



HUALAPAI TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 23, 2022

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

9:30 AM

HUALAPAI TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2022

Health and Wellness Center



1. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR, MR. VAUGHN, CALLED MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:48 AM

2 – ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

CHARLES VAUGHN, CHAIRMAN - PRESENT

JOE MONTANA, VICE CHAIRMAN – PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE

SECRETARY - LANA KELLER ROBINETT- ABSENT

TREASURER - JASON DAVIS-PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE

RORY MAJENTY – PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE

SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND GUEST(s)

BILL CYR, GENERAL MANAGER

KEVIN DAVIDSON, PLANNING DIRECTOR

LINA BEARAT, KIMLEY-HORN ASSOCIATES

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

- a) **MAY 18 2022 --HELD AT HUALAPAI COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 18, 2022, BOARD MEETING MINUTES BY MR. VAUGHN, SECOND BY MR. DAVIS, VOTE (2-0-1)

- WITH MINOR REVISION
 - SECTION 8B AND 10 B –SCHEDULE
 - UNDER OTHER, BOARD'S DISCUSSION ON FOLLOWING UP WITH THE POSSIBLE NEED TO HAVE THE WATER TANKS AT GCW CLEANED—JASON DAVIS TO FOLLOW UP

4. APPROVAL OF INVOICES

- a) **BBC CONSULTING – GENERAL MANAGER SERVICES**

MOTION TO APPROVE BBC CONSULTING INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,083.40 BY MR. MAJENTY, SECOND BY MR. MONTANA, VOTE (3-0-0)

5. FINANCIAL

- a) **REVIEW OF HTUA BUDGET / EXPENSES YEAR TO DATE**

THE BOARD REVIEWED THE BUDGET AND EXPENSES TO DATE

6. TRIBAL FUNDING FROM BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

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THE BOARD REVIEWED A HANDOUT REGARDING NEW POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR HUALAPAI INFRASTRUCTURE. MR. DAVIDSON HAS ASSIGNED RICHARD IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO NOTIFY HIM WHEN NOTICE OF FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS (NOFA) ARE PUBLISHED.

7. GCW SOLAR –PROJECT UPDATE

a) BATTERY CHANGE ORDER

THE DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO THE BATTERY CHARGE ORDER WAS PROVIDED FOR THE BOARD'S REVIEW— INFORMATIONAL BASIS.

b) OUTSIDE THE FENCE

- i. ALL MATERIAL ORDERED EXCEPT FIBER
 - a) **DELIVERIES INTO DECEMBER 2022-SUPPLY CHAIN WEAKNESS CONTINUES**
- ii. THIRD PARTY ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR RETAINED
- iii. **APPOVAL OF THIRD-PARTY REVIEWER OF FINAL DESIGN DRAWINGS**

THE BOARD WAS BRIEFED ON OUTSIDE THE FENCE ACTIVITIES. ALL MATERIAL OTHER THAN THE FIBER OPTIC CABLE HAS BEEN ORDERED. FIBER OPTIC CABLE WILL BE ORDERED AS SOON AS ACCURATE DISTANCES ARE KNOWN AND END CONNECTOR STYLES ARE VERIFIED. ROYAL SIPE OF GCRC IS HELPING WITH THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE FIBER PORTION OF THE PROJECT.

THE EXECUTED THIRD PARTY CONTRACT FOR OUTSIDE THE FENCE LINE WORKERS WAS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD.

THE BOARD WAS PROVIDED WITH PICTURES OF THE ORDERED JUNCTION BOXES. MR. CYR INDICATED THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE PICTURE WAS FROM AN INSTALLATION COMPLETED BY AHA MACAV POWER SERVICE (AMPS). MR. MAJENTY AND BOARD REQUESTED THAT MR. CYR CONTACT AMPS AND TRY AND SECURE A TOUR OF THE AMPS SOLAR INSTALLATION FOR THE BOARD TO ATTEND.

THE BOARD WAS INFORMED THAT THE STYLE OF SOLAR PANEL PV MODULES WAS BEING CHANGED PRIMARILY DUE TO SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES. THE BOARD WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT DUE TO SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES FOR BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE FENCE THAT THE PROJECT COMPLETION DATE IS BEING EXTENDED. IT IS NOW HOPED THAT ALL PANELS WILL BE INSTALLED AND MOUNTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE BATTERIES AND FINAL CONNECTION TO THE MICRO GRID WILL OCCUR IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2023.

THE BOARD TABLED DISCUSSION OFF AGENDA ITEM –“THIRD PARTY PLAN REVIEW SERVICES FOR GCW SOLAR”- TO ACCOMMODATE A CALL IN PRESENTATION BY LINA BEARAT OF KIMLEY-HORN ASSOCIATES REGARDING THE ONGOING HUALAPAI BROADBAND FEASIBILITY STUDY. MOTION TO TABLE BY MR. VAUGHN SECOND BY MR. MAJENTY – VOTE (3-0-0)

AFTER THE BROADBAND PRESENTATION MR. MAJENTY LEFT THE MEETING AND MR. DAVIS JOINED THE MEETING. ON A MOTION BY MR. VAUGHN AND A SECOND BY MR. MONTANA THE BOARD VOTED (3-0-0) TO UN-TABLE THE DISCUSSION ON THE THIRD PARTY PLAN REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE GCW SOLAR PROJECT.

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ON A MOTION BY MR. VAUGHN AND A SECOND BY MR. MONTANA THE BOARD VOTE (3-0-0) TO RETAIN SANDRA VASQUEZ (WILDAN) TO PROVIDE PLAN REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE SOLAR PROJECT AT GCW—CONTRACT AMOUNT \$5,151.61

c) ARRAY ANCHOR SYSTEM ON SITE VERIFICATION BY SOLON

THE BOARD WAS INFORMED THAT THE THIRD PARTY CONTRACTOR USED BY SOLON FOR ANCHORING THE SOLAR PANEL MODULE RACKS HAS COMPLETED THEIR ONSITE TESTING AND EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD. WE ARE AWAITING FINAL CERTIFICATION OF THE ANCHORING SYSTEM BY A THIRD PARTY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER.

d) CATERPILLAR GENERATOR UPGRADES

DUE TO THE COMPLEXITY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE SOLAR ARRAY WITH THE EXISTING CATERPILLAR ENGINES—IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE GENERATOR CONTROL SYSTEM WILL NEED TO BE UPGRADED. THE CURRENT ESTIMATED INSTALLED COST OF THE UPGRADE IS \$105,000. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS ARE REQUIRED TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE UPGRADE AND THE FINAL COST. THE BOARD WILL BE UPDATED ON THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING.

e) FIBER OPTIC CONNECTION

HTUA IS WORKING WITH ROYAL SIPE OF GCRC TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FIBER CONNECTION BETWEEN THE THREE EXISTING DIESEL GENERATORS AND THE SOLAR ARRAY. THE FIBER OPTIC CONNECTION IS SO THAT THE SOLAR ARRAY CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE CATERPILLAR DIESEL ENGINES.

f) DOE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

MR. DAVIDSON HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING DOE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE PROJECT. DOE REPRESENTATIVES WILL PARTICIPATE DURING FUTURE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. THEY WILL ALSO ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF PV MODULE PERFORMANCE AND THE BEST WAY TO OPERATE SOLAR ARRAY WITH CATERPILLAR ENGINES.

g) SOLON REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE ZONE

THE BOARD REVIEWED A PROPOSAL BY SOLON TO MAKE GCW A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SOLAR PANELS IN THE U.S., THEY FELT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO BY-PASS CURRENT IMPORT TARIFF'S IF A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE WAS ESTABLISHED AT GCW. IN THE MEANTIME PRESIDENT BIDEN HAS ALLOWED FOR THE IMPORTING OF PANELS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES—ESSENTIALLY BY-PASSING TARIFF'S PUT IN PLACE BY THE LAST ADMINISTRATION. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO NEED FOR A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE AT THIS TIME.

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8. GCW POWERLINE

a) STATUS BLM RIGHT OF WAY GRANT – THE MINER ARTICLE

THE BOARD REVIEWED AN ARTICLE FROM THE MINER REGARDING THE RECENTLY APPROVED GCW POWER LINE ROW GRANT. ADDITIONALLY, THE BOARD REVIEWED FINAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR GRANTING THE ROW.

b) DOLAN SPRINGS –UNI-SOURCE

MR. CYR DISCUSSED EFFORTS IN RESTARTING DISCUSSION WITH UNES REGARDING THE INTERCONNECTION AT UNES DOLAN SPRINGS SUBSTATION. MR. CYR REMINDED THE BOARD THAT, LIKE HTUA, UNES MUST NOW MOVE ON TO COMPLETING FINAL ENGINEERING WORK RELATED FOR THE INTERCONNECTION AT UNES' DOLAN SPRING SUBSTATION

c) DRAFT LETTER TO PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS

MR. DAVIDSON INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE FINAL AGREEMENT FOR AN EASEMENT FOR THE POWER LINE CROSSING THE EDGE OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS HAD NOT BEEN EXECUTED AS OF YET, GIVEN THE PREVIOUS PROPERTY OWNER, WHERE THE TRIBE HAD AN INITIAL AGREEMENT, HAS SOLD HIS LAND DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EA. MR. DAVIDSON PRESENTED A DRAFT LETTER TO THE LAND OWNERS FOR SIGNATURE BY HUALAPAI CHAIR DR. CLARK. THE LETTER WILL BE SENT OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

9. HUALAPAI BROADBAND FEASIBILITY STUDY

MR. DAVIDSON INTRODUCED THE FEASIBILITY STUDY BY NOTING THE TRIBE HAD RECEIVED A BIA GRANT IN 2020 TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BRING BROADBAND TO THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION. KIMLEY HORN ASSOCIATES WAS HIRED IN 2021. LINA BEARAT, PROJECT LEAD, HAS PRODUCED AN EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT AND A DRAFT PLAN FOR DEPLOYING FIBER OPTIC ON THE RESERVATION AND IN VALENTINE. THE REPORT DETAILS THE COSTS FOR THE FIRST MILE, MIDDLE MILE AND FINAL MILE OF DEPLOYMENT WITH OPTIONS FOR BURIED AND AERIAL CABLE. THE REPORT WILL BE COMPLETE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WITH A PRESENTATION SCHEDULED FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL THIS SUMMER.

10. WAPA RELATED

a) MARKET POWER –FORWARDS

THE BOARD REVIEWED THE WAPA COST OF POWER FUTURE FORECAST.

11. OTHER

a) GENERAL COUNCIL UPDATE –KEVIN

MR. DAVIDSON UPDATED THE BOARD ON COUNCIL/PLANNING ACTIVITIES. CURRENT MAIN FOCUS IS THE SKATE PARK

b) RES 2022 – LAS VEGAS

THE BOARD REVIEWED THE MATERIAL REGARDING RES -2022

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c) **HYDROGEN WOEKSHOP PRESENTATION**

THE BOARD REVIEWED THE MATERIAL REGARDING RECENTLY HELD HYDROGEN WORKSHOP

d) **APS PAPER –HYDROGEN ECONOMY**

THE BOARD REVIEWED THE MATERIAL REGARDING THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY

e) **OTHER**

12. **SET TIME AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER BEGINNING AT 9:30 AM ON THURSDAY JULY 21, 2022

13. **ADJOURN**

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:10 PM ON A MOTION BY MR. MONTANA AND A SECOND BY MR. VAUGHN VOTE (3-0-0)