

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 15, 2015, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman
Brad Bonkowski
Ray Fierro, Treasurer
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson
Greg Lynn, Chairman
Barry Penzel
Mary Rawson
Ernie Schank
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Carl Erquiaga
Don Frensdorff
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Chuck Roberts

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager
Edwin James, General Manager
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist
Courtney Walker, Watershed Program Specialist

Also present:

John Barr, AWG
Douglas Carey, Lahontan Water Quality Control Board (LWQCB)
Lynda Deschambault, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Sarah Green, AWG
Rit Palmer, Carson City Public Works
Yolanda Sanchez, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Hannah Schembri, LWQCB
Sophia Sertic, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Judy Wickwire, AWG

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Hwy. 89, Markleeville, CA. 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 Johnson.

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

Item #7 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2015. *Director Abowd made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on June 17, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Rawson and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for June 2015.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding the General Manager attending the Floodplain Management Association Conference on September 8-11, 2015.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of a five-year Lease Agreement with Carson City for the use of Mud Lake water.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of a Lease Agreement with Carson City for the use of Lost Lakes water.

Item #13 - Discussion and possible action regarding comments on the BLM Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment/Integrated Weed Management Plan.

Director Schank made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-13. The motion was seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #14 - Discussion and possible action regarding a presentation by EPA on the Leviathan Superfund Site. Mr. James thanked Mr. Carey, Ms. Schembri, Ms. Deschambault, Ms. Sanchez, and Dr. Serta for the great tour of Leviathan Mine. Ms. Deschambault responded by expressing her appreciation that the attendees were considerate and careful guests. She offered to send CWSD a copy of her PowerPoint presentation, as well as the video Dr. Sophia Serta provided. Ms. Hunt asked Ms. Dechambault to describe the time frame of the EPA Superfund process at Leviathan Mine for the board members who were unable to attend the tour. Ms. Dechambault explained the steps involved and that the next step to be completed was to finish the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) by 12/2017. From that point, it would be several more years until a record of decision would be determined.

Director Johnson asked Ms. Dechambault if it is true that the solution has been found and there's nothing more to be done except continue with the present program. Ms. Dechambault responded there are more solutions to be found and there is still work which can be done, but there are treatments available which may be more effective. She also noted that they are cleaning and testing the water and that it meets water standards before it is discharged. These comments being concluded, the matter was closed.

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

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation on Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) projects. Sarah Green introduced herself and explained that the mission of the Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) is “to preserve and enhance the natural system functions of Alpine County’s watersheds for future generations.” She mentioned that while Alpine County is the headwaters of five watersheds and AWG serves the entire county, it’s primarily work is in the Carson River watershed. She went on to describe how AWG’s main programs focus on three elements: 1) water monitoring; 2) watershed restoration; and 3) outreach and education. These elements serve to meet AWG’s goals to preserve and enhance Alpine County watersheds; to increase community awareness and participation in stewardship; and to build organizational capacity and plan for sustainability. Ms. Green elaborated on AWG’s water monitoring program. The program was started in 2004 with 28 volunteers for 19 monitoring sites; the monitoring is still going strong after 11 years and now monitors 32 sites. The testing includes ambient temperature, bacteria, bioassessment, and stream flow. The program depends fully on its volunteer involvement. Ms. Green next explained AWG restoration work components of invasive weed removal, willow planting, stream bank stabilization, and trash cleanup being done in the Markleeville Creek floodplain, Hope Valley Meadow, East Fork Carson River Riparian Area, Ace Hereford Ranch, and the roadsides throughout Alpine County.

Ms. Green further described the status of several projects:

- Markleeville Creek restoration: AWG is currently pursuing funding to pay for the \$2 million price tag to implement the design changes to the sight. She explained the price tag for this project has increased because of extensive work to move sewer lines and manholes.
- Hope Valley Meadows Restoration: Done in partnership with Sierra Alliance, AWG monitors and measures discharge.
- East Fork Carson River Riparian Restoration: This work addresses popular camping sites in the river corridor and is funded through the State Parks Green Sticker Grant. It also complies with USFS East Fork Carson River strategy. It’s goal is not to shut down access to river, but to protect the riparian corridor and enhance signage. AWG is currently looking to protect six specific sites.
- River and Ranches Program at Ace Hereford Ranch: This is a program funded through the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board (LWQCB) and Sierra Business Counsel to bring schoolchildren to the ranch and describe how it relates to the river.
- Fuels Reduction Work: AWG has secured funding to decrease fire fuels on roadsides.

The Outreach and Education portion of AWG currently depends on its AmeriCorps volunteer. Nicole Lutkemuller has been an awesome volunteer, but her time is up at the end of September. Therefore AWG is looking for another volunteer, and Ms. Green asked for the board to spread the word about their need for more applicants and gave the board members flyers announcing the job opening. She said having AmeriCorps volunteers has a been a helpful and positive experience and she plans to utilizing this great resource again next year. AWG attends community events to provide outreach materials to citizens, visitors, and students in Alpine County. This year, the entire Diamond Valley School visited the Ace Hereford Ranch where

various stations were set up to teach them about the watershed, river health, and ranching. She mentioned a new event, the Alpine Aspen Festival. The 2014 Alpine Festival, it's inaugural event, was conducted in 3" of fresh snow, but still had 365 participants, 24 activities, 48 volunteers with 500,000 reached about the event through radio, newspaper, websites, and such. She thanked CWSD for helping to fund this event. This year they also have funding from LWQCB, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, and Sierra Business Alliance. This year's event is scheduled for October 10 -11, 2015, and board members were given flyers and asked to help spread the word. She also mentioned they are looking for sponsors. Director Bonkowski asked what the cost of sponsorship, and Ms. Green responded there are several levels of sponsorship. She will email CWSD staff a sponsorship letter to forward to the board.

Ms. Green ended her presentation by thanking CWSD for supporting AWG through their funding and staff assistance over the past 10 years.

Director Lynn commented with the prediction of an upcoming record El Nino may mean the festival gets more snow than last year.

Director Johnson commented about off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and expressed his hope that the East Fork Carson River restoration would not be comprised of merely blocking access to the river. Ms. Green responded that the US Forest Service (USFS) and AWG are addressing the sensitivity of preserving campsites.

Ms. Wickwire asked Ms. Green to clarify how much money AWG got for the East Fork Carson River, and Ms. Green responded it was over \$116,000 to implement this project. Ms. Green said they have been successful getting funding, which has been helpful.

Director Lynn thanked Ms. Green for her presentation.

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

Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding the Watershed-Literacy Survey results. Ms. Hunt provided the Executive Summary of the Watershed Literacy Survey report to each board member. She described Responsive Management, the contractor who conducted the research, and went on to explain the methodology used for conducting the survey. The survey garnered 846 responses which correlates to the watershed's population with +/- 3 % points with a 95% confidence level. If board members want to see the entire report, she can provide it to board members. Ms. Hunt described some of the questions and the responses received. The survey provides a baseline by which to measure progress regarding education and outreach. The survey will be repeated in five years to measure progress. The next steps regarding the survey are to continue to analyze and cross tabulate the results.

Director Penzel noted that ethnographic research should include American Indians. Ms. Hunt commented that she agrees, but the timeline of the project did not provide sufficient time to effectively conduct tribal ethnographic research. Director Bonkowski asked if data was analyzed from a psychological point of view.

Director Schank commented that the focus of directed action as a result of this survey should be the core issue of keeping the river healthy regardless of whether we are in a drought or a flood. Director Abowd agreed that the core message needs to be take care of the river.

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

Item #17 - Discussion for possible action regarding the General Manager's annual review.

Director Schank asked Mr. James about the reduced evaluation ratings listed in the board package. Director Lynn explained how he appreciated that the board who comes in is taught by Mr. James and that he gave Mr. James an 18 rating for his outstanding work. Director Johnson expressed he appreciates that this board can get things done and how conflicts are addressed and dealt with in a positive manner.

Director Schank made the motion that the General Manager receive an outstanding review and the \$500 longevity award. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously passed by the Board.

Item #18 - Discussion for possible action regarding the water supply projections for this summer.

Mr. James explained that water was bumped up in the East Fork Carson River by recent storms but that the increase was not seen in the West Fork Carson River. He also noted the Carson gage also saw an increase in flow, but he was not sure if this was the result of rain or because Carson Valley agricultural producers were in the midst of haying and therefore not taking water. Higher flows at the Carson gage helps Carson City because pumping at the induction wells is reduced once the river goes below 8 cfs. He noted that Marlette Lake is being pumped; however, because the lake did not fill, there is not as much water available for Carson City and Storey County. Mr. James finished up his litany of bad news by explaining how the storage in Lahontan Reservoir is at historic lows.

Director Penzel asked about the forecast for the upcoming winter. Mr. James mentioned that the National Weather Service said it's expecting a strong El Nino; however, our area is on the cusp, so it can be a wet El Nino or dry El Nino for us.

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

Item #19 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported he had been meeting with water purveyors and their water supply is in pretty good shape in spite of the drought.

Ms. Hunt mentioned that the author of the book Deadbeat Dams will be speaking to the CRC in October 2015.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

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

Item #20 - Directors' Reports

Director Johnson mentioned that 167 homes in Douglas County were affected by flooding.

The rest of the directors had nothing specific to report but joined in thanking the staff for arranging the tour of the Leviathan Mine Super Fund Site and dinner at Wolf Creek Restaurant preceding the meeting.

Item #21 - Public Comment. None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Bonkowski made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Neddenriep
Clerk