

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 21, 2016, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman
Brad Bonkowski
Carl Erquiaga
Ray Fierro, Treasurer
Doug Johnson
Greg Lynn, Chairman
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative
Barry Penzel
Chuck Roberts
Ernie Schank
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Mary Rawson

Staff present:

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

Also present:

Merrie Benesch, private citizen
Mitch Blum, HDR
Carmen Schank, private citizen

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at the Storey County Courthouse, 26 South "B" Street, Virginia City, 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 Penzel.

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

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2016. *Director Penzel made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on August 17, 2016. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and approved by the Board, with Director Bonkowski abstaining for not having been at that meeting.*

Item #7 - Public Comment – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for August 2016. -

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for August 2016.

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

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

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation on the Spanish version of the Watershed Map. - Brenda Hunt explained that the new watershed map Spanish version just came out last Friday. The need for the Spanish watershed map was based on our watershed-wide survey and focused research with the Latino community done by a Northern Arizona University graduate student, Melissa Shaw, determined that the Latino community didn't know a lot about the watershed but wanted to know more and asked that the map be translated. This map version was created with Clean Water Act Section 319 grant funding. International Professional Development Services, a translation service, did the translation which was proofed by Spanish-speaking members of the public and determined to be technically correct from a water resources perspective by Alex Lanza at NDEP. Other partners included the Latino Community Center in Carson City. We printed 5,000 maps. The next step to distribute at least 1,600 out to the community over a period of grant. We are also planning to place an online Spanish version of watershed map on the CWSD website. Ideas for distribution of copies include the Visitor's Bureau, libraries, the Latino Community Center, ESL class teachers, and Linda Conlin for use at the Environmental Education Program events. Funding for the next steps has been requested in the most recent 319 grant proposal.

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

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation on the Carson Valley Flood Maps by Mitch Blum of HDR, Inc. - Mr. James introduced Mitch Blum of HDR, Inc. who has been working on the floodplain modeling/mapping program since the beginning. Mr. Blum explained that the maps created through the modeling program are in review by the counties before they go to FEMA.

Mr. Blum explained that his presentation would cover model extents, mapping (extensive, proposed floodplain & floodway), mapping challenges (floodway, shallow flooding, dry islands), and moving forward.

Model extent: The study area for MAS 4 included Douglas County and a little of Alpine County, limited to West Fork coverage). For this area HDR used one- and two-dimensional models which is a more complicated process than the modeling done in Lyon County and Carson City. The existing mapping includes flood hazard areas:

- Zone A which is 1% annual chance flooding approximate with no base flood elevations;
- Zone AE which is 1% annual chance flooding detailed with base flood elevations established;

- Zone AE which is the floodway;
- Zone AH which is 1% annual chance flooding by ponding with average depths of 1'-3'; and
- Zone AO which is 1% annual chance of flooding by flow with average depths of 1'-3'.

Mapping challenges included:

- The floodway mapping process was developed for 1D models considering equal conveyance encroachment, and single stream channel. The complexity of the hydrodynamics for Carson Valley makes it difficult to define a continuous floodway.
- Shallow flooding with low volume/depth. The shaded Zone X designates a moderate flood hazard with 1% annual chance, average depths of less than 1', isolated flow, backwater, and breakout flows.
- Islands of high ground. Previous home elevations above the floodway water surface will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Douglas County has chosen to leave the central area out of the mapping because there is too much diversification, and they will look at each area on an individual basis. When someone wishes to build, their property information will be put into the model to determine their impact from building. Douglas County will have to keep track of all development for cumulative rise.

Moving forward: Mapping refinements will evaluate areas of Shaded X or less than 1 ft/s velocity.

Director Stodieck brought up changes which Douglas County is considering south of the high school on Hwy. 88 and asked if those changes would impact the existing floodway. Mr. Blum acknowledged that those changes will change the floodway, and if they are made after this mapping project is completed and submitted to FEMA, Douglas County will have to request a FEMA map revision.

Mr. James stressed that there are FEMA rules to follow, but we want to have the modeling/mapping to be as accurate as possible before submitting it to FEMA. He would like direction regarding whose staff he should meet with to show them the new proposed flood maps. Director Lynn warned that we don't want to overwhelm people with information since stormwater is also being addressed right now. Director Penzel suggested talking with Senator Settlemeyer and the two ag groups in Carson Valley, as well as with Indian Hills GID.

There was a discussion about how Johnson Lane residents were flooded because of stormwater not river flooding. Their area gets a different kind of flooding accompanying isolated storm events. Director Schank suggested using Facebook to disseminate information. We need to finalize this information by the end of the year before submitting it to FEMA, but FEMA's process may take a couple of years before their maps change.

Director Fierro asked whether the study averages the parcel or just the structure. If the structure is elevated, the Flood Insurance rate is reduced. Having a base flood elevation on the parcel gives more specific information for rating insurance than previously. The old process is that a community would request a new FEMA map and FEMA could hire a consultant from somewhere other than the community. Mr. James noted that after the mapping is done letters can be sent to parcel owners who will be impacted. Director Penzel asked if Mr. James has talked with Larry Werner, acting Douglas County Manager, about how to proceed. Mr. James responded that he has not yet, but he will contact Mr. Werner.

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

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation on the Carson River Flood Inundation Maps by Mitch Blum of HDR, Inc. - Mitch Blum of HDR, Inc. explained that in addition to remapping the 100-yr floodplains for Lyon County, Carson City, and Douglas County, HDR is doing flood hazard warning maps for these counties. They won't be regulatory or sent to FEMA; they will only be used as a flood hazard service for the community.

The National Weather Service will use the floodplain maps from the Carson City stream gage to the Dear Run Road stream gage and put them on their website. CWSD will put the interactive map on their website also. HDR is still working on the maps for the Douglas and Lyon County areas.

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

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation on the On-Line version of the Watershed Map. - Shane Fryer explained that CWSD's website is built on a Word-Press platform. Our previous web app was based on an asp that's now incompatible with recent updates to Word Press. As part of the project a contractor, RDM Infinity, helped integrate a new WordPress web-plugin into CWSD's site. The new plugin now allows staff to populate the interactive watershed map on the CWSD website, which is quickly becoming an encyclopedia of the Carson River Watershed. The map now including links to articles and videos. Mr. Fryer hopes to have it finished in about a month.

The next steps include helping EE partners develop a curriculum for schools for fifth grade and up. We have also requested funding through then most recent Watershed Literacy 319 grant to develop a Spanish translation as well.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on BLM and NFWF Weed Grants. - Mr. Fryer explained that for years there has been criticisms from the Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) about BLM's ability to control noxious weeds on their land, making it difficult for CWMAs to control weeds on adjacent land. In order the bridge this impasse CWSD has recently applied for and received a challenge cost share grant from BLM to fund and allow partnering CWMAs to work on BLM lands. In 2015, CWSD leveraged our Weed Abatement Program funding to match the BLM grant. As part of working on BLM land the CWMAs will have to complete an after-action report within 24 hours of treatment.

Director Osborne noted that this will really help in weed management. Mr. Fryer mentioned that he is accumulating information on county funding of weed management programs to hopefully utilize as future match. CWSD staff time to manage the grant is covered by the grant, so it isn't costing CWSD additional funds. BLM may match up to \$125,000 for 2017.

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

Item #15 – Discussion for possible action regarding the Nevada Water Resource Association (NWRA) Fall 2016 History of Water in Nevada Event on October 24-25, 2016, in Reno. Mr. James explained that he did not go to the Floodplain Management Association flood conference this year

since many of the people he wanted to connect with there were coming here for this event. Therefore, there is funding available if any of the Board members would like to attend the NWRA Fall 2016 Event. They only need to let staff know and CWSD will submit their registration and cover the cost.

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

Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported:

- Our audit is started even though we weren't expecting it until next month.
- CWSD was awarded \$417,000 for FEMA MAS #7 grant funding which will include the following projects: Voltaire Canyon, Douglas County Master Plan Update, outreach for Flood Awareness, and updating the Regional Floodplain Management Plan.
- Director Abowd asked Mr. James about the outcome of the Legislative Water Committee meeting. Mr. James gave a report and handed out a list of the eight BDRs that came out that discussion.

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

Correspondence - As handed out at the meeting.

Item #17 - Directors' Reports

Director Schank reported that irrigation from Lahontan Reservoir was turned off yesterday. It is down to a minimum pool of 4,000 af.

Director Fierro complimented Mr. James on his presentations to the Lyon County Board of Commissioners on a comparison of the 2015 and 2016 water years and on the Nevada Legislative Water Committee meeting.

Director Osborne:

- Thanked Mr. James for coming to Storey County Board of Commissioners (BOC) meeting to answer questions about the issue of domestic wells.
- Noted that the BOC is expected to approve Storey County joining the FEMA Watershed Charter at their meeting on October 4.
- He gave a history of the Historic Storey County Jail where our meeting was held. Director Osborne explained that the jail was part of the Courthouse since it was built in 1875 and the jail stayed in service until 1989. For a short period of time it served as the office of the Police Dept. The "Courthouse Slammer" is now a museum and a venue for public use.

Director Bonkowski reported that Carson City voted against the water rate increase from the Douglas County intertie agreement and declared Town of Minden in breach of agreement, requesting mediation. The delivery of water will continue through the intertie during mediation. Carson City wishes to stay on friendly terms with its neighboring county and the intent of the suit is to have more input into the rating system for all parties.

Director Lynn thanked staff for arranging dinner at Café del Rio and Director Osborne for arranging for the tour of the Divide Reservoir and the new Virginia City wastewater treatment plant previous to the meeting, as well as hosting the meeting in Storey County's Historic Jail.

None of the other directors had anything specific to report.

Item #18 - Public Comment. None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Schank made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Penzel. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary