

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
March 18, 2020

Minutes

The CWSD Board meeting was scheduled and posted prior to Governor Sisolak's statewide Emergency Directive in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Directors were asked to phone into the meeting. Only Mr. James and Director Bonkowski attended the meeting in person at the posted meeting site: NAI Alliance Conference Room, 1000 N. Division St., Ste. 202, Carson City. All other attendees participated via teleconference.

Chairman Erquiaga called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 pm. 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 (*Via Teleconference*)
Stacey Giomi, Director (*Via Teleconference*)
Ken Gray, Director (*Via Teleconference*)
Jack Jacobs, Director (*Via Teleconference*)
Barry Penzel, Director (*Via Teleconference*)
Ernie Schank, Director (*Via Teleconference*)
Steve Thaler, Director (*Via Teleconference*)
Larry Walsh, Director (*Via Teleconference*)
Mike Workman, Director (*Via Teleconference*)

Absent CWSD Directors: Fred Stodieck

Roll call of the Carson River Watershed Committee was taken which included CWSD Directors and Committee Member David Griffith (*Via Teleconference*).

Absent CWSD Committee Members: Kathy Canfield and Don Jardine.

CWSD Staff present:

Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager (*Via Teleconference*)
Edwin James, General Manager
Catrina Schambra, Secretary to the Board (*Via Teleconference*)

Others present:

Patrick King, CWSD Attorney (*Via Teleconference*)

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 Walsh and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of Feb. 19, 2020

Director Giomi made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Walsh and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

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

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

Item # 9 - For Possible Action: Approval of the 2020 Water and Sewer Rate Report

Item # 10 - For Possible Action: Approval of Eide Bailly, Inc. to conduct FY 2019/20 Audit

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

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

Item # 11 - For Discussion Only: Presentation by Kimley-Horn on the North Carson City Mitigation Flood Study

Kimley-Horn representative was not able to participate, so Mr. James went over his presentation that will be presented to the Carson City Board of Supervisors at their meeting tomorrow, March 19, 2020.

Director Bonkowski said an action item on their agenda tomorrow is approval of Carson City Public Works to acquire funding to move forward with this project. Mr. James mentioned that there may be funding available from the FEMA grant to assist Carson City with the development of a grant application for the projects identified in the Kimley-Horn presentation. Director Bonkowski also mentioned Carson City is in the process of getting a new preliminary storm drainage rate study started.

No action was taken.

Item # 12 - For Possible Action: Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Tentative Budget

Mr. James stated he appreciates the hard work of the Finance Committee. He directed the Board to various areas of the proposed budget and explained in detail. General Fund includes extra expenses for an Actuary report and Single Audit costs that will increase FY 2019-20 Annual Audit total. He discussed the grant amounts that were requested by the various stakeholders in the watershed and the cuts that had to be made and where. Mr. James also walked the Board through the proposed budgets for the Flood account and the Construction/Acquisition account for next year.

Director Jacobs asked if the Coronavirus crisis would have an impact on our budget. Mr. James explained that because our income is from Ad Valorem taxes, we will probably not see an effect until next year. He also reminded the Board that the State has not released their actual projected tax figures yet, but they will be available March 25, 2020. Because of the way the calendar falls, he had to use his best guess and will correct with actual numbers when received.

Director Penzel wondered if the projects will get completed during this crisis. Will we have healthy crews? For instance, the Douglas County SR88 project must be started by June. Mr. James mentioned that he talked with all the consultants and they have indicated that they are still working on the projects from their homes.

Director Schank made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Tentative Budgets for the General Fund, Flood Account and the Construction/Acquisition Fund as presented, allowing Mr. James to update the projected actual Ad Valorem Tax amounts when received from the Nevada Department of Taxation on March 25, 2020. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 13 - For Possible Action: Approve changes to the Regional Water System Policy

Mr. James explained the changes that have been proposed by the Regional Water System and Flood Committee. There was discussion of why these changes were needed.

Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the changes to the Regional Water System Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Workman and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 14 - For Discussion Only: Update on the Carson River Forum

Ms. Hunt said the Forum was a very successful event! The 2-day event focused on Water Quality the first day and Implementation on day two. There were over 90 registrations and 85+ attended each day. So far, she has received 43 responses to her attendee survey and all very positive! Comments included: "First time I've ever been involved!", "Great Workshop!" and "Great info!" She will send out the information to the Board if they would like and post it on the website. She is very proud of the work we did putting it together and happy by the participation and the great feedback.

Mr. James said he really appreciated Director Jacobs attending the event.

Director Jacobs was very impressed with the amount of participation. Great job!

No action was taken.

Item # 15 - For Discussion Only: Update on the 2020 Water Year Runoff Projections

Mr. James reported the snow equivalent on 2/19/20 was 69% and on 3/18/20 was at 68%. Being still at 68% at this later date is way below our average. There will not be much to come out of this upcoming weekend storm. We should expect a below normal runoff this year.

No action was taken.

Item #16– For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –

Mr. James reported on the following:

- We are looking into new ways to conduct our meetings due to the COVID-19 crisis and the emergency directive from the governor that they be held remotely. Staff is looking onto using Zoom or something equivalent. We are also looking at canceling the field trips and the Get on the Bus Tour until further notice. Chairman Erquiaga has experience with Zoom and said it works great! All CWSD staff are now working from home.

- Mr. James met with USGS today including a representative from Churchill County regarding the Middle Carson River Study (Carson City, to Lyon County, to Silver Springs). It was a good discussion. The water supply is an issue and we need to talk about it. He further explained what was discussed, including his concerns of some of the scenarios described in USGS reporting. Mr. James thinks they are extreme and not realistic, and he worries the information will be misinterpreted.

Brenda Hunt reported on the following:

- In the Forum comments she received a few specifically asked for more information on the water supply.

Legal – Patrick King reported the Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding the Walker Lake and Public Trust Doctrine. He was pleased with how it went. Justices in attendance asked very specific questions and seemed very engaged. There is a lot of interest in this case. There was standing room only in the courtroom! He will advise when an opinion is received.

Correspondence – Mr. James noted the obituary of Andy Aldax. He attended his service and was happy to see so many in the community show up to honor him.

Also attached is a letter from Walker River Irrigation District to Patrick King thanking him for his excellent work on the Amicus Brief.

No action was taken.

Item #17– For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –

- Director Schank reported the storm last week in Churchill County was significant. Normal for March is 6.32 inches and they are at 6.09 inches as of today.

Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –

- Committee Member Griffith reported that Alpine County government offices will be closed to the public starting tomorrow due to the COVID-19 Crisis.

No action was taken.

Item #19 – For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County – None

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 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board