

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT Regional Water System & Flood Committee

May 4, 2020, 12pm

Minutes

The CWSD Regional Water System & Flood Committee meeting was held via Zoom Videoconference and teleconference due to Governor Sisolak's statewide Emergency Directive in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Committee Members Present:

Brad Bonkowski
Kathy Canfield
Carl Erquiaga
David Griffith
Jack Jacobs
Mike Workman

Committee Members Not Present:

Fred Stodieck

CWSD Staff Present:

Ed James
Brenda Hunt
Debbie Neddenriep
Catrina Schambra

Others