

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
March 15, 2017, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Chairman  
Brad Bonkowski  
Carl Erquiaga, Vice Chairman  
Don Jardine, Treasurer  
Doug Johnson  
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative  
Barry Penzel  
Chuck Roberts  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck  
Steve Thaler

Directors not present:

Ken Gray  
David Griffith  
Don Frensdorff

Staff present:

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:

Ann Bollinger, Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space  
Juan Guzman, retired Carson City  
Terri Guzman  
Mark Kimbrough, retired Carson City  
Steve Lewis, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
Steve King, Fallon attorney  
Roger Moellendorf, retired Carson City  
Judy Wickwire, Alpine Watershed Group  
Lynn Zonge, Resource Concepts Inc.

Chairman Abowd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room of the First United Methodist Church, 412 W. 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 led by Director Roberts.

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

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2017. *Director Bonkowski made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 15, 2017. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board, with Directors Erquiaga, Johnson, and Stodieck abstaining for not having been at that meeting.*

Item #7 - Public Comment – None.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for February 2017. -

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for February 2017.

*Director Schank made the motion to approve the consent agenda, including items #8-9. The motion was seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

Item #10 – Discussion for possible action regarding the award of the 2017 CWSD Andy Aldax Award for Exemplary Service in Conservation and Protection of the Carson River Watershed to Juan Guzman. Ed James introduced Juan Guzman, and Brenda Hunt recognized Mr. Guzman's efforts on the Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA) Board and for Carson City Open Space. As one of those who nominated Mr. Guzman for this award, Steve Lewis explained that Mr. Guzman is a tenacious collaborator. He is all about the Carson Watershed and volunteers for Muscle Powered, CVTA, and the Carson City Open Space Committee. Roger Moellendorf said he worked with Mr. Guzman for over 10 years and learned a lot about his passion and collaborative efforts which were perhaps unconventional but effective. As a property developer, Brad Bonkowski told of working for 16 years on the planning sector side. He said that Mr. Guzman is always smiling, problem solving, and get to the bottom of a problem in the best way possible. Ann Bollinger spoke of working for and with Mr. Guzman; she said she is honored and privileged to follow in his footsteps. He's done wonderful things for the community and watershed. Judy Wickwire said that as a past recipient of Andy Aldax Award, she came in support of Mr. Guzman's acceptance of this award.

After being teased about his thick Guatemalan accent, Mr. Guzman was invited to speak. He noted that he has met everyone in the room sometime in his career. He felt that the most special things accomplished during his career were landscaping in open spaces and trading U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands for land management. There were different segments of the community who had different ideas of what should be done along the river. He was proud that the culture has changed from people going to the river to change their oil to a place which is protected and loved for recreation. Mr. Guzman noted that Open Space Manager was a wonderful job to have and offered his thanks to all the collaborators in the room. Years ago, Douglas County and Carson City were going to sue each other, but the staff from both

counties learned to cooperate in linking trails. The Q1 Program through State Lands gave \$1 million for work along the river which helped to accomplish a lot. He noted that he is honored to receive this award which was presented by CWSD Chairman Abowd presented this award.

*Director Schank made the motion to accept the Andy Aldax Award presentation to Juan Guzman. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #11 – Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Kimley-Horn on the Ramsey Canyon Study. Mr. James noted that CWSD received a grant from FEMA for this study. Todd Cochran from Kimley-Horn explained about the work which had been done in the Ramsey Canyon area, including USA Parkway. He mentioned that the Scope of Work on this project is typical for a FEMA flood study. He ran into limitations on available topographic information, so FEMA provided instrumental funding to do an aerial survey to collect detailed topographic information in the lower part of the watershed. The Master Plan for the area was done five years ago, so he worked with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to review the hydrology and put together a database of mapping.

Mr. Cochran showed and explained an overview map. The watershed is over 50 square miles, largely undeveloped. There are several tributaries coming together on the north side of US 50. The model is broken down into sub-basins to look at rainfall in each area. Additional soil data was obtained to define how much water infiltrates into the ground. There is a lot of sandy soil with small shrubs and trees but rock and clay underneath. Kimley-Horn did a peer review by other consultants to determine the best methodology. They chose to lean on the conservative side. There are culverts under Hwy. 50 that are completely clogged. The flow comes out of canyons and tributaries and flattens out as it gets close to Hwy. 50, then the water spreads, overtops Hwy. 50, and flows toward the airport. In area of homes flows run 1,700 cfs, a reduction from higher up in the watershed, but the volume of water is still there.

Mr. Cochran explained that he built a FLO 2D model and cut down on costs by using the old information as well as the new LiDAR. In the model water flows from cell to cell and the model calculates the depth and velocity of water. The field survey on all channels was added, along with culverts and rating curves to calculate what water is going under the road. They were able to more accurately model flows around the area and routing of the flows on the south side of the airport.

Director Schank asked if the railroad track berm causes trouble. Mr. Cochran responded that it has very negligible impact.

*No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

Item #12 – Discussion regarding an update on the Mercury Site Tour and workshop and the CRC Forum on February 21, 22, 2017. Brenda Hunt explained that Shane Fryer was the main person to coordinate the Mercury Site tour and CRC Forum. NDEP and EPA coordinated the free all-day Mercury Site tour which was attended by 40+ people. This site has been designated a Superfund Site. Ms. Hunt stated that it was an amazing tour. She gave out handouts which showed healthy mercury levels in fish tissue. Pages 51-54 of the Board package shows Lahontan

sampling results. The USGS has done studies on mercury levels in ducks from Mexican Dam in Carson City to Stillwater.

There were questions about flood repairs in the area. FEMA will not fund flood repair in a Superfund site and there's no EPA funding. NDEP says the best thing we can do is stabilize the riverbank.

Ms. Hunt shared the survey results on the bus tour and the CRC Forum. There were 100 participants over the two-day forum. The two-day format was well received but participants prefer lunch to be provided at the forum rather than just a free time for participants to find their own lunches. Ms. Hunt noted that the PowerPoint presentations given at the forum will be uploaded to the website.

*No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

Item #13 - Discussion regarding an update on the Carson River Stewardship Plan. Ms. Hunt explained that CWSD's mission is to work within existing governmental frameworks to promote cooperative action for the watershed across both agency and political boundaries. CWSD works through partnerships to meet the various future water needs, enhance the health and water quality of the river system, protect the floodplains, and provide outreach and information to the community. CWSD works at a regional level through the Integrated Watershed Planning and Management Process.

The Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan is the main planning and implementation document. CWSD staff has been working on an update of the 2007 Plan. The Stewardship Plan was formulated to meet nine elements to be an EPA approved Watershed Plan. It contains proposed projects and suggested actions for water quality improvements and all other Integrated Watershed Management categories. Having a Watershed Plan is important to gain 319 funding. During the process of this update Ms. Hunt reviewed the progress of projects listed in the 2007 Plan, added programs and projects conducted over the past 10 years, and has spoken with the stakeholders to create a list of projects for the future. The Plan suggests work on water quality issues, management measures, and suggested actions. The Plan and project list will be available the end of March. She wants to submit the updated Plan to the EPA without that county's information within a couple weeks. This update is a supplemental document to the 2007 Plan. CWSD will be looking to county/city governments to adopt this Plan, like what was done for the Floodplain Management Plan. The existing Plan is available on CWSD website.

Director Abowd suggested including more information about this Plan in the Strategic Planning Sessions.

*No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

Item #14 – Discussion for possible action regarding various bills that CWSD may want to support, oppose, or monitor during the 2017 Legislative Session. Mr. James drew the Board's attention to the list of BDRs/Bills on pages 61-62 of the Board package. He explained:

- Most water bills are not very controversial and just require wordsmithing.

- Q1 funding of bonds is due to expire in 2019, and BDR 494/SB 198 is to extend it to 2024. The thing holding up funding is that bonding is based on the assessed value of the state.
- There will be a hearing tomorrow on BDR 639/AB 114 which will help four irrigation districts in this area.
- BDR 747/AB 154 addresses prevailing wages which will impact conservation districts in that projects under \$250,000 currently don't have to provide the prevailing wage, but this bill seeks to reduce the project amount from \$250,000 to \$100,000.
- BDR 904/SB503 put \$250,000 into the Clearing and Snagging.
- BDR 180/SB 51 addresses vested water rights.
- BDR 499/SB 47 addresses requiring a resident to hook up to a municipal water system when their domestic well fails.

*No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the Tentative FY 2017-18 Budgets for the General, Acquisition/Construction, and Floodplain Management Funds. Mr. James noted that the Finance Committee had to cut \$320,000 from the project requests. At the upcoming Strategic Planning Sessions, the Board needs to determine where to focus our money. Mr. James explained that on pages 65-66 in the Board package the items in blue represent grant funding and the items in red represent changes from the originally presented budget.

Ad valorem is expected to increase by 2.5%, but we won't get final numbers from the Tax Department until 3/25/17. On page 68 is a graph of ad valorem tax changes over the years. To balance the budget the Finance Committee had to take some money out of Preliminary Planning/reserves. On page 71 is a pie chart breakdown of where our funding is going.

Mr. James briefly explained that in the Floodplain Management Fund, \$152,000 is budgeted for flood damage repairs. In the Acquisition/Construction Fund, \$660,000 is budgeted for construction projects.

*Director Schank made the motion to approve the Tentative FY 2017-18 Budgets for the Acquisition/ Construction, and Floodplain Management Funds as presented and approval of the General Fund with the actual Ad Valorem tax figures when they become available. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #16 – Discussion for possible action regarding funding for flood avoidance and damage. Mr. James explained that in the past CWSD has helped with diversion structure repairs as grade control. FEMA will provide 75%, CWSD 12.5%, and counties/state 6.25% each. Some of the money in the Floodplain Management Fund can go towards CWSD's portion of the repairs.

Director Penzel noted that individual counties and the State have declared a state of emergency after flooding, but no one knows their liability yet. How do we get that information? Mr. James noted that CWSD's involvement is limited to diversion structures along the river. In the past, our projects have fallen under two categories: debris removal and construction/repair of diversion back to their original form. Director Penzel wanted to know if the money already spent will be

recoverable, to which Mr. James said it should be. He will be meeting with FEMA representatives to get clarification regarding these issues.

Director Stodieck asked whether FEMA would cover it if he modifies the diversion structure on his property. Mr. James responded that FEMA will cover back to the original structural design. NRCS has programs available too. Take pictures and keep track of expenses and time for all work done.

*No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

Item #17 – Discussion for possible action regarding the runoff prediction for 2017. Mr. James reported that SNOTEL shows we already have more snow than in 1982-83. There are multiple topics to be addressed: runoff and peak flooding. If we get a rain on snow event, we could have a major flooding event. Below Lahontan, there is a lot of water coming down the river and canals. The 2017 runoff forecasts are higher than in 1983.

NDOT put four series of two 6x4 culverts under Hwy. 95A to help move the water in Churchill County. Director Schank showed before and after pictures photos of river clearing along approximately 10 miles of river which was done in a week. The county needs to revise the permitting process so that building is not too close to the river. He showed an aerial view of water as it exits Lahontan Dam, 4-5 miles down to Diversion Dam, routed into T-line to north and V-line to the south, with the river channel in the middle.

Director Schank explained how TCID built a weir structure for the V-line emergency spill. It is an H-design structure which was completed in 10 days. The best thing that has happened was the settling of all the lawsuits a year ago. The working relationship between the Bureau of Reclamation and TCID has been very positive. The Bureau of Reclamation has been providing the engineering for the work along the V-Line.

*No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

#### Item #18 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported:

- Handouts of two conservation support letters were signed by General Manager.
- Carson City flood maps along the river were submitted to FEMA and sent to Carson City.
- It has not been possible to schedule a single day to hold a Strategic Planning Session, so Mr. James suggested it be broken into three parts to be part of April-May-June Board meetings.
- Summer Board meetings are being scheduled, and we will be meeting in Churchill County in April with tour starting at Lahontan Dam and viewing the new spillway along the V-Line.
- The CWSD 2016 Activities and Accomplishment report was handed out.
- Mr. James will moderate a workshop on 3/22/17 about water resources.

Brenda Hunt reported:

- There will be an Alluvial Fan Flood Workshop on April 12 to deal with planning and overall flood issues from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Ormsby Room of the Carson City Sheriff's Office.
- April 22 is Earth Day. There will be multiple events on that day including the Alpine Watershed Group's Earth Day weed pull at Grover Hot Springs and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Earth Day at Oats Park in Fallon.

Legal –Mr. Benesch did not have anything specific to report.

Correspondence – As handed out at the meeting.

Item #19 - Directors' Reports

Director Schank introduced Steve King, an attorney from Fallon who has worked on water issues for many years.

Director Jardine reported on the EPA presentation on Leviathan Mine update to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors. The EPA concerned over losing Superfund money. They started treatment early this year and have treated a million gallons of water in the past two weeks.

There were no other Directors' reports.

Item #18 - Public Comment. Steve Waclo commented that there is so much potential for water storage in Alpine County by spreading over large open areas.

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Schank made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Bonkowski.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary