



**Education Working Group
Monday, August 26, 2013
Meeting Notes**

Time: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Place: CWSD Offices, 777 E. William Street, Suite 110A, Carson City, NV
Contact: Linda Conlin 775-230-0633 or Brenda Hunt 775-887-9005

Attendees: Brenda Hunt (CWSD); Linda Conlin (River Wranglers); Mary Kay Wagner (NDEP); Leah Kniffen (DVCD); Kathi Lawrence (CWSD)

1. Welcome & introductions: Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting; Leah Kniffen (Shelly Hardy's replacement at Dayton Valley Conservation District) introduced herself to the group.
2. Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates
 - a. Children's Museum Update: Brenda has been trading emails with Lu Olsen of the Children's Museum, in order to schedule a meeting with her (***note later: Brenda and Courtney will be meeting with Lu on Thursday, August 29th***). Lu has reported that some rock work has been done, and has determined that there will not be enough room to display a kayak.
 - i. Mary Kay has updated the matching game and the puzzle. She has also had the circuit board repaired; a circuit breaker will now be tripped if the two leads are touched together. Mary Kay plans to overhaul the blocks by stripping them down and starting from scratch. Mary Kay has the old circuit board and wondered if it could be utilized in some way. Linda suggested a high school shop student could restore the board as a school project. **Linda will research this idea.**
 - ii. Linda has been researching her task of obtaining animal prints and scat. She has located a children's book with full-size animal prints. She has a list of various vendors for purchasing scat (approximately \$10 each); she now needs to know which scat to purchase, how much, and how it will be funded. Suggestions for type of scat included bear, jackrabbit, coyote, bobcat, and owl pellets. **Brenda will discuss with Lu.**
 - iii. The group discussed the turbidity display; all agreed that the display is too technical; a new display/activity needs to include a simple explanation of turbid water and must not leak! Linda suggested 3 clear containers of water (not glass) – 1 clear, 1 a bit turbid, and 1 very turbid. The containers could be loose so children can pick them up, shake them, and arrange in order from least turbid to most turbid. Perhaps the container lids could be Super-glued on to prevent leakage. **Everyone will be on the lookout for clear, unbreakable containers which would work well for this display** – suggestions: Sierra Trading Post, Big 5, CV Sports).

- b. Roundtable Survey Results: Brenda reviewed the survey results with the group. 13 out of approximately 38 people responded to the survey, which was emailed in May to all Roundtable attendees. The group needs to decide what should be the next step? All agreed that keeping this roundtable group of people connected is important. **This will be a future agenda item.**
- c. CWSD 319 Proposal: Brenda advised that CWSD will be submitting an application to NDEP for 319 grant funds to accomplish several tasks: (1) Conduct a baseline watershed-wide survey re watershed knowledge; (2) Obtain a part-time volunteer through Great Basin Institute's Americorp program – this person could spend some of their hours assisting Linda; (3) Update and reprinting of the watershed map; (4) Stewardship Pledge; and (5) Children's Museum display updates. Approximately \$33,000 in grant funds will be requested, to be matched by CWSD salaries and volunteer hours. The group had some discussion regarding the baseline survey. UNCE will be assisting with development of the survey questions. Surveys can be conducted in front of grocery stores and possibly door-to-door, by zip codes. Linda noted that Silver Springs residents tend to shop and get gas in Fernley. A school or Senior Center event in Silver Springs would reach a lot of people.
- d. DRI Green Box Update: Brenda, Linda, Margie and Mary Kay recently met with DRI to discuss the creation of green boxes. They discussed the possibility of creating as many as 5 different boxes, to be made available to educators statewide. The first topic will be a watershed unit for terminal watersheds in Nevada. Future boxes could include a history of the Carson River and invasive species, including both aquatic and weeds. Linda advised that her current history trunk includes a timeline which goes back to prehistoric times; however, it is mostly a passive activity and she would like it to evolve into an activity where groups of students work with different portions of the trunk, and then present that information back to the entire class. Margie, Mary Kay and Linda have already engaged in a brainstorming session regarding the creation of a watershed green box; **they will get together again to continue making plans.** Mary Kay discussed some 'discover watershed' activities she took part in recently at a Project WET conference she recently attended – **she will loan a copy of the activities to Linda.**
- e. Other:
 - i. Brenda: CWSD, as the watershed's Clean Water Act 208 Planning Agency, will be receiving approximately \$40,000 in funding for education and outreach. The funds may be used to encourage and promote the use of Low Impact Development (LID) practices to limit non-point source pollution impacts. Brenda has sent an email to various engineers throughout the watershed to assess each county's interest in working together to promote LID practices in their area. Some jurisdictions currently are required to do outreach and education as part of their MS4 permits, so this funding may be focused in areas that are not currently working under MS4 requirements.

- ii. Brenda: Nevada Water Association will be hosting its 2013 River Symposium November 5-7, 2013. Brenda plans to re-use the presentation from the Soil and Water Society; the abstract for this has been submitted and accepted. A suggestion was made to adapt this presentation for use in one of the educational green boxes. Also suggested was to have a green box on display at the symposium; however, it was agreed that there won't be a green box completed in time for display at his symposium.
 - iii. Brenda: USGS is currently updating the Carson River chronology on their website; the new version will be more interactive. Ed, Brenda and Debbie have viewed what's been updated so far, and gave their feedback and comments. Mary Kay commented that the Division of Water Resources needs to be a part of this update, as they created the previous version and maintain it on their website. USGS is also updating the history of the Humboldt, Walker and Truckee, with the goal of making them more user-friendly.
 - iv. Brenda: Ed and Brenda have recently made presentations to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and Carson City Board of Supervisors, to re-familiarize them with the CRC's vision statement, guiding principles, etc. These presentations have acted as a pre-cursor to presenting the Floodplain Management Plan Update to all of the county boards.
3. Harley Davidson Workday Planning (Linda/Margie): Harley Davidson employees are interested in participating in a volunteer work day; employees are granted 16 hours of paid volunteer time. They are celebrating the 110th anniversary of Harley Davidson; their goal is to provide 110 volunteer hours over a two-day period. Employees have been given 2 projects to choose from -- September 12th, from 8 AM to 12 Noon, will be a cleanup of the Lompa Lane wetlands and access areas. The second project, on September 13th will be decommissioning an old waterfall trail in Kings Canyon. The old trail is not safe and causes erosion due to scrambling. Also, a boy scout recently created a new trail, but it is getting limited use by hikers while the old trail still exists. Signage and a bench will be added. A morning shift and an afternoon shift will be offered. Carson City's work trailer will be used for both projects. The trailer contains gloves and necessary tools and supplies. On August 22nd Courtney, Linda and Margie visited with Harley Davidson employees during their lunch hours; they were very receptive and many people took sign-up sheets. Linda will get release forms; Harley Davidson will allow photos to be used for a Thank You collage, and perhaps they will allow photos to be published in The Flow newsletter (maybe identify the picture as "community volunteers" rather than "Harley Davidson employees", as they have expressed that they do not want public recognition). Courtney plans to help with the Lompa wetlands cleanup on the 12th; Brenda plans to join the group working on the Kings Canyon trail on the 13th. Mary Kay may be able to help on both days. It will be good to work alongside the employees and use the opportunity to inform them about watershed issues. A suggestion was made to provide tables with educational materials, possibly during their lunch break. Harley Davidson may be able to purchase the lunches, and it was suggested that perhaps they would like to sponsor the new bench for the waterfall trail.

4. Snap Shot Day Planning (Mary Kay): Mary Kay is gearing up for the 7th annual Snapshot Day, which is scheduled for Friday, October 18, 2013. She will be updating the flyers and contacting schools to line up volunteers. Linda advised that she already has many classes committed to assist at various locations; **she will email all of the information to Mary Kay.** The group discussed the scheduling of team leader training, and October 9th, from 3:00 to 5:00, was selected. An idea was floated to hold the team leader training at the river, and the group discussed various ideas. The training could take place at the Lloyd's Bridge site, utilizing the ramp area, a nature walk, and the overlook area. Team leaders could be divided into 3 groups, led by a trainer to each of the 3 areas. Water quality assessment could be taught at the ramp area and physical assessment could be taught at the overlook. Margie would be a great trainer for the nature walk portion. **Mary Kay will contact Margie, and will set up a meeting for the potential trainers to meet and plan out the October 9th training session. Leah volunteered to assist Mary Kay in recruiting resource professionals to act as team leaders.**
5. Project WET Conference – Share the knowledge (Mary Kay): Mary Kay recently attended an annual Project WET coordinators conference in downtown Denver; she shared with the group many photos of exhibits she enjoyed at the conference. She noted that in the Denver region, 80% of the people live on the east side of the mountain range, but 80% of the water is located on the west side, so both sides must work together. Mary Kay showed the group a wide variety of swag from the conference.
6. Other: Leah advised that Rich (DVCD) is planning a weed workshop for landowners sometime this fall.
7. Set date for next meeting: **September 25, 2013 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM**