

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
June 21, 2017, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Chairman  
Carl Erquiaga, Vice Chairman  
Ken Gray  
David Griffith  
Don Jardine, Treasurer  
Barry Penzel  
Chuck Roberts  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck  
Steve Thaler

Directors not present:

Brad Bonkowski  
Don Frensdorff  
Doug Johnson  
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative

Staff present:

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

Also present:

Kathy Canfield, Storey County  
Ryland Sweigard, Orange Tree Productions

Chairman Abowd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Lyon County Utilities, 34 Lakes Blvd, Dayton, 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 Abowd.

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

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2017 and May 17, 2017. *Director Stodieck made the motion to approve the minutes from the Board meetings on April 29, 2017, and May 17, 2017. The motion was seconded by Director Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment – None.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for May 2017.

Item #11 – Discussion for possible action regarding an update on meetings held with our federal governmental representatives regarding the proposed federal 2018 budget.

Item #12 – Discussion for possible action regarding COLA salary adjustment starting July 1, 2017.

Item #13 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the Agreement #2017-5 with River Wranglers for the Carson River Work Days and Vegetation Management Projects.

Item #14 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Agreement #2017-6 with Alpine Watershed Group to Help Fund the Upper Carson River Watershed Programs.

Item #15 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the Addendum to Interlocal Contract #2016-9 with Carson Valley Conservation District for Clearing and Snagging and Vegetation Management Along the Carson River through Carson Valley and Carson City.

Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the Third Addendum to Interlocal Contract #2014-8 with Dayton Valley Conservation District for Middle Carson River Clearing, Snagging, and Maintenance Projects.

Item #17 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2017-9 with Dayton Valley Conservation District for Noxious Weed Control in Storey County.

Item #18 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2017-10 with Lahontan Conservation District for Channel Clearing and Snagging Along the Carson River in Churchill County.

Item #19 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the 2017 Addendum to Interlocal Contract #2016-3 with Carson City for Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control Project.

Item #20 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of an Agreement #2017-11 with Sierra Nevada Journeys to Help Fund Four “Family Watershed Nights.”

Item #21 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2017-12 with Lyon County to Assist with the Cost of USGS Maintenance of the River Gauge in Dayton (#10311750).

Ed James requested that Item #10 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. *Director Schank made the motion to approve Items #8-9 & 11-21 of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

Item #10 – Discussion for possible action to award the contract to Michael Baker International to assist CWSD with the Carson River Watershed Discovery Report and Regional Floodplain Management Plan Updates. Mr. James explained that Director Griffith had some questions about the Client Agreement with Michael Baker beginning on page 50 of the Board package. Director Griffith questioned the need for the hazardous waste reference in Clause 13 of the agreement since this project will not have anything to do with hazardous waste. Geoff Brownell of Michael Baker International explained to Mr. James that this is a standard agreement and agreed to remove the hazardous waste reference from the agreement. Director Griffith also had a concern about the restriction to making public announcements in Clause #18, and Michael Brown has also agreed to eliminate the clause.

*Director Griffith made the motion to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement with Michael Baker International as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #22 – Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the June 6-7, 2017, “Get on the Bus” Watershed Tour. Brenda Hunt gave an overview presentation of this year’s watershed tour. (insert presentation).

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

Item #23 – Discussion for possible action regarding prioritizing future integrated watershed projects. Mr. James reviewed the exercise for the strategic planning at last month’s Board meeting. From the outcome of that exercise Mr. James developed a “Future Integrated Projects/Programs/Studies” sheet which was handed out for each Board member to mark up to eight priority choices. The choices will be tallied and the results will be used in developing the future five year budget. This information will be presented to the Finance Committee to review. After the proposed budget has been approved by the Finance Committee, this item will be presented to the full Board. This will give Mr. James a general idea of the Board’s direction.

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

Item #24 – Discussion for possible action regarding an update on repairs to the various diversions/grade control structures along the Carson River. Mr. James directed the Board’s attention to page 125 of the Board package. In the past two flooding events CWSD served as the coordinating agency for disbursement of FEMA flood repair funding for diversions/grade control structures along the Carson River. In the process of preparing to serve the watershed in that capacity again after the January and February 2017 flooding, CWSD learned that FEMA required that CWSD be legal responsibility for the structures. In May, Director Roberts joined Mr. James for a meeting with FEMA, State Lands, Emergency Management, and State Historic Preservation Organization (SHPO) representatives to determine whether repairs to the diversion/grade control structures would qualify under the FEMA program. It was determined that unless the State claimed ownership of the structures these repairs do not qualify for FEMA funding. Since State Lands does not claim ownership of the structures, Mr. James then looked into other funding sources. A meeting was arranged with representatives from State Lands, Natural Resource

Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD). At that meeting FSA agreed that the repairs to the structures could be covered under their Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) which could help pay for up to 75% of the repairs to the diversion structures. Though the due date to apply for ECP is May 31, 2017, FSA agreed to extend the program another 45 days to give ranchers time to assess the damages. Mr. James would like to set up a Regional Water system and Flood Committee to discuss whether CWSD wants to participate financially in the repairs.

Director Stodieck asked if Mr. James has talked with the Federal Court about participating in funding since they have authority over the Alpine Decree. George Benesch, CWSD's attorney, submitted that he did not think that the Federal Water Master provides funding to repair diversions. Mr. James explained that the State has agreed to streamline the permitting process. Director Schank asked whether FSA would cover modifications to the structures or if the structures had to be repaired only to their pre-flooding state. Mr. James responded that this funding is just for repairs.

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

Item #25 – Discussion for possible action regarding the 2002 voter-approved program to protect and preserve the natural resources in the State of Nevada, also known as Q1. Mr. James reported that he had contact with State Lands about the Question 1 (Q1) Program. A bill during the 2017 Legislative session extended the Q1 bonding to 2024. Funding under the Q1 Program requires a 50% match so some of the counties opted to seek other funding which required less match. There is about \$3.5 million remaining in the Q1 Project Fund for the Carson River Watershed; however, the Governor's budget didn't include any funding for Q1 projects in the Carson River Watershed. Funding may be available in 2019.

State Lands would like to have a priority list of projects to be done under Q1. Mr. James will be talking with the counties and conservation districts to develop a list which will be brought back to the CWSD Board. Mr. James will talk with the State Treasurer about what would need to be done to sell Q1 bonds.

Director Penzel asked if Q1 money can be used to repair the diversion structures. Mr. James responded that it possibly could, and he went over the criteria for using the funds listed on page 127 of the Board package:

- To acquire and develop land and water rights;
- To provide recreational facilities;
- To provide parking for and access to and along the Carson River; or
- To restore the Carson River corridor.

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

Item #26 – Discussion for possible action regarding applying for an AmeriCorps student through the Sierra Nevada Alliance Program. Mr. James explained that CWSD might be able to get an AmeriCorps student to help Brenda and Shane. The cost to CWSD for an AmeriCorps student is \$11,050 for a nine-month period. This expense would serve as a match for the Watershed Management Program grant.

*Director Schank made the motion to authorize staff to pursue an AmeriCorps employee. The motion was seconded by Director Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #27 – Discussion for possible action regarding pursuing NDEP grants to help fund the Integrated Watershed and Environmental Education Programs. Ms. Hunt explained that CWSD heard that the RFP for the Clean Water grants will be coming out in early July this year and NDEP is hoping to have the grants done by the end of August. NDEP does have 319 funding for this year but future funding is uncertain. CWSD needs to apply for the Watershed Management Program grant which is up in December 2017. The 2016 Environmental Education Program grant received funding only for this year and is expected to be out of money in June 2018. We need to apply for that grant now to prevent a lapse in the program.

*Director Erquiaga made the motion to authorize staff to submit proposals for grants from NDEP. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #28 – Discussion for possible action regarding a summary of the 2017 Legislative Session. Mr. James noted that a list of Legislative Bills which CWSD has been following is on page 133 of the Board package. He gave a summary of a few of them:

- AB 138 authorizing the de minimis collection of precipitation (rain barrels) was approved.
- AB 154 proposed to reduce the size of the project requiring payment of prevailing wage from \$250,000 to \$100,000. This would have been detrimental impact to the conservation districts because most of their projects are on a tight budget. That language was stricken from the bill so they do not have to pay prevailing wage on projects under \$250,000.
- SB 503 funded the State Clearing & Snagging Account in the amount of \$250,000. The first round of project applications must be submitted to State Lands by July 1, 2017. According to Statute, when the initial \$250,000 is gone, State Lands can go back to the Legislative Finance Committee to add more funding to the account. Director Schank asked if this funding can be used as match. Mr. James responded that it can match everything except State money.

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

#### Item #29 – Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported:

- His annual performance review is due and Mr. James requested that the Directors complete the review sheets and turn them in to Toni Leffler. When they have all been tallied, including those of the Directors not present at the meeting, Mr. James plans to meet with the Administrative Committee for discussion and bring the results back to the full Board in July.
- Mr. James is planning a river float from River Fork Ranch to Cradlebaugh Bridge to assess damage, possibly during the second week in July. Staff will inform the Board when the float has been scheduled in case anyone wants to go along.
- Assemblywoman Robin Titus would like to float Carson Canyon on July 7. Also, some ranchers are interested in floating the Dayton area of the river. He will inform the Board

when that is set up and encouraged Board members to join in whatever floats they would like.

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

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

Item #30 - Directors' Reports

Director Abowd thanked staff for arranging the field trip to Hungry Mother Aquaponic Greenhouse and dinner at 1<sup>st</sup> & 10 Bar and Grill in Dayton prior to the Board meeting.

Director Schank reported:

- AB 114 passed regarding funding for irrigation districts. This allows for fee increases based on an index instead of having to go back to the Legislature every time they need an increase.
- The Six-Mile Canyon gage has been under-reporting compared with the Deer Run and Ft. Churchill gages. Mr. James explained that the Six-Mile gage was installed to measure low flows when Dayton Utilities uses their induction wells.
- Three weeks ago, TCID used sandbags to close off the V-Line Spillway when the river died off. Tomorrow morning, they will remove those sandbags until July 5 to release 2,700 af of water from Lahontan Reservoir. They will put about 1,100 af out to spill and take some pressure off the Carson River. They should reach the top of the flashboards around July 16 or 17. A few years ago the BOR did a bathometric analysis of Lahontan Reservoir because they knew there was sediment.

Director Griffith suggested talking with Galvin Feiger of Alpine Watershed Group for a potential tour for our meeting in Alpine County. Mr. Feiger is setting up other tours for the Forest Service to view flood damage.

Director Abowd reported that Carson City and Douglas County have signed an agreement with the Town of Minden for water delivery through the Douglas/Carson City regional pipeline.

There were no other Directors' reports.

Item #31 - Public Comment. None.

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Schank made the motion to adjourn, second by Director Griffith.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary