

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING

February 20, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

Chairman Erquiaga called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6.37 p.m. in the Conference Room of NAI Alliance, 1000 N. Division St. #202, Carson City, NV. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Brad Bonkowski, Treasurer
Carl Erquiaga, Chairman
Stacey Giomi, Director
Ken Gray, Director
Jack Jacobs, Director
Barry Penzel, Director
Ernie Schank, Director
Steve Thaler, Vice Chairman
Mike Workman, Director

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff, Director
Fred Stodieck, Director

Staff present:

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

Also present:

David Griffith, Committee Member
Tom Minor, public
Ty Minor, public
Dan Kaffer, public
Julie Workman, public

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Erquiaga.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – Mr. James informed the Board of the serious injuries sustained by Brenda Hunt (WS Program Manager) during a recent skiing accident and she would be out for several weeks during recovery.

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

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2018. *Mr. James noted that the location needed to be corrected to the Bonanza Room at the Community Center. Director Schank made the motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2019 with the correction of the location. The motion was seconded by Director Jacobs and unanimously approved by the Board.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for January 2019.

Item #8 – For Possible Action: Payment of Bills for January 2019.

Director Schank made the motion to approve Items #7 and #8 of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Jacobs and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.

****END OF CONSENT AGENDA****

RECESS TO CONVENE AS THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Item #9 – Roll Call – Chairman Erquiaga 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:

Don Frensdorff, Director
Don Jardine, Alpine County
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Fred Stodieck, Director

Item #10 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

Item #11 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – *Discussion by Tom Minor regarding flood preparedness.*

Tom Minor introduced himself as a ranch owner in Dayton. He thanks the Board for all their hard work and says he is very proud of the work done in Dayton Valley. If anyone would like a tour of his ranch, please contact Ed to arrange.

Dan Kaffer introduced himself and said he wanted to talk about a Flood Relief Package and FEMA in the 1980’s. The Division of Wildlife declared this river dead. He had worked with FEMA in Super Fund Area on multimillion-dollar projects. After the 2017 flood the community thought that FEMA would help cover the damage costs. FEMA did not cover anything. He’s

citing major projects where the damage that could not be seen until the after had receded and FEMA was already gone. He feels there should be a protocol put into place for emergency situations so that projects do not get sidelined. He thinks it would be good to put forth to new county commissioners and they should be taught how to handle these situations. Emergency training needs to be done and we need to have a complete overhaul of protocols.

Director Giomi asks regarding disaster damage assessment – does the state approach us to address this or not?

Mr. James states in 1997 and 2005-6, CWSD took the lead for repairs with FEMA along the river. This time there was an issue with who could file with FEMA. We don't own the property and the state of Nevada did not file.

Director Giomi says we must be on the frontend of damage assessments so deadlines are not missed.

Mr. Kaffer says each county is different. There needs to be some oversight that is consistent regarding USDA/State emergency relief dollars. All Federal and State money should be used. There has to be a lead entity to lead in an emergency to coordinate the activities in the event of disaster.

Mr. Griffith states opportunities are lost due to not being prepared.

Director Schank adds that protocols must be put into place.

Director Giomi asks – Do we have inventory of all improvements and projects on the river?

Mr. James answers no: The conservation districts and state lands has most but not all this information.

Director Jacobs asks about assets. Is there a list of owner or maintenance on completed projects?

Mr. Minor answers no, not really – and project damage rolls over and affects the next project. He says conservation districts have inventories.

Mr. Kaffer says that losing diversion is a problem; this holds the whole system together. Everything fits together and should be coordinated.

Director Bonkowski asks if we can add this issue to the Strategic Planning agenda.

Mr. James says yes, we need to pull together all entities to set protocols for emergency situations.

Director Schank says we need a master inventory from conservation districts, plus improvements and projects.

Director Schank says we should be the keeper of the inventory and provide the information to the state of Nevada.

Mr. Kaffer says we need a list of what's available out there in the event of emergency and what resources are available at the time of need. History and documentation are good to have. He thinks it's a good to involve state to have their help with FEMA, etc.

Mr. Minor says it would be good to have a checklist of protocol to make sure things get done in each county.

Director Jacobs asks if there are issues related to floods that need attention.

Mr. Minor says yes; restoration and innovating projects are ongoing. Protocols and records are needed for this too.

Director Workman asks if conservation districts are funded by us.

Mr. James responds that we do provide funding, but we do not have a hazard mitigation fund/plan for Carson River.

Director Giomi says Truckee has a plan for this. Hazard mitigation plan is a good idea!

Mr. Kaffer volunteers to help with this project.

This was for discussion only and no action was taken.

Item #12 – Approval of the 2019 Water and Sewer Rate Report. Ms. Neddenriep introduced her report. Douglas and Lyon counties and Carson City are conducting rate studies. Ms. Neddenriep mentioned that she would welcome Director Jacobs and Director Workman help in revamping the report format.

Director Jacobs made the motion to approve the 2019 Water and Sewer Report. The motion was seconded by Director Giomi and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Item #13 – Approval of an increase to the living stipend for CWSD’s AmeriCorps member/Watershed Technician, Justin Bedocs. Mr. Fryer discussed Justin’s time at CWSD: This is his second term with AmeriCorps and he has increased his position and has become a valuable member of the team. The traditional housing provided by AmeriCorps to its employees will no longer be available in the near future, so CWSD is requesting that the Board approve a Housing Stipend of \$300 per month to be added to the compensation for this position. This would not only help our current AmeriCorps during his tenure with us, but it would also make an working with CWSD more desirable for our future AmeriCorps employees. The matching grant program provides us an amazing opportunity for this position which is comparatively valued at \$30 per hour.

Director Thaler made the motion to approve increase in housing stipend to AmeriCorps employee Justin Bedocs. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Item #14 - : Approval of an Agreement with Resource Concepts, Inc. to develop “Geomorphology 101” presentations to county staff and public officials in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Shane explained that this is a proposal to educate public officials and applicable staff in this important area so they are better able to make decisions concerning the Carson River. The proposal includes Lynn Zonge, RCI as presenter using a PowerPoint at 10 locations covering all counties in the Watershed.

Mr. James mentioned this project was proposed by the CRC and is funded by NDEP.

Director Workman asks if RCI can also look into what we were discussing earlier regarding inventory of projects.

Director Jacobs says it would be good to take notes at these presentations as they will spark good conversation that should be documented.

Director Workman says all counties should be in on the conversations and made aware of what is happening all along the river. Everything affects each other.

Mr. Fryer says this can be the first of many presentations to follow.

Director Giomi says the cost is really reasonable.

Director Penzel would like to see storm water to be included in the conversation and be added to the scope of the project.

Director Workman made the motion to approve with the stipulation that it be capped at \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Dave Griffith and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Item #15 – Provide direction to CWSD Staff regarding the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session.

- Mr. James discussed the Legislative Committee meeting that was held January 28, 2019 and reported the consensus on the following pending legislation:

- AB30, AB51 & AB 62: Recommended CWSD monitor these bills.

- AB70: Involves changes to Open Meeting Law to include attendance via teleconferencing. CWSD recommends opposing based on costly compliance.
- AB 84 – CWSD changes have been submitted and recommends support with these changes.
- AB 95 – Mr. James calls this the “Pahrump” bill, but it could affect our watershed so we need to watch this one. CWSD recommends support of this bill.
- AB47 – This bill was introduced by State Lands to deal with diversions in the Truckee and Carson Rivers. CWSD recommends monitoring this bill.
- SB 96 – Looking for the state to set up funding source for matching funds (Federal funds) for projects around the state. CWSD recommends we provide direction as appropriate on this one.

Mr. James will keep the Legislative Committee updated on his meetings and new things as they come up during the session.

No action was taken on this item.

Item #16 – Discuss and provide input on the draft Amicus Brief for the Walker Lake litigation – Mr. King presented and spoke about the latest version of the brief. He says that Nevada is unique in that all water is allocated by decree.

Director Workman wonders if communities should be changes to municipalities?

Director Jacobs is concerned about water rights, appropriations and the cascading effects of this.

Director Giomi cautions against using the word municipality because it has unique and specific meaning Nevada.

Mr. King says there is a formula that is used.

Director Schank suggests we add why is this so important to CWSD. It took 56 years to complete the Alpine Decree for the Carso River.

Mr. James questioned new timing for submittals.

Mr. King says he has asked Supreme Court for date to file. Douglas County may want to join in our brief.

Mr. James suggests we bring an updated version to the March meeting for another reading. Please submit any ideas for edits to him.

No action was taken on this item.

Item #17– Discussion about a possible meeting date for the CWSD Strategic Planning

Session – Mr. James asks everyone to take out their calendars to select a date for the strategic planning session. This will be important for team building. Christie James will be facilitating. It would have been best to hold it prior to the Finance Committee meeting, but earlier dates did not work out and we are now looking at March. Going through several dates around that table, Monday, March 18, 9am-2pm at the NAI conference room was confirmed by all in attendance.

Director Schank suggests everyone submit five things most important to them to address, then we can poll the Board to narrow the focus.

Item #18– Public Comment - Justin Bedocs thanks everyone for considering his housing stipend request.

**ADJOURN TO RECONVENE AS THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS (8:12pm)**

- **Item #19: Approval of the 2019 Water and Sewer Rate Report.**
- **Item #20: Approval of an increase to the living stipend for CWSD’s AmeriCorps member/Watershed Technician, Justin Bedocs.**
- **Item #21: Approval of an Agreement with Resource Concepts, Inc. to develop “Geomorphology 101” presentations to county staff and public officials in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.**
- **Item #22: Provide direction to CWSD Staff regarding the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session.**
- **Item #23: Provide direction regarding the draft Amicus Brief for the Walker Lake litigation.**

Based on Carson River Watershed Committee recommendation of agenda items #12-17, Director Schank made the motion to approve Item#19 through Item #23. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #24 – Staff Reports – Mr. James reported that CWSD is setting up field trips starting with Lyon or Douglas County in May. We will be contacting Directors for ideas for their county. Regional Water Committee is reviewing RFQs for the USBR Water Marketing grant. He announced the Finance Committee will be meeting February 28, 8:30 – 2pm in the CWSD conference room. He also announced that our water supply is at 175% of average. There was no correspondence.

Item #25 – Directors Reports: None

Item #26 – Alpine County Reports: Mr. Griffith reported that the EPA is going to discuss the Leviathan Superfund Project on Tuesday, March 5, 6pm at Turtle Rock Park. The Alpine Watershed Group has been authorized funding for another year to test the treated waste water with the STPUD operation. They are testing for pharmaceuticals constituents. He says this is the most snow on Highway 88 he has ever seen. He apologized for Director Jardine’s absence.

Item #27– Storey County Reports: None

Item #24 – Public Comment: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Thaler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra
Secretary to the Board