

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 17, 2016, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman
Brad Bonkowski
Carl Erquiaga
Ray Fierro, Treasurer
Doug Johnson
Greg Lynn, Chairman
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative
Barry Penzel
Mary Rawson
Ernie Schank
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
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
Courtney Walker, Watershed Program Specialist

Also present:

Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group
Randy Gaa, Muscle Powered
Donna Inversin
Mark Kimbrough
Paula Kimbrough
Chaz McQuarrie
Jeff Potter

Note: The recording for this meeting was incomplete due to inadvertent operator error.

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in Room #3137 of the Nevada Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson 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 Schank made the motion to approve the agenda.. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2016. *Director Bonkowski made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on January 20, 2016. The motion was seconded by Director Erquiaga and unanimously approved by the Board, with Directors Rawson and Johnson abstaining for not having been present at that meeting..*

Item #7 - Public Comment. Mr. James explained that Courtney Walker has resigned from CWSD to take the Stormwater Program Manager position with Douglas County. Brenda Hunt noted the many contributions Ms. Walker has made during her time with CWSD and the myriad of positive characteristics about her that will be missed. Ms. Walker expressed her pleasure in having worked at CWSD and that she is glad that her new position will keep her in touch with the watershed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for January 2016. -

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for January 2016.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding authorize the General Manager to sign Agreement #2016-1 with Alpine County for a Mesa Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program.

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

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

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding award of the CWSD Andy Aldax Award for Exemplary Service in Conservation and Protection of the Carson River Watershed to Mark Kimbrough. Ed James gave some background on the award. Named after Andy Aldax, who served on this Board for over 50 years. Mr. Kimbrough was recognized for his work on the trails system and an original member of the Carson River Coalition (CRC).

Donna Inversin nominated Mr. Kimbrough for this award because he has been instrumental in creating the trails system. Jeff Potter told of his association with Mr. Kimbrough and how he has opened doors for trails with State Lands in Vicee and Ash Canyons.

Director Abowd explained that CWSD Board had no hesitation in granting Mr. Kimbrough the Andy Aldax Award. Director Lynn showed that Mr. Kimbrough's name has been added to the perpetual plaque which resides in the CWSD office. Director Lynn then awarded Mr. Kimbrough with a personal plaque.

Mr. Kimbrough thanked CWSD for the award. He gave his history on the Carson River since he has been involved. In the 1980s, he was a ranger at Sand Harbor when he lived on the Carson River. He transferred into State Park management in 1993 and became a member of the Carson River Action Committee (CRAC). In 1994, as Chair of CRAC at that time he took the State Parks document to create the CRAC planning document. In 1994, voters passed tax to support

open space. In 1997, the flood brought a lot of attention to the Carson River which prompted the formation of the CRC. Ed James was hired in 1998 to begin active management of CWSD. In 2008, Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch gathered planners for a workshop and created a planning document. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) looked at housing development plans at Silver Saddle Ranch. Carson City bought Silver Saddle Ranch. Mr. Kimbrough took a fieldtrip with John Singlaub, Juan Guzman, and Roger Moellendorf to look at the management of similar lands. There have been numerous programs on the river including a two night stay at the Silver Saddle Ranch with high school seniors and a 10-day field trip "The River Runs Through" which included science components. He worked with Dan Kaffer and floated the river several times. He received a grant to build road at Ambrose to get to the river, along with a self-guided trail. He worked with Linda Conlin and the River Wranglers. A trail was built from the BLM office to Morgan Mill. Mr. Kimbrough noted that he was disappointed that the Carson River is not being monitored more and encouraged CWSD Board to help with monitoring.

No action required for this item; receive and file.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water meeting. Mr. James explained that the kickoff meeting for the Legislative Subcommittee to Study Water was in Las Vegas last week. Pete Goicoechea is the Chairman of the committee. The committee can submit five Bill Draft Requests (BDRs). Jason King gave an overview of Nevada Water Law; Dave Berger discussed hydrology; and Gordon DePaoli, a water attorney, gave a perspective on litigation on Nevada Water Law. There will be five more hearings around the state. Mr. James will be giving a presentation to this committee in Dyer, NV. He will talk about water challenges in the Carson River Watershed including perennial yield, groundwater pumping, balancing of the groundwater basins, groundwater/surface water interactions, paper water vs. wet water, interbasin transfers, and water quality. Mr. James noted that there is a big difference between perennial yield and system yield which includes water that comes into the system.

Director Schank asked Mr. James how much of the two water bills that didn't make it out of committee at last Legislative Session will be included in the BDRs. Mr. James responded that there is quite a bit. Priority areas can include domestic wells. The definition of Critical Management Area (CMA) will be expanded to give more flexibility if the community comes together to cooperate. Director Schank asked how the Humboldt Trail might impact the deliberation of this committee. Mr. Benesch will get more information on this. He had concern that judges without a lot of history in water issues could cause a problem for the State.

Director Osborne asked if the domestic well issue will include county input. CMA is a basin-wide designation which is ok, but sub-basins are more impacted. He is interested in whether inter-basin transfers are included in system yield.

Director Schank noted that perennial yield in Fernley is 800 af per year. The State Engineer gave Fernley an appropriation of greater than 800 af due to water leakage from the Truckee Canal. There is pressure on federal agencies to do something to stop the leakage which could cause a collision in policy and put Fernley in a bind. Mr. James noted that Nevada Water Law took many years to perfect and needs to be changed cautiously.

No action required for this item; receive and file.

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding a loan request from the Carson Valley Conservation District to begin the Clearing and Snagging project in Douglas County. Mr. James explained that typically this would have gone on the Consent Agenda, but since we don't get these requests often, many Board members may not be aware of this policy. He pointed out the policy on p. 45 of the Board package which allows that if an entity comes forward with a request for under \$40,000, the General Manager could authorize the loan and the bring it to the Board. A request over \$40,000 would have to be approved by the Board first. Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) has funding coming but needs the loan to pay the contractor sooner than they will receive the funding. Director Lynn noted it will be for the mastication effort on the two gravel bars at the Golf Course which can be done under the rolling stock permit.

No action required for this item; receive and file.

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding the runoff predictions for 2016. Mr. James reported that SNOTEL data shows 129% of normal, now at 105%. A warm spell has impact the water supply in the mountains. We are not out of the woods yet; we can still flood or continue in the drought. Runoff at the Gardnerville gage is above historic average so we are seeing more water in the river because of the warm weather. Carson Valley is still dry and therefore the flows at the Carson City gage are just starting to go above average. At the Ft. Churchill gage, the flows are above average. At Lahontan Reservoir the storage has increased but is nowhere close to being full and will most likely not fill this year. Director Shank is predicting that the peak storage in the reservoir will be 240,000 af depending on whether it is a warm or cool spring. That would be better than last year, but we are not out of the woods yet.

No action required for this item; receive and file.

Item #15 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported that the Finance Committee would be meeting next Wednesday, 2/24/16, to review the FY 2016-17 budget.

Debbie Neddenriep reported that she attended one of the three Sierra Nevada Journeys Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics (STEM) events funded through CWSD. There was great participation, with over 100 school children from Empire Elementary and their entire families. A representative from Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) came to the last CRC Education working group meeting and several members of the working group volunteered to help with this event. In addition to several tables demonstrating watershed principles, there was an engineering exercise to build a tower. SNJ did a great job with three staff members and two college volunteers helping. She felt it was a good event.

Brenda Hunt reported: 1) Eagles and Ag is next weekend on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. 2) There will be an Environmental Education Roundtable on 4/26/16 at Ruvo Hall at Governor's Mansion. 3) The annual Get on the Bus tour is scheduled for June 7-8.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report but wished Ms. Walker the best in her future endeavors.

Correspondence – As handed out at the meeting.

Item #16 - Directors' Reports

Director Lynn reported that Douglas County is providing \$35,000 as match for the State's Clearing and Snagging \$98,000 grant. Additional matching funds are needed.

Director Johnson reported that he is going to Washington, DC to make a final pitch for the Douglas County conservation bill.

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 Schank made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary