019.

(b) Boulder Station Master Schedule

The Board was informed about the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) Master Schedule primarily for information purposes only

(c) CRSP Annual Meeting

The Board was informed about the upcoming Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) annual meeting. The Board felt attendance by HTUA was not required especially since CRSP representatives were recently at a HTUA Board meeting in Peach Springs.

8. Annual Report with Budget revisions

Mr. Cyr presented the Board with an update to the annual report due to changes in the final budget amount allocated to HTUA. The Board made some grammatical corrections and pointed out some typos. The Board indicated that the updated report be presented to the Hualapai Council after said corrections are made.

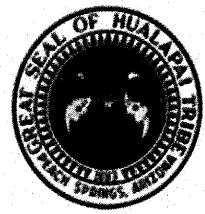
9. Other Matters

a. Update on Tribal Council actions –

b. **AT&T Fiber Optic Easement** – The Board was provided a written update on AT&T fiber ROW negotiations by Mr. Davidson as included in the Board package. Additionally, Mr. Davidson informed the board that negotiations have not begun. The Tribe is in the process of sending out a formal letter to AT&T that the ROW lease had expired and that AT&T was now in trespass.

c. **Replacement Board Member Search** – The council is considering two recent applicants for filling empty HTUA Board seats. We expect to hear from the Hualapai Council on their decision

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regarding the new applicants in the next several weeks.. The candidates are Lana Keller-Robinett and Jason Davis.

- d. **Announcements** – The Board discussed the ongoing survey being conducted by Mohave Electric Cooperative regarding providing broad band services to its customers.
  
10. Set time and location for next meeting – Next meeting date was set for April 24 at 9:00am in the conference room at the Hualapai Health, Education and Wellness Center.
  
11. Adjourn – Adjournment was approved 3 – 0 on a motion entered by Mr. Magenty and seconded by Mr. Montana at 3:20 PM