

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 15, 2015, 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman  
Brad Bonkowski  
Carl Erquiaga  
Ray Fierro, Treasurer  
Don Jardine  
Doug Johnson  
Greg Lynn, Chairman  
Austin Osborne, Storey County  
Barry Penzel  
Mary Rawson  
Chuck Roberts

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck

Staff present:

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

Also present:

Britt Jones, Amec Foster Wheeler  
Anne Knowles, private citizen

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room #1214 of the Nevada State Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, Nevada. 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 Rawson.

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

Item #7 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2015, and the Special Board Meeting/Strategic Planning Session Minutes from March 27, 2015. *- Director Penzel made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on March 18, 2015, and the Special Board Meeting/Strategic Planning Session on March 27, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment None

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for March 2015.

*Director Johnson made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-9. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.*

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

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action to adopt the Watershed Literacy Action Plan. Brenda Hunt explained that the copy of the Carson River Watershed Literacy Action Plan (WLAP) starts on page 47 of the Board package. The WLAP was born out of the Carson River Coalition's (CRC) Education Working Group to measure how we are doing in relation to environmental education. The Plan is supplemental to the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan 2007. The purpose and goal to "increase awareness that human behavior affects watershed health and to use education to promote changes in behavior that will ultimately improve habitat, water quality, and water supply, and benefit the watershed as a whole." The Plan included input from everyone in the Education Working Group.

Courtney Walker explained that the Plan was created using other watershed plans. There are several objectives associated with the Plan. It is designed to address the lack of public understanding of watershed functions which create water issues. The group laid out all existing programs being done in the watershed and determined the need for a collective way of measuring the effectiveness of the programs. The Plan includes Suggested Actions, which identifies the responsible party for achieving each and potential funding sources. It is important to conduct consistent evaluations of all the programs being presented. The Watershed Literacy Survey is a piece of this Watershed Literacy Action Plan to determine gaps in knowledge. Once we identify the gaps from the survey, we will conduct a media campaign watershed-wide. We also want to put an on-line pledge on the CWSD website for the community to make commitments for watershed stewardship. The intent is to conduct follow-up surveys every five years to see if we are increasing public understanding of watershed issues. The Watershed Literacy Action Plan is a living document which will periodically need to be updated.

Director Jardine asked what the benefit is to get off the list of impaired waterways. Ms. Hunt responded that it would be knowing we have a clean river. Director Jardine suggested that we might qualify for funding to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements.

Director Penzel noted that CWSD is listed as a funding source for all Suggested Actions. Does approval of the Plan commit us? Mr. James responded that CWSD funds the Suggested Actions as part of the budget and through pass-through grants. Director Penzel asked if the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is a realistic funding source. Mr. James responded that it is probably not, but noted that the ACOE has provided funding to the wastewater plant in Silver Springs. Ms. Hunt also noted that they were partners in funding some of the Flood Awareness Program. Director Lynn

commented that Ms. Hunt and Ms. Walker did a great job of summarizing the goals set in the Strategic Planning Session. He asked on page 65, what is citizen monitoring? Ms. Hunt responded that it is to develop a metric. Director Lynn suggested that to fulfill SA 3.2, engaging a consulting firm to get our message as widespread as possible, on page 69, we may need a consultant. Ms. Hunt noted that the Board has already approved the consultant for the survey. Director Lynn pointed out that once we commit, we are looking at an on-going process to monitor the effectiveness of our efforts. He indicated that he's not worried about funding since we aren't committing to fund all of the actions. Mr. James mentioned that the suggested actions are in the same format as those in the Floodplain Management Plan, as a watershed-wide process. They are a cooperative effort that will take everyone's resources.

*Director Bonkowski made the motion to adopt the Watershed Literacy Action Plan as presented. Director Rawson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action to approve changes to the Carson River Watershed Map brochure. Ms. Walker drew the Board's attention to the proposed changes to the map brochure on pages 73-74 of the Board package. She explained that the last update was in 2007. With feedback from the Carson River Coalition (CRC), key items added to the map, including Lost Lakes, Mark Twain, Clear Creek, and Truckee River revised to drain into Pyramid Lake. The tag line was revised to: "A Lifeline Connecting Our Communities."

The back of the map brochure is heavily revised. The information on the previous map was good but was text heavy and difficult to commit to reading it all. The revision will help teachers and educators who use this map. There will be links to various pieces of information on the website. Director Fierro asked if links will be hover over to pop up. Ms. Walker responded that staff hasn't figured out exactly how we are going to do it yet. Director Fierro commented that the brochure is very interactive and an awesome tool for educators and the public. Ms. Walker agreed that the CRC Education Working Group wants it to be very user friendly. We have been working with teachers to relate the map to state standards to fit into their curriculum.

Director Bonkowski commented that he likes this version much better. Ms. Walker noted that relating the back of the map with the front makes it like a scavenger hunt. Ms. Hunt pointed out that questions for educators replaced the table of contents. Director Lynn asked if we would be able to use up the existing maps before putting out the new map. Ms. Walker responded that there are only about two and a half cases of the old map left, and we plan to use them up. Mr. James joked that, considering the current drought conditions, a couple of suggestions for the tag line for the map were "Nevada, Where Rivers Go to Die" and "The Carson River Waterless-shed."

*Director Johnson made the motion to approve changes to the Carson River Watershed Map as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action to accept the Low Impact Development Report from Resource Concepts Inc. (RCI) and to provide RCI an additional \$1,000 from the 208 Planning Funds. Ms. Hunt explained that the report starts on page 77 of the Board package. We received \$40,000 from NDEP to do the Low Impact Development (LID) Report. We have been working on it with Resource Concepts Inc. (RCI) for about nine months to come up with the report which has gone through a couple of renditions. The audience is commissioners and planning staff to provide information about what types of LID would be appropriate in the Carson River watershed. The main goal of LID is to decrease the amount of pollutants delivered to the local waterways by

infiltrating stormwater on-site and filter out pollutants like oil, sediment, etc. These are mostly practices in urbanized areas within the watershed. LID benefits include: reduced flooding, improved air and water quality, restored aquatic habitat, improved groundwater recharge, enhanced neighborhood beauty, reduced cost and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, and mitigated urban heat islands. Much of this is accomplished by reducing impervious surfaces.

LID primary principles include:

- Minimize site disturbance and protect or restore natural landscape features including vegetation and natural drainage patterns on site.
- Minimize and disconnect impervious cover directing water to on-site infiltration areas. These practices can be used in new structures and retrofit.
- Considers stormwater a resource rather than waste product. It is beneficial to use water multiple times.
- Facilitate stormwater detention and infiltration on-site within on-site natural areas or into improved infiltration areas.

Ms. Hunt showed pictures of suitable practices using swales of rocks or vegetation, a parking lot with curb cuts to allow drainage, tree boxes with street curb cuts, and permeable pavers instead of asphalt.

Implementation strategies include:

- Review existing ordinances and design standards. Instead of mounds of grass in front of commercial properties, a property owner could change to a depression with vegetation to catch water.
- Support LID measures in the planning process by making sure on the check list to allow an open option to utilize LID infrastructures.
- Review your GIS planning tool. Add data so the planners and developers could go online for information about appropriate places to put LID.
- Build and publicize demonstration areas; advertise where people are implementing LID practices.
- Explore incentive options. There are a variety of different ways that other communities have incentivized LID, like competitions for LID designs, cost incentives, rebates and installation financing, a downspout derby to redirect downspouts, stormwater fee credits, etc. The Water Education Foundation has put out a report on hosting a LID design competition.
- Provide LID public outreach and education.

Director Lynn noted by building a subdivision which infiltrated water on-site could allow a development more land on which to build instead of setting aside space for a retention pond. He noted that using pavers is not user-friendly to bicyclists.

Mr. James mentioned the request to add \$1,000 to cover RCI's overage to complete the report. Director Lynn asked how much RCI went over budget. Mr. James explained that the first report RCI provided was too technical, so their revision cost an additional \$2,500. RCI offered to split the cost.

Director Osborne commented that RCI did a great job to make of making the report very readable while presenting all information and no fluff. The cost comparative analysis helps see how to save money.

Director Abowd said she enjoyed reading it and started conversations with Carson City's Planning Director and Stormwater Engineer. They try to implement LID practices where possible. She asked where it might be unfeasible to implement them. Ms. Hunt responded that if the water table is high, LID practices would be a problem and the area would require a traditional stormwater system. Also in the case of existing facilities which may be impacted, like footings of historical building, it may not be practical. We want it to be an available option which is promoted. Ms. Hunt also offered to make available the first technical report if anyone needs it.

Director Penzel mentioned that his first impression was that the report was a lot of effort on the part of RCI to establish rules, but he now thinks this could help with stormwater flow to be a cheaper way of controlling stormwater than Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). He asked if this could be in a brochure that can be handed out to homeowners associations, etc. Director Lynn commented that selling it to a planning department is different than selling it to an engineering department. Mr. James mentioned that he had a conversation with Douglas County staff who noted that it could be a good education and outreach tool. There is money in the budget for Mr. James and Ms. Hunt to take it to the planning commissions to educate them and county staffs and promote LID practices. If there's a checklist, we want folks to consider LID in the design to bring a higher level of consciousness to the public. These practices also reduce maintenance costs.

Director Roberts mentioned that he has a blue water stream in his back yard with no flow. He asked whose water is it? Whose water is being captured instead of runoff? Who owns the water and what is your statutory right to prevent the natural flow? Ms. Hunt responded that before impervious surfaces were placed there, it would have infiltrated. The natural processes have been altered, and we are trying to re-create natural processes. Mr. James explained that in Nevada you can capture rainwater but cannot use it for beneficial use. You can capture the same amount as before development occurred. LID practices are not designed to capture all the runoff. Director Lynn noted that the goal is to design to a 25-year storm level.

Director Bonkowski noted that some LID practices are not appropriate for high-traffic areas because of our climate, like near high traffic areas where water might freeze during the winter and create a liability. Ms. Hunt mentioned that many of these practices are in colder climates than here, like Minnesota. She doesn't know of a specific study, but sidewalks in impervious situations could have icy situations. Ski areas use LID practices. She will research this issue.

Director Osborne noted that these are detention systems, not retention systems, and secondary systems would take over with overflow in bigger storms. These collect pollutants/garbage where it can be collected more easily. He invited Mr. James to come talk to the Storey County Planning Commission about LID practices. Director Lynn suggested inviting county engineers to the meetings. Ms. Hunt added that these are solutions for MS4 designated areas and other areas which are scheduled to become MS4 to look at on a watershed-wide level in urban areas for a head start in addressing MS4.

*Director Abowd made the motion to accept the Low Impact Development Report as presented and send staff to present it to the counties and to authorize an additional \$1,000 be added to the RCI*

*contract to develop the LID report. The motion was seconded by Director Roberts and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding the comments to the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan. Ms. Hunt explained that the comments handed out come with a cover letter. The comments are for the audience of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) who is really familiar with this document. As background, Ms. Hunt noted that water quality, floodplain management/protection, and invasive species were the focus of the CWSD comments. The main comment is to let BLM know that their Resource Management Plan (RMP) should be consistent with the Floodplain Management Plan because all counties adopted it. The comments are set up to coordinate with alternative options and row numbers in the BLM RMP Draft document.

Director Johnson commented that maybe a list of reference at the end would be good instead of just make a statement. Give background for the comments, perhaps as footnotes at bottom. On the last page, travel and transportation management, the second paragraph doesn't need to be in there. Mr. James requested that the Board members review the comments and get back to Ms. Hunt so that it can be submitted by April 27. Each county is submitting comments, so CWSD is trying to look at the watershed as a whole instead of the county-specific.

Ms. Hunt mentioned that the BLM draft document is on-line in case anyone needs review it. Director Fierro commented that in Lyon County they are concerned about access being denied to BLM lands. This board needs to stick with facts, and Director Johnson's comment is in line with keeping it factual.

*Director Johnson made the motion to approve the proposed comments and send them to BLM by the deadline of April 27, 2015, and to try to utilize today's discussion in the comments. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board. The motion was amended to have the General Manager sign the cover letter, approved by the second, and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2015-1 with Carson City for Eagle Creek Streambank Restoration. Mr. James explained that the issues with the Eagle Creek trail are shown on pages 101-102 of the Board package. Funds for Eagle Creek streambank restoration are coming from the Buzzy's Ranch project which is still moving forward with other funding. If Carson City doesn't restore this streambank area, they will lose the adjacent trail. Mr. James stressed that we are only shifting funds already authorized in this fiscal year's budget.

*Director Bonkowski made the motion to authorize the General Manager to sign the Interlocal Contract #2015-1 with Carson City for Eagle Creek Streambank Restoration. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Nevada Legislature. Mr. James explained that a summary of bills being followed by CWSD is on pages 108-110 of the Board package.

- AB 19 would help us to change the date for our tentative budget hearing. The Legislature changed the tentative budget hearing date from the third Thursday or Friday of May to any time after the third Monday of May. Mr. James is proposing that they change it to the

second Monday which would consistently allow CWSD to include the tentative budget hearing in the May meeting when the final budget is approved without having a special Board meeting.

- AB 347 regarding drilling of conservation domestic wells died.
- AB 353 would require that professional services be awarded based on competitive bids. A lot of agencies have concerns about this. The bill moved forward but Mr. James hasn't seen the new language yet.
- AB 430, introduced by Robin Titus, to provide funding for clearing and snagging was approved unanimously by the Assembly Government Affairs Committee and forwarded to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.
- SB 28 to charge for public requests for extensive documentation died.
- SB 65 and SB 81 were made exempt from elimination to allow more time to work on the language.
- SB 277 to create a Nevada Environmental Policy Act died. Director Osborne commented that there may be more discussion in the next Legislative session.
- SB 423, a request for funding for cloud seeding, is moving forward.
- SB 476 for conservation districts assessment for noxious weeds was unanimously approved by the committee but requires a vote of the people before it can move forward.
- SB 173 regarding water rights for pit mines died.
- SB 202 regarding hydraulic fracking also died.

Director Osborne mentioned that Storey County was in opposition of AB 247, the Comstock Mine Bill to deregulate counties regulation of mining. It died in committee.

Mr. James will keep the Legislative Committee informed about activities. There was no public comment. *No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

#### Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the runoff predictions for 2015.

Mr. James reported that the Desert Research Institute (DRI) had a climate workshop last week which he attended. He showed maps which showed precipitation by month since October. The mean temperature from October 2014-March 2015 showed higher than usual and broke records. He also showed a graph of state-wide mean temperatures from October-September by year since 1980. SNOTEL readings showed 40% of the average precipitation in the area, but today we are at 2% on the Carson River watershed and at 0% at Lake Tahoe for snow water equivalent. The seven-day running average of streamflow shows record lows at the Carson City gage. CWSD has \$5,000 in an account for water conservation programs but the water purveyors have not requested funds from CWSD.

Director Abowd asked if DRI has looked beyond this season as to what is coming. Mr. James responded that DRI doesn't know. Thunder storms and fires tend to happen more in drought years so we may be looking at flooding in isolated areas.

There was no public comment. *No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

#### Item #17 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) The counties have been working hard to improve their community rating systems but insurance agencies aren't aware that Douglas County is doing this. We need to push education to let insurance companies know that flood insurance discounts are

available. 2) Staff has been scheduling summer meetings. May's meeting will be in Lyon County with a tour the Mark Twain sewer system infrastructure. June's meeting will be in Churchill County, preceded by a tour of Churchill Vineyard/Distillery. July's meeting will be in Alpine County with a tour of Leviathan Mine. The August meeting will be in Carson City preceded by a tour the Marlette East Slope Collection System. September or October will be in either Storey County with a tour of the new industrial park or in Douglas County with a tour to be determined. 3) Mr. James received a phone call about the possibility of CWSD upsizing a pipeline from Dayton to Stagecoach if it is installed in the next year or so. 4) Staff is putting a report together about water storage options. Mr. James has been reviewing old reports to determine why various options weren't pursued.

Director Penzel asked about the increased chance of flooding this year. He noted that thunder storms are because of temperature, air movement, and upper air movement. Could DRI look at these factors to predict flooding?

Ms. Hunt reported: 1) River Wranglers is looking for part-time assistant to help Linda Conlin with the Environmental Education Program; 2) The Floodplain Management Conference will be on April 22 at the Dayton Community Center. 3) Staff is well into planning for the "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour on June 9-10. 4) Farm Days in Carson City is on Friday, April 17, at Fuji Park.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

Correspondence – As included in the Board package and handed out.

#### Item #18 - Directors' Reports

Director Osborne reported that in Storey County the 5-mile reservoir is up and full; the new sewer system is up and running; and the county is looking at funding for the last portion of Marlette System which is to be completed in the next couple of years.

Director Rawson reported that the California government is cutting water use by 25% state-wide.

Director Bonkowski reported that he is going to South Africa.

Directors Roberts, Johnson, Jardine, Fierro, Erquiaga, Penzel, Abowd, and Lynn had nothing specific to report.

#### Item #19 - Public Comment. None

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Abowd made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary