

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
 CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
 July 18, 2018, 6:30 P.M.
 Minutes

Chairman Abowd called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 St. Rte. 89, Markleeville, CA. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Chairman
 Brad Bonkowski
 Ken Gray
 Doug Johnson
 Barry Penzel
 Chuck Roberts
 Ernie Schank
 Fred Stodieck
 Steve Thaler

Directors not present:

Carl Erquiaga, Vice Chairman
 Don Frensdorff

Staff present:

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

Also present:

David Griffith, Alpine County
 Mo Loden, Alpine Watershed Group
 Kimra McAfee, AWG
 Andrew Roberts, private citizen
 Marina Vance, AWG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Abowd.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None.

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda. *Director Thaler made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.*

Item #6 – For Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the FY 2018-19 Tentative Budget on May 22, 2018, and the Board Meeting of June 20, 2018. *Director Bonkowski made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the FY 2018-19 Tentative Budget on May 22, 2018, and the Board meeting on June 20, 2018. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board, with Directors Penzel and Roberts abstaining for not having been at that meeting.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for June 2018.

Item #8 – For Possible Action: Payment of Bills for June 2018.

Item #9 – For Possible Action: Approval for Debbie Neddenriep to attend the FEMA Cooperative Technical Partners: Special Topics Course in Emmitsburg, MD on August 20, 24, 2018.

Item #10 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Agreement #2018-10 with Carson Valley Conservation District for Bioengineering, Maintenance and Debris Removal.

Item #11 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Agreement #2018-11 with Carson Valley Conservation District for Cradlebaugh Bank Stabilization Phase 1.

Item #12 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Agreement #2018-12 with Lahontan Conservation District for Channel Clearing and Snagging Along the Carson River in Churchill County.

Item #13 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Agreement #2018-13 with Churchill County to Assist in the Lahontan Valley Water Level Measurement Program.

Item #14 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Agreement #2018-14 with Sierra Nevada Journeys to Conduct “Family Watershed Nights” for Carson River Watershed Communities.

Director Schank made the motion to approve Items #7-14 of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

RECESS TO CONVENE AS
THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Item #15 – Roll Call – Director Abowd convened the Carson River Watershed Committee and a roll call was taken.

Committee Members present:

CWSD Directors as present in roll call above
David Griffith, Alpine County

Committee Members not present:

Carl Erquiaga, Vice Chairman
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine

Item #16 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None**Item #17 – For Information Only: Alpine Watershed Group will give a presentation on projects they have accomplished in fiscal year 2017-18 and on their current activities.**

Kimra McAfee, the new Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) Executive Director, introduced herself, Mo Loden, the new Watershed Coordinator, and Marina Vance, Restoration and Monitoring Coordinator (AmeriCorps Member). She also mentioned that AWG staff includes Julia Keane, Education and Outreach Coordinator (AmeriCorps Member), who was not able to be at this meeting. Ms. McAfee thanked CWSD for many years of support for AWG projects.

Ms. McAfee showed a map of Alpine County as the headwater of five watersheds for 5.3 million people in Nevada and California. About 96% of the county is public lands, largely Forest Service, and much of it is designated wilderness. The Carson River Watershed encompasses about two-thirds of Alpine County.

The 2017 AWG accomplishments involved 150 individual volunteers who participated in 40 different restoration and monitoring activities, contributing approximately 780 volunteer hours. A total of 39 volunteers participated in six education and outreach events, contributing approximately 344 hours.

In 2018, AWG conducted the third Earth Day event at Grover Hot Spring State Park. A total of 86 volunteers removed 35 cubic yards of invasive vegetation. Also, 20 children were engaged in a scavenger hunt, a micro-trash clean-up, and invasive weed identification. The AWG Monitor Training in June engaged eight new volunteers.

The US Bureau of Reclamation awarded AWG with a WaterSMART Grant for community outreach and partnership development, information gathering, and restoration planning. Ms. McAfee thanked CWSD for its letter of support for this grant.

AWG also received an Alpine County Community Small Grant to build upon AmeriCorps member Julia Keane's work this year with Diamond Valley School and the Washoe Tribe and to explore opportunities with Bear Valley School which re-opens this fall. Ms. McAfee explained that Ms. Keane splits her time between AWG and River Wranglers.

Mo Loden gave restoration updates in Hope Valley and Grover Hot Springs. The Hope Valley restoration and aquatic habitat enhancement project continues with stabilization of over 800' of

eroding banks along the West Fork of the Carson River and helping to improve aquatic habitat along nearly one-half mile of river within four specific reaches. The proposed one-half mile stretch through lower Hope Valley would be contiguous with the 2015 restoration project and support the 2016 restoration projects conducted by American Rivers. Ms. Loden explained the project's benefits and restoration techniques.

The Grover Meadow Restoration Project is funded through the California Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program and will include trail decommissioning, weed management, head cut/meadow repair, and interpretive signage.

Marina Vance, Monitoring Program Manager, explained that while agencies such as the Lahontan Regional Board and USGS have some very important monitoring efforts, they tend to be more targeted. AWG is the only organization consistently monitoring overall water quality and watershed health in the upper reaches of the watershed. AWG monitoring projects include:

- Ambient monitoring four times a year (since 2004)
- Bioassessment every other year (since 2005)
- Bacteria (since 2010)
- Stream flow at Pickett's Junction (since 2011)
- Ground water wells at Indian Valley every month when weather permits (since 2010)

Monitoring data summaries include the California Stream Condition Index (CSCI) Data Summary reviews the bioassessment data accumulated since 2004 at four different sites. "How is the water in Alpine County?" reviews the total data collected since 2004 from AWG ambient monitoring program and compares it to the Regional Water Board's Basin Plan's water quality objectives.

A new monitoring program is measuring contaminants of emerging concern. Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCP) sampling will be ongoing until October 2018. Additionally, there will be Physical Habitat Assessment Monitor Training on July 28 led by Erick Burres, State Water Board Environmental Scientist.

Ms. McAfee extended an invitation for the CWSD Board and staff to join AWG on September 8 for the 19th Annual Markleeville Creek Day at Grover Hot Springs. Meet at the Markleeville Library at 9:00 a.m. The Bear Valley Creek Day will be on September 15 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The next AWG public meeting will be on September 11, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Ms. McAfee thanked CWSD again for its funding and support. *No action was taken; receive and file.*

Item #18 – For Information Only: Update on the “I am 65% Carson River” Watershed Literacy Campaign. Shane Fryer reminded the Board that the “I am 65% CR” Campaign direction was brought to the CWSD Board in May. The Watershed Literacy Campaign is funded through the 319 Program for Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution. The water drop in the logo is a symbol of the Carson River Watershed. The idea is to put the symbol on postcard-size cling sticker with information on the back about what citizens can do to protect the watershed. Staff

and NEON have been working on a video PSA including many and diverse people throughout the watershed. The PSA has an apolitical message.

Ms. Abowd suggested including picking up dog poop as an action people can take to protect the Carson River. Mr. Johnson suggested putting the "IAM65CR.ORG" along the bottom of the water drop in larger font to make it easier to read in passing. The 65% is a hook but the website will focus on 100% involvement.

Mr. Penzel noted that 65% bothers him because it could be misconstrued as only a partial commitment when we want 100% involvement. This prompted additional discussion about how the 65% represents the amount of water in the human body.

No action was taken; receive and file.

Item #19 – For Information Only: CRC 20th Anniversary Celebration Update. Mr. Fryer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Carson River Coalition (CRC) 20th Anniversary Celebration at River Fork Ranch. He noted that 109 people showed up out of the 123 who registered for the event.

Mr. Fryer mentioned that as part of the celebration there were several speakers. Tom Baker, former aid to the former Senator Bryan, talked about origins of the CRC. John Cobourn discussed the mission, goals, and history of the CRC. Ed James explained CWSD's involvement, and Brenda Hunt noted future plans. Mr. Fryer credited CWSD's AmeriCorps member, Justin Bedocs, with coordinating the AmeriCorps volunteers to help setup, serve, and clean up for the event.

One highlight of the event was the presentation of a Certificate of Commendation from Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto presented by her aide, Kurt Englehart. Also, Mr. Fryer previewed the new Watershed Literacy Campaign logo "I AM 65% CARSON RIVER" within a blue water drop.

The group was entertained by Caleb Kondor who juggled various objects, some while riding a unicycle. The Sierra Sweethearts provided a wonderful background of music and some dance lessons.

No action was taken; receive and file.

Item #20 – For Possible Recommendation: Approval of a request to pursue NDEP 319 grants for the Watershed Coordinator and Watershed Literacy 4. Mr. Fryer explained that every two years we apply for NDEP 319 grant funding which is key to the Watershed Program and coordination of the CRC. This grant covers three-quarters of Brenda Hunt's and his salaries. Staff also wants to submit a grant application for Watershed Literacy 4 for \$30,000 which will keep the watershed messaging going.

Mr. Penzel asked what happens if we do not get the grant funding. Mr. James responded that if we don't get funding, the effort will be more internally driven. Mr. Penzel mentioned the

Truckee Meadows Water Authority's (TMWA) ad and suggested staff get ahold of someone at TMWA to see how effective that is and whether people listen to a PSA slot. Maybe TMWA can share their experiences as guidance.

Committee Member Johnson made the motion that the Carson River Watershed Committee recommend CWSD Board approve the request to pursue NDEP 319 grants for the Watershed Coordinator and Watershed Literacy 4. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Penzel and unanimously approved by the Carson River Watershed Committee.

Item #21 – For Possible Recommendation: Approval of the new Carson Water Subconservancy District logo. Mr. Fryer showed the new CWSD logo and explained that the old logo is hard to use in its rectangular form. NEON started the logo and staff made adjustments.

Pat King asked if the CWSD logo and water drop are being copyrighted. Mr. Fryer responded that copyrighting is part of the agreement with NEON. Mr. Roberts pointed out that we need to be sure we are not infringing on someone else's copyright by using images in the CWSD logo.

Committee Member Thaler made the motion that the Carson River Watershed Committee recommend CWSD Board approve the new Carson Water Subconservancy District logo. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Carson River Watershed Committee.

Item #22 – For Possible Recommendation: Approval of the General Manager's annual review. Ms. Abowd explained that the Administrative Committee met on July 9 and discussed the Board's evaluations of Mr. James. Ten evaluation sheets were returned. The Committee recommended that Mr. James receive a satisfactory review with accompanying merit increase.

Committee Member Schank made the motion that the Carson River Watershed Committee recommend CWSD Board approve the General Manager's annual review with a satisfactory rating. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Gray and unanimously approved by the Carson River Watershed Committee.

Item #23 – Discussion Only: Public Comment. None.

ADJOURN TO RECONVENE AS THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Item #24 – For Possible Action: Approval of a request to pursue NDEP 319 grants for the Watershed Coordinator and Watershed Literacy 4. This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item #20.

Director Roberts made the motion to authorize staff to pursue the NDEP 319 grants for Watershed Coordinator and Watershed Literacy 4. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #25 – For Possible Action: Approval of the new Carson Water Subconservancy District logo. This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item #21.

Director Roberts made the motion to approve the new CWSD logo. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #26 – For Possible Action: Approval of the General Manager’s annual review. This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item #22.

Director Roberts made the motion to approve a satisfactory FY 2017-18 review of the General Manager. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #27– Discussion Only: Staff Reports

General Manager – Mr. James reported:

- Mr. King and Mr. James met with Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) staff to go over the proposed language for the permitting agreement with State Lands. CVCD will take it to State Lands for further discussion.
- Former CWSD Director Willis Swan passed away.
- After a great deal of work, Debbie Neddenriep and Mr. James submitted the WaterSMART grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Mr. James reported the Carson River flow averages at various gages. The Carson River is low compared to the long-term average.
- Mr. Fryer and Ms. Hunt went out for bids for placement of the watershed signs. One bid was \$140,000 which is extremely over budget. The original cost estimate from another contractor was for \$25,000. Staff will be talking to this contractor to see how many signs can be installed for \$25,000.
- Mr. James complimented Mr. Griffith on his foresight in including liability coverage in CWSD’s agreements.
- Director Penzel pointed out that the staff report reads that on 7/12/18, Mr. James met with Jim Bybee, but it should be Jim Barbee.

Watershed Program Specialist – Mr. Fryer reported:

- The “Get on the Bus” watershed tour has been scheduled for October 11-12. The tour will include Storey County for the first time. He invited the Board to participate in this fun and informative event.

Item #28- Discussion Only: Directors’ Reports – There were no other Directors’ reports.

Item #29 – Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County. Supervisor Griffith had nothing to report.

Item #30 – Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County. Mr. Osborne was not present:

Item #31 – Discussion Only: Public Comment. None.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Johnson made the motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary