



River Corridor Working Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 11, 2013
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: CWSD Conference Room

Contact: Brenda Hunt, 887-9005

Attendees: Duane Petite (TNC); Courtney Walker (CWSD); Jenna Damon (NDWR); Rob Palmer (NDWR); Terri Pereira (Churchill County); Jean Stone (NDEP); Ed James (CWSD); Robb Fellows (Carson City Public Works); Kathi Lawrence (CWSD); Brenda Hunt (CWSD); Dan Greytak (Washoe Tribe Environmental Protection Department); John Cobourn (UNCE); Mary Kay Wagner (NDEP); On Phone: Eric Simmons (FEMA) and Rich Wilkinson (DVCD)

1. Welcome and Introductions: Brenda welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room, including Eric Simmons and Rich Wilkinson attending via telephone. Rob Palmer introduced himself as the new Floodplain Manager at the Nevada Division of Water Resources.
2. Announcements:
 - a. Brenda – The employees of Harley Davidson Financial are planning two workdays involving the Lompa Lane wetlands and Kings Canyon waterfall trail and erosion control work. The workdays originally scheduled for September 5th and 6th are being rescheduled to sometime in October, due to possible poor air quality (smoke from the Rim Fire).
 - b. Brenda - Three events are planned for Saturday, September 21st: Carson City and Kiwanis Club are hosting a river cleanup event; Markleeville Creek Day in Alpine County, Markleeville, CA; and the Green Living Festival at River Fork Ranch. Duane commented that this will be the 7th annual festival, showcasing sustainable and green living. Festival attendance is free; there will be activities for kids and adults, demonstrations, booths, as well as a workday involving Harrah's employees.
 - c. Mary Kay – The 8th Annual Carson River Snapshot Day will take place on Friday, October 18th. Student volunteers from various

schools throughout the watershed (5th grade through high school) will be assigned to one of eleven monitoring sites to conduct water sampling and field studies. Each site will have at least 2 adult resource professionals to mentor the student groups, including discussion of non-point source pollution prevention. Some of the sites will require more than 2 adult mentors, such as River Fork Ranch (approximately 60 students) and Ft. Churchill (possibly 120 students). A training session for the adult leaders is set for Wednesday, October 9th, from 3:00 to 5:00 at Carson River Park near Lloyd's Bridge.

Brenda will be forwarding the Snapshot Day flyer in a CRC email later today.

- d. Mary Kay – On Saturday, September 28th there will be a Project WET/Learning Tree professional development workshop for educators. The workshop will take place at River Fork Ranch from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Participants can earn .5 continuing education credits. Facilitators will include Linda Conlin (River Wranglers), Duane Petite (The Nature Conservancy) and Laurie Grey (Sierra Nevada Journeys). **Brenda will be forwarding the workshop flyer in a CRC email later today.**
- e. Brenda – November 5-7, 2013 Nevada Water Resources Association will be hosting a Terminal River symposium. The presentation given by Brenda, Steve Lewis, John Cobourn, Dominique Etchegoyhen and Mitch Blum at the Soil and Water Symposium in July will be recycled and presented at this symposium.
- f. Brenda shared information regarding an upcoming series of 3 FEMA webinars focused on the topic of community resilience. This Community Resilience Toolbox training series will be presented as follows: Session 1, *Leveraging Public and Community Data to Assess Local Flood Risk*, Thursday, September 26, 9:00 AM; Session 2, *Low Investment Strategies for Flood Risk Communication*, Thursday, October 3, 9:00 AM; and Session 3, *Reducing Flood Risk Through Mitigation Strategies*, Wednesday, October 9, 9:00 AM. **Brenda will email detailed information to the group.**
- g. Jean – The submittal period for 319 grant applications closed on Friday, September 6th; NDEP received 19 submittals.

- 3. Nevada's Coordinated Needs Management Strategy database update (Jenna Damon): Jenna has been working on a portfolio mapping project which shows flood data in Nevada, past floods and where it floods. The next step in the project is to meet with individual communities to review recent changes, such as

added culverts. The updated information will then be sent to FEMA in order to update their database and make it more accurate. Jenna has set up meetings with Carson City and Douglas County for them to mark their community's information on the maps. Robb commented that the ability to mark up a .pdf version on his computer would work well for him. FEMA has a Coordinating Needs Management (CNMA) protocol to determine when maps need to be updated. Brenda advised Jenna that her Douglas County contacts are Mimi Moss and Eric Nilssen.

4. Update on Floodplain Management Plan Review (Brenda): Brenda thanked everyone for their input and assistance in completing the Floodplain Management Plan update. The CWSD Board approved the update on August 22 and the Douglas County Board adopted the update on September 5, 2013. Ed and Brenda will be presenting the update for adoption as follows: Alpine County, October 1 (revised to Oct. 15); Lyon County, October 3; Churchill County, October 16; and Carson City, October 17. Also, the entire plan plus the update will be presented to Storey County, as an informational item only, on September 17. A suggestion was made that in the future the group begin working on the 5-year update at the 3-year mark, in order to allow enough time for the updating process.
5. Update on CWSD's 208 Plan funding/planning efforts (Brenda/Ed): CWSD is the designated planning entity for the NDEP Clean Water Act Section 208 Plan. Funding in the amount of \$40,000 will soon be made available to CWSD for planning activities. Brenda and Ed shared with the group a Draft Scope of Work for promoting Low Impact Development (LID) use in the Carson River Watershed, including planning, outreach and education. A consultant will be hired to handle a good portion of the tasks. Ed and Brenda recently met with Lynell Garfield, a hydrologist with the City of Reno. Reno already falls under MS4 requirements to implement some of these practices. This proposal will be geared toward staying ahead of the curve and helping areas who do not currently fall under MS4 requirements to implement LID practices. Target audiences include county staff (planners, building departments and engineers) as well as local building communities (developers and landscapers). Staff and our consultants will meet with County staff to review current LID promotion efforts including any ordinance language. Consistent methods for promoting LID in the Watershed will be identified and molded to meet County needs. This planning exercise will provide information to the Counties. The Counties will make the ultimate decision as to whether to utilize the information or adopt the suggested practices. There was discussion regarding whether or not agricultural landowners

should be included in the target audiences; it was agreed that a plan needs to be in place before approaching the agricultural community with this, but it is a good audience to be thinking about for a future project.

- a. View Mouth of the River PSA – City of Reno: The group viewed a City of Reno PSA which uses art to connect citizens with the importance of keeping the river clean – ‘only rain in the storm drain!’ The artwork appears on the sidewalk on Riverwalk and on Riverside Drive. The message is clear and repeated in several ways throughout the PSA. Ideas were discussed regarding how to incorporate this idea locally. The type of “water creature” to paint would need to be decided, something fun to draw attention to the message. A contest could be held to gather suggestions as to where would be the best places to paint messages; however, contests can get complicated and labor-intensive. Storm drains at schools and at the Farmers Market were both suggested. Local community artists could be located through the Nevada Arts Council and Brewery Arts Center.
- b. View City of Reno’s Low Impact Development Guidelines: Brenda circulated binders for the group to review, showing LID guidelines which already exist in the City of Reno.

6. Member reports/updates on suggested actions

- a. Update on SA-14 + MAS projects including MAS 4 (Ed/Mitch/Brenda): MAS 1 involves new floodplain mapping in Lyon County; MAS 2 involves Carson City; and MAS 3 involves Douglas County/Carson Valley. New maps will show existing floodplain and 500-year floodplain. The red lines show the existing floodplain, while the shaded area shows the new proposed floodplain, as well as floodways. The floodway is very similar to the 100-year floodplain. The floodway has been calculated based on a .7 foot rise in Carson City and a .5 foot rise in Douglas County (FEMA’s standard is a 1 foot rise – communities are free to choose a lower foot rise, resulting in a wider floodway). HDR is currently finishing up and will soon be submitting to FEMA for the Lyon County and Carson City MAS 1 & 2. After it is registered and advertised, a 90-day review period will begin. MAS 4 funding has been granted; this phase will take the modeling information and put it into a mapping process. A portion of the MAS 4 funding is for outreach and education; a program will be developed

for this portion. A protocol will be developed for periodically updating the model. Assistance will be given to the counties to encourage a consistent approach to implementation. Some counties may need ordinance changes. The final product will be a detailed flood map from Alpine County to Lyon County, then an approximate map from Lyon County to Churchill. A suggestion was made to add a few landmarks/identifying features to the map.

- b. Progress on SA-7 Retention of floodplain lands for flood storage (mapping acreage) (John): John read aloud to the group the wording of Suggested Action #7 of the Floodplain Management Plan regarding retention of lands as open space. He indicated that it would be beneficial to have some type of 'report card' to track progress of this item. John and Steve Lewis (UNCE) have been working with Eric Schmidt, Douglas County GIS Department, to develop a map showing the floodplain, the extent of the '97 flood, and highlighting which lands are protected as open space. A calculation can be made as to what percentage of the floodplain has been protected. The purpose of this map will be to show the general public which lands have been designated permanent open space within the floodplain; identify what is not yet protected and find the gaps; and then 5 years down the road, show how much more land has been protected. This is a work-in-progress; they need to work with county floodplain managers regarding boundaries, inclusion of alluvial fans and tributaries, etc. John will be asking the RCWG members to review the map and offer comments and suggestions. The final product will be 2 maps, one for the general public and a more detailed, GIS online version to be used as a tool by staff. The group noted that from county to county there are differences in the use of acronyms and terminology. Should areas only be counted as 'open space' if there is a recorded easement? For example, many developments have open space areas and restrictions specified as part of their overall building plan/PUD, but this would not necessarily show up as a recorded 'easement'. **John hopes to have a preliminary map to share with the group at the next RCWG meeting.**

7. Discussion regarding floodway vs. potential river meander zones (John C./Brenda/Jean): John questioned whether or not designating the floodway will provide protection for river meander zones? He also questioned what other

mechanisms should be considered in regard to meander, noting that the Floodplain Management Plan embraces a living river concept. If the designated floodway will not necessarily accommodate the meander belt width, should there be ordinances to enforce setbacks from the floodway? The group discussed the topic and noted that in Carson Valley there may be a very wide floodway, due to the .5 foot rise requirement, so this may be a moot point in that area. Many agreed that county officials will probably not be willing to regulate over and above the new floodway once mapped. Many also expressed that until the mapping is finished and we see the resulting floodway, it will be difficult to determine if there are critical areas unprotected. Everyone agreed that the floodplain protection will be significantly improved through the MAS projects and the determination of a floodway.

8. Other: Rich described details of the 319 grant application which he submitted. He has applied for funding to conduct a Middle Carson River mapping assessment project which will look at existing projects in that area and determine a) are they functioning as intended; b) if not, are there any negative impacts upstream and downstream; and c) identify needed modifications to restoration projects. He would also like to create some criteria as to how to evaluate if a project is functioning well, and when it needs maintenance. CRC assistance will be requested. Rich feels the Middle Carson River is a good reach to study, as there are more than 40 projects involved. Jean and Mary Kay indicated that 319 funding decisions should occur in October or November. **If Rich is receives a 319 grant award, he will make a presentation at a future RCWG meeting.** A field trip was suggested.
9. Schedule Next Meeting: **Brenda will send out a Doodle Poll to select a meeting date of sometime in November.**