



## River Corridor Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 3, 2013  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Location:** CWSD Conference Room

**Contact:** Brenda Hunt, 887-9005

**Attendees:** Ed James (CWSD); Brenda Hunt (CWSD); Jenna Damon (NDWR); Rob Palmer (NDWR); Robb Fellows (CC Public Works); Shyla Lemons (CC Public Works); Dan Greytak (Washoe Tribe Environmental Protection Dept.); Justin Stang (Washoe Tribe Environmental Protection Dept.); John Cobourn (UNCE); Mary Kay Wagner (NDEP); Barbra Resnik (Douglas Co. Community Development – Engineering); Kathi Lawrence (CWSD); Via conference call: Jean Stone (NDEP); Mitch Blum (HDR)

1. Welcome and Introductions: Brenda welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room, including Jean Stone and Mitch Blum attending via telephone. Justin Stang introduced himself as a new employee with the Washoe Tribe Environmental Protection Department.
2. Announcements:
  - a. Brenda reminded the group about the upcoming hearing regarding Mayweed Chamomile. The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is under pressure from Pacific Northwest seed growers to remove Mayweed Chamomile from the noxious weed seed list. The weed would remain on the state's noxious weed list. Seed growers want seed mixes containing Mayweed Chamomile seeds to be allowed to be sold and planted in Nevada. If NDA decides to allow the removal from the noxious weed seeds list, Nevada could suffer from Mayweed Chamomile infestations, which municipalities will be required to manage. Brenda has been contacting weed managers throughout the watershed, encouraging that they submit letters of opposition to NDA. The CWSD Board supports staff submitting a letter, as well as attending and testifying at the hearing. CWSD's letter addresses the issue from an economic standpoint; Brenda will email CWSD's letter to the group. Some of the groups who have

already submitted letters of opposition include BLM, Washoe Tribe, Dayton Valley Conservation District and Carson City Weed Coalition. Brenda and Ed recently met with Joe Locurto, the State Conservation District Program Coordinator; he forwarded notice of the NDA hearing to all of the conservation districts. Brenda has obtained electronic copies of all of the letters which have been submitted to NDA so far; she can provide them to anyone interested in reading them. Brenda encouraged everyone to attend the hearing on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM, at the NDA headquarters at 405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Sparks. Their phone number is 775-353-3601.

**ACTION: Brenda to send RCWG CWSD's letter to NDA.**

- b. Mary Kay described a "green box" program being run by DRI. These boxes are hard green cases, purchased by DRI, which are filled with all of the materials and instructions needed for educators throughout Nevada to present a STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) lesson unit to students. DRI will provide the box, mail the boxes out to teachers who request them, and then restock the boxes with materials when they are returned. Mary Kay, Margie Evans and Linda Conlin have been working on developing a green box lesson unit regarding terminal watersheds. They have met with DRI staff to review the requirements, and will be continuing on developing the box as time schedules allow. Ideas for future green boxes include noxious weeds and floodplain management. The lessons will be geared toward students aged 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- c. Brenda announced that CWSD has been awarded an NDEP 319 grant (Watershed Literacy). The grant amount is \$20,000 which is less than was requested. Ed and Brenda will be working with Mary Kay to finalize the scope of work and budget. A large part of this grant will involve performing a baseline watershed literacy survey, to learn what people know about their watershed, where they get their information, etc. The survey will be statistically relevant and repeatable. The survey results will be used to better target education efforts.
- d. Rob Palmer announced the kickoff of planning for Northern Nevada Flood Awareness Week. A core group will be meeting soon with a general meeting planned for some time in January.

3. Update on Floodplain Management Plan (Brenda): Every county who previously adopted the Plan has now adopted the update. Brenda has the

minutes from each county meeting. The entire document will be added to the CWSD website shortly. A Floodplain Management Plan general overview was also given to Storey County; however, they have not chosen to adopt the Plan at this time.

**ACTION: Brenda to send out link to RCWG members to the final Floodplain Management Plan Supplemental Update 2013.**

4. FEMA Risk Map Chapter Meeting update (Ed): The Risk Map Charter is a program through FEMA, and this one is still the only one existing in Region 9. The group consists of county, state and federal entities. The purpose is to deal with flood issues from the local level, on a watershed-wide basis. There is currently FEMA grant funding to accomplish re-mapping from Alpine County to Ft. Churchill. Meetings are held twice per year. At the next meeting the group will discuss what to pursue in the next round of FEMA funding. The next funding request should come out approximately in June, 2014, with a submittal due date sometime in September, 2014. The list of potential projects already identified and ranked by the group are included in the Discovery Report, which is included in the Floodplain Management Plan.

**ACTION: Ed will forward the Charter meeting notes to the RCWG when they have been finalized.**

5. Member reports on Floodplain Management Plan progress and updates on suggested actions:

- a. Update on SA-14 + Mapping Activity Statements (MAS) projects including MAS 4 (Ed/Mitch): HDR is currently finalizing the MAS 2 model, after fixing some software problems; it should be submitted later this week, with mapping and reporting done by Christmas 2013. MAS 2 (which covers the area of Carson City) should be wrapped up and submitted to FEMA by the end of the year. MAS 3 is ongoing and covers the entire Carson Valley, from the Alpine stream gauges down to Carson City.

**ACTION: Douglas County has topo changes due to completed projects that they will get to Mitch Blum, HDR for inclusion in the project.**

- b. Progress on SA-7 Retention of floodplain lands for flood storage/mapping acreage (John): John and Steve Lewis (UNCE) have been working with Eric Schmidt, from the Douglas County GIS Department, to develop a map showing where the floodplain is

located and which properties have been protected with deed restrictions (Douglas through Lyon County). They want to keep the map simple and make it available to both the public and policy makers. John expects Eric will have a draft map completed by Christmas, and hopes the map will be published in early 2014 (March/April). Churchill County will not be included on this map, as they have a different emphasis of agricultural land vs. floodplain. Not all alluvial fans will be included. Ed commented that the Lands Bill in Douglas County identifies many properties for future flood control/detention basins.

- c. Update on SA-33 Annual Flood Awareness Week (John):  
John/UNCE recently received a grant through the Army Corp of Engineers, with the purpose of increasing public outreach for flood awareness. He anticipates having a large flood awareness committee, as well as a smaller core group, which will meet every 2 weeks. They are beginning planning a 2014 Flood Awareness Week. John requested input from the group regarding which week to choose in September, October or November, 2014. Comments included: (1) September is National Disaster Preparedness Month, so perhaps a week in September would be a good idea; (2) Carson City sponsors a large community-wide "National Night Out" in September – perhaps a table could be set up, announcing the upcoming Flood Awareness Week; (3) 2014 is an election year, so advertising availability and costs may be affected. Some preliminary plans include: creating a flood awareness website, which the Division of Water Resources will host; the Flood Awareness Week would involve multiple events throughout Northern Nevada, including the Humboldt watershed and Reno/Sparks; presentations to community groups, policy-makers and school groups; Powerpoint presentations; and PSA's on television and radio. Shyla mentioned that Yesco billboard company sometimes assists with funding for PSA billboards. Rob Palmer stated that the Division of Water Resources potentially has \$15,000 available for advertising costs; they have a public information officer who already has a lot of contacts; he will be researching various advertising possibilities. John noted that grant funds may not be used for advertising or surveys. John plans to conduct a pre-event survey and post-event survey; the group discussed the importance of reaching totally random survey takers,

such as at a mall or some other unrelated event. The committee is soliciting input and funding. They are working on a slogan, and encourage suggestions – someone suggested “Nevada Floods”. The committee also would like to work with communities who participate in FEMA’s Community Rating System, by helping them fulfill their obligations to develop programs for public information.  
**ACTION: John to add NEVADA FLOODS to list of slogan possibilities.**

6. Regional Stewardship Plan Update Progress – Request for Updated Project Sheets (Brenda): Brenda’s update progress is currently up to Chapter 4; Jean will be helping her with the updates to Chapter 6. Brenda hopes to send everybody a draft for comments by early January, 2014, with comments to be returned to her by the end of January. The draft update will be reviewed by NDEP and the EPA before it is finalized. Brenda requested that everyone update their project sheets and maps – since 2006, some projects have probably been completed, new project need to be added, as well as potential future projects. The Plan is available online, including Appendix F, Carson River corridor maps, project sheets and a table of in-progress projects and easement projects. The series of restoration project maps need to be reviewed and updated; the digital maps have been located on a hard drive, so they will not need to be re-created.

**ACTION: Brenda will send everyone an email requesting updated project sheets; she will include a link to the on-line plan and blank revised project sheets. Before and after photos should be included.**

7. Update on 208 Plan Funding and Low Impact Development (Ed/Brenda): Funding has been granted and the scope of work is currently being finalized. Since Indian Hills hired RCI regarding their MS4 requirements in the Clear Creek area, CWSD also hired RCI for assistance with this LID grant. RCI is working throughout the state, helping counties with their MS4 requirements. We will be working out how to enhance LID practices, including things which are not required by MS4. Questions like, what are people doing already, and what are the barriers? Target audiences will be municipalities, general public, large developers, landscapers, and engineering/design firms. Comments heard on why LID practices have not been incorporated include engineers tending to have issues with freeze/thaws with paved parking lots. Failure to properly maintain systems is the biggest cause of failure and workers need to be educated regarding maintenance or the systems quickly fail to perform as designed. Sediment traps which are easy to clean out are key to alleviating

some of the concerns. Brenda mentioned she has been getting a lot of emails from EPA regarding LID/green infrastructure – a recent email blast announced a design contest so municipalities could see the cost benefit without the commitment of doing the project at that time.

8. Other: Brenda advised that CWSD staff is tentatively planning a CRC forum with a variety of speakers, possibly sometime in March, 2014. ***Please note: Revised to April 2014.***
9. Schedule Next Meeting: **Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**