

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2019 @ 9:00AM  
Hualapai Cultural Center



1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Chairman Vaughn

2. Roll Call

**Board Members**

Charlie Vaughn, Chairman -- Present

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman -- Present

Lana Keller Robinett, Secretary --Present via phone

Jason Davis, Treasurer -- Present

Rory Majenty -- excused

**Support Personnel and Guest(s)**

Bill Cyr, General Manager -- Present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director --Present

Chairman Vaughn expressed the Board's condolences to Mr. Majenty for his recent loss—the passing of his mother. Additionally Mr. Vaughn formally excused Mr. Majenty from the meeting and tabled all of agenda items related to the solar RFP and the potential solar power plant at GCW.

3. Review and Approve Minutes July 24,2019

Motion to approve minutes By Mr. Montana second by Mr. Vaughn vote (4-0-1 excused) with the following addition /correcting's to the Manager's Report section of the July 24, 2019 minutes.

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, power lines 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 hard line project.

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Additionally the Chair and other long standing Board members offered the following clarifications to newer Board members

- The past and current work related to bringing a hard wired power line to GCW was at the direction of the 2014 Hualapai Council and has been supported by subsequent Councils over the last 5 years through specific budget funding every year since then. Some of the funding was directed to preliminary engineering work, legal review, ROW surveying, cultural surveys, biological surveys, BLM funding and third-party study work by Unisource electric. Additionally, the council approved the hiring of a part time General Manager to support the development of the power line and the eventual operation of the "bricks and mortar" utility.
- The power line should be considered as the primary and only option currently under consideration by the Hualapai Council.
- The work related to determining the feasibility of a solar power plant at GCW is looking forward to what can be done after the power line is constructed
- The power line should still be considered as the most flexible (expandable)and reliable option for power supply at GCW as supported through the years of work and research conducted by HTUA
- The establishment of an operating electric utility today will be supportive of future electrical demands on the Hualapai reservation in the future. Without an operating utility the expansion of all utilities on the Hualapai Reservation will most likely continue to be provided by other non-Hualapai entities such as Mohave Electric, Unisource, Frontier and Verizon.

The best example of future utility requirements is related to a potential Colorado River water allocation. With an operating utility, the Hualapai Tribe will be able to self-direct and manage the necessary construction of assets and take ownership of the assets; without an operating utility, it will be difficult to convince third-party lenders and grant providers that the Hualapai can self-direct the construction of these assets. Without that in house expertise, the assets will be constructed by third-party –non Hualapai companies that will retain ownership and continue to remove Tribal cash as it asserts tariffs for investor profits, salaries of non-tribal employees, the continued operation and maintenance of these assets.

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**4. Approval of Invoices**

**a. BBC Consulting –General Manager Services**

Motion to approve BBC Consulting services for August 2019 of \$6,202.82 by Mr. Montana second by Mr. Davis. Vote (4-0-1 Excused)

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

Motion to approve Tierra Right of Way services for August 2019 of \$10,023.38 by Mr. Vaughn second by Ms. Keller Robinett. Vote (4-0-1 Excused)

**5. Manager's Report**

The manager's report was presented by Mr. Cyr. The Board was updated on the following items

➤ **Solar Option for GCW Power Supply**

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

- Revisions to RFP-Addendums
- Continued research into storage batteries
- Clarifying conference's with Bidders
- One site meeting at GCW with potential bidders
- Discussion with Aha Macav Power regarding their solar project and recently received grant
- Review and ranking of submitted RFP's
- Several conversations with NREL solar experts including detail discussion of NREL's opinion on solar RFP's received
- Comparison of Solar Option to Power Line Option

➤ **Environmental Assessment for Power Line to Grand Canyon west**

Per the Board's request a letter regarding concerns surrounding BLM's performance related to GCW power line environmental work.

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- Letter sent out and signed by Hualapai Council Vice President Philbert Watahomigie on July 29, 2019
- Reply letter from BLM Colorado River Division Manager William Mack
- Follow-up conversations with Tierra Right of Way
- The Board will be briefed in greater detail at the next Board meeting
- All written communication can be found in Board package

➤ **WAPA Interconnection Study results**

- WAPA delivered the final pre-interconnection study on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Conference call looking at details on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The study seems comprehensive and includes their own independent results on the Dolan Spring interconnection
- Complete report is included in Board package

➤ **High Speed Wireless Internet Deployment –Peach Spring**

- No Activity this month

➤ **2019 Budget Expenditures to Date ---2020 Budget continued discussion**

- 2019 Budget expenditures to date including August invoices were presented to the Board at the August meeting.
- Draft letter for Board consideration requesting joint special meeting with Hualapai council to discuss Hualapai direction concerns power supply options for the Hualapai reservation

**6. Solar RFP**

All Agenda Items "6. Solar RFP" tabled until next meeting

- a. RFP Addendums
- b. RFP Bidders and Rankings
- c. NREL

**7. Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West**

**a. BLM Related**

- i. Letter to BLM
- ii. Letter From BLM
- iii. Tierra letter/notes

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The Board reviewed a letter to the BLM, a letter from the BLM and a clarification letter from Tierra Right of Way. The letter to the BLM was signed by the Tribal Vice Chair and discussed points of concern related to the work BLM is performing related to the Power line ROW. The letter from the Vice Chair focused on the long time it has taken to obtain approvals for the ROW request and the reluctance of the BLM to recognize the government-to-government relationship that is supposed to exist between the Tribe and the BLM. BLM has indicated that they offer more desirable ROW terms to WAPA, county and state agencies.

The response letter from the BLM Colorado District Manager was essentially non responsive on the length of time that has passed since the initial application BLM cited a host of reasons that could be disputed on a point by point basis and affirmed their position that they would not extend the same lease terms that they would extend to WAPA or County governments.

The correspondence from Tierra Right of Way provided details on the time line of various submissions related to the ROW application.

After reviewing the three different pieces of correspondence the Board felt it would be appropriate to inform the Council of the BLM position.

**iv. Mohave County/BLM Quarterly Meeting Agenda/Minutes**

The Board reviewed the BLM Quarterly Meeting Agenda/Minutes.

**v. Revised Plan of development**

The Board reviewed the revised Plan of Development

**b. NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological**

**i. Draft EA**

The draft EA was not available for review

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

**i. Facility Study**

On hold until further direction/funding by Hualapai Council.

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**d. WAPA Interconnection Study Update**

The Board reviewed the WAPA interconnection study. Mr. Cyr explained that the study was a comprehensive review of potential interconnection points that could be used to supply the Hualapai Reservation including the Dolan Springs interconnection that was previously studied by Unisource. Key findings of the study were as follows;

- WAPA confirmed that the Dolan Springs interconnection is suitable for 3 to 5 MW of power to the GCW.
- Power requirements in excess of 5 MW will require additional infrastructure originating from different interconnection points.
- The most promising interconnection point to serve power requirements beyond 5 MW at GCW would be the proposed White Hills wind project interconnection.
- Power supply for Peach Springs could be served by either Round Valley or Peacock substation
- WAPA is available for a more detail presentation to the Hualapai Council and the HTUA Board when requested.

**8. Solar Vs. Power Line Comparison**

All Agenda Items "7. Solar vs. Power Line Comparison" tabled until next meeting

**9. Budget**

**a. Year to Date**

The Board was briefed on Budget spending year to date

**b. 2020 Preparation – Request Joint Meeting with Council**

Mr. Cyr indicated that he felt it was appropriate to request a special joint meeting with the Hualapai Council to discuss the status of the power line development, the results of investigations into a solar power plant at GCW, listen to a presentation from WAPA on interconnection options and direction for the 2020 budget.

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**10. Federal Hydro Power/ WAPA/Other Power related**

**a. National Tribal Energy Summit**

The Board reviewed a flier discussing an upcoming Indian Energy Summit in Washington DC. The Board decided that it would be appropriate for Lana Keller Robinett to attend. Mr. Davidson will seek final approval from Wanda Easter.

**b. Hoover Reconciliation report**

The Board reviewed the Hoover reconciliation report.

**c. Forward Purchase Power prices**

The Board reviewed the forward purchase power prices.

**11. Other Matters**

**a. Update on tribal council actions – Kevin**

No items presented

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

Mr. Davidson provided the Board with a written report

**c. Announcements**

No announcements

**12. Set time and location for next meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for September 25, 2019 at the Health and Wellness Center

**13. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Vaughn and a second by Mr. Montana, vote (4-0-1 Excused)