

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 16, 2015, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman  
Brad Bonkowski  
Carl Erquiaga  
Ray Fierro, Treasurer  
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative  
Barry Penzel  
Mary Rawson  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff  
Don Jardine  
Doug Johnson  
Greg Lynn, Chairman  
Chuck Roberts

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board

Also present:

David Griffith

In Chairman Lynn's absence, Vice Chairman Abowd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the McCarran Government Building in McCarran, 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 lead by Director Bonkowski.

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

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2015. *Director Erquiaga made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on August 19, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. None

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for August 2015.

*Director Stodieck made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-9. The motion was seconded by Director Rawson and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Dave Griffith on biomass-to-bioenergy in Alpine County. David Griffith introduced himself and explained that since 1940 there has been an increase in forested acreage burned. He became interested in the possibility of improving forest and watershed health with biomass-to-bioenergy when he realized that it is now accepted that a forest that is left to manage itself is not a healthy forest. Fuels reduction by thinning the forest would help create a healthier forest. He suggested that the forest can, at least in part, pay for its own improvement through fuels reduction and forest thinning. Mr. Griffith asked the Board for a letter to Alpine County in support of a feasibility study of a biomass-to-bioenergy facility in Alpine County.

The suggestions from our Board included:

- contacting Fulcrum Sierra, a bio-energy company located at Tahoe Reno Industrial Center;
- asking UC Davis about their studies in bio-energy; and
- asking Northern Nevada Development Authority (NNDA) for the study that biomass companies did for them.

*Director Fierro made a motion to instruct staff to send a letter to Alpine County in support of a feasibility study of a biomass-to-bioenergy facility in Alpine County. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the FEMA MAS #3, #4, #5, and #6 projects. Ed James explained that MAS stands for Mapping Activity Statement through a Cooperating Technical Partnership (CTP) between CWSD and FEMA. CWSD has been receiving funding to conduct projects identified in the Regional Floodplain Plan. MAS #1-2 modeled the Carson River corridor through Lyon County and Carson City. MAS #3 is developing a floodplain model of the Carson River corridor through Carson Valley. MAS #4 focuses on creating a floodplain map of Carson Valley and includes community engagement and outreach which involves flood awareness and workshops to the counties. It also includes technical assistance to develop a procedure and protocol for updating the model, as well as review and update of floodplain ordinances and mitigation alternatives, all schedule for completion by 6/30/16.

Director Penzel brought up the need to model alluvial fan areas. Mr. James explained that the modeling of the Carson River is based on historic streamflow data, but alluvial fan modeling will have to be based on precipitation data. Director Penzel noted that there are times when both

river and alluvial fan flood events could be energized at the same time. Mr. James pointed out that the main flooding on the Carson River comes from the upper watershed from rain-on-snow events. This has to be modeled differently than alluvial fan flooding, and we are planning on doing alluvial fan flooding in the future. Our model is state-of-the-art and more accurate than old modeling/mapping. Director Penzel noted that the issue is that in the arroyos of the West are different than the flooding on the East coast, which tends to be gentle rain over multiple days versus the micro bursts we get in the West. If alluvial flooding reaches the river and we don't have appropriate flood controls, we will have more trouble with the EPA for what is going into the river. Mr. James noted that we had to start with mapping the river floodplain. A 100-yr event is only a FEMA pertinent term for flood insurance. For floodplain planning, we need to look at more frequent events. He explained about how the Santa Maria Ranch project changed the dynamics of the river downstream.

Director Penzel asked where the responsibility will lie for the flooding which starts on the BLM land. It's one thing to have the data with no control over what happens above us, so BLM has to be energized to act. Director Abowd noted that the BLM Resource Management Plan which was recently open for comment addressed the land that Director Penzel is talking about, so BLM is trying to take responsibility. Mr. James noted that a riverine flooding event looks different than alluvial fan flooding. Director Penzel contended that alluvial fan flooding is a greater threat than riverine flooding. The Stewardship Plan of 2008 which was adopted by all the counties discourages construction in the floodplain to allow for flood water spread. Director Osborne noted that you can't prevent flooding but can discourage building in the floodplain to limit damage. Director Penzel mentioned there's a need to manage flooding to protect those already built there. Part is public education and part is the county's responsibility to protect county residents. Director Osborne pointed out that CWSD creates a plan and then it's up to the leadership of all the counties to use that plan when considering zoning, etc. Mr. James mentioned that updating floodplain ordinances and mitigation alternatives is one of the next steps in MAS #4. We are trying to develop the best information to update the old flood maps so that we have better data and continuity to make decisions upon.

Mr. James mentioned that when consulting firms were interviewed recently for reviewing floodplain ordinances, the counties wanted to consultants to come to the counties to present, but that can't be done before the completion end date of 6/30/16. Therefore, we are looking at modifying what the consultant will do under MAS #4.

Mr. James went over the projects/studies which are being done under MAS #5. These include the Smelter Creek Regional Flood Control Project, the Alpine Estates Drainage Study, the Eagle Valley Golf Course Drainage Study, Flooding Project Alternatives below Lahontan Reservoir, inundation flood maps, and public outreach. Inundation maps can be used for emergency management up to a 500-yr event. Director Bonkowski asked if the model takes into account debris from a flood. Mr. James responded that it does not but it is the best we can predict.

The grant proposal for MAS #6 was just submitted and is expected to be approved. It will include the Stephanie Lane Drainage Study, the Goni Creek Drainage Study, the Ramsey Drainage Study, inundation flood maps for Carson City, and public outreach videos.

Director Schank pointed out that we have to continually keep flood, drought, and the various issues before the public whether it is happening currently or not because when it is not happening

people forget. Director Penzel noted that if people see the county doing something as opposed to reviewing a plan, they feel we are doing our public duty.

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

Item 12 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval for Board members and staff to attend the 2015 NWRA Fall Symposium in Reno on October 19-20, 2015. Mr. James explained that on pages 66-67 of the Board package is an outline of the schedule for the NWRA Fall Symposium. It will provide good information about the various watersheds. Director Rawson mentioned that she would like to go the second day.

*Director Schank made motion to approve the Board members and staff to attend the 2015 NWRA Fall Symposium in Reno on October 19-20, 2015. Director Penzel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #13 - Discussion and possible action regarding an overview of the 2015 water year. Mr. James explained his comparison of streamflows at the East Fork Carson River, West Fork Carson River, Carson City, and Ft. Churchill gages in 1977 compared with 2015 which showed that 1977 was much drier. We recorded almost twice the precipitation in 2015 than in 1977. At the Reno Airport a temperature chart showed that the weather has become hotter year since 1930. The amount of precipitation received this year is a little below average precipitation but the snowfall was much less which was driven by how warm the storms were. El Nino is showing a lot of precipitation but a warmer than average temperature. We can get a lot of rain but still be out of water by summertime if we don't get enough snow. Mr. James explained that he participated in the "Water for the Seasons" study meeting at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) yesterday.

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

#### Item #14 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported:

- He attended the Floodplain Managers Association Conference last week. Flood insurance is changing so some areas may save money if they get flood insurance before the new flood maps are approved.
- Mr. James is going to every county giving a presentation about what's going on in the watershed. So far his presentation has been well received.

Brenda Hunt mentioned events which are coming up, including:

- Carson City Open Space Tour on October 6, funded through the 319 program. She encouraged sign up.
- Aspen Festival in Hope Valley - October 10-11.
- Celebration of the Silver Saddle Ranch land transfer from BLM to Carson City - September 26.
- River Wranglers' celebration and membership drive at Dayton State Park - September 27.
- Kiwanis Club's Carson River Clean Up on September 26.

Legal - Mr. Benesch had nothing in particular to report.

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

Item #15 - Directors' Reports

Director Abowd thanked Director Osborne and CWSD staff for arranging the tour of the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center and dinner at the Wild Horse preceding the meeting. She also suggested sending Lance Gilman a thank you card for visiting with the group and providing dinner.

Director Osborne thanked the group for coming out to see what Storey County has to offer.

Director Fierro mentioned that Dayton Valley Days are September 19-20.

Directors Bonkowski, Stodieck, Penzel, Erquiaga, Schank, and Rawson had nothing specific to report.

Item #16 - Public Comment. None

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Schank made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Rawson and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary