

## **Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority (HTUA) Meeting Minutes**

February 14, 2018, 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM, Hualapai Health Department, Peach Springs.

Board members:

Charles Vaughn, Chairman – present

Joe Montana, Vice-Chairman – present

Jamie Navenma, Secretary – present at 9:25 AM

Bill Cyr, Treasurer – present via telephone

Rory Majenty – absent

Support personnel and guests:

Kevin Davidson, Planning Director

Lauren Ferrigni, Fennemore Craig (via telephone)

Bob Becherer, IMEG (via telephone)

### **1) Call to Order**

### **2) Roll Call**

### **3) Review and Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2018, meeting**

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 10, 2018, with minor corrections. Mr. Montana seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-2.

### **4) Project Updates**

#### **a. Proposed Power Line to Grand Canyon West**

- i. Outcome of Kick-off meeting with consultants** Mr. Davidson reported that the kick-off meeting had nearly 30 people in attendance with half attending via the conference call. Mr. Montana and Mr. Majenty attended in person. The one and one half hour meeting went well and allowed the team players to introduce themselves to each other and designate their points of contact.

Mr. Vaughn asked for some elaboration and Mr. Davidson replied that the BIA will request the HTUA to prepare a right-of-way plat for the power line on the reservation and have it memorialized with a tribal council resolution. For Western Area Power Administration, the application to cross their right-of-way is a single page, much of which has been reviewed by Western last year. Mr. Whitefield at the BLM will have the most work to do representing the lead agency on environmental review, but he did not see any apparent issues with the routes.

- ii. **Load Forecast and possible amendment to T&D + Q-Spec contract** Mr. Davidson said one item brought up at the kick-off meeting with the USDA was identifying which consultant will prepare the load forecast (7 CFR 1710.205 and 207) for Grand Canyon West. T&D Services + Q-Spec can assist with this effort but it is not an explicit part of their contract. Mr. Becherer has done a significant amount of load forecasting for the project so far and is the logical person to fully develop it with support from T&D Services. This is the first step in the loan application and should be done in the next six to eight weeks. To help with the load forecast, Mr. Vaughn requested Mr. Davidson contact Grand Canyon Resort Corporation to obtain their annual visitation counts. This may be done with a formal letter if need be.

Mr. Becherer said he will use the 2015 Master Plan for Grand Canyon West to estimate load. Mr. Vaughn reminded those in attendance that the master plan has not been formally adopted by the tribe. Using the tribe's water rights bill would be appropriate. Mr. Davidson said he will send Mr. Becherer S.1770 for use in the load projections. Mr. Becherer will include water pumping in the load calculation in case the take out point for the water rights settlement is at Grand Canyon West. Mr. Cyr requested that the spreadsheet analysis allow for different load scenarios so the HTUA can make its own projections. Mr. Becherer added that having the current demand and usage from the diesel generators is necessary for the projections since it will establish a benchmark to ground truth the projections we are currently using to estimate today's load and usage. Mr. Cyr said estimating the current small load at Grand Canyon West may not be as critical since no more than two generators are operating at once (below 1.5 MW). Mr. Vaughn said the load forecast should include public facilities such as a school, clinic and other support uses that the Hualapai people will demand as part of a new community at Grand Canyon West.

**iii. Access to private lands along power line route** Mr. Davidson said he has yet to hear from Mr. Rhodes or Mr. Mardian on giving their permission to the HTUA to access their private lands for the power line survey and archeological survey. To help this along, Mr. Davidson presented Mr. Vaughn with an update of the original letters dated December 13, 2017, for his signature. The new letters will be delivered to each land owner via courier to confirm they are handed to a person.

**iv. Status of Interconnection Agreement** Mr. Davidson said Tucson Electric Power (TEP) has acknowledged receiving the interconnection request in an e-mail dated February 1, 2018, and estimated it would take until the end of the month to have a formal proposal from TEP. Ms. Ferrigni said she would follow-up with TEP if the HTUA does receive a formal proposal in the next few weeks.

**b. Cost of Service Study**

**i. Progress to Date** Mr. Davidson referenced the e-mail from Mr. Bowman of Intergroup and said the revised draft should be available for himself and Mr. Cyr to review within the next week. The study will be presented to the HTUA at the March Board meeting.

**c. Community-Scale Solar Array Feasibility Study**

**i. Presentation date to tribal council** Mr. Davidson said Mr. Mason is preparing to make a presentation to tribal council on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have council understand the cost of the project including any benefits. Mr. Vaughn said as long as MEC has control over purchasing and scheduling the power, there is no benefit to Hualapai. Also, with the new solar module tariff imposed in January, the overall cost of the solar power plant has increased by over \$100,000 making its financing more tenuous even if the tribe were to obtain a one million dollar grant from the Department of Energy (DOE) to help offset construction costs.

**d. Community Wi-Fi**

**i. Update on BIA's investigation into AT&T's coaxial cable and fiber optic right-of-way lease terms**

Given the incomplete information the tribe has on file for the lease, Ms. Varela of BIA Realty has also contacted Mr. Luis Ortega of AT&T's Right-of-Way Division and requested the lease documents. With no additional information forthcoming, Ms. Varela will recommend the tribe set-up a formal meeting with AT&T to discuss the contents of the existing lease and how to proceed. Mr. Vaughn advised Mr. Davidson to apprise council of the situation.

**e. Mohave Electric Cooperative**

**i. Request to MEC to provide records of rights-of-way not on file with BIA** Mr. Davidson said that MEC is currently assembling the data requested by the HTUA at last month's meeting. Mr. Vaughn noted that the leases should only be those that are relevant to Hualapai.

**5) Other Matters (Planning)**

**a. Review of meeting with Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority** Mr. Davidson reviewed the two pages of notes taken from the January 24, 2018, meeting with GRICUA. Mr. Vaughn suggested that HTUA take over the billing operation from MEC by placing a meter at the reservation boundary. This approach proved effective for GRUCUA when they began their operations. Mr. Davidson noted that the key piece of advice from the GRICUA Board is to treat the utility as business not charity (see minutes of Special HTUA Board meeting of January 24, 2018, posted at <https://www.hualapaiutility.org/> for a full discussion).

**b. Highlights from ATEA conference** Mr. Davidson referred the Board to three of the presentations made at the ATEA conference which the HTUA may find of interest. The Ak-Chin Energy Services (ACES) presentation discussed several issues including how they are addressing residential customers with extreme energy uses through educational efforts. The Sandia National Labs presentation by Sandra Begay reviewed efforts by NREL to bring energy education and renewable technology to Indian Country. The ITCA presentation discussed the DOE's

weatherization program which may be implemented by tribal housing authorities. Mr. Navenma said the Hualapai Housing Department has used these funds in the past, however, funding has not proved adequate to fully weatherize a home. All presentations may be found at: <http://www.tribal-energy.org/> ).

c. **Announcements** The Arizona Power Authority is hosting a luncheon on Friday with a presentation on the history of Western Area Power Administration. No other announcements.

6) **Set time and location for next meeting** The next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 9:00 AM at the Hualapai Health Department, Peach Springs.

7) **Adjourned at 10:00 AM**