



# Floodplain and River Management Working Group NOTES

Thursday, October 25, 2018

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Location:** **Bonanza Room at Carson City Community Center (Northeast Corner Room)**

[Carson City Community Center](#)

[851 E. William St.](#)

[Carson City, NV 89701](#)

**Contact:** Brenda Hunt, 887-9005, [brenda@cwsd.org](mailto:brenda@cwsd.org)

**Attendees:**

Alyse Weyman, Watershed Citizen  
Brenda Hunt, CWSD  
Brian Peters, Alpine County  
Carlos Rendo, NDWR  
Dean Patterson, Churchill County  
Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD  
Ed James, CWSD  
Eric Nilssen, Douglas County  
Jean Stone, NDEP  
John Coburn, UNCE  
Justin Bedocs, AmeriCorps - CWSD  
Kathy Canfield, Storey County  
Lyndsey Boyer, Carson City Open Space  
Michael Johnson, Churchill County  
Mitch Blum, HDR  
Mo Loden, Alpine Watershed Group  
Nicole Goehring, NDWR  
Rob Loveberg, Independent Consultant  
Robb Fellows, Carson City Public Works  
Shane Fryer, CWSD  
Sherman Swanson, UNR  
Shyla Lemons, Carson City Public Works  
Tammy Kinsley, Lyon County

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1. Welcome: Folks introduced themselves.
  2. Member Round Robin updates (Projects, Programs, Events and Ideas)

**Robb Fellows Carson City:**

- Flood repairs from flood 2017, completed quite a few repair projects but still things to do
  - A lot of damage along the river on path systems
  - Project held up due to historic bridge built in 1900 (by Morgan Mill boat ramp)
  - Historic bridge repairs are included in the work plan, waiting for documents from state to begin work
  - 46 total projects need to be repaired. Asked for extensions for FEMA, most granted

October 25, 2018 CRC Floodplain & River Management Working Group

9:00am – 11:00am *Ponderosa Room* – Carson City Community Center

- Funded by FEMA public assistance funds

Shyla:

- Moving forward with Lompa subdivision by high school
- Tentative maps approved for west side
- Working through regulatory issues in floodplain
- Carson City is working to lower CRS rating to a Level 5!!!

Nichole Goehring:

- Workshop next week for CRS
  - Registration is on NevadaFloods.org,
  - 2-day event, go through the different series
- Newsletter coming out in a few days
- Flood awareness week is coming up, there will be a media flash
- Silver Jacket Projects: Army Corps and State of NV flood hazard coordination group
  - Meeting held last week voted on top 3 projects, funding comes from army corps
  - 2019 project alluvial fan flood-risk prioritization
  - Flood after fire, 2020 Projects– Flood warning system plan update (Douglas first) 2<sup>nd</sup> Dam  
Emergency action plan
  - Increased flood awareness funding for 2020

Carlos Rendo:

- Big media push for Flood Awareness week
  - Billboards 395 Elko and fee electric board casinos, libraries.
  - NV Appeal, Lahontan VN, Radio or TV ads in Spanish.
  - Creating inventory of flood materials/publications that are available for partners to use

Sherm Swanson:

- We should rename Flood Awareness to Flood Appreciation week (haha!) because river functions often improve from floods
- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Nevada lands monitoring published of rangeland management handbook is available online
  - They thought the problem was overgrazing, less is more
  - There are two fire problems:
    1. One is there are not enough fires to keep fuel down
    2. Other problem is lag time/fine fires, may have issues with riparian management
- Last June there was a Riparian proper river function and condition assessment class, good attendance, will plan more for next year for state of Nevada. Good things happen when ranchers monitor their lands

John Cobourn:

- Cooperative extension, research on climate change
  - Has been on committee since its inception ten years ago
  - Watersheds are threatened by climate change
  - Good riparian and floodplain management are even more important for watershed health
  - Climate change can seem overwhelming, what can we do? Carbon fee program, put a cost on carbon and price of polluting, carbon sequestration, carbon cap-n-trade, cost of coal going up

Action: Check out these links for the ? and the article about [Canada adopting the Carbon fee and dividend](#)

October 25, 2018 CRC Floodplain & River Management Working Group  
9:00am – 11:00am *Ponderosa Room* – Carson City Community Center

Michael Johnson:

- Have recently become aware of houses that were built in the floodway – working with Bunny Bishop, State Floodplain Manager at NDWR.
  - There is a Mapping issue – between 1999 maps and current.
  - No flooding this year, 1999 maps were just black and white, no aerial photos, development has changed floodplains and floodways since then.

