



Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2019

Hualapai Health and Wellness Center

9:30 AM

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019 @ 9:30AM
Hualapai Health and Wellness Center



1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Mr. Vaughn at 9:45am.

2) Roll Call

Board Members

Charlie Vaughn, Chairman -- present

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman -- present

Lana Keller Robinett, Secretary --present via phone

Jason Davis, Treasurer --Excused

Rory Majenty -- Present via phone

Support Personnel and Guest(s)

Bill Cyr, General Manager -- present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director --excused

3) Review and Approve Minutes

a) November 25, 2019 (originally scheduled for November 20th)

Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Vaughn, and second by Mr. Montana vote (4-0-0).

Mr. Majenty did not vote as he was excused from last meeting

4) Approval of Invoices

a) BBC Consulting – General Manager Services-

Motion to approve invoice of \$7,081.80 by Mr. Majenty, second Mr. Montana, vote (4-0).

b) Tierra Right Of Way - Environmental Assessment

Motion to approve invoice of \$8,377 by Mr. Majenty and second by Ms. Lana Keller Robinett vote (4-0).

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019 @ 9:30AM
Hualapai Health and Wellness Center



5) Manager's Report

The Board reviewed and discussed the following items; (Note: most of the Board agenda items were discussed during the Manager's Report and a recorded in this section of the minutes)

- Budget Presentation to Council
 - Council took no action on budget proposal and has not taken any action as of today's meeting date. (Council approved the 2020 budget on December 17th; however, results have not been given the departments as of the 19th)
 - Wanda has indicated that final budgets will be issued in the near future.
 - Council was interested in installing some solar at GCW to reduce ongoing fuel costs. .
 - Council also asked about how difficult it would be to bring a new line directly into Peach Springs.
 - It was explained to council that a new line from Round Valley Substation or Peacock had been looked at and are considered viable options to serving Peach Springs. Both of these options should be considered as the next phase after the Dolan Springs to Grand Canyon West Power line is constructed. The final phase would be to create a loop by connecting the line from Peach Springs to the Dolan Springs line thus providing a level of reliability never achieved before on the entire Hualapai Reservation. This connector line would be built along Buck and Doe Road and be ready to serve any future water pumping Road.
 - Council requested that HTUA organize a presentation from WAPA to discuss power line routing options and how WAPA might play a larger role in establishing new power lines to the Hualapai Reservation.
- Tierra ROW contract Modifications Presentation to Council
 - At its December 7th meeting, the Council approved the increase amount to the Tierra Right Of Way contract and extended the completion time to the end of May 2020.
 - The increase in time and increase in contract amount is to facilitate the completion of additional work due to BLM's request and the recent discovery of two mining claims along the proposed power line right-of-way.
- Educational Network MuraNet
 - Temporary FCC approval for bandwidth
 - Acquisition of backhaul from Wecom for approximately \$1,395 per month for 50 MB. Purchase order submitted to accounting for processing
 - MuralNet equipment received and review of manuals in process

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019 @ 9:30AM
Hualapai Health and Wellness Center



- Installation—traveled to Peach Springs to assist ---first install attempt difficulties
 - The installation of the necessary equipment is going slower than anticipated and may not be completed until early January 2020.
- The Board requested that internal labor services (electrical and mounting of MuralNet equipment) be utilized prior to contracting with third-party contractors from Kingman. The Board was informed that MuralNet has offered to fund any third-party installer fees.
- Power Line EA

The board was informed that progress continues and will hopefully accelerate to completion in the first quarter of 2020

 - Vegetation Management Plan
 - Biological Report
 - Cultural Report
- Solar GCW
 - Call to Solan
 - The Board was informed that Solan has agreed to assist in the grant preparation process by assisting in providing the technical submission requirements
 - Review grant notice with focus on eligibility
 - Discuss with Richard
 - Discuss with Stockbridge
 - Discuss with DOE program director
 - Discuss with AMPS on their grant
 - The grant has seven different areas that a request for funding can be classified under. As of this date the final submission topic area has been narrowed to one or two possibilities. One possibility would result in a partial match while the other submission area may result in a greater match. Kevin, Richard and the General Manager will make the final decision on which area to file the grant under.
 - It is the intent to have the final grant submission packet available for review and approval by the HTUA Board at the January meeting. Grant Submission deadline is February 6, 2020.
 - The Board discussed the possible locations for the solar field at GCW. No decision was made on a recommended site. Aesthetics and costs will be the deciding factors. Costs will be less the closer the array is placed to the existing micro grid; however the solar field will be more visible.
 - The Board made it clear that grant applications should focus on utility-scale solar at GCW and not smaller distributed applications at other areas on the reservation.

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019 @ 9:30AM
Hualapai Health and Wellness Center



- Prepared November Minutes
- Prepared December Agenda
- Assembled / Issue Board Package
- Call with Mohave Electric Regarding Outage
 - An extended power outage in excess of 13 hours occurred in Peach Spring over the Thanksgiving weekend.
 - Spoke with Rick Campos regarding the outage on 12/1/2019
 - Rick indicated
 - it was a widespread outage impacting all four distributions circuits emanating from Nelson Substation
 - Transmission line from Round Valley did not experience an outage
 - The distribution circuit outage was caused by snow and ice accumulations on the power lines and tree branches
 - The length of the outage was due to the vast number of repairs to be made
 - They did not bring in additional crews from neighboring utilities
 - Rick did not indicate this, but I suspect that the circuit serving the Tribe may have been one of the last ones to receive attention
 - HTUA with its own staff could have reduced the duration of the outage as the Tribal load restoration would be prioritized as number 1. This is one of the reasons why the Tribe should be strongly considering taking over MEC's Peach Springs assets.
 - MEC sent out a poorly scripted outage notice for a scheduled outage on Thursday the 12th. I have no knowledge that MEC consulted with the Hualapai Tribe to schedule a mutually acceptable time.
 - Recommendations
 - Send Board letter to MEC for a meeting. (To better understand MEC's possible position, Kevin and Bill will initiate a call prior to next meeting and prior to sending formal letter from the Board.)
 - Emphasize Hualapai concern regarding reliability
 - Express concern about lack of communications about follow-up outage that occurred on the 12th.
 - Ask them to provide written reply that will outline steps they will take to minimize future outages

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019 @ 9:30AM
Hualapai Health and Wellness Center



- Ask them if they would be interested in:
 - Possibility of MEC divestiture of Electrical assets serving Peach Springs that serves Hualapai, how much?
 - Determine if they would consider allowing HTUA to wheel power over their transmission line
 - Indicate we would consider taking over Supai line?
 - Ask about Nelson substation rebuild process ---any assets that HTUA could acquire to facilitate above

The Board agreed with the recommendations listed above. Mr. Davidson and Mr. Cyr will reach out to MEC and schedule a meeting to discuss the listed items. They will also reach out to the council for their participation and/or the assignment of a Council member to participate. In addition, they will plan an upcoming WAPA meeting with HTUA and Council. If possible, the meeting with WAPA should occur after the meeting with MEC.

- Reviewed AT&T Fiber Lease Documents
 - Original and amended lease documents
 - Appraisal Report
 - Mr. Davidson joined the meeting via phone at approximately 11:30 am. He reported on the progress being made with the ROW lease review including the preliminary results of the appraisal. He had discovered that the capacity of the existing fiber may exceed the capacity that the appraiser used in determining the fair market value of the lease. The appraiser has been given that information and will be updating the estimated value of the ROW lease accordingly. At present the value of the ROW lease has been calculated to be approximately \$1,000,000 per mile for a 10 year period.

- Arizona Tribal Energy Association(ATEA)
 - New Midwest Tribal Energy Association has been established with 13 participating Tribes
 - Two additional tribes have established electric utilities with real assets
 - Saginaw Chippewa Tribe
 - Acoma Pueblo of New Mexico
 - WAPA has not selected a new Desert Southwest Region Manager
 - Tracey LeBeau is acting director
 - Tracey is a Native American from the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana. She has served as the director of Indian Energy and is currently a senior Vice President of WAPA
 - WAPA is considering offering Broadband

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019 @ 9:30AM
Hualapai Health and Wellness Center



6) Solar RFP-General Update

- a) General Update
Discussed under the Manager's Report above
- b) Grant Notice and Eligibility
Discussed under the Manager's Report above
- c) Vendor Selection
Discussed under the Manager's Report above
- d) Site Selection
Discussed under the Manager's Report above

7) Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West

- a) BLM Related
No new action by the BLIM—they have the POD, Vegetative Management plan, Biological Assessment and Cultural Assessment. Will be contacting before end of year to determine timeline/status

- b) NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological –
 - i) Cultural Report---under review by BLM
 - ii) Biological Report—under review by BLM
 - iii) Visual Impact Assessment –Tierra has started this process

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

Project continues to wait for funding

8) Budget

- i) Council Action on 2020 Budget Proposal
No decision as of this date
- ii) 2019 Budget Expenditures to date
The Board reviewed 2019 Budget expenditures to date.

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019 @ 9:30AM
Hualapai Health and Wellness Center



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

a) Deployment Status

Discussed under the Manager's Report above

b) Bandwidth/back haul Contract

Discussed under the Manager's Report above

10) Federal Hydro Power/ WAPA/Other Power related

a) Request to WAPA for Meeting with HTUA and Tribal Council

See manager's report minutes

110 Other Matters

a. Update on tribal council actions – Kevin

Kevin joined the meeting at approximately 11:30 am and updated the Board on the new playground construction project

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

Discussed under the Manager's Report above

c. Mohave Electric Outage

Discussed under the Manager's Report above

d. Announcements

12) Set time and location for next meeting

January 21, 2020 9:00 am -- Health and Wellness Center

13) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Montana second by Mr. Majenty, Vote (4-0-0)