

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
July 17, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

DRAFT Minutes

Chairman Erquiaga called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at Turtle Rock Park Community Center, 17300 State Route 89, Markleeville, CA. 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
Fred Stodieck, Director
Larry Walsh, Director
Mike Workman, Director

Absent CWSD Directors: Steve Thaler

Roll call of the Carson River Watershed Committee was taken which included CWSD Directors present, David Griffith and Don Jardine, Committee Members. Committee Member Austin Osborne was absent.

Others present:

Kathy Canfield, Storey County
Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Manager
Hannah Gray, Public
Edwin James, General Manager
Mo Loden, Alpine Watershed Group
Rob Loveberg, Consultant
Kimra McAfee, Alpine Watershed Group
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II
Catrina Schambra, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board
Nate Schank, Public
Debbi Waldear, Friends of Hope Valley
JE Warren-Wickwire, Friends of Hope Valley

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Erquiaga.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – Mr. James announced that Auston Osborne, who was recently named the new Storey County Manager, will be resigning from our Board and Kathy Canfield, Storey County Senior Planner will be his replacement. He welcomed her as a guest tonight.

No action was taken.

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda.

Director Schank made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2019.

Director Giomi made the motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2019 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and was approved by the Board 9-0-1, with Director Penzel abstaining due to absence.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #7 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for June 2019

Item #8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for June 2019

Director Gray made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Item #9 – For Discussion only: Presentation by Rob Loveberg on draft Regional Floodplain Ordinance Language.

Rob Loveberg gave a presentation on the Regional Floodplain Ordinance Language he has been working on for Carson City, Alpine County, Lyon County and Douglas County. He explained the purpose and progress of his work. He explained the importance of consistency in common Floodplain language among the counties. Managing restrictions to development and improving CRS scores for better insurance rates are some of the goals. He also announces there is a new requirement for Floodplain Disclosure in real estate transactions.

Director Jacobs said it is complicated understanding the Ordinance language. How will it affect the actual homeowners? Mr. Loveberg explained there are new requirements: compensatory storage if water displaced. Director Jacobs asked how would it be managed or be enforced? Mr. Loveberg explained the disclosure requirement; however, jurisdictions would need to enforce these new rules.

Director Penzel asks why the ordinance is even required? Mr. Loveberg responded that because these counties participate in a national flood insurance program this is a requirement. Minimum requirements are set so communities can participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. A discussion of insurance coverage followed. Director Penzel says not building in the Floodplain has been working for Douglas County. He wonders how the ranchers can be in compliance, regarding the compensatory storage requirement. He says it should be a policy – not an ordinance or law in his opinion.

Director Gray says NRS covers these requirements in regard to disclosure of flood zone and environmental hazards.

Director Giomi asks are they specific to flood zones or specific to the river corridor? Mr. Loveberg says it varies by the ordinance and they are county specific.

Mr. James says consistency is basis for Carson River floodplain. He discussed the floodways in the watershed (Lyon County & Carson City) and restriction of building in the floodway. Every ordinance is specific to each county.

Committee Member Griffith asks what is the changes to the CRS rating by being part of the program? Mr. Loveberg responds that Alpine County is not in the program at this time. It will be a discount to insurance rates. Currently Carson City is at a 5 (25% discount) and Douglas County is at 6 (20% discount). He thinks Alpine County could get close to them in their rate discount.

Committee Member Griffith asks what type of delay is this causing in home building? Mr. Loveberg replies, two weeks, which is not bad at all. And only a couple of weeks delay in the permitting program.

Mr. James states this model actually streamlines the process in some cases and will expedite process for less cost. Mr. Loveberg says it is not expensive to use preexisting model.

Director Jacobs asks what is the urgency for this? Mr. Loveberg explains it is up to each entity. CWSD contract with him is over at the end of August 2019.

No action was taken.

Item #10 – For Discussion only: Presentation by Friends of Hope Valley.

Debbi Waldear described Hope Valley as the Headwaters of the West Fork and explained the origins Friends of Hope Valley (FOHV), stressing that it is public land and FOHV are the stewards of the land. They petitioned Congress to get the appropriation dollars to make the land public. They work with the Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game. She reported that Judy Warren-Wickwire, who was in attendance, personally has planted thousands of willows every year over the thirty-five plus years of their stewardship and that’s why their section of the river looks so beautiful. She praised the ranchers for also taking care of the meadows. FOHV recently worked specifically on handicapped all-access to piers for fishing. They do their best to stay on top of agencies to make sure the public lands are protected.

Committee Member David Griffith said Friends of Hope Valley have made a substantial contribution to their community and expressed kudos for their work.

No action was taken.

Item #11 – For Discussion only: Presentation by Alpine Watershed Group.

Kimra McAfee gave a Power Point presentation on Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) and their river projects. Ms. McAfee explained how AWG is a different sort of watershed organization which defined by county boundaries. Alpine County holds the headwaters of five watersheds—the Carson River on the east slope, the Upper Truckee, and on the west slope the South Fork American, the Mokelumne, and the Stanislaus. The Carson River Watershed (CRW) encompasses about 2/3 of Alpine County, so the majority of their work is in the CRW. Ms. McAfee also talked about their current workforce, which consists of two full-time employees and two AmeriCorps workers; but how they have just received a two-year BOR grant that will allow for a third full-time employee. AWG is excited for the opportunity presented by this grant and the continuity that having another full-time permanent employee committed to their goals over the next two years. Unfortunately, AWG will not be having an AmeriCorps partnership during this grant period.

No action was taken.

Item #12 – For Discussion only: Presentation by Shane Fryer on the Watershed Literacy Program.

Shane Fryer, CWSD Watershed Program Manager, gave a verbal report due to technical difficulties in presenting his Power Point presentation. He asked to be put on the agenda for the August meeting so the Board may view it at that time.

Mr. Fryer explained that the original intent had been a “Drinking Water” campaign, but the EPA wanted more of a Watershed connection or theme, so CWSD changed the direction of the project. The new theme and related registered domain name is “www.iamcarsonriver.org” and the target demographic age is 30s Female. Our local News Anchor, Vanessa Vancour is slated to be our spokesperson. Mr. Fryer is eager for the Board to see the 90-second video as he is happy with the results.

Director Bonkowski commented that he thinks the length is good, 90 seconds, with 7-second scenes. There was discussion about be interesting and holding the attention of the audience.

Director Giomi asks that it be conveyed that the urban environment is in the watershed, even if you’re 7 miles from the river. It’s important to know you’re living in the Watershed.

Mr. Fryer mentioned will be using watershed moments in history with the 2020-2021 Grant as a theme to introduce the Watershed. He assured the Board they would see and approve the final video before it was released.

Director Jacobs asked if any agricultural information would be included in the video. The response was no, just the urban connection for this one.

Debbie Neddenriep explained the background of the project for the new Board Members. A previous CWSD survey had revealed that residents in the community didn’t know they lived in a watershed. The signs along the US 50 were another resulting project. This video is another tool to educate the public.

Mr. Fryer added the example of residents dumping motor oil down storm drains. Many residents didn’t know this is a problem.

No action was taken.

Item #13 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports – Mr. James reported the following:

- Mr. James and Ms. Neddenriep met with the U.S. Forest Service regarding the public use of the hot springs and its impact on the river. They plan to address the situation with wall-to-wall people at the hot springs and the resulting human waste issues.
- Mr. James announced the August field trip will be a tour of the Quill Water Treatment Plant in Carson City.
- CWSD Attorney, Patrick King, was absent due to the passing of his beloved Great Dane.
- Mr. James and Ms. Schambra will be meeting with Mr. King this Friday to begin working on standardizing our contract language for the future.

Director Schank asked Mr. James about the Cradlebaugh Bridge project and the erosion since last season. Mr. James says it is losing land. Director Penzel asks for an update on the erosion at the next meeting.

Legal – None

Correspondence – None

No action was taken.

Item #14– For Discussion Only: Directors Reports

Director Schank thanks Mr. Fryer, the evening’s Grill Master and all those involved for the great BBQ dinner.

No action was taken.

Item #15 – For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –

Committee Member Jardine reported the following:

- He attended meeting in Bishop of “LAMP” (Local Area Management Program) that was discussing septic tanks that were leaking to the river.
- A new program of CA Fish & Wildlife is putting Rotenone in Wolf Creek. CWSD has opposed this chemical use in the past and now.
- Sierra Summit is at Kings Beach, September 12-13. He says this is an important meeting and everyone is welcome!
- Leviathan Mine Tour is September 6 or September 20. He will update when date set.

Committee Member Griffith reported the Excess Biomass in Forest Study has started and is to be finished in January or February 2020. The funding is \$100,000.

No action was taken.

Item #16 – For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County. –

Ms. Canfield reported the following:

- The EPA is trying out new equipment along 6 Mile Canyon Road looking for mercury levels.
- Storey County has also started working with Rob Loveberg on Floodplain Ordinance Language.

Item #17 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment –

Ms. Warren-Wickwire, Friends of Hope Valley, thanked all for coming to Alpine County.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Erquiaga adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra
Secretary to the Board