



Carson River Coalition

Meeting Notes

Monday, May 13, 2013

9AM — 12PM

Location: Sierra Room, Carson City Community Center, 851 E. William St., Carson City

Contact: Brenda Hunt, 775.887.9005 or brenda@cwsd.org

Attendees: Brenda Hunt (CWSD); Ed James (CWSD); Sarah Green (Alpine Watershed Group); Spencer Rubin (Alpine Watershed Group); Jean Stone (NDEP); Linda Conlin (River Wranglers); Brian Peters (Alpine County); Duane Petite (The Nature Conservancy); Stephanie Wilson (US EPA); John Cobourn (UNCE); John Warpeha (Washoe Tribes Environmental); Ann Bollinger (Carson City Parks and Open Space); Robb Fellows (Carson City Public Works); Dominique Etchegoyhen (Legacy Land and Water); Jeff Collins (NDEP-BCA); Margie Evans (UNCE/CC Weed Coalition); Randy Pahl (NDEP); Stephanie Hicks (R.O. Anderson); Dave Berger (USGS); JoAnne Skelly (UNCE)

1. Welcome, Meeting Overview and CRC Announcements (*Brenda Hunt*):
 - a. Brenda welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the agenda.
 - b. CWSD has been experiencing some technical difficulties with outgoing emails; Brenda asked the group if they have been receiving her recent emails. Some group members have had trouble receiving Brenda's emails, and they shared specifics with Brenda. CWSD will have a new "E-blast" system up and running in the near future, which should resolve all email problems.
 - c. Brenda is in the process of updating the Stewardship Plan.
 - d. Brenda is also in the process of updating the Floodplain Management Plan. Both Carson City and Douglas County need the plan update to be completed by October in connection with their participation in the FEMA community rating system, which helps to lower their flood insurance premiums. In order to meet the October deadline, Brenda may do a brief update initially, going back later to complete a more thorough update.
 - e. CWSD has hired a part-time Watershed Assistant. Courtney Walker is currently employed by TRPA in their BMP program. She will be starting her new position with CWSD in the next few weeks.

- f. The counties throughout the watershed and some federal agencies have recently worked through the FEMA discovery process, cumulating in a Discovery Report, dated December 14, 2012. The discovery process is required in order to receive FEMA funding. The process looks at projects each entity would like to see happen, from a flood management perspective. The Discovery Report can be found on the CWSD website.
- g. Ed James and Debbie Neddenriep of CWSD are currently drafting a report which reviews water supply and demand.
- h. The Bureau of Reclamation is interested in performing a basin study. They have identified that they are missing surface water data; they will need to pursue that before continuing with a basin study. Brenda noted that Colorado has recently completed a basin study; the gentleman who completed that study has volunteered to present to the CRC.
- i. Registration is underway for this year's Get On The Bus! Carson River Watershed Bus Tour. The 2-day bus tour will be June 12th and 13th; the cost is \$100 before May 17th or \$125 after May 18th. More information and registration forms can be found on the CWSD website.
- j. On Friday, May 24 there will be a workshop in Sparks hosted by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), regarding the noxious weed Mayweed Chamomile. Seed producers from the northwest are pressuring the State of Nevada to relax its guidelines to allow turf and revegetation seed mixes to contain Mayweed Chamomile seed. The weed would remain on the Class A noxious weed list, so if it causes an infestation problem, Nevada would be required to deal with it. Colorado and Nevada are the only western states who list Mayweed Chamomile as a noxious weed. The weed grows in wetter sites, such as pasturelands. When dairy animals graze on the weed it can affect the taste of their milk. Brenda will be attending the workshop and welcomes others to attend as well. Letters will be read into the record, and a formal hearing in front of the NDA Board, is the next step.

2. Working Group and Member Introductions and Updates

- a. Education Working Group (*Linda Conlin*):
 - i. The Education Working Group (EWG) devoted many hours to brainstorming workshop sessions, facilitated by Steve Lewis of Cooperative Extension. During these sessions the group listed the various environmental education programs being provided throughout the watershed – identifying which audience groups are being addressed and which audience groups are being missed; and

identifying what messages are being sent, which are being duplicated, and which are being missed. These collaborative sessions revealed that target audiences are quite diverse and target messages seem to be all over the place. The group felt that program audiences and messages need to be fine-tuned in order to compete for various grant funding opportunities. The group decided to host a “roundtable” event to bring together a wide variety of agencies and groups who are currently managing environmental education programs in the Carson River watershed.

- ii. The Environmental Education Roundtable was held in Carson City on February 6, 2013. Dr. Sue Donaldson of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension gave a presentation on ways to measure environmental education effectiveness. The roundtable attendees divided into 7 groups and worked through the process of creating smart goals and logic models for a sample education program. A three month follow-up survey is ready to be emailed to attendees, which will request feedback regarding whether or not they have developed smart goals and logic models for their own education programs. The attendees will also receive copies of the evaluation documents from the breakout sessions, with feedback comments added by Sue Donaldson.
 - iii. The EWG is currently developing a “Stewardship Pledge”. People will become watershed “stewards” by accessing the pledge document on the CWSD website, and making a commitment by choosing a few behavior actions from the list. To monitor and determine whether our efforts are actually achieving any behavior change, staff will contact those who pledged periodically to track their actions and whether they are doing what they said they would do.
- b. River Corridor Working Group:
- i. Brenda reported the River Corridor Working Group (RCWG) is working toward implementing the actions outlined in the Floodplain Management Plan, mainly related to floodplain mapping and modeling. Ed James explained the plan to develop mapping from Alpine County to Lahontan. FEMA MAS 1 encompassed Lyon County, and MAS 2 encompassed Carson City. The maps for both will be ready in a few months, followed by a period for public review and input. Work on MAS 3, covering the Carson Valley, has begun. R.O. Anderson will be surveying infrastructure soon. LiDAR was flown in September when the river was quite low, so good information was collected. Once these maps are finalized and adopted, they will

become the official maps used by FEMA when establishing flood insurance. Floodways will be identified continuous from Alpine County to the Ft. Churchill elementary school, and then approximately in the Riverview area below there.

- ii. John Cobourn reported that he, Steve Lewis and Sherm Swanson are currently working with the Army Corp of Engineers in applying for funding for Northern Nevada floodplain outreach. The grant would include a designated Flood Awareness Week sometime in the fall. They would like to partner with all jurisdictions, as participants could be eligible for lower FEMA insurance rates.
- c. Everyone - updates on Carson River Watershed projects and/or programs:
- Dominique Etchegoyhen, Legacy, Land and Water: They are continuing to achieve conservation easements along the river; they are close to completion of a large easement by River Fork Ranch.
 - Robb Fellows, Carson City Public Works: Recently completed a Phase 4 grant project on the west side of Carson City involving enlargement of a basin and sediment control.
 - John Warpeha, Washoe Tribe: Continuing to monitor NPS project along Jacks Valley Road, erosion control structures and Clear Creek erosion control projects, as well as billboards. They have sent a letter to Robert Little regarding the Mayweed Chamomile issue, supporting no change be made to the current regulation.
 - Ann Bollinger, Carson City Parks and Recreation: Carson River Advisory Committee was dissolved earlier this year due to duplication of efforts with the Open Space Advisory Committee. Paul Pugsley is working to remove or replace dam and river rights associated with the Anderson/Lloyd's diversion. They have obtained first round grant approval regarding the Ducks Unlimited grant application for wetlands enhancement on the Buzzy's Ranch Open Space Property.
 - John Cobourn, UNCE: The Cooperative Extension has experienced lay-offs and staff hour reductions due to budget cuts to the university system, and more reductions can be expected after July 1st; Sue Donaldson has been laid off. John urged people to visit www.supportunce.com to submit letters of support regarding anticipated budget cuts and consolidation of UNCE. John Warpeha mentioned that he has submitted a letter of support.

- Stephanie Wilson, EPA: EPA has recently come out with new NPS guidelines which change how states must spend their funds for watershed basin plans. It will be more difficult to obtain funding for general education projects. Reports from each state will be required every year.
- Linda Conlin, River Wranglers: Linda is the Director of River Wranglers; she is contracted with Carson Water Subconservancy District and funded through a 319 grant from NDEP. In the fall she held 7 Conserve Carson River Workdays (3 in Carson Valley and 4 in Lyon County). The workdays consisted on high school students mentoring 4th grade students during field trips to the river, where they completed small conservation projects, such as wrapping trees and planting seeds; they also participated in a variety of educational activities. The process of creating smart goals and a logic model for her educational program has helped Linda focus her education efforts; she oftentimes visits the participating classrooms 3 times, in addition to the actual field trip. The Carson River Festival will be held on Saturday, June 22, in conjunction with Oodles of Noodles in Dayton.
- Duane Petite, The Nature Conservancy: They are continuing to work with River Wranglers and Sierra Nevada Journeys, as well as hosting corporate service learning days – a recent “Picnic for the Planet” was held at Clear Creek, which included education regarding NPS pollution, invasive weeds, etc. Riverfork Ranch and the Carson Valley Conservation District have been working on a bioengineering project for bank stabilization.
- Margie Evans, Weed Coordinator, UNCE: Spraying of Perennial Pepperweed has begun, which is approximately 2 weeks ahead of the normal growing season. Margie has been promoting the use of the EDDMapS app (Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System), which allows citizens to report invasive weed sightings from the field, using their smart phone. She has created a QR code which can be scanned with a smart phone to download the app. Margie receives alerts of all reports submitted for the Carson City area.
- Ed James, CWSD: Ed has been monitoring Senate bill 489, which extends issuance of bonds for the Q1 program, which was scheduled to sunset. There has been no opposition, although it may be 4 to 5 years before assessed property values are high enough to enable sale of bonds.
- Brian Peters, Alpine County: They have been working on the guard station project for over 5 years; funding was obtained last fall for the

purchase price of the 4 acres of land along Markeeville Creek, and they hope to close escrow by the end of June. The next stage will be restoration of the floodplain.

- Sarah Green, Alpine Watershed Group: The Alpine Watershed Group continues to work with project partners and consultants to plan the Markleeville Creek Restoration Project. They have also been working in Hope Valley with American Rivers on restoration plans and monitoring of the West Fork. The Group has a revamped newsletter, thanks to their new employee Spencer Rubin. Their website is also under construction.
- Spencer Rubin, Alpine Watershed Group: Spencer recently joined the Group as a Program Assistant, a volunteer position through AmeriCorps. He is working on education and outreach, and is actively recruiting volunteers. Spencer has created a new electronic newsletter; he will also be assisting in the planning of Markleeville Creek Day, set for September 21st.
- Jean Stone, NDEP: Jean oversees many water quality grants. RFP's will be going out in July for requests for 319 grant funding; Jean expects there will be less funding available than in the past.
- Randy Pahl, NDEP: Randy has been leading a water quality working group to review/revise Lahontan Reservoir water quality standards. He expects this task will continue through early 2014.
- Dave Berger, USGS: Dave gave an update on the various USGS projects located in the watershed.
- Stephanie Hicks, R.O. Anderson: They have been working with Dayton Valley Conservation District on restoration projects in the Ft. Churchill area, which have involved issues with mercury – she is looking forward to today's presentation on the subject.

3. Carson River Mercury Superfund Site Update (*Jeff Collins*):

Jeff Collins is with the NDEP Water Quality Bureau of Corrective Actions.

Jeff gave a 45-minute presentation about the only superfund site in Nevada.

4. Floodplain Management, Protection and Conservation Update – Symposium presentation for the July 2013 Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting in Reno (*Brenda Hunt; John Cobourn, Dominique Etchegoyhen*):

The group presented a first-draft version of their planned symposium presentation. Additional speakers for the symposium will include Steve Lewis of UNCE and Mitch Blum of HDR.

5. Feedback and Discussion on Item 4:

- a. Change “100 year flood” to “one percent chance in any given year”.
- b. PowerPoint slides: color of text kept changing, too much text, sometimes difficult to read
- c. Mention how many floodplain acres exist vs. how many acres have been protected
- d. Floodplain information: fine tune exactly what we want the audience to come away with – preserving open space is critical to the floodplain.
- e. Give general explanations regarding the fact that different floodplain preservation tools work for different municipalities; not too much detail.
- f. When explaining various programs, don’t bother mentioning exactly which municipality uses that particular tool; focus on the programs.
- g. Use less pointer, more verbal direction (such as, “if you look at the center of the map you will see...”)
- h. Keep text formatting uniform throughout each presenter’s slides
- i. Stay away from using abbreviations and acronyms.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM