



Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

Hualapai Cultural Center

9:00 AM

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
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Hualapai Cultural Center



1) **Call to Order**

HTUA Board Secretary Lana Keller Robinett called meeting to order at 9:11 AM. Vice Chair Mr. Joe Montana arrived at 9:18 AM and oversight of the Board meeting was transferred to Mr. Montana.

2) **Roll Call**

Board Members

Charlie Vaughn, Chairman -- Absent due to Doctor Appointment

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman – present

Lana Keller Robinett, Secretary –present

Jason Davis, Treasurer –present via phone

Rory Majenty – present via phone

Support Personnel and Guest(s)

Bill Cyr, General Manager -- present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director –present

3) **Review and Approve Minutes**

September 22, 2020 Board meeting @ Cultural Center

Motion to approve minutes by Ms. Lana Keller Robinett and a second by Mr. Davis. Vote (3-0-0)

4) **Approval of Invoices**

a) **BBC Consulting – General Manager Services- October**

Motion to approve; BBC Consulting October invoice of \$4,189.20 by Mr. Davis and second Ms. Lana Keller Robinett, Vote – (3-0)

b) **Tierra Right of Way**

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020 9:00 am
Hualapai Cultural Center



Vice Chair Mr. Joe Montana arrived at this point and oversight of the Board meeting was transferred to Mr. Montana.

Motion to approve; Tierra Right Of Way invoice of \$8,460.15 by Mr. Majenty and second Mr. Montana, Vote – (4-0)

5) Manager's Report

The General Manager reported on the following;

- a) HTUA Board Re-appointments as Confirmed by Mr. Davidson
 - i) The Council re-appointed Mr. Vaughn for a two year term ending in October 2022
 - ii) The Council reappointed Mr. Montana and Mr. Majenty for a three year term ending in October 2023.

Terms were staggered to limit the potential for more than two Board members leaving the Board in any one year.

- b) 2021 Draft Budget

The draft 2021 Budget is completed. Finalization of the Budget with the Board is pending further direction from the Finance Department and the Hualapai Council.

- c) 2.5 GHZ Broadband deployment webinar

Mr. Davidson and Mr. Cyr sat thru a webinar on designing and deploying a 2.5 GHZ system. The presentation was conducted by a consultant group that can assist the planning and deployment. It was noted that the Tribe has in place a \$50,000 grant to facilitate this effort. Mr. Davidson informed the Board that this effort would begin in earnest early next year.

- d) Broadband wireless management

The management of the existing Broadband wireless network deployed by Planning and HTUA may be moving to the T department. Further clarification from Council is required. If the network is deployed dipper into the community then the demands of managing the network will increase. This increase will require additional support employees.

The existing network will be upgraded this month due to an expiring temporary FCC license. Mr. Davidson will lead the conversion with assistance from Mural Net and the Hualapai IT department.

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020 9:00 am
Hualapai Cultural Center



e) Solar Project

The solar project is on un-official hold pending completion of environmental work, final site selection and direction from Council / Finance Department. Mr. Davidson did a great deal of work to assist the Tribal Environmental Review Commission with evaluating sites including KOP modeling of the various sites.

Mr. Cyr indicated his preference for the original site, which is the site, covered in the solar system provider, Solon, bid proposal. During the month Mr. Cyr had conversations with Solon that they would hold their price to the one quoted. This is particularly helpful as the cost of goods like solar panels, wire, conduit and other building material like concrete is experiencing considerable upward price pressure. For this reason, distance to grid, and requirements for additional enhancements to the grid will increase the cost of the project substantially.

Several calls with DOE were conducted during the month. DOE is seeking commitment from Hualapai Council / financing. They are also waiting for environmental results and final site selection.

f) Tierra Key Observation Point (KOP)

Tierra has completed what we hope are the final KOPs for the GCW power line Project. The new KOP's have been submitted to the BLM –Kingman office. We await further direction from them but are hopeful that this is the last major deliverable prior to a decision by the BLM on granting the requested power line ROW easement.

6) **Financial Review** see managers' report for minutes in this area

- a) **2020 Budget Review –Expenditures to date**
- b) **Draft 2021 Budget**

7) **GCW Micro Grid Extension-General Update _extension**

The deadline for submitting grant has been extended again. At this juncture the Grant is completed but will not be submitted.

8) **GCW Solar- General Update—DOE Call**

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020 9:00 am
Hualapai Cultural Center



See managers' report for minutes in this area

9) Block Storage System

The block system presentation is still pending –completion of necessary paper work with tribe

10) Mohave Electric Update- No Progress

11) Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West see managers' report for minutes in this area

- a) BLM Specific
 - i. Plan of Development-update
 - ii. Vegetation Management Plan -Approved
- b) NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological
 - i) Cultural Report-Pending Approval
 - ii) Biological Report-Approved
 - iii) Visual Impact Assessments-Update
 - iv) Environmental Assessment Report-draft has been submitted
 - v) Tierra Change order-Update—approved by Council
- c) Tucson Electric Power System Facility Study Dolan Springs to Grand Canyon West.
 - i) System Facility Study –Awaiting approval by HTUA and Hualapai Council - \$100,000
- d) Transmission Line Design Contractor RFP- RFP response review-completed –awaiting HTUA and Hualapai Council approval approximately \$800,000

12) OPEN

13) Fixed-wireless 4G LTE network in Peach Springs-Deploying 2.5 GHZ Webinar

See managers' report for minutes in this area

14) Federal Hydro Power/WAPA/Other Power related

The following presentations were included in the Board Packets

- a) BCP 10 year plan Summary Purely informational –no Board action required
- b) Market Prices A review of market prices showed a strange anomaly where off-peak energy was higher than on-peak energy. Mr. Cyr explained that peak time in the Arizona market was typically from 11 to 9 but the definition of peak could vary depending upon location

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020 9:00 am
Hualapai Cultural Center



and what market. For example peak load on Hualapai Reservation occurs in winter and the peak load in Phoenix occurs in August.

c) CRSP and Parker Davis –Blended Transmission rate proposal

Mr. Cyr explained that each transmission project had a specific transmission rate associated with it. WAPA is looking to combine the Parker Davis Transmission rate with the CRSP transmission rate. The combined rate should be less and eliminate what is known in the industry as a “pancake” rate. A pancake rate results when two or more transmission fees must be paid to transmit power from point a to point b. A commonly used comparison is that each State has a license plate requirement (pancake) where a US postal stamp will cover your costs thru every state.

15) Other Matters

a) Update on tribal council actions – Kevin

See managers’ report for minutes in this area regarding Board re-appointments
Mr. Davidson reported census has been completed at the 100% level

b) AT&T fiber optic easement and status of negotiation – Kevin

The survey is ongoing and should be completed prior to next Board meeting

c) Micro grid webinar

The Board was provided with information regarding an upcoming webinar on micro-grids

d) Announcements

16) Set time and location for next meeting

November 24, 2020 9:00 AM Cultural

Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020 9:00 am
Hualapai Cultural Center



17) Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM motion by Mr. Montana second by Lana Keller Robinett.