



Laughlin Town Advisory Board

July 14, 2020

MINUTES

Board Members:	Gina Mackey – Chair- Kathy Ochs – Vice Chair James Maniaci	Nile Smith-unexcused absence Herman Walker
Secretary:	Tammy Harris, (702) 298-0828 tammy.harris@clarkcountynv.gov	
Town Liaison:	Dr. Brian Paulson, (702) 298-0828 bkp@clarkcountynv.gov	

- I. Call to Order by Chair Gina Mackey, Invocation by Pastor Doug Westly, Pledge of Allegiance led by Kathy Ochs.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Approval of Minutes for June 9, 2020 (For possible action)

Moved by: James Maniaci
Action: James Maniaci requested an amendment to include his question on V. 7 regarding the number of new member for Laughlin business.
Vote: 4-0
- IV. Approval of agenda for July 14, 2020, and hold, combine or delete any items (For possible action)

Moved by: Gina Mackey
Action: Chair Mackey requested that item V. 12 be moved to item V. 1
Vote: 4-0
- V. Informational Items
 1. Receive a report from Lt. Jeff Hewes with Metro Police regarding activity and statistics during the past month and other area crime concerns. (For discussion only)

Lt. Hewes was unable to attend. Vice Chair Kathy Ochs read the report provided by Metro.

June 2020 Statistics:

Calls for Service: 352, down 9.28 percent from this time last year

Traffic Citations: 275

DUIs: 1

Battery Domestic Violence Arrests: 11

Bookings: 34

Juvenile Citations: 4

2. Receive a report from Nevada Highway Patrol regarding activity and statistics during the last month and other public safety concerns. (For discussion only)

No report

3. Receive a report from Clark County Fire Department regarding calls for service during the past month and other fire prevention issues. (For discussion only)

Deputy Chief Thomas Touchstone provided the June's report.

Statistics June 2020:

Station 76:

Total responses: 181

Station 85:

Total responses: 89

Total June calls: 270

Deputy Chief Touchstone said a decision was made not to reduce the service in Laughlin during the shutdown because Laughlin is located so far away from Las Vegas. He addressed the parking garage fire at the Golden Nugget and how the situation was handled by the fire department. There were four vehicles involved and two vehicles on the floor above. There is not a ruling on the cause at this time.

Deputy Chief Touchstone provided information on the community testing for COVID-19 and an update for the recent house fire last week.

James Maniaci inquired about the number of mutual aid service calls with Bullhead City, Arizona. Deputy Chief said the number of times Laughlin has responded to Bullhead City would be nil.

"We rarely respond across the river. Regarding Bullhead, we can't provide that information since the information is not in our system," he said and that he could contact Bullhead City for that information.

"Another concern is not having an aerial truck for extended reach operations. There are preparations to send a truck down here and it will be cross manned with specific instructions to the crews and be fully equipped," he added.

Robert Bilbray responded to Deputy Chief's updates and a letter he sent the Clark County Fire

Department.

4. Receive a report from Greg Turner with Clark County Water Reclamation District regarding the status of the wastewater system. (For discussion only)

In Greg Turner’s absence, Herm Walker read the June report.

Statistics: June 2020

The Laughlin Water Reclamation Facility had an average of 1.86 million gallons per day producing clean water returned to the Colorado River. Flow saw a decrease of 150,000 gallons per day from this time last year.

Sewer Service Complaints: None
Odor Complaints: None
Call Before You Dig: 50

5. Receive a report from Jason Bailey with Big Bend Water District regarding the status of the water system. (For discussion only)

In Jason Bailey’s absence, James Maniaci read the January – June report.

There are no major leaks or issues to report at this time and total diversions are noted below:

DIVERSIONS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	248 acre-feet	236 acre-feet
February	238 acre-feet	217 acre-feet
March	226 acre-feet	269 acre-feet
April	226 acre-feet	293 acre-feet
May	293 acre-feet	318 acre-feet
June	361 acre-feet	356 acre-feet
YTD total diversions	1,592 acre-feet	1,689 acre-feet

- BBWD total annual diversion rights: 15,352 acre-feet
- BBWD total diversions in 2019: 3,639 acre-feet

As COVID-19 activities continue to affect communities, our commitment to provide a safe and reliable water supply remains a top priority for the Big Bend Water District. The BBWD maintains robust emergency response and readiness plans to help maintain water system operations during natural disasters, community-wide illness, and other emergency situations. We are closely monitoring the situation and are taking the appropriate precautionary measures in our offices and in the field. Please be assured that our staff will continue to work hard to ensure that the system remains stable and operational during these trying times.

6. Receive a report from Will Douglas with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Will Douglas provided June's report and will be here one more time. Moving forward, new Community Extension Educator Hayley Maio will be providing future reports.

Mr. Douglas said Stay Camp will be held from July 28-31. He will meet with the kids in a parking lot so they can pick up their STEM kits and s'mores. ZOOM will also be utilized so the kids can interact with each other.

There will be a Laughlin 4-H advertisement that will air on social media, and tentatively to be released on Tuesday for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Mr. Douglas said he is really hoping to get the word out and remind people 4-H is still here.

7. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with Laughlin Chamber of Commerce regarding current and upcoming business activities in Laughlin. (For discussion only)

In Jackie Mazzeo's absence, Chair Mackey read the report.

Updates:

- Full member services are still being provided.
- Office is open for members and visitors under strict conditions that adhere to the state requirements and the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce Mitigation procedures authored by the Board.
- Wednesday newsletters are still being published.
- Member marketing continues.
- Businesses, citizens, and travelers are being connected with resources.
- Layoff Aversion Program for Laughlin Small Business – DETR and Workforce Connections for 12 employees' jobs is still active.
- Weekly COVID-19 newsletters are produced for Friday distribution to include EVERY resource available to any business and any citizen. Federal, State (NV/AZ/CA), County, GOED, COVID 19 Task Force, US Federation of Chambers, US Small Business Admin & NSBA, USDA, WHO & CDC, Better Business Bureau, Surveys, workshop/teleconference sign up information, LVGEA and Council of Chambers, and neighboring program availability is included.
- Provided 12 volunteers for a one-day Clark County/SNHD Strike Force COVID-19 testing site at the Laughlin Jr/Senior High School on Thursday, July 9th for 326 residents.

Freedom of Expression – Tentative Date November 5, 2020
Golden Nugget Casino Resort Gold Diggers

Community Achievement Awards – October 24, 2020
Planning for this event continues and adjustments will be made to meet the guidelines set by the Governor.

Jingle Mingle Christmas Celebration – December 10, 2020
Aquarius Casino Resort Windows on the River Buffet 5-8:00 p.m.

Mixers:

Networking and Educating – None planned at this time

Membership:

Quarter ending June

291 Active Members

12 New Members

23% are Laughlin Members

8. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with the Laughlin Tourism Commission regarding current and upcoming events and activities. (For discussion only)

In Jackie Mazzeo's absence, Vice Chair Ochs read the report.

ROCKETS OVER THE RIVER – Fireworks Displays

Labor Day Weekend – Actual Holiday date has not been determined

New Year's Eve for 2021 – Actual time has not been determined

www.Visitlaughlin.com

BEST IN THE DESERT – The Jagged X National Desert

Off Road Races Motorcycle, Quad and UTV 17 mile loop

4WP Youth UTV Race Championship Series on Friday

September 25-27, 2020

<https://bitd.com/race-events>

SPARTAN GAMES - Obstacle course event for competitors Elite, Para and kids

November 13-15, 2020

<https://www.spartan.com/en/race/detail/5208/overview>

Run Laughlin 5K, 12K and Half Marathon “Two States, Two Time Zones and ONE DAM GREAT RACE”

Saturday, December 5, 2020

www.mercuryevent.com

SNORE – McKenzie's Rage at the River – Off Road Races

December 10-13, 2020 Laughlin Event Site/Park

<https://www.snoreracing.net/>

9. Receive a report from Parks & Recreation regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Shelly Gulotta, Recreation Supervisor, introduced herself as replacing Richard deClercq and has been assigned to this area and Searchlight.

The senior center will remain closed until further notice.

The Laughlin Aquatic Center has reopened on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays from noon until 2:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

New operation hours for Spirit Mountain Activity Center are as follows:
Monday-Thursday 8:00 - 4:00 pm and closed on Friday until further notice.

James Maniaci inquired what days Ms. Gulotta will be in Laughlin. Ms. Gulotta said it will typically be on Wednesdays.

Herm Walker asked why Laughlin no longer hosts the Senior Olympics. Ms. Gulotta said she will check into that and get back to him.

Contact Info:
Shelly Gulotta, Supervisor
A'lonn Bilbray, Recreation Specialist
Laughlin Office: (702) 298-3413

10. Receive a report from Laughlin school system regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

No report

11. Receive a report from Tanya Brown-Wirth with Laughlin Library regarding current and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

No report

12. Receive a report from Dr. Chad Kingsley from Southern Nevada Health District Incident Command COVID-19/OEMSTS regarding COVID-19 activity and statistics in Laughlin Township. (For discussion only)

This item was moved to #1 by the request of Chair Gina Mackey.

Dr. Chad Kingsley provided the following report:

The following is a summary of COVID-19 efforts as reported within 89029:

Community Collection site at Aquarius, May 12 & 13

766 collected specimens

- 0 positive cases/766 negative cases
- 716 from NV (93.5%)
- 42 from AZ (5.5%)
- 8 from CA (1.0%)

June 29, 2020: 11 cases reported in 89029

July 13, 2020: 23 cases reported in 89029

COVID-19 Summary for Clark County:

- Total Cases: 23,803 (1021.8 per 100K)
- Total Hospitalizations: 2,266 (97.3 per 100K)

- Total Deaths: 483 (20/7 per 100K)
- Cases Reported in the last 7 Days: 4,287 (207.2 per 100K)

Dr. Kingsley said currently they are experiencing a shortage of supplies including certain types of testing swabs. There has been a spike in cases but less deaths due to a younger and healthier age of people being infected, who are more likely to recover. However, there is the possibility they could transmit it to someone else that would not be able to recover. This is the same concerns with the school system.

Since May, there has been difficulty working with the State to be able to get contract tracers. Contact tracers are individuals whereby when a positive case comes in, they are the ones to call that individual to begin to trace who they had contact with.

“We are just now on-boarding 100 contact tracers to manage each case, but there is a delay, with up to two weeks before a COVID-19 positive person is contacted. The hospitals are still able to meet the needs of patients and is being closely monitored,” he said.

Vice Chair Ochs asked for clarification on the time for test results. Dr. Kingsley said for SNHD it is three days. Ms. Ochs asked how the person is contacted, and Mr. Kingsley responded that the person enters his/her information on an online portal and will receive a text message or e-mail with the results.

James Maniaci inquired about the status of the Laughlin SNHD office. Dr. Kingsley said he has not been in contact with Tina Gish and does not have any information but can follow up.

Mr. Maniaci asked if the district has any plans to keep the infection from coming across the river. Dr. Kingsley said he spoke to Dr. Paulson about these concerns and said there is a unique situation with two states and two different governments with different opinions on how to do things. He said he doesn't have a solution for that other than continue to do what you can do correctly – hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing. The governor said he wants these things to be enforced and there is a number to call with concerns, he said.

Chair Mackey asked if there was anything they could do to speed up the process to get businesses re-opened. Mr. Kingsley said they are looking at the death rates, including the daily positive test and whether it is going up or down. His office is also studying the compliance rate of the businesses and everyone in general with the mandates.

Chair Mackey voiced her concerns about someone who has had COVID-19 and got over it and whether that person can get it again. Dr. Kingsley said what they know is that the antibodies are fading within 2-3 months and would be at risk again.

Laughlin resident Chris Dueker inquired about the number of tests at the high school.

Laughlin resident Steve Swabacher inquired how the immunizations will be performed in October. He said County Health normally provided this for the kids, but that he is confused about the recovery rate. According to Mr. Swabacher, it was in the high 80s about three weeks ago and now it's down to 61 percent. Mr. Swabacher asked for a reason and also inquired about other community health services provided in Laughlin that are not currently being provided. "Recovery rates are going to depend on the medium age and who they infected," he said.

Dr. Kingsley responded that both the SNHD and CDC want an earlier start not only for the school vaccines but also the flu vaccines. "Countywide there will be a push starting in September. Other services will be back in service August 1, 2020," he said.

Herm Walker inquired where the lab work is done for the testing. Dr. Kingsley said for the Health District, it is the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory.

13. Receive an update from Republic Services regarding a request made by the TAB for land use. (For discussion only)

A representative from Republic Services was unable to attend. James Maniaci read the report provided.

- **Number of truckloads/tons being brought in weekly or monthly.** This varies depending on the day and the economic situation. Currently, we are running about 50 tons per day (tpd), 6 days a week at the moment. The tonnage will increase as businesses reopen and recover from the pandemic; we might expect to see approximately 90 tpd in the future. This is hard to predict, as you can imagine.
- **Landfill site usage (how full is it?).** The landfill has approximately 3 million cubic yards of permitted storage capacity (airspace). As of 12/31/2019, it is estimated that approximately 2 million cubic yards has been utilized.
- **Plans for future expansion? How soon before a new site or expansion becomes necessary?** The site is fully constructed, and has capacity (at pre-pandemic incoming tonnage rates) through 2035 and beyond. No expansions or new site are needed in order to continue to provide service to the community.

14. Announcements of upcoming neighborhood meetings and County or community meetings and events. (For discussion only)

James Maniaci, provided an update on the Master Plan/Title 30. He said the information on the web site is up-to-date.

Dr. Brian Paulson said he had two announcements, first, an update on Casino Drive SID:

Bryan Osborne is a principal civil engineer in our Public Works Department and is providing oversight for this project. In an update just this past week, he said we are scheduled to receive the 30 percent wet utility design submittal from GCW Engineering in two weeks. Once Public Works reviews this submittal, it will be able to share the findings. This submittal review should last at least one week. Although the pandemic has hampered design progress a bit in recent months, a major challenge is the topography for development and the level of wet utility infrastructure that can occur.

Dr. Paulson provided a second announcement:

A little background first... in October 2019, I celebrated my 30th work anniversary with Clark County. Thirty years is an incredible number and stretch of time to work for an institution that has provided me with a spectacular career. In October 1989, I left my native Iowa when I was hired as a 12-month management analyst intern in the Office of the County Manager in the first year of the program. After six months, I became a full-time management analyst. Almost four years later, I jumped to Finance and Community Resources and became the Community Development Block Grant coordinator for the next 20 plus years. I loved this job as we built community-based projects like community centers and senior centers in areas of highest economic need and at-risk locations. When Laughlin came calling four years ago, I jumped at the opportunity. I already had previous involvement here, as both the Spirit Mountain Activity Center and Colorado River Food Bank warehouse were constructed using CDBG funds and I served as project manager.

What has happened since last October could not have been predicted. A pandemic has hit the nation and the world, and, of course, here in Nevada. By Clark County orders, my office was closed for two months and my staff and I were issued stay-at-home orders. I used this time at home to be in weekly and sometimes daily contact with a number of local agencies, including the health district, Metro, Silver Rider, and our County's economic development team to try to ensure a steady food supply in Laughlin as well as a replacement for Aldape's. We are happy to report a new grocer will be coming soon under a lease agreement with the County under CARES Act stimulus funding.

Due to economic loss derived from the pandemic, in May, Clark County is offering a Voluntary Separation Plan for employees nearing retirement. This plan is especially enticing for employees at or near 30 years (the magic year of retirement) because of the additional financial incentives. Like hundreds of other long time County employees, this was an opportunity that is not often offered and too great to ignore. So, last month, with almost 30 years and 10 months with the County, I made a difficult decision to retire effective August 7, 2020, the last day I can under the County's buy-out separation plan. My paperwork application was submitted over two weeks ago and I am very happy with my decision. Not only do I believe I have had the best job I could ever have at the County, but I got to serve a tight-knit community of residents that welcomed me with open arms from the start in June 2016. I have not and will never forget this. For this opportunity, I am indebted to so many, perhaps too many to name without forgetting someone, but I will mention one... then-Commissioner Steve Sisolak and now Governor Sisolak, who entrusted and placed his full support in my efforts down here. I promised the governor I would commit 4-6 years serving as town manager. On June 6th, I reached four years serving town manager. Thank you, Governor.

After 26 years in Las Vegas, Laughlin has been my home for the past four. I will miss everyone, especially the town board. Chair Mackey was not yet a member of the board but I knew her first as she was my REALTOR when I looked for a home. Thank you for finding me a great place, Gina. Kathy, Jim, and Herm, I've known you from the beginning, too, whether from church or the chamber or the town board. Speaking of my fan support at the chamber, my decision has absolutely no bearing on a recent article. Absolutely none whatsoever and I want to make that perfectly clear. I will say, I have been truly humbled by the large outpouring of calls, texts, and mail of support.

My town boards, past and present, both in Laughlin and Searchlight, have served their communities well and will continue to do so. I am proud of the vision that members have undertaken in recent years to make our town of Laughlin an even greater one. I have been happy to go to bat whenever and as often as I could to support all your efforts. Not an easy task but I was happy to carry the water

as best and as able as I could on behalf of both my towns. We got several things started, and some things completed. From SIDs to the solar development lease renewal, I'm happy with these accomplishments and others that have been achieved together.

Because the County's VSP plan is still all so recent, I have made no immediate future plans, but Laughlin will always be in my heart. As mentioned earlier, I was the County's CDBG coordinator so I am particularly ecstatic and proud to leave a special parting gift for the future, the multigenerational center which was approved for funding by the Board of County Commissioners under the next Five Year Capital Plan. Once completed, I know it will be enjoyed for years to come.

*When I began my duties here on June 6, 2016, it came just three days after my father's funeral. On this day, my dad's birthday, and with heavy heart, I thank my family, I thank my staff, I thank Clark County and the hundreds of friends and colleagues I've made over my 30 years, and above all, I thank you, **Laughlin** and **Searchlight**. I will be forever grateful.*

And finally, if I may quote a favorite president, John F. Kennedy:

'Things do not happen. Things are made to happen.'

Thank you all once again.

Chair Mackey called a 10-minute recess at 3:10 p.m. return at 3:20 p.m.

VI. Planning & Zoning: None

VII. General Business: None

VIII. Public Comment:

Robert Bilbray commented on the COVID-19, the Governor's declarations, and the numbers over the last four months. He stated he had 1,700 phone calls from employees in the community asking how long, when do we re-open, and should I go back on unemployment? He has concerns with the fatigue of employers and employees and said there is enough data for the rural areas to get a modified standard and not be put in the same grouping as Las Vegas and other larger cities.

Tiffany Sierra, representing the Riverside Casino, said the Riverside is in agreement with Mr. Bilbray that Laughlin is different and needs a modified standard. The casino hotel applied all the state mandated compliances for sanitation, wearing of masks, social distancing, and the usage of plexiglass. She said the Riverside will continue and has gone well above what was required, and insuring the public and employees stay safe.

"The state needs to look at the numbers per city or town and not placing Laughlin in the same category as Las Vegas," she said.

Martin Knauss, resident and president of Laughlin Economic Development Corporation, expressed his appreciation to Dr. Paulson for his nearly 31 years of service to Clark County residents.

Kathy Ochs, Laughlin resident, followed up with the comments made regarding business shut downs, COVID-19, and separating the rural towns. She said she had that conversation with Senator Hardy, Alex Ortiz, and with Commissioner Naft this past spring. At that time, she said they chose not separate the towns out but now perhaps there is more hard data. She thinks it would be “a good idea to circle back and see if we can get movement.”

James Maniaci provided the following statement:

Good afternoon. I am James ‘Jim’ Maniaci, and I have lived in Laughlin since Christmas of 2007.

I ask that this brief comment be included verbatim in the minutes of today’s meeting.

At the June 9 meeting a coordinated attack was launched – as the start of the political campaign for the LTAB election in October and November—against our Town Manager. Doctor Brian Paulson is not an elected official. This Board, which is elected, also was attacked. Evidence of that coordinated attack continuing is a recent article in the press.

My thought on this can be best expressed by turning to the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 23, Verse 34. I quote from the New King James Version. “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’

Thank you.

- IX. Next Meeting Date: August 11, 2020. Announced of second meeting to be held July 28, 2020 for zoning item.
- X. Adjournment: 3:30

These minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the August 11, 2020 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the meeting minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting.

To listen to the audio recording of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board go to:
<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/administrative-services/laughlin/Pages/LaughlinTownAdvisoryBoard.aspx>