

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 January 20, 2016, 6:30 P.M.
 Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman
 Brad Bonkowski
 Carl Erquiaga
 Ray Fierro, Treasurer
 Don Frensdorff
 Don Jardine
 Greg Lynn, Chairman
 Austin Osborne, Storey County representative
 Ernie Schank
 Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Doug Johnson
 Barry Penzel
 Mary Rawson
 Chuck Roberts

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, Environmental Specialist

Also present:

Geoff Brownell, Michael Baker International
 Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group
 Sarah Green, Alpine Watershed Group

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Ormsby Room at the Carson City Sheriff's Office, 911 E. Musser St., Carson City, NV. The CWSD/Alpine County Joint Powers Board was convened. Roll call was taken and a quorum was determined to be present. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Director Fierro.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda. *Director Erquiaga made the motion to approve the agenda.. The motion was seconded by Director Frensdorff and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2015. *Director Bonkowski made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on December 16, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. None

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for December 2015. -

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for December 2015.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval for the General Manager to attend the 2016 NWRA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, March 1-3, 2016.

Director Schank made the motion to approve the consent agenda, including items #8-10. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.

****END OF CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by the Alpine Watershed Group on 2015 projects and programs. Sarah Green, Executive Director, and Shane Fryer, Watershed Coordinator of the Alpine Watershed Group (AWG), gave a presentation. Ms. Green thanked CWSD for many years of support. This is AWG's 10th anniversary as an official non-profit. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the natural system functions of Alpine County's watersheds for future generations. Alpine County contains the headwaters of five watersheds with the most work being done in the Carson River watershed.

AWG's 2015 programs included water monitoring, watershed restoration, watershed education, and community outreach.

- Water monitoring was started in 2004 so 2015 was the 12th anniversary of the program. This year 23 volunteers monitored 26 sites contributing 590 hours of volunteer time. The five programs monitored ambient temperature, bacteria, bioassessment, stream flow, and ground water wells.
- Watershed restoration included six major restoration programs using methods which include streambank stabilizations, weed pulls, native plantings, and restoration of user impacts. Volunteers contributed 625 hours to these programs.
- Markleeville Creek Day was started in 1999 and celebrated its 16th anniversary in 2015. Eight restoration sites were addressed by 78 volunteers in 2015 to stabilize 600 feet of stream bank, plant 1,000+ willows, plant 210 native species, and remove 1,300 lbs. of weeds and 165 lbs. of trash..
- For the Markleeville Creek Restoration Project AWG pursued grant funding for implementation, developed an Interim Use Plan, and collaborated with Alpine Heritage Tourism Committee. The area will include a picnic area, parking, and, in the summer, interpretive signage with historical, cultural, and natural sign contents.
- The Rivers and Ranches Program at Ace Herford Ranch was funded by Lahontan Water Quality Control Board and Sierra Business Council. Eight projects were completed including a bridged cattle crossing, wetlands enhancement, return water protection, ditch improvements, situating water off-site for cattle, and riparian fencing.
- Shane explained the East Carson River Riparian Restoration was funded by the California State Parks Off-Road Motor Vehicle Recreation Program along the Hwy. 88 corridor. Restorations include road to trail conversion, stream bank stabilization, weed pulls, and native plantings.

- The Alpine County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project was funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy with the objectives to reduce fuels along 25 miles of Alpine County roads and to provide school and community-based watershed education.
- For Youth Education AWG partnered with Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership. They provided classroom presentations to 71 students, after school programs for 48 students, Rivers and Ranches Education Day involving 98 students, and Snapshot Day involving 16 students.
- The Alpine Aspen Festival had over 700 participants, included 33 activities, 99 volunteers, three bands, four guest presenters, and 12 tabling organizations. The group reached over 500,000 people reached through media including: 47 radio station ads on KUNR and KXJZ, newspaper ads, two TV news segments, 6,000 flyers handed out, four newspaper articles, and 1,000's of hits on the festival website and social media.
- AWG engaged in 56 partnerships in 2015 and is expanding their individual support through a group membership drive.

No action required for this item; receive and file.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by staff from Michael Baker International, Inc. on the Eagle Valley A & B Drainage Project proposed new flood maps. Geoff Brownell from Michael Baker began by acknowledging the project partners: CWSD, Carson City Public Works, FEMA, and Michael Baker International. This project is basically a flood map re-delineation of existing FEMA mapping. He showed maps of the Eagle Valley A & B Drainage Study area in the north central area of Carson City and started his presentation with the question, "Why do the restudy?" The current maps were from the 1970s and 1980s; the area contained approximate A Zones without further data associated with them; the floodway designating higher velocity flows ran through developed area with no defined conveyance; current maps do not incorporate airport improvements; and the current maps do not reflect current conditions.

The restudy methodology was explained as:

- Revised hydrology upstream of developed areas to come up with big flow areas.
- Used 2D model to define flood hazard areas.
- Created detailed mapping throughout the watershed with base flood elevations (Zone AE-riverine, AO-shallow flooding, AH-ponding).
- Eliminated the floodway with the new delineations.
- Tied into the new Carson River mapping so both studies are accepted by FEMA.
- Submitted to FEMA as Letter of Map Revision so that ultimately it will be legally binding delineation sooner than later.
- The modeling approach used HEC-HMS in sub basins and FLO-2D in the modeling domain.

The study results with flow depths ranging from 0.50' – 5.00' Their delineation is much more defined. The study identified areas south of Hwy. 50 which were not previously on the flood maps. The new mapping adds nine homes, removes 40 homes, and keeps four homes unchanged in the floodplain. The study results are much more accurate with base flood elevations over the entire study area. It incorporates survey around homes and the effects of storm drains and culverts. There is a distinct elevation for the entire floodplain. It gives Cason City the tools to

know flood depth and velocity at any given point throughout the entire watershed incorporate improvements into the model to see the effect before they do them.

Brenda Hunt asked if they will be updated when the Carson River map revisions goes in. Mr. Brownell responded that the LOMR would become a physical update when something else requires a map update, so if all the flood map studies are accepted at once, it might be included as a physical map update.. Since FEMA has been involved throughout the process including approving methodologies, and this is a Cooperative Technical Partner (CTP) FEMA-sponsored project, it should go more smoothly.

No action required for this item; receive and file.

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval to hire Responsive Management to conduct a needs assessment/gap analysis, create a communications and marketing strategy, and present the strategy to environmental educators at the Environmental Education Roundtable. Ms. Hunt explained as background that Phase 1 of the Watershed Literacy Plan was to do the survey. This is Phase 2 for the implementation process. The grant from NDEP for this phase included the contractor, Responsive Management, to dig deeply into the survey to help analyze what topics and audiences to target and which to address first. The goal is to increase watershed literacy which in turn may encourage behavior changes that will lead to overall watershed health benefits.

Task 2 in Phase 2 is to present the draft strategies to the environmental education implementers, like River Wranglers, Sierra Nevada Journeys, The Nature Conservancy, etc., to ask their opinion on the plan, to obtain support for the direction and their commitment to assist with implementation. An analysis for gaps and overlaps will be conducted to coordinate efforts. CWSD is planning the Environmental Education Forum for April. Staff time is match towards the larger grant. Future projects included in the overall grant include a Spanish interpretation of the watershed map, a revision of the online watershed map to match the new physical map, and placement of watershed boundary signage.

Director Lynn asked about a contract with Responsive Management. Ms. Hunt explained that we don't have NDEP contract yet but are hoping to have that completed and begin the project within the next two weeks. Once the NDEP contract is signed, we can engage in a contract with Responsive Management. We are on timeline to do Environmental Education Forum in early April, and Responsive Management needs six weeks to do their part. Most of the match for the grant is coming from NDOT for the signs. CWSD is paying for updating the website as match. A portion of the of staff time is reimbursable by the NDEP grant.

Director Fierro made the motion to authorize staff to hire Responsive Management to conduct a needs assessment/gap analysis, create a communications and marketing plan, and present the strategy to environmental educators at the Environmental Education Roundtable and the General Manager to sign the contract prior to the February Board meeting, with the conditions that the NDEP contract is signed and that the budget does not exceed \$12,500.00. Director Abowd seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding selection of Board committees for 2016. Staff has heard only one request for committee change but policy does not accommodate that change. Most of the Directors request to stay on the same committees.

Director Schank made the motion to keep the committee assignments the same for another year. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #15 - Discussion and possible action regarding the runoff prediction for 2016. Mr. James reported that he attended a water picture briefing yesterday and is using Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) slides from that briefing in his presentation. Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) shows the current snow water equivalent at 129% of normal on January 19, 2016. Precipitation is above normal for average. We are behind after four years of drought about 1.3 years of missed precipitation. The upper watershed is drier than the lower part of the watershed. We are doing better than in 2013 for this time of year and have a much better snow pack throughout the area this year. Runoff projections are above normal for the whole water year. El Nino (with warmer water temperatures) is breaking records this year. The prediction for February and March is higher than average precipitation. April is expected to be drier with a weaker El Nino in May. Lake Tahoe at -22% of full but predictions are that it to go above the rim. Lahontan Reservoir is currently at 5% of full. The forecast for runoff for the period of April-July is above normal, but it is not expected that Lahontan will fill completely, but 100% of irrigation deliveries are predicted.

No action required for this item; receive and file.

Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) Alpine County would like to start the Mesa Groundwater Study, per Brian Peters from Alpine County Planning. CWSD staff, Debbie Neddenriep, will take water level measurements twice a year. The agreement will be brought to the CWSD Board in February. The budget will be \$4,400 which Alpine County will reimburse to CWSD. 2) People are saying we are spending a lot of money on studies. Mr. James ascertained that of the money CWSD receives from Ad Valorem taxes only 2% goes for studies, but 11% of the overall budget goes to studies which are mostly funded by grants from FEMA. We are doing a study to determine if wells are pulling in arsenic in Carson Valley.

Brenda Hunt reported that CWSD received a grant for weed control throughout watershed from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. CWSD will administer the \$50,000 pass through grant.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

Correspondence – As handed out at the meeting.

Item #17 - Directors' Reports

Director Osborne reported that the Storey County Master Plan update is expected to be completed in three months. They are working with the Dayton Valley Conservation District and Storey-Washoe Conservation District to do restoration projects.

None of the other directors had anything specific to report.

Item #17 - Public Comment. None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Shank made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Lynn and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary