

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17, 2018, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Chairman Abowd called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Bonanza Room of the Carson City Community Center, 851 E. William St. (Hwy. 50), Carson City, NV. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Chairman
Brad Bonkowski
Carl Erquiaga, Vice Chairman
Ken Gray
Barry Penzel
Chuck Roberts
Ernie Schank

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff
Doug Johnson
Fred Stodieck
Steve Thaler

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II

Also present:

Jack Jacobs, Jacobs Berry Farm
Don Jardine, Alpine County
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Andrew Roberts, private citizen
Marla McDade Williams, Strategies 360

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Abowd.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda. *Director Schank made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Roberts and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.*

Item #6 – For Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2017. *Director Schank made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting on December 13, 2017. The motion was seconded by Director Erquiaga and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board, with Director Abowd abstaining for not having been at that meeting.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for December 2017.

Item #8 – For Possible Action: Payment of Bills for December 2017.

Item #9 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Contract #2018-1 with Carson City to Prevent Mapped Stands of Yellow Starthistle from Establishing in the Carson River Watershed Utilizing Nevada Department of Agriculture Funding in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.00.

Item #10 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Contract #2018-2 with Dayton Valley Conservation District to Prevent Mapped Stands of Yellow Starthistle from Establishing in the Carson River Watershed Utilizing Nevada Department of Agriculture Funding in an amount not to exceed \$18,500.

Item #11 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2018-3 with River Wranglers to for Flood Awareness Outreach to the Schools Located in the Carson River Watershed in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00.

Item #12 – For Possible Action: Adoption of the Adaptive Carson River Stewardship Plan 2017 Update.

There was no public comment. *Director Bonkowski made the motion to approve Items #7-12 of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Erquiaga and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.*

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Item #13 – For Possible Action: Select a CWSD Treasurer for 2018. Mr. James explained that with the new policies in place Alpine County can no longer serve as Treasurer since they are not a Nevada county. Director Penzel was suggested as the new Treasurer and has agreed to serve if voted in.

There was no public comment. *Director Schank made the motion to select Director Penzel as CWSD Treasurer for 2018. The motion was seconded by Director Roberts and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.*

RECESS TO CONVENE AS
THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Item #14 – Roll Call – Director Abowd convened the Carson River Watershed Committee and a roll call was taken.

Committee Members present:

CWSD Directors as presented in roll call above
Don Jardine, Alpine County

Committee Members not present:

Don Frensdorff
David Griffith, Alpine County
Doug Johnson
Fred Stodieck
Steve Thaler

Item #15 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None**Item #16 – For Possible Recommendation: Review CWSD 2017 Activities and**

Accomplishments. Mr. James explained that on p. 237 of the Board package begins the 2017 Activities and Accomplishments. Based on approval tonight, this will be sent to all the counties. Since Mr. Penzel had requested that the 2018 activities be more in-depth than the previous year's list, Mr. James asked him if what is included in this list is adequate. Mr. Penzel indicated that it is.

Committee Member Penzel made the motion that the Carson River Watershed Committee recommend CWSD Board approval of the CWSD 2017 Activities and Accomplishments. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Jardine and unanimously approved by the Carson River Watershed Committee.

Public Comment: Austin Osborne asked if it is too early to list Storey County as part of the Dayton Valley Area Drainage Master Plan project under FEMA MAS #8. Mr. James responded that since part of Storey County is in the watershed, there is no problem calling the project the Lyon/Storey County Area Drainage Master Plan.

Committee Member Penzel modified his motion to add Storey County to the Dayton Area Drainage Master Plan project as requested. as second to the original motion, Committee Member Jardine agreed to the modification. The modified motion was approved by the Carson River Watershed Committee.

Item #17 – For Possible Recommendation: Request from Churchill County to fund a study to calculate peak flows below Lahontan Reservoir that meets FEMA requirements.

Mr. James explained that with the large 2017 river flows the Churchill County community came together and did a lot of work in the area to avoid flooding. There was a request from Churchill County to fund a study to calculate the peak flows below Lahontan Reservoir that meet the FEMA requirements. The current data is based on 1970s data.

Mr. Penzel asked what part of the area below Lahontan is included. Mr. James responded that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is flying LiDAR to do elevation study a little farther east of watershed. This study is to measure what comes out of Lahontan. To do a larger project we would request FEMA funding. There is a question of whether last year was peak flood flow or if they handle more water. Mr. James explained that the study will consider routing water through the reservoir and operation procedures.

Mr. Penzel introduced Jack Jacobs, who is current a berry farmer in Douglas County but used to be a flood manager. Mr. Jacobs offered to help in any way his experience will allow.

Mr. Schank asked if whether the study would be looking at the 4,000 cfs coming out of the reservoir and topping the spillway or what the canal system can handle. Mr. James explained that the question is what the actual peak flow is and what the system can handle. Mr. Schank noted that the last big flood in Churchill County occurred in 1907, before Lahontan was built, and that had event the largest flow before last year. He suggested that we should study what warm rain on snow causes an overflow. The flooding event in Churchill County was 3,000 cfs of flooding, but above Lahontan the flow was 15,000+ cfs. If the reservoir was already full, at what point is it considered a 100-yr. flood event?

Mr. Shank suggested that we need to be looking at when they need to start precautionary drawdowns based on what is in Lahontan today and what is on the mountains. This would also help with TCID operations to determine what the USBR needs to do to avoid flooding below Lahontan when there is flooding above the reservoir.

Mr. Roberts clarified that what is being asked for here is to do a status flow study like what was done up river to determine flood maps. Ms. Abowd asked if this will help Fallon residents with the cost of flood insurance. Mr. James responded that this could, but this project does not mean that the community wants to pursue a new flood mapping study. This information, plus the LiDAR data, can be used to do a new study, but this information can be used for just planning purposes.

Mr. Penzel explained that this study will create a starting point for an algorithm to begin to know when to release water. It calculates a cue for a 100-yr. flood event. Mr. Bonkowski noted that additional studies may need to be done and requested more detail about what will be done and an overall scope and cost.

Committee Member Roberts made the motion that the Carson River Watershed Committee recommend that the CWSD Board direct staff to proceed as written but come back to the Board and get with interested parties for additional information. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Penzel and unanimously approved by the Carson River Watershed Committee.

Item #18 – Discussion Only: Public Comment. None.

ADJOURN TO RECONVENE AS THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Item #19 – For Possible Action: Review and approve the CWSD 2017 Activities and Accomplishments. This item was discussed earlier in the meeting under Item #16. There was no further Board or public comment.

Item #20 – For Possible Action: Request from Churchill County to fund a study to calculate peak flows below Lahontan Reservoir that meets FEMA requirements. This item was discussed earlier in the meeting under Item #17. There was no further Board or public comment.

Director Bonkowski made the motion that Items #19-20 be approved as discussed in one motion. Director Roberts seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.

Item #21 – Discussion Only: Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported:

- The Water Summit which will be held on 1/30/18 is drawing a lot of interest. He encouraged everyone to attend.
- There is a concern with the Virginia/Rocky diversion structure. Mr. James met with the ditch operator and went for a tour of the area on Monday. The ditch operator wants to do gravel removal but is confused about current regulations. He would have previously done removal under maintenance. He has asked Mr. James to coordinate with State Lands and other parties on getting permits.
- Mr. James met with Alpine County representatives about the MOU to establish Alpine County's participation in CWSD this morning. Alpine County has questions to be answered before signing the MOU. They will check with their workers comp carrier, as will we.
- Mr. James has been talking with Austin Osborne about a similar MOU with Storey County.
- A USBR Drought Planning grant proposal to look at a study on upstream storage is due on 2/7/18. Drought planning includes future climate changes causing earlier runoff and how to manage the water without negatively impacting downstream. Mr. James will bring this item to the Board at the February meeting.

Brenda Hunt reported:

- The Watershed Forum is scheduled for April 11-12, 2018 and will focus on floodplain management on the first day and watershed-wide issues on the second day.
- 2018 is the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Carson River Coalition (CRC). We are planning a celebration in early June and are considering Fuji Park as the location since it will also get people out to Clear Creek to see projects done there.

Debbie Neddenriep reported that there will be a River Wranglers fundraising event/retirement party for Linda Conlin on Saturday, 1/20/18, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Dayton Valley Community Center. She encouraged everyone to come.

Director Penzel corrected the staff report in the Board package. On 12/21/17, it should say that Ed met with Senator Settlemeyer instead of Assemblyman Settlemeyer. He also asked what the Discovery meeting on 1/9/18 was about since the term “discovery” is usually linked to a legal issue. Mr. James explained that Discovery is a FEMA term for identifying potential projects to be undertaken with the Mapping Activity Statement (MAS) funding.

Mr. James explained that the meeting was called by Senator Settlemeyer to get everyone on the same page about what we can and cannot do in the river and who is responsible, as well as how to be prepared for next flood event. Brad Crowell, Director of Conservation and Natural Resources, has requested another meeting with Mr. James on Friday to talk about this issue in more detail. After the last flooding the State could have done things to help expedite the repair process, so it is prudent to have a plan in place in the event of another flood. The State's concern is not wanting to have State liability without resources behind it.

Director Schank suggested that since Senator Settlemeyer is involved, the Legislative Committee meet with him about legislative bill drafts for the upcoming legislative session to potentially solve

some of these problems. Mr. James responded that Senator Settelmeyer offered to sponsor legislation. Director Penzel suggested that the Legislative Committee draft some proposed language to submit a BDR before the legislative session starts. Mr. James responded that he will consider setting up a Legislative Committee meeting after Friday's meeting with Brad Crowell. Director Penzel noted that if State doesn't take responsibility to make repairs after flooding, the counties will have to even though neither has the money. At least if the county must do it, they can get in the river quicker. Director Schank noted that if the State can't do it, they ought to enter into some kind of agreement, like maintenance contracts, with local governments so that the local governments can do what needs to be done to prevent disasters. Director Penzel suggested that CWSD could serve as the central entity. Director Abowd noted that this topic needs to be agendized for further discussion at another meeting.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

Item #22- Discussion Only: Directors' Reports

Item #23 – Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County. Supervisor Jardine reported:

- The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) met to talk about a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) program to require county approval for septic systems on one acre or less parcels. Older septic systems will be grandfathered in, but new half-acre parcels will require approval.
- On February 6, 2018, STPUD will be conducting a tour of Hope Valley after their meeting which begins at 1:30 p.m.

Item #24 – Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County. Austin Osborne reported:

- The USGS started having 53 people volunteering to have their wells monitored in the Highlands area. So far it would seem that wells up 20-40 feet since last year.
- Virginia City continues updating its sewer system under the inspection of the Historical Society.
- The county passed an ordinance for Title 16 and 17 for subdivisions to make sure water will be there before development.

Item #25 – Discussion Only: Public Comment. None.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Schank made the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary