



## River Corridor Working Group Meeting Notes

May 11, 2017

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**Location:** Bonanza Room, Carson City Community Center, 850 E William St., Carson City, NV 89701

**Contact:** Brenda Hunt, 887-9005

### Attendees:

Mitch Blum, HDR  
Lyndsey Boyer, Carson City Parks, Rec., & Open Space  
Craig Burnside, Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD)  
Aly Cheney, Alpine Watershed Group  
John Cobourn, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)  
Robb Fellows, Carson City Public Works (CCPW)  
Shane Fryer, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)  
Dan Greytak, private citizen  
Rob Holley, Dayton Valley Conservation District (CVCD)  
Brenda Hunt, CWSD  
Ed James, CWSD  
Michael Johnson, Churchill County  
Toni Leffler, CWSD  
Shyla Lemons, CCPW  
Steve Lewis, UNCE  
Brian Peters, Alpine County  
Duane Petite, The Nature Conservancy  
Rob Pyzel, Lyon County  
Aaron Sever, The Nature Conservancy  
Jean Stone, NV Div. of Environmental Protection (NDEP)  
Sherman Swanson, University of Nevada-Reno  
Courtney Walker, Douglas County

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)
2. Update on Floodplain Management Plan Suggested Actions:
  - a. SA – 14/15/17 Modeling and Mapping for MAS 2-4 (Mitch/Ed/Erik) – Mitch reported that the mapping is completed and has been sent to FEMA. ASFPM has reviewed it for FEMA already. The FEMA standards were written in the 1970s for a 2D steady state model and needs to be updated to accommodate the current 3D unsteady state modeling program. There was a discussion about the floodway. The nature of the hydraulics made it impossible to map the floodway along the East and West Forks in Carson Valley. Douglas County will be tracking the cumulative rise in Zone AE No Floodway to determine potential development impact. The floodway is mapped

between Genoa Lane in Carson Valley and the river area just below the Ft. Churchill Elementary School in Lyon County. There will be a 90-day comment period to FEMA.

John explained the goals of River Corridor WG since inception: to keep houses from being built in the floodplain, encouraging non-structural flood control. The county ordinance is for a 50' setback from the top of the riverbanks which is not far. Ed mentioned the provision for cumulative impact creates protection. There can be localized impacts of individual structures. Because there's a floodway does not mean you can't build in the floodway; impacts can be mitigated. FEMA regulations were not meant to eliminate building but to management the risks created by development and determine flood insurance.

John proposed a further discussion of this topic. Brenda asked Mitch if it is possible with the modeling program to determine what lands we want to protect to preserve the floodplain function, like designating a corridor or creating an area priority list. Mitch responded that different communities are looking at different metrics (depth x velocity) to determine potential hazard to upstream and downstream areas. Debbie mentioned the draft ordinances created with FEMA MAS #5 funding.

- i. Review Model Update Policy and Procedures (Mitch) – They have submitted a draft of the model update policy and procedures which will stay in draft form until community ordinances are in place.
- b. SA-30
- i. Flood Awareness Week Update (Shane/Bunny) – FAW is scheduled for Nov. 13-17 and looking at opportunities outside that week. Next meeting on May 31 at 9:00 a.m. Ordering swag and put video game that Silver Jackets created on a USB drive to give out. Safety Day for emergency responder preparedness in Gardnerville on Sat. 5/13, and the National Night Out in early August in Mills Park. No parade float this year.
  - ii. Floodplains as Community Assets (Debbie) – Part of the current round of FEMA MAS #6 is to create flood awareness videos to be used during FAW and in general for public awareness. Orangetree Studios was hired to produce the videos which include a 30-second PSA and longer videos for officials, developers, and the general public promoting agriculture as floodplain protection. Debbie read the draft PSA script. They will be on YouTube. Jean asked if this is messaging outside of the Watershed Literacy messaging. Debbie suggested that the Watershed Literacy could use this as a springboard and expand on it. Craig noted that a lot of the land that is the floodplain is privately owned by farmers/ranchers who will not want people to be recreating on their properties so the message may need to change about recreating in the floodplain. Duane suggested acknowledging that much of the floodplain is private land; you can't recreate everywhere. Brenda noted that the ag lands do a public service as floodplain protection.

- c. SA-17
  - i. Discovery and Regional Carson River Floodplain Management Plan Update (Brenda/Ed) – In FEMA MAS #6 we put in for \$40k for this update. We have selected Michael Baker International and are negotiating the contract. The Discovery Process was done previously and the revision will specify projects to be included. Those projects become potential opportunities for future FEMA funding. The Floodplain Management Plan will be a complete update and not just a supplemental document. CWSD staff is working toward the Discovery kick-off meeting to be in July and will include the RCWG members.
  - ii. US ACE Alluvial Fan Mapping (Brenda) – One of the reasons the Floodplain Management Plan needs to be updated is because alluvial fan flooding wasn't previously included. The Alluvial Fan Workshops were very good. Christy Mann with US ACE will be doing all the mapping of the land uses and flow patterns in the Carson River watershed. These are not for submission to FEMA but can be used by the local communities for planning purposes.
- d. SA-16 Next round of FEMA CTP funding (proposed projects for MAS 8) (Ed) – Six-Mile Canyon Area Drainage Master Plan; Restudy/Remap Pinenut Creek; Updating Flood Ordinances to work with each county; 2018 FAW; Emergency Flood Modeling which will run more quickly than the existing floodplain model. Each round is getting more detailed.
- 3. Stewardship Plan Update (Brenda) – The update is almost done. Brenda has to have it finalized by the end of June, including EPA approval because it is part of NDEP's State Management Plan. Brenda showed the setup of some of the tables in the Plan. Most important are proposed projects and, secondly, current projects. The last update included only river corridor, floodplain, and restoration projects. This one is more inclusive of California portion of the watershed. It includes invasive species, recreation, and outreach/education. There is a Suggested Actions table similar to the one in the Floodplain Management Plan, broken out by critical area and type of project. The Stewardship Plan makes us qualified to receive 319 funding and have a priority funding. The Washoe Tribe has adopted the Stewardship Plan and the PLPT plans to use it as their plan as well. Courtney suggested talking with TRPA about their tracking program. Sherman noted the value of connecting drivers of water quality monitoring to assessment. Mitch offered to create the map if we send him the coordinates. Brenda asked for everyone to send her the information she has requested by May 22.
  - a. River Rehab and Floodplain Management Projects – Not discussed.
  - b. Related suggested actions/studies – Not discussed.
  - c. Timeline – Not discussed.

4. Group Name Change and CRC Watershed Vision Update (Brenda/Shane) – A Doodle poll was conducted to rate suggestions which included: Regional Floodplain Management Working Group (1 vote); Watershed Management WG (8); and Floodplain and River Management WG (11). A vote at this meeting confirmed the name of Floodplain and River Management Working Group (FRMWG). The proposed new vision statement is an abbreviated version of the old vision statement and reads: “A healthy sustainable Carson River watershed, led by community and private/public partnerships, plans and projects, where all lands and waterways (surface & underground), safely receive, store, and release clean water for the good of all peoples, environments and natural resources of the Carson River Basin.” Ed suggested sending this out to the larger CRC group and include a comment box. Brenda asked the group whether they wanted a FRM WG vision.
5. Flood Damage Field Trip (John Cobourn) – John asked if there are flooding impact places that they would want to see in a field trip. Some of that may be determined as a result of county reports further in the agenda.
  - a. Site Selection and Timing (August???) – Get in vans and drive to four or five places in Douglas County, Carson City and Lyon County. Take a separate field trip to Churchill County. This would also be a good year for rafting trips.
  - b. Types of damages
    - i. Erosion/Channel Migration – Not discussed.
    - ii. Structures – Not discussed.
    - iii. Infrastructure/grade controls – Not discussed.
6. Local Jurisdiction Flooding Updates (Everyone) –
  - a. Flood prep and work being completed – Not discussed.
  - b. Bring flash drive with photos – Not discussed.
  - c. Churchill County update (Ed, Brenda, Michael) – Michael Johnson reported for Churchill County on the collaborate effort between federal, state, county, and city personnel and and local farmers in widening canals, creating the V-line canal weir designed to dump water toward Sheckler Reservoir, and putting in culverts under Hwy. 95 and Hwy. 50 toward the Carson Sink. The greatest risk of flooding is in town if the old river channel floods. Shane asked about weed control measures following this construction.

Erik reported for Douglas County on the expandable trap bags put in for flood control along the Aspen Trailer Park. Two rows of two-foot bags were installed to make a four foot wall at a cost about \$50/linear foot. They will be left through the spring.

Robb reported that in Carson City the main damage was along the river, estimating about \$4 million between the two storms. There was major erosion along the trails

where the river meandered. They will see what happens after the high water recedes to determine what to do for repairs. On the west side and the freeway system performed very well. There was damage at South Curry by Greenhouse Garden Nursery.

Rob reported that Lyon County had about \$5-6 million in damages, but that was not entirely in the floodplain. Carson River Road was washed out. Six-Mile Canyon Road was also washed out and has been restored for emergency vehicle and school bus use. With Virginia City being an historic landmark, there is conflict between SHPO and FEMA over repairs. Dayton Valley Road on south side of the bridge might be an interest place to tour. River Park and Rolling A open space may still be under water. The wastewater treatment plant was not damaged. The county is currently focusing more on the Walker River which is now flooding and Walker Lake is supposed to come up 16”.

Brian reported for Alpine County that south of Markleeville received the most damage. Access to the wastewater treatment plant is washed out. Wolf Creek Road had the largest landslide in the county. The road up from Monitor Junction is washed out. There is major snow on the west side which may take until the end of June to melt. Damage will affect tourism because roads will be closed through the summer.

7. The alluvial fan workshop presentations have been added to the Silver Jackets website: <https://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Nevada>.
8. Schedule next meeting – Doodle Poll will be sent.

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