

**CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM COMMITTEE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: March 29, 2016
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Carson Water Subconservancy District Conference Room
777 E. William St., #110
Carson City, NV 89701

AGENDA

Please Note: The CWSD Regional Water System Committee does not represent a quorum of the CWSD Board and can only make recommendations for action by the full CWSD Board. No action of this committee constitutes a formal action of the CWSD Board. The CWSD Regional Water System Committee may 1) take agenda items out of order; 2) combine two or more items for consideration; or 3) remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion related to an item at any time. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting. Please contact Toni Leffler at (775)887-7450 (<mailto:toni@cwsd.org>), at least a week in advance so that arrangements can be made.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Regional Water System Committee Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2013 (For Possible Action)
4. Public Comment (Discussion Only) Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under public comment until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.
5. Discussion for possible action regarding the future disposition of the Lost Lakes Water Rights. (For Possible Action)
6. Discussion for possible action regarding allocating Q1 funds. (For Possible Action)
7. Discussion regarding regional water issues in Lyon County. (Discussion Only)
8. Public Comment (Discussion Only) Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under public comment until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.
9. Adjournment

Supporting material for this meeting may be requested from Toni Leffler at 775-887-7450 (<mailto:toni@cwsd.org>) and is available at the CWSD offices at 777 E. William St., #110A, Carson City, NV 89701 and on the CWSD website at www.cwsd.org.

In accordance with NRS 241.020, this notice and agenda has been posted at the following locations

:

-Dayton Utilities Complex
34 Lakes Blvd
Dayton, NV

-Minden Inn Office Complex
1594 Esmeralda Avenue
Minden, NV

-Lyon County Administrative Building
27 S. Main St.
Yerington, NV

-Churchill County Administrative Complex
155 N Taylor St.
Fallon, NV

-Carson City Hall
201 N. Carson St.
Carson City, NV

-Carson Water Subconservancy District Office
777 E. William St., #110A
Carson City, NV

-Alpine County Administrative Building
99 Water St.
Markleeville, CA

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

The undersigned affirms that on or before 9:00 A.M. on March 22, 2016, he/she posted a copy of the Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda for the March 29, 2016, meeting of the Carson Water

CWSD Regional Water System Committee
3/29/16 Meeting Agenda

Subconservancy District Regional Water System Committee in accordance with NRS 241.020; said agenda was posted at the following location:

_____.

SIGNATURE

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date & Time of Posting: _____

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT

TO: REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM COMMITTEE

FROM: EDWIN D. JAMES

DATE: March 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Agenda Item Background Information

Item # 5 - Discussion for possible action regarding the future disposition of the Lost Lakes Water Rights.

Background: In 2001, CWSD purchased the Lost Lakes water rights located in Alpine County. The goal of CWSD owning the water rights was to utilize them to enhance the water resources throughout the watershed. In the past CWSD has kept the water in the lakes during the summer season for recreation purposes, released the water in the fall to enhance the flow in the river for fish and habitat benefits, and occasionally leased the water to Carson City to pump using their induction wells during the winter time.

In 2003, the California Department of Dam Safety changed how they calculated their dam inspection fees. In 2002, CWSD paid \$1,192 in dam fees. In 2003, the dam fees increased to over \$4,000. In 2015, CWSD paid \$5,621 in dam fees. Besides the dam fees, CWSD pays annual fees to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Also, due to its remote location and high elevation, access to Lost Lake is limited and difficult. On the average CWSD is spending over \$8,000 each year on costs associated with the Lost Lakes. This does not include staff time.

In 2013, CWSD staff held a workshop in Alpine County to solicit input and ideas from the local community on ways to enhance the use of the Lost Lakes water and reduce the costs. At that meeting we discussed various options including:

- Maintain the current operations and try to reduce the fees from California,
- Transfer some or all the water rights to another location,
- Sell the water rights, or
- A combination of all three mentioned above.

At the meeting, the community and Alpine County Supervisors wanted CWSD to keep its current operation of Lost Lakes. The water released helps maintain the flow in the West Fork for fish habitat in the fall period. They proposed meeting with California legislators to see if we could get some relief in the dam fees. Since 2013, Alpine County Supervisors and CWSD staff have had several meetings with California legislators, their staff, and representatives from the Department of Dam Safety, but no resolution could be found.

In 2015, CWSD released some water from Lost Lakes to Carson City. Due to the drought only 18 AF of water was available. CWSD also had difficulty getting the water

down river due to all the beaver dams on the West Fork of the Carson River. Staff does not believe we can continue to operate the system as we have in the past. Staff believes we need to consider either transferring the water rights downstream or sell them. Staff is looking for guidance on how we should proceed.

Item #6 - Discussion for possible action regarding allocating Q1 funds.

On March 9, 2016, I received a phone call from Charlie Donohue with Nevada State Lands. He mentioned that they have \$80,000 available from Q1 for the Carson River Corridor. Years ago the state authorized \$80,000 for a river project but that project was never constructed. The state would like to spend the money. These funds could help with various projects that the conservation districts and Carson City Open Space want to do along the Carson River Corridor.

The following is a little background on the Q1 program.

On November 5, 2002, Nevada's voters approved a conservation initiative referred to a Question 1 or Q1 totaling \$200 million. The \$200 million was allocated into several different categories. CWSD help negotiate \$10 million to be allocated for the Carson River Corridor. These funds could be used to:

- Acquire and develop land and water rights;
- Provide recreation facilities;
- Provide parking for and access to and along the Carson River; or
- Restore the Carson River corridor.

With each category in Q1 the state set up a steering committee to review the applications and set up a ranking system for the funds. CWSD was asked to be the Steering Committee for the Carson River Corridor category. Early on CWSD worked with the entities in the watershed to set up criteria on how projects would be evaluated and how the funds would be allocated. Initially it was agreed that the \$10 million would be distributed equally between the counties, giving each \$2.5 million. If near the end of the program one county was not able to use all \$2.5 million, then CWSD would decide how those funds would be allocated among the other counties. Presently, no county has used all the \$2.5 million allocation. The main reason for this was the Q1 program was put on hold with the down turn in the economy. The only entities that can apply for the funds are counties and municipalities.

With the \$80,000, CWSD is proposing that the funds go to the conservation districts and Carson City Open Space; however, not every project is eligible for Q1 funding. These funds cannot be used for clearing or snagging but must be used for river projects. Staff will review the eligible project with the committee.

Item #7 - Discussion regarding regional water issues in Lyon County.

Staff will give a brief overview of various water issues for the portion of Lyon County located in the Carson River Watershed.