STATE OF NEW MEXICO )

CITY OF CLOVIS ) ss.

The City of Clovis Water Policy Advisory Board met in regular session at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 in the Assembly Room, Bert Cabiness City Government Center, 321 N. Connelly, in full conformity with the laws of the State of New Mexico and the ordinances and resolutions of said city with the following members present:

Commissioner Chris Bryant, Chairman

Commissioner Fidel Madrid

Commissioner Ladona Clayton

Mr. Larry Fry

Mr. Jack Muse

Mr. Vince Demaio

Mr. Gene Hendrick

Mr. Harry Pomeroy

County Commissioner Chet Spear

ABSENT: Commissioner Sandra Taylor-Sawyer

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Vicki Reyes, Administration

Mr. Mark Huerta, EPCOR

Mr. Daniel Bailet, EPCOR

Mr. David Kube, Curry County

Ms. Sandy Chancey, EPCOG

Mayor David Lansford

Commissioner Helen Casaus

Mr. Adrian Chavez

Ms. Josephita Griego

Commissioner Bryant called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and established the presence of a quorum.

**Agenda Item No. 3 - Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2016**

Mr. Pomeroy advised he had one correction on page 2, line 28 and 29, "Ogallala Aquifer" should be capitalized. Mr. Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2016 as amended; Mr. Pomeroy seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

**Agenda Item No. 4 - Discussion regarding formulation of City of Clovis Water Security Plan**

Mayor Lansford stated he would like this committee to consider modifying the policy to include several factors that they all face as a community. The first thing they need to discuss is the City of Portales not signing off on the resolution to support pledging their financial commitment to support the financial plan for the Utility Authority. There is no communication between the representatives on the authority and the city council. If the two or three major population centers can agree on where their priorities needs to be they can alleviate some of the personality politics. Something this big and complicated is difficult to transition from person to person. Each entity should have a water policy that is somewhat consistent and it will alleviate the confusion. He stated the commissioners in Portales did not have a good historical knowledge of the project. They have to interface with EPCOR water as well. They have to get better organized and retune their focus. When the engineers are telling Portales that they will essentially be out of water in 10 years that is not something that the Department of Defense wants to hear from a community that supports a military installation. They need to decide what their policies are.

The New Mexico Finance Authority stated “According to our Water Trust Board staff the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority has not submitted two of its outstanding project Readiness to Proceed items, evidence of secured easements and approval of its plans and specs. As we discussed several weeks ago the deadline for submitting these items was December 1st, 2016 and though the Authority submitted a request for an extension of the Readiness to Proceed date the request came after the deadline and will not be considered until the next Water Trust Board meeting which is scheduled for late March. So at this point we are in a holding pattern. We are awaiting clarity as to when to expect the Project Readiness to Proceed and for a resolution to the final finance plan.” Portales needs to sign the resolution. They need to understand there is a return on the investment. Their bonding capacity is a little tight so they are worried about money. They need to figure out how to satisfy the City of Portales. They have to act on this situation and have Portales sign off on the financial part of this project. All of the effort that has been put into this project and the money that has been accumulated is vulnerable. Portales needs to see a 10 year return on investment and right now there is no action plan to put a 10 year plan together.

The last page of the Trinity Report says “Investigate and implement the purchase of nearby agricultural water rights.” The second thing it lists is "Consider installation of a redundant potable water supply connection with the City of Clovis/EPCOR Water." They need to get past water policy and move into strategic planning. Mayor Lansford stated he is worried about Cannon, Clovis, Portales and the folks that don't have water because it all sends the wrong message about the community and its sustainability.

The next Water Trust Board will be in March. The City of Clovis needs to assert themselves in the Water Plan otherwise they are going to have consequences they don’t like.

Commissioner Bryant stated the meeting in Portales was very frustrating. Portales’ main concern was when are they going to receive water and that is something no one knows yet. They have to put a plan together.

Mr. Muse asked what the financial responsibility of the City of Portales is. Mayor Lansford stated their amount is $600,000-$700,000 over the next 20 years. Mr. Muse asked if they could ask them to drop out of the water authority and took over that amount. Mayor Lansford stated Portales is under allocated from the reservoir. They do not have enough allocation to meet tier average daily consumption He did not think they would agree to that and believe the pipeline can built for half the amount and in a faster timeline. Their expectations are not the same as his and they are not going to give up anything that they have a right to. Commissioner Bryant stated if Portales drops out then they have a problem with the Water Trust Board, the federal delegation and Cannon Air Force Base. They need to look at short term solutions and they may get back on board if they can show that they can have water in a certain number of years. Mr. Muse stated the City of Portales did not understand anything about the pipeline.

Mr. Chavez asked if there is a neutral party that can work between the two advisory boards and communicate information back and forth. Mayor Lansford stated that is a leadership question. This is why he is leaning towards a policy and Portales now knows what the City of Clovis’ policy is. The City of Clovis bought water from JR Wall and Portales should see that has a benefit to them, but they don’t. Mr. Chavez asked how long the policy took to implement. Mayor Lansford stated he would like to have 8 or 9 sections of the policy.

Commissioner Madrid stated he thought the water authority was going to build infrastructure to Elida. Mayor Lansford stated that was halted when they wouldn’t approve the Elida Pump Station. Commissioner Madrid asked why Mr. Ortega wasn’t helping the situation instead of putting up a road block. Mayor Lansford stated former Mayor Ortega does not believe Portales will get a return on their investment. Commissioner Madrid asked where they are going to get their water.

Commissioner Clayton stated she appreciated the passion that Mayor Lansford shared his thoughts. She stated in defense of Portales she has to look at their perspective too. They have to put out the hand and say they are in this together. If Portales is out of water in 10 years then it affects Clovis as well. It is the most pressing issue and should be their priority. She asked how quickly they could work on the policy and begin talking about how they are going to get Portales water. Commissioner Bryant asked Commissioner Clayton if she would be willing to lead a strategic planning session. Commissioner Clayton stated she would.

Commissioner Spear stated there were a lot of questions from Portales and they couldn’t give any answers. They need to give them something to hold on to along with the policy. There is a lack of communication with the authority and its members. He stated their board member only tells them he has attended a meeting.

Mr. Hendrick stated he would like to volunteer to work with Commissioner Clayton. Ms. Chancey stated EPCOG will also work with Commissioner Clayton. Ms. Griego stated she would like to volunteer to help as well.

Mr. Demaio stated they have to deal with what is in front of them. They have an underground water supply and need to secure that. They have to start thinking about how they spend economic development dollars. Until they can secure and maintain the supply around it they have no solution. Their number one single focus is to stop the decline. They have to conserve in a massive way if they want this to be sustainable.

Mr. Griego stated Albuquerque had a problem conserving as well. He asked if anyone has worked with Water Utility Authority in Albuquerque to try and implement a good water conservation program for Clovis. Commissioner Bryant stated they do have a conservation policy that they work on with EPCOR. Mr. Griego stated a lot of people don’t know about the policy. Mayor Lansford stated the water consumption has gone down in the last 5 years so the conservation initiatives are working. Mr. Bailet stated the conservation program has been extremely successful. The average household usage is below what it is in Albuquerque. Commissioner Bryant stated they will continue their conservation work and is not something they will discontinue.

Mr. Muse stated one problem with communication in Portales is that Mayor King has lost the confidence in her commission. They are at odds in a lot of issues and they see the leadership of the Water Utility Authority as not in good judgment. There is not unity in the Portales commission and the Mayor’s office and that does not translate well for the Water Authority. Some change in leadership with the Water Authority to establish new direction, better spending and a more "how do we get water now" attitude is an important component. Commissioner Spear stated the Water Authority’s plan best case scenario for the Ute Pipeline to be completed is 2038, 21 years. He stated they need to worry about their immediate needs. Commissioner Bryant stated that is why they want to develop this plan. He asked Commissioner Clayton if she would like to have someone from the county and EPCOR to help her with planning. Mr. Huerta and Commissioner Spear volunteered to help.

Mayor Lansford stated they have to focus on extending the life of the aquifer and it has to be a priority. This project will not be built in a short enough amount of time to meet their needs. Mr. Demaio stated he believes they can make this aquifer sustainable for the current use. Commissioner Bryant stated if they can show that they have a water plan it will help their economic development.

Commissioner Madrid stated one thing they haven’t mentioned is their wastewater plant. Mayor Lansford stated they need to have a policy on that as well.

Mr. Hendrick suggested setting a timetable to get this done. Commissioner Clayton stated she would get right on working on things.

Commissioner Bryant asked Mayor Lansford if he had the results of the Wall property. Mayor Lansford stated the Wall water property average increase in saturated thickness from 10 wells was 23 inches.

Mr. Muse asked when the Water Trust Board meeting was. Mayor Lansford stated it is in March. Mr. Muse asked if there were key components in the plan that they need to demonstrate to Portales. Mayor Lansford stated conservation and infrastructure. Mr. Hendrick asked what day the meeting is. Mr. Fry stated they did not have a date set that. Commissioner Bryant stated one of the problems with Portales is they don’t know who to visit with. Mayor Lansford stated they need to get on their agenda.

Mr. Chavez stated he handed out a sheet to the committee showing everyone that is either low on water or out of water. They are working with the USDA to purchase a water truck. They hope to have an answer by June of this year.

**Agenda Item No. 5 - Updates**

EPCOR Update

Mr. Huerta stated in December the average was 34% pumping capacity. In December they replaced two hydrants at 14th and Main and 14th and Gidding. They are currently replacing five valves from Prince to Pile. Work is continuing on the east transmission line as well. Upcoming work is the 5th Street project which is an alley change out from 7th Street to Mabry. Mr. Bailet stated the work that Mr. Huerta talked about is $3 million a year that they have put into the system.

ENMWUA Update

Commissioner Bryant read an update from Mr. Howalt “No major developments. We continue to secure easements and seek funding. We have met with our federal delegation to emphasize the importance of water projects being considered as part of an infrastructure bill. They agree. The nominee for the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Interior is Representative Ryan Zinke. He is from Montano which is good because they have two rural water projects currently and he has sought authorization for another one in his district. We have reached out to Senator Heinrich's office to see if they would be interested in us providing questions that the Senator may consider using during the confirmation hearings. They said yes, so we are gearing them towards the Rural Water Completion Act. Because of Re. Zinke's background we assume he would be familiar with it and want to know his stance on the bill. We have also spoken with Commissioner Lopez and Brent Rhees, head of the BOR district in Salt Lake. They will be meeting this week to discuss how to allocate funds from the Continuing Resolution that was passed and runs out in March. We are going to follow back up with them next week to see how their discussions went."

City Update

Mr. Fry stated they are not through with phase 1B on the effluent reuse project. They will not meet the January 26th deadline as far as the spend down of those funds, but will be finished by the meeting in March. They have been approved for phase 1C, for $2.5 million. They have approved more projects than they have money for so it will still be a matter of competing within that to ensure that the funding comes to the project. Commissioner Bryant asked if this being an ongoing project was going to help them any. Mr. Fry stated it could and they had money left over from phase 1B.

**Agenda Item No. 6 - For the good of the order**

Commissioner Bryant stated the next meeting would be at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 14th.

**Agenda Item No. 7 - Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Bryant stated they will talk more about planning at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 8 - Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

SEAL

(ATTEST)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk