

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
February 19, 2020, 6:30 pm

Minutes

Chairman Erquiaga called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 pm in the Bonanza Room, Carson City Community Center at 851 E. William Street. 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
Jack Jacobs, Director
Barry Penzel, Director
Ernie Schank, Director
Fred Stodieck, Director
Larry Walsh, Director
Mike Workman, Director

Absent CWSD Directors: Ken Gray

Roll call of the Caron River Watershed Committee was taken which included CWSD Directors and Committee Members, Don Jardine and Austin Osborne.

Absent CWSD Committee Members: David Griffith

CWSD Staff present:

Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Program Manager
Edwin James, CWSD General Manager
Catrina Schambra, CWSD Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board

Others present:

Linda Kozak, Public
Robert Pohlman, Public

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Erquiaga.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Director Schank made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Jacobs and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of Jan. 15, 2020

Director Penzel made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of

January 15, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item # 7 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer's Report for January 2020

Item # 8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2020

Director Schank made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Giomi and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Item # 9 - For Possible Action: Provide Guidelines to the Finance Committee regarding funding for the Acquisition/Construction Fund

Mr. James explained the history of the establishment of the Acquisition/Acquisition Fund to the Board. There was discussion in 2019 of looking into re-building this fund. The Finance Committee will be meeting on February 21, 2020 and it would be useful for the Board to provide specific guidance for the future of the fund.

Director Bonkowski said if we do add to this fund, he thinks it should come off the top, before funding of grants. He thinks we need a policy to set up amount to be designated to increase fund when working on the draft of the annual budget for grant funding.

Director Schank said that designating \$25,000 a year to build fund would be a lot to take away from grants. Mr. James discussed the provided list of possible projects that would come out of this fund. Currently the fund is short by half of the funds needed. He suggests we try to increase the funds by a minimum of \$75,000 over the next 10 years as a manageable goal.

Director Penzel thinks it is important that this fund lets us complete actual projects versus performing studies. Director Bonkowski suggests the amounts on the list may not be accurate as prices have probably gone up. Director Jacobs wonders why the city does not pay for certain projects on the list, such as pipelines, instead of CWSD. Mr. James says there are multiple entities and elements to each project that benefits the watershed. There is a policy in place with required guidelines for using these funds. Director Giomi thinks it is critical that it is of regional benefit and that we are a bridge with local agencies that we partner with for these projects. This is a good way to spend these funds.

Director Schank stated the Finance Committee needs guidance. To take money off the top cuts out smaller districts asking for funding. This is important and needs to be weighed in this discussion. We must balance small and larger projects.

Mr. James said we will need to cut \$300,000 on Friday to meet all funding requests. Director Penzel thinks it is important to keep fund growing to handle big ticket projects that need to be done. We also need county input, referring to each Director, on what your priorities are. Director Bonkowski stated we definitely need better communication on what projects are most

important to each county.

Director Schank states that money we fund to specific counties should be coordinated with county commissioners. If priorities are aligned, we can make sure we are all on the same page. Director Bonkowski said that Directors should educate staff on projects with regional benefit so they can clearly communicate with conservation districts and Public Works.

Director Schank said we should start planning earlier and have Directors speak to their Commissioners regarding projects CWSD is considering and use this input to edit and shape our wish list. If we start the process sooner, we can have a CWSD representative from the Finance Committee meet with Commissioners to educate and get input on city projects. Mr. James mentioned that starting the process earlier would be difficult since we do not get information from the State until February/March.

Director Giomi asks how would it affect the grant funds if we take \$75,000 off the top this year? Mr. James responds that we already have to cut \$300,000 from the current requests. Director Giomi thinks \$75,000 is reasonable. Director Jacobs thinks it should be a specific year decision based on proposed projects and priority ranking by the Board. Director Schank wonders if we can plan on giving bigger grants over multiple years. Director Penzel responds that it causes an accounting problem such as projects that get delayed over several years. Director Schank thinks long-term projects would be a plus. Director Thaler states that living in Nevada we must be able to deal with flood situations too. He agrees we need to take \$75,000 off the top.

Director Bonkowski made a motion to direct the Finance Committee to prioritize putting aside \$75,000 per year for the Construction/Acquisition Fund. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 10 - For Possible Action: Authorize staff to pursue the possibility of Storey and Alpine County to officially join CWSD through Nevada Legislation

Mr. James introduced the discussion and noted that Storey County Commissioners had already submitted their letter requesting for CWSD to move forward. Director Schank stated he was Chairman six years ago and had tried to make this happen. He thinks it is a great thing and applauds Committee Member Osborne for helping to make this happen. Director Penzel asked what about Alpine County? Committee Member Jardine responded that Alpine County Commissioners passed this unanimously, too, and he was delivering the official letter requesting CWSD to move forward tonight.

Director Thaler stated Douglas County pays via Ad Valorem taxes. How would Storey County pay? Committee Member Osborne said Storey County would contribute through its General Fund without increasing taxes. It would be a General Fund expenditure.

Mr. James explained the Ad Valorem Tax amount that counties pay is 3 cents per \$100 Property tax. Storey County would pay the same amount, just the amount would come out of their General Fund. They would establish a baseline for payment based on the same calculation. It is a priority to make Storey County a full Director with all the same rights and benefits as the other county directors. This letter asking to move forward is the first step in this process.

Committee Member Osborne explains to the Board that Storey County is affected differently that other counties since the river does not touch Storey County. This would be a possible way

to approach paying it differently, but it is firm there will be no new taxes to pay for this in Storey County. It will be a General Fund expenditure only.

Director Schank stated it is good that we begin this process early. If we start now, we should be ready during the next legislative session.

Director Giomi made a motion to authorize beginning the process through Nevada State legislation (and California State legislation if necessary) to make Committee Members in Alpine and Storey Counties full Directors of the Carson Water Subconservancy District with all of the same rights and benefits therein. The motion was seconded by Director Thaler and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 11 - For Possible Action: Approve the various projects for the next round of FEMA funding in 2020

Mr. James explained the FEMA projects that have been recommended by the FEMA Charter meeting for FEMA MAS 11 funding and their priority order. Director Penzel had requested that staff bring forth for Board approval the recommendations of the FEMA Charter group prior to requesting FEMA funding.

Director Schank made a motion to authorize staff to utilize the provided projects list for the FEMA MAS 11 funding request. The motion was seconded by Director Jacobs and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 12 - For Possible Action: Authorize Staff to sign the funding agreement with NDEP for Carson River UAS Modeling and Monitoring

Director Penzel reported he learned at the NWRA Conference in Las Vegas, that the Clark County Flood District has an annual budget of over \$100 million. He described how they use drones to complete studies for them. CWSD would have to buy the right software to do this with a drone. The software would have modeling built into it. We would need to check with FEMA if this would meet their specific requirements. Mr. James will find out more details on how Clark County Flood District is using drones.

Under this program, CWSD would get a grant from NDEP to use a drone to monitor river projects. The grant would cover all of CWSD's costs.

Mr. James explains the project list benefits to the Board and a discussion follows. This technology is used by developers and many counties.

Director Thaler made a motion to authorize staff to sign the funding Agreement with NDEP for the Carson River UAS Modeling and Monitoring Project. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #13 – For Discussion Only: Update on the 2020 Water Year Runoff Projections

Mr. James gave a Power Point presentation to the Board on the 2020 Water Year Runoff Projections highlighting the significantly dry winter season.

No action was taken.

Item #14 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –

Mr. James reported on the following:

- He met with Lumos regarding the Regional Water Project and will meet again in April. This will be a great tool for counties to use.

Brenda Hunt reported on the following:

- The CRC Forum will be at WNC in Marlette Hall on Tuesday, March 10-Wednesday, March 11. We have a packed agenda and will be serving free lunch!

Legal –

Patrick King reported the Public Trust Doctrine is up before the Supreme Court. Patrick will attend and report back to the Board.

Correspondence – None

No action was taken.

Item #15– For Discussion Only: Directors Reports – None

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

Committee Member Jardine reported on a highway HAZMAT spills in Alpine County and delivered the Alpine County Letter requesting CWSD to move forward with making Alpine Committee Members full CWSD Directors.

No action was taken.

Item #17 – For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County –

Committee Member Osborne reported that the county-wide Water Master Plan was approved, and the Floodplain Ordinance was still being worked out. He then announced that tonight would be his last night on this Board. Kathy Canfield will be replacing him effective at the March meeting. She is the Storey County Planner and she will be a great addition to the CWSD Board! He will still be very involved. This has been his favorite Board he has ever served on. Ten years! The Board members thanked him for his service and assured him he would be missed.

No action was taken.

Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Erquiaga adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board