



North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board
Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board held on June 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Reno Stead Airport.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION QUORUM

Present: Chair Scott Finley, Members Roger Edwards*, Susan VanNess, and Daniel Yriarte

Absent: Vice Chair Aaron Jennings

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF May 11, 2026

It was stated that the minutes are completed by a third-party contractor, but any errors found within them can still be adjusted.

There was no public comment on this item.

Member VanNess moved to approve the May 11, 2026, North Valleys Citizens Advisory Board minutes as written. Member Yriarte seconded the motion, which carried on a 3-0 vote with Vice Chair Jennings and Member Edwards absent.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

***6:03 p.m.** Member Edwards arrived.

Tammy Holt-Still mentioned that drivers will no longer be able to make left turns into the shopping center from Buck Drive or lefts out of the center. She spoke about a civil complaint she and three others filed with the Secretary of State's Office regarding the sample ballots, and she encouraged people to vote.

Monty Turner discussed Darcy Patterson with Wake Up Nevada and her offer to provide Narcan samples. He expressed frustration about roadwork being done by the Regional Transportation Commission and urged people to vote.

Chair Finley reminded the public to address all comments to the Citizens Advisory Board and not to the public.

5. COMMISSIONER/CAB CHAIR NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Battalion Chief Derek Reid reviewed the agenda packet materials provided for this item, including statistics related to April's incident totals. He emphasized the safety tips in the report pertaining to the proper use of barbecues, noting that fire season was beginning. He encouraged everyone to review the handout about defensible space that was included with the report, which also included helpful links. He expressed surprise that more fires did not occur and urged everyone to be careful this summer.

Responding to a query about where to report vehicles dragging chains, Chief Reid said it was challenging because it was impossible to know where the vehicles were heading. There is not much the fire department can do until a fire has started.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office

No one from the Sheriff's Office was present to give a presentation.

7. STATUS REPORT ON THE COLD SPRINGS WATER BALANCE ANALYSIS AND NEXT STEPS

Dwayne Smith, Division Director of Engineering & Capital Projects, conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Cold Springs Water Balance Analysis; Cold Springs Valley; Scope; Evaluation Factors; and Next Steps. Though the water balance analysis was being led by Washoe County, he noted, there were strong partnerships with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), the City of Reno, and the Great Basin Water Company (GBW). He spoke about the reason that the County decided to contract with Stantec as the professional consulting firm.

Director Smith indicated the area has four closed basins: Swan Lake in the East Lemmon Valley hydrobasin, Silver Lake in the West Lemmon basin, Boneyard Flat in North Spanish Springs, and White Lake in Cold Springs. He noted that TMWA operates in most areas of the county, but GBW handles Cold Springs. He described the process by which wastewater was discharged and ultimately how it recharges the aquifer. The water reclamation facility in Cold Springs uses rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) much like leach lines, but their use allows much more water to go into the ground. He said stormwater recharges the hydrobasin either through development basins or roadside ditches.

Director Smith spoke about attending a public meeting ten years ago about the StoneGate development where a citizen expressed concerns about flooding in the closed basin. In response, the County reached out to GBW to help them determine the status of and answer questions about the aquifer. He explained some of the scenarios that were utilized to better understand water issues in the Cold Springs basin. He pointed out that Northern Nevada has a large amount of naturally occurring nitrate, which is released by interactions with water.

Director Smith acknowledged that development will always occur, and his job is not to lead development but to respond to it. He noted that some plants have root systems that were 15 to 20 feet deep, and they were responsible for pulling up a lot of water before it could get to the groundwater table. Clearing those plants could improve recharge of the table. It was important for the County to work with the State to ensure that the balance of water in the basin is not over-allocated.

Director Smith stated that the zoning for StoneGate had changed, decreasing the project from 5,000 homes to around 1,500 with increased industrial uses. Originally, water would need to

have been brought into the basin to accommodate that many homes, but now the industrial usage would require much less water. He said agencies like Washoe County and GBW needed to understand the level of development at which additional water would need to be imported, so future developers whose projects would cross that threshold would be required to mitigate some of those impacts.

Brenden Rasmussen wondered why development would be approved if there was insufficient water. Director Smith reiterated that his responsibility was to respond to development, and the models described in his presentation help determine potential impacts of certain development. He stressed that the County takes development impacts seriously and tries to mitigate them as much as possible. He added that the County has received great support from various regional water agencies. The tools and models used were not specific to Cold Springs.

Member Yriarte wondered whether things that absorb heat speed up evaporation. Director Smith replied that he was not sure of any models that directly explore heat island effects, though the relationship between precipitation and the aquifer can be better understood using historical precipitation patterns and calculations about impervious surface areas. He would investigate the question more.

