



**Education Working Group**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, August 21, 2014**  
**8:30 AM – 10:30 AM**  
**CWSD Conference Room**

**Present:**

Tess Braun, Alpine Watershed Group (AWG)  
Linda Conlin, River Wranglers  
Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)  
Toni Leffler, CWSD  
Duane Petite, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP  
Courtney Walker, CWSD

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Introductions were made around the room.
2. **Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates**
  - a. **Carson City Weed Coalition Update (Courtney)** – Courtney reported that she received a citizen report of weed infestation because they found CWSD's Facebook page. Carson City is still working on determining how to take over noxious weed management and finding additional funding in their budget. In the meantime, report weed issues to Ann Bollinger ([abollinger@carson.org](mailto:abollinger@carson.org)).
  - b. **NDEP Clean Water Act 319 funding RFP (Brenda)** – CWSD is applying for three 319 grants from NDEP: 1) CRC/Watershed Coordinator, Environmental Education Coordinator, and \$20,000 supplemental funding for the Stormwater Management Plan to finish the regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Plan with Lyon County, Carson City, Indian Hills GID, and Douglas County. Staff explained the MS4 Program to the CWSD Board and will give the Board additional information on storm water issues in the future. Brenda is compiling the list of grant proposals that will be submitted for projects within the Carson River Watershed: DVCD is applying for a \$200,000 grant, Carson City is going to be requesting funds for a project in the Ash Canyon area, and Nevada State Parks will apply for a grant (although it may or may not be within the watershed boundaries). Paul Pugsley might apply for a grant for CVCD, but Mike Hayes is not. Brenda hasn't heard from Churchill County yet and Alpine County is not eligible since they are in California.
  - c. **Flood Awareness Program update (Courtney)** – The Flood Awareness event is Nov. 10-15, 2014. The website is up and running: [www.NevadaFloods.org](http://www.NevadaFloods.org). The group is working on securing billboards off I-80 in Sparks and on Hwy. 395 in Carson Valley. There is a media event with the Governor on Oct. 10 in Reno at Wingfield Park. The group will disseminate information to the rural floodplain managers. The recent flooding makes it good timing to stress flood awareness.

Mary Kay mentioned that NDEP is putting together a three-panel exhibit focusing on watersheds, floodplain, and wetlands. This exhibit could be made available for the Flood

Awareness Program if desired. Linda has Conserve Carson River Work Days happening during that week as well and can have a station focus on flood awareness.

- d. **Work day with Comstock Youth Workers (Linda)** – The July 30 work day included 41 students and adult volunteers at Carson River Park. Incoming high school juniors and seniors are part of Comstock Youth Workers Program. Eric Johnson from NV State Parks, Dan Kaffer, Courtney, and Brenda did activities with the youth in the morning and in afternoon did clean up along the river, water quality sampling, and macroinvertebrate identification. The youth involved in the program are at risk of not graduating. The program has become popular enough that kids are requesting to be in it.
- e. **Upcoming events:**
  - i. **Markleeville Creek Day (Tess)** – Sat., Aug. 23, at 9:00. Meet at the library. Projects include river clean up, a weed pull at Grover Hot Springs, bank stabilization at Grover, and two bank stabilizations in Hope Valley. Mostly Board members and faithful volunteers have signed up so far, with a few people coming from Sacramento, Carson City, and Lake Tahoe. Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) has hats to give volunteers.
  - ii. **Alpine Aspen Festival (Tess)** – Tess reported that people have signed up from Sacramento and Modesto, and AWG wants responses from farther away. Mary Kay will be putting an article in Enviro News. There will be free live music on Fri, Sept. 26, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The expo will be on Sat., Sept. 27 at Helwinkel Ranch and there will be artist exhibits and tacos for sale.
- f. **Other** – Duane gave an update on the Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future (LEAF) projects this year. LEAF is a national program working with environmental charter schools around the country (New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles) who send teams of three or four students between their junior and senior year in high school to be hired as seasonal employees for the month of July at particular Nature Conservancy preserve areas. This year TNC had four young men from Lawndale, CA (south-central LA) along with their teacher, who stayed in a local family's guest house.

The purpose of the program is to teach the students life skills and expose them to various partners and programs such as agriculture, meadow assessments, and trout fly surveys. The students are given a budget, and they are required to come up with menus, shop and prepare their own food. The program is funded by the Toyota Foundation to pay for salaries, flights, rental car, and boots/t-shirts/clothing. TNC has been a host site for 20 years. The students are required to apply to and be accepted by a college, whether they attend the college or not. TNC has hired several of them as adults after they participated in the program.

Most of the students have never been outside their city limits, and this is their first job. Many of them have no male adult role models in their single parent homes, so Duane helps to fill that role during the month. Many make career plans in the environmental field. There were two

additional girls teams from the same school at Lake Tahoe, and the groups worked together at Independence Lake.

They also worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the school environmental habitat at Gardnerville Elementary School as an outdoor classroom. This served as an in-kind match. The kids at the school designed the habitat to reflect the Carson Valley portion of the watershed with Sierra plants on one side of a river bed and Great Basin plants on the other. It works well to have the habitat right out the back door of the school for easy access by students. All grades at the school use the habitat. Second grade students take Monarch butterfly eggs to raise in their classroom and watch the life cycle. Fourth grades using it for willows. The LEAF kids spent five days putting the final touches on the project. There are similar projects at Jacks Valley Elementary and Seeliger Elementary in Carson City. Parents and volunteers are critical to revitalize the habitats periodically. Duane also explained how River Fork Ranch is a Monarch butterfly way station.

### **3. Snap Shot Day Planning (Mary Kay)**

#### **a. Determine Date – Oct. 17**

**b. Target Schools/presentations/transportation needs** – The Environmental Education Coordinator grant has a transportation line item of \$1,000. If schools need transportation, they can contact Linda or Brenda. Duane offered to cover transportation for schools coming to TNC from the TNC grant. Mary Kay will send a flyer out by end of next week.

#### **c. Determine leaders – Sites:**

1. Blue Lakes near Pickett Junction in Hope Valley – Courtney, Shane
2. Hangman's Bridge – Dan Kaffer & Debbie Waldear
3. Dresslerville with Washoe Tribe – Justin Stang & Dan Greytak? – Bill Campbell – Jennifer Johnson (acting director) – Rite of Passage students? Aspire alternative high school in Douglas County?
4. Genoa bridge/TNC – Duane & 3 Sierra Nevada Journeys – Carson Valley Middle School
5. Brockliss Slough/TNC – Carson Valley Middle School (Duane to give Mary Kay contacts for home schoolers & Aspire)
6. Clear Creek - John Cobourn, Ann Bollinger, Rob Fellows, Mary Kay with Sierra Lutheran and Capital Christian schools
7. Carson River Park by Lloyd's bridge – Brenda & JP with Carson Montessori
8. Deer Run Road on east side of river near USGS gauge - Silver State Charter School adopted this site. – USGS facilitators, Toby Welborn, Sonya Vasques, Nancy Alvarez?
9. Dayton Bridge– Leah Kniffen (DVCD) Sean Sinclair (Lyon County wastewater treatment plant), Kim Clawson (NV State Parks) - Hugh Gallagher 4<sup>th</sup> grades from Storey County & Virginia City High School or Dayton High or Middle School
10. Ft. Churchill – Linda Conlin, Scott Egy or park rangers – can't take streamflow measurements unless there is a flow but can do weeds, streamside walk. – Logos Christian Academy or chemistry class at Silver Stage High School for Silver Springs

and Stagecoach.

11. George Frey Ranch – Jackie Bogdanowicz & Jessie \_\_\_ w/ FSA - BLM (Dink Tonena, Deb Snyder, Catherine \_\_\_) – Dave and Pam Willard w/NDEP) – Willie Steve & Carmen w/FSFT – Susan Sawyer w/USFW - Churchill County High School FFA kids

d. **Determine date for calibration day, etc.** – Tues, Oct. 14, 9:00 a.m. at CWSD Conf. Rm. Then distribute kits to team leaders that afternoon.

e. **Other** –. Class presentations can help teachers know what's expected and how the process goes. Training date: Wednesday, October 8, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at Carson River Park.

4. **Watershed Literacy Grant Updates (Brenda/Courtney)**

a. **Children's Museum** – Courtney and Brenda met with Lu Olsen regarding using \$1,500 from the 319 grant to update and maintain the Children's Museum Carson River Watershed Exhibit. They have done a little bit of work, like painting, and Lu wants to bring some things back in, like the animal pelts. The water quality bottles showing turbidity leaked and were replaced with new bottles. They need to be sealed with plumbers tape and band to secure from being taken. Lu wants to utilize the money for displays with skulls, furs, tracks, scat, etc. Would like the exhibit to be hands-on but needs ideas that can't be readily broken by the children.

b. **Explore Your Watershed Map** – To be addressed in subcommittee meeting immediately following this meeting.

c. **Outreach and Action Plan** – Courtney started writing the outreach and action plan yesterday. She is utilizing information from workshops.

d. **Additional on-line outreach tool development - See:**  
[http://water.epa.gov/action/adopt/earthday\\_index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/action/adopt/earthday_index.cfm) and review/provide ideas on **adaption to Carson River Watershed** – Save this item for next meeting. Brenda and Mary Kay talked about putting "What You Can Do" on the CWSD website.

4. **CWSD New Website <http://www.cwsd.org> (Brenda) –**

a. **Please review Education and Outreach Page - content ideas, suggestions, thoughts, comments, etc. desired** – What do we want to highlight on the Outreach and Education page and link to other pages of the new CWSD website? Staff has access to the lesson plans that were on the old website. "What We Do" page contains elements of the Stewardship Plan. The website was developed to keep the message that CWSD "coordinates, plans, and funds" on each page. Staff would like to expand the Outreach and Education information and can link to more pages. The quick access links can be modified per page. The events calendar will have everything on it and can't be customized to have only page-related events.

**Comments:**

- love map

- correct "...there 'are' approx. 3,965 square miles of land..."
- take off "interesting things" from calendar categories
- curriculum access
- links to Project WET and River Wranglers
- want layout that is interesting and exciting but not overwhelming to someone viewing the page
- we have screen shots of other websites for curriculum
- can put teacher resources with access to Project WET and Project Wild
- quick link for kids, teachers, public
- check out layout on award winning Nevada Floods.org
- The content in the hover over in the Interactive Watershed Map cannot be modified at this time. We want to modify it in the future when CWSD has additional funding.
- Add: What can you do to "help" while recreating?

**5. Other Items** – Enter information on World Water Monitoring database – Alpine Watershed Group will look into trying to start doing this when new AmeriCorps member comes on board.

**7. Set date for next meeting** – Tues, September 23 from 8:30-10:30am