Brian Peters:

- Still trying to finish 2017 flood projects at Wolf Creek
- A large debris flow in March 2017 across the road
  - Blocked the river and blew out a bunch of drainage and culverts above that point from runoff from the storm
  - Debris flow continues to slump off every time there is moisture out there.
  - It is increasing bed load in the river, lots of sediment.
- Working with USFS/FEMA and funding for the cleanup has still not been located.

Shane:

- Watershed signs installed along the watershed divide
- Not done in California yet but hoping that Nevada will serve as a good precedent
- Alpine County has good CalTrans contacts

Erik Nilssen:

- Flood awareness week, Courtney Walker is now in the Public Works Department and is responsible for Stormwater Maintenance Program
- Finished 395 just North of Minden culvert expansion
- Highway 88 culvert expansion so it doesn't "overtop", just got offers back for appraisals, hopefully in spring the project will be constructed

Tammy Kingsley:

- For Flood awareness week, Lyon County libraries will have maps and handouts, info on Facebook site, etc.

Lyndsey Boyer:

- A fire in August in Carson River Canyon at rifle range, burned down to river
  - Working to stabilize the road a bit to keep it from washing out
  - Fire wasn't super-hot so there is already regrowth, Carson City is funding reseeding and restoration efforts.

### 3. Update and next steps on FEMA Discovery and Regional Floodplain Management Plan (RFMP) (CWSD)

Debbie's Update on RFMP:

- RFMP has been reformatted and updated from 2008 plan.
- Draft floodplain ordinance, Rapid evaluation, and Hydraulic modeling.
- Thank you to Jean Stone and the counties that helped out
- KML File is available for rapid evaluation. Discovery report is new, sent to you by Michael Baker.
- There is a table on how floodplain management plan meets FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS).

October 25, 2018 CRC Floodplain & River Management Working Group

9:00am – 11:00am *Ponderosa Room* – Carson City Community Center

- Suggested actions were expanded.
- Adopted by CWSD board and will now go to various counties for adoption – Going to Douglas County on Nov. 1 – **Action: CWSD to work with other 5 County’s staff (inclusive of Storey County), to bring before their respective boards for County adoption in the next 2-3 months. Note: Douglas County Nov. 1, 2018, Board meeting has been canceled and will be rescheduled.**

Follow these links to the revised RFMP and Appendices:

<http://www.cwsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-10-18-RFMP-Bd-Approved-Final.pdf>

[http://www.cwsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-10-18-RFMP-Appendices-Final\\_Web.pdf](http://www.cwsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-10-18-RFMP-Appendices-Final_Web.pdf)

4. FEMA MAS 4 Update (Mitch Blum -HDR), 7, 8 and 9 Project Updates (CWSD et al) flood Ordinances, Flood Awareness, Voltaire, ADMP, and whatever is not shared during Round Robin

Mitch:

- Mas 4 is Carson Valley modeling and floodplain mapping update
- Trying to revise FEMA floodplain maps for Carson Valley which have been submitted to FEMA
- In the meantime, development of software has been upgraded, will severely benefit the modeling, so HDR is working with FEMA to figure out a way to update the model to the latest software version
- Current model only goes from Alpine to Lahontan because the river is a different system below Lahontan Dam. Part of project was remapping the floodplain, coarse topography; other thing is to track cumulative impacts in the floodplain, FEMA staff changes and because it is a new product for has held up final approval and adoption.
- New LiDAR data is available from BOR for Churchill County
- Eric Simmons is now back in charge of our area from a FEMA perspective
- Possible project for MAS 10: Watershed-scale rapid emergency response model to look at predictive floodplain management during an event, through FEMA, model is a static terrain model, rain falls on grid cells which have topography built in to them so it tells patterns of drainage, calculates speed of movement, overland slope, infiltration, roadways, culverts, takes guesswork out of storm flows, predictive model.

Rob Loveberg:

- Working on incorporating new language recently adopted by Douglas County and Lyon County into the Floodplain Ordinance language. Ordinance process is quite long in Carson City and other Counties.

Ed:

- Looking to compile list of contractors so in the future it will save time. Will be working with Counties as they have a similar process. In future, looking to go with RFQ and save time on both sides from the RFP processes
- MAS 9 new funding from FEMA, project proposals are:
  - Douglas County: to remap restudy Pine Nut Creek, working with HDR on scope and cost of work,
  - Carson City: identifying and mitigating flood waters in North Carson City industrial areas in flood areas (Goni and Eagle Valley Drainage A & B), Negotiating with Michael Baker initial firm being selected,
  - Lyon County: South Dayton Area drainage master plan in, Working on scope and work for those projects with JE Fuller. Area Drainage Master Plan in Storey and Lyon counties, questions on

## October 25, 2018 CRC Floodplain & River Management Working Group

9:00am – 11:00am *Ponderosa Room* – Carson City Community Center

hydrology, will hopefully provide a road map to show corridors where water comes down from alluvial fans.

- Upgrade Regional Floodplain Model to new HEC RAS version 5.05
- MAS 8: Dayton Valley Area drainage masterplan. Incorporates Storey and Lyon- meeting on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> in Lyon County.
- Meet about Mas 10 and FEMS Cooperating Technical Partner Charter meeting to be held in Jan/Feb. Have been meeting with Churchill County as they may be proposing a couple of projects for MAS 10.

### 5. Douglas County Projects – Projects in the Floodplain Interim Review and approval process (Erik N., John C., etc.)

- Development in the flood plain in Douglas county along East Fork – Klauber Ranch
- Off Muller Lane, where Martin Slough and East Fork come together.
- Douglas and HDR are reviewing proposal
- Erik, culvert expansion on martin slough, current floodplain is zone Ae, convergence of two floodplains (E. Fork and Martin Slough),
- Developers want to put houses as close as they can to the river, people want river in their back yard as lots could go for as much as \$400,000 and up
- Developer plans to shift flow to other side of the river, doubling the flow on other side
- Could affect communities downstream including Muller Culvert/Bridge
- Looking at county codes including floodplain ordinance, subdivision ordinance, setbacks, etc.
- Within a half-foot allowable rise on other side of river which developer also owns
- The river wasn't mapped as a flood way as FEMA has yet to determine how to do with a 2D model and where to forks floodplains mingle.
- There may be erosion potential and riprap to be used to essentially create a hardened bank on proposed development side. County Code states that additional erosion cannot be caused by project.
- Development rights were transferred from another watershed, from Walker River watershed to here
- **Potential homeowners should look at what this area looked like after the 1997 flood**
- It's an ongoing saga and need to do conservation easements or restrictions on the other side of the river if they were planning use that area as mitigation for the development.
- At meeting, it was asked if the developer is required by county code to protect the land across the river that will receive increased flood flow, and this was unknown. **(Note: DC Code would require a deed restriction on the mitigation land according to their Code).**
- Concept of flood ways are in question for communities like this, in a specific channel steady-state flow situation
- Concerns were raised that the "Living River Approach" stated in the Regional Floodplain Management Plan adopted by each County, is not being addressed in this proposal. The group stated that this type of project could set a concerning precedent. The Floodplain Model does not address these issues.
- The group also asked about whether the one-foot rise allowed by FEMA and DC is a first come first serve situation from a cumulative impact perspective, or if it is there is a more equitable requirement. We were assured it is first come first serve.
- Please contact Erik if you have additional questions or thoughts about this proposal.

### 6. Grants Update

- A. NDEP Clean Water Act Section 319(h) (Brenda and Shane)

October 25, 2018 CRC Floodplain & River Management Working Group

9:00am – 11:00am *Ponderosa Room* – Carson City Community Center

NDEP Watershed Coordination 2 year – large grant – Look at modifying Watershed-Literacy Campaign, develop an alternative/future funding strategy for our Watershed Coordination efforts and, develop a detailed implementation strategy for the WQ aspects of these projects.

- B. 208 Planning- Low Impact Development Ordinances Project Update (Rob L.)
  - a. Rob will be working with the Counties and CWSD in the near future on completing this project.
- C. USBR WaterSmart-Water Market Development
  - a. Identify and develop potential for off channel storage and water marketing. CWSD received funding for this project; however, it may take some time for USBR (who is working on a backlog) to develop a contract and start work. Expect an RFP in a couple of months. Proposal may include: Off storage, underground storage water, flow enhancement, climate change if the water is coming off sooner for development or wildlife.
- D. USACE Alluvial Fan Phase II
  - a. USACE approved funding to completed this project. CWSD, NDWR and USACE will be meeting to discuss moving forward with this project in the near future.
- E. Funding Opportunities:
  - FEMA – (Ed)Already discussed MAS 10 above.
  - CWSD - Will be asking for requests by mid to end of January for early February presentations to CWSD Finance Committee
  - [USBR WaterSmart Watershed Program II](#), 501c3 appear to be only eligible folks such as Alpine Watershed Group, 50% match required.
  - [Healthy Watershed Consortium](#) - Super competitive – 25%match ~250,000 approx. max. Variety of projects.

7. Discuss Proposal to shorten working group name to Floodplain Management Working Group

- Folks agreed to change name to Floodplain Management Working Group

8. Upcoming Meetings:

- CRC Education Work Group Meeting Nov. 14, 2018
- CRC Forum March 13 & 14, 2019
- Look for opportunities. MAC building -