Member Edwards asked for more information about RIBs. Director Smith said they are one way to manage effluent, and he explained how they work. White Lake does not allow water to seep into the ground quickly due to accumulations of clay sediments. He clarified that some surrounding surface water went into the ground, but much of it ran off into White Lake where it would largely evaporate. Ensuring that more water went into the ground would be helpful in recharging the aquifer. RIBs at the wastewater reclamation facility do not feed White Lake; they feed the aquifer, which can be measured through nearby wells. He reiterated that GBW is the water purveyor in Cold Springs, though they used to be known as Reno Park Water. He did not have any information about applying to be on the GBW Board.

Tammy Holt-Still inquired about the grade of effluent water coming from the treatment plant in Cold Springs. Director Smith thought it met the class B standard though it was permitted as C grade facility, while the Lemmon Valley plant treated water to a class C rating. He explained that staff is currently evaluating whether to connect the Stead and Lemmon Valley sewer plants, but he has not yet submitted demolition plans to the State. There has never been a stated plan to move water from Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility to the Reno Stead Water Treatment Plant. He said understanding how groundwater either enters the water table or evaporates has nothing to do with Federal Emergency Management Agency risk maps associated with closed basins.

Monty Turner spoke about the abundance of heavy metals in the area. Director Smith agreed that there were significant changes in groundwater chemistry and water quality in the area, which was one reason why water quality was part of this model.

Responding to Katherine Yriarte's request for the model information, Director Smith noted it was public information, and he offered to provide the entire report or set up conversations with the right experts. Speaker Yriarte expressed interest in the raw data, particularly about a potential list of heavy metals or toxins the County is checking for.

Earl Stimple brought up Woodland Village and asked whether something similar had been done in Cold Springs. Director Smith did not have an answer. Speaker Stimple expressed frustration that things were left alone for so long. Director Smith thought it was important to

pay attention to all details when it comes to proposed development. Nobody wanted a situation where there would be insufficient water in the future.

George Still wondered whether White Lake was expected to ever receive any discharge from the Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility if it exceeded its capacity. Director Smith said he did not expect that.

Member VanNess wondered whether there was any contemplation in master plan discussions about Washoe County taking control of private septic systems. Director Smith noted that he had not heard anything about that, and the County would not want it.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING UPDATED CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) BYLAWS AND BOUNDARY MAPS

Program Assistant Sally Johnston explained some of the areas that were now included in the North Valleys CAB boundary in an effort to ensure that each CAB was contained within a County district. Any County resident is allowed to attend any CAB meeting, and anyone who lives within a mile of a CAB's boundary can serve on that CAB. She spoke about changes to other CABs' boundaries and where the residents impacted by those changes would go for CAB meetings. The Gerlach/Empire, North Valleys, Warm Springs/Rural, and East Truckee Canyon CABs all belonged to District 5, which made up 89 percent of Washoe County.

Chair Finley wondered whether this was a recommendation or a new policy. Assistant Johnston replied it was a recommendation. There was a brief discussion about instructions for public comment.

Louise Souffront expressed frustration that she could not access this meeting on Zoom. She thought that in addition to Zoom links, future meetings should include a phone number for people to use to participate in the meetings.

One change that was pointed out involved meetings without quorums. Previously they were held as community meetings, but now they would not be held and would be continued until a later date. Assistant Johnston stated any meeting that continued without quorum would violate the Open Meeting Law (OML). Member VanNess encouraged anyone interested in sitting on a CAB to reach out to Commissioner Jeanne Herman.

Katherine Yriarte wondered whether OML included Zoom capabilities for this CAB or only for rural CABs. Assistant Johnston responded that this CAB should, so members present on Zoom would count towards a quorum. It would not be a violation of the Nevada Revised Statutes to hold a meeting without a Zoom option. She demonstrated how to find volunteer opportunities on the County's website. She believed the application period for the Board of Equalization vacancy was over, but the Planning Commission seats for District 1 and the At-Large position were still available for those interested in applying. She would provide the link to apply for a CAB position at a later date.

9. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Program Assistant Sally Johnston displayed the Neighborhood Engagement Hub and showed how to discover upcoming events throughout the region as well as where to find upcoming hearings about projects. She reviewed some of the project hearings for items relevant to

District 5 and how to learn more information about each.

10. CAB MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS

Member VanNess spoke about her efforts to learn more from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) about core samples, relaying that Michelle Kraus with the RTC would research her records request and get back to her by June 15. Member VanNess thought the public should be allowed to see the core samples.

Chair Finley announced that staff from the Public Administrator's and Public Guardian's Offices will make a presentation about wills and trusts at the next Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting. He noted the primary election is tomorrow, and same-day registration is available. He noted that elections for chair and vice chair of the CAB will also take place at the next meeting. Public Administrator Nicole Klitzke clarified that the presentation will be about what her office and the Public Guardian's Office do, not about wills and trusts as that is not within their purview.

11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Monty Turner wondered whether people knew that Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks consolidated dispatch. It was pointed out that that has been discussed for several years at Board of County Commissioner meetings.

Earl Stimple requested that the Sheriff's Office attend a future Citizens Advisory Board meeting since they had not been present for some time.

Louise Souffront thought the Sheriff's Office should be able to call in to make a short presentation and answer community questions.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Member Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Yriarte seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.