



## **Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2020**

**Hualapai Cultural Center**

**9:00 AM**

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September 22, 9:00 am  
Hualapai Cultural Center



**1. Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Mr. Montana called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

**2. Roll Call**

***Board Members***

Charlie Vaughn, Chairman -- absent

Joe Montana, Vice Chairman – present via Phone

Lana Keller Robinett, Secretary –present via phone

Jason Davis, Treasurer –present via phone

Rory Majenty – absent

***Support Personnel and Guest(s)***

Bill Cyr, General Manager -- present

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director –present

**3. Review and Approve Minutes**

**August 25, 2020 Board meeting @ Cultural Center**

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

**4. Approval of Invoices**

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

Motion to approve; BBC Consulting July invoice of \$4789.2 by Mr. Davis and second by Ms. Lana Keller Robinett, – (3-0)

**b) Tierra Right of Way**

Based on recommendations by Mr. Cyr the Board took no action on the Tierra ROW Invoice. Awaiting for product / deliverables covered by invoice

**5. Manager's Report**

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**(a) GCRC Joint Meeting**

The General Manager reported on the informal telephonic meeting between the GCRC Board and the HTUA Board on September 3, 2020.

HTUA updated the GCRC Board on the status of the following;

1) HTUA emphasized the fact that GCRC is actually operating/managing an electric utility. It is the opinion of the General Manager of HTUA that GCRC should consider teaming up with HTUA or retain other third-party expertise to address the following areas of concern

- Accurate energy accounting for energy produced by both on grid and off grid loads
- Accurate accounting of fuel consumption by generation resource
- Accurate accounting of the energy utilized by each load center
- GCW staff is not qualified to work on micro-grid –that service is contracted out to Walker Electric
- GCW staff is not qualified to operate main diesel generators –that service is performed by Caterpillar
- Address the cost of third party contractors performing work versus having utility trained employees on staff
- Elimination of the practice of connecting new loads to stand alone generators versus the micro-grid
- Concerns over the lack of continual maintenance of utility assets. Provide a copy of a maintenance plan recommended at the time that the micro-grid was installed
- Continuing concerns regarding excessive VAR production by the micro-grid

2. HTUA then updated GCRC on proposed money saving electrical projects at GCW

- GCW Solar: this project has received a DOE grant for approximately 50% of the project costs. The project is awaiting final siting and Tribal 50 % match funding. Both Boards were updated on the environmental process as well as a glare study so the solar field will not adversely impact aircrafts flying in and out of GCW. HTUA informed GCRC Board that the savings in fuel consumption would pay for the match requirement in about 1 year.
- GCW Micro-GRID Extension: HTUA informed GCRC Board that a grant application has been completed that would fund \$ 1 million of the \$2 million dollar estimated cost. HTUA informed GCRC Board that the savings in fuel consumption would pay for the match requirement in about 1 year. The GCRC Board was informed that Dr. Clark has indicated that the Tribe will not be submitting a council resolution in support of the project.

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- GCW power line: the status of the proposed power line was presented to GCRC. The power line process is at a stand still awaiting ROW approval from the BLM. Approximately \$8000,000 is required to complete the final engineering design and final project estimate for the proposed power line. Mr. Cyr and Mr. Davidson provided the GCRC Board with a more comprehensive look at the proposed project during a zoom presentation with GCRC Board members on September 18, 2020.

**(b) 2021 Draft Budget**

- Mr. Cyr presented a draft Budget to the Board of \$2.5 million under item 6 b of this agenda. HTUA and Mr. Cyr are awaiting additional guidance from the Council regarding 2021 budget guidelines

**(c) Cares Act –Grant Activity**

- Richard Knott of the Planning Department continues to review this grant possibility

**6) Financial Review**

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

Mr. Cyr updated the Board on financial expenditure to date and presented 2021 draft budget

**7) GCW Micro Grid Extension**

Mr. Davidson reported that he received notification from Council Chair Dr. Clark that the Council will not be supporting the grant application due to a lack of funding resources by the Tribe. The Board discussed that perhaps GCRC could advocate directly to council for funding this project.

**8) GCW Solar General Update-Glare Study**

The Board was informed that the environmental review of proposed sites is still in progress by TERC. HTUA worked with DOE and the GCW airport manager on a glare study to ensure the solar field will not adversely impact aircraft coming and going from GCW airfield. The glare study was provided to the Board for their review. At this juncture the glare study has found no problems.

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9) GCW Utility Operations

See minutes above Section 5 Managers Report for summary of this activity

- a) Joint meeting between HTUA Board and GCRC Board
- b) HTUA presentation to GCRC Board on September 18,2020

10) Mohave Electric Update

- No progress on this item this month

11) Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West

- a) BLM Specific
  - i. Plan of Development-Complete
  - ii. Vegetation Management Plan –Complete
- b) NEPA/ Environmental/Cultural/Biological
  - Cultural Report-Pending Approval
  - Biological Report-Approved-Complete
  - Visual Impact Assessments-Waiting for final key observation point modeling from Tierra
  - Environmental Assessment Report-draft has been submitted  
Tierra ROW change order to compete visual simulations has been approved by Council.
- c) Tucson Electric Power System Facility Study Dolan Springs to Grand Canyon West.  
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) Cares Act Navajo Nation

- a) The Board reviewed an article regarding the Navajo Nation's CARES Act funding of 714 million

13) Fixed-wireless 4G LTE network in Peach Springs-Status Update (Kevin)

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Mr. Davidson reported that new customer premise equipment for the 2.5 GHZ system is 10 to 15 days out. The system should have 23 customers but it appears 2 new devices are on network possibly from someone sharing passwords. Work continues on getting a new 2.5 GHZ temporary license prior to the expected permanent license to be received by the end of the year. Mr. Davidson expects to retain a third party consultant to review wireless deployment across the Hualapai reservation. This third party consultant will be funded through the recently received \$50,000 grant from BIA.

**14) Federal Hydro Power/WAPA/Other Power related**

The Board reviewed the following WAPA and other power related subjects and handouts

- (a) Boulder Canyon Project Base rate change
- (b) Parker Davis Post 2028 Federal Hydro Project Power Marketing Initiative
- (c) CRSP Update

**15) Other Matters**

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

The re-appointment of Mr. Vaughn, Mr. Montana and Mr. Majenty will be considered at the Council meeting on October 9th.

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

The biological assessment for the subject easement will be performed by a third-party. There were 7 respondents to the RFP. This work should be completed by the end of the year.

**c) Core Venture Partners Proposal**

The Board review a renewable energy system that provides for storage utilizing concrete blocks that are raised during the day and allowed to lower at night –producing power as the concrete mass lowers.

**16) Set time and location for next meeting**

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Next meeting date October 20, 2020 –Cultural Center

**17) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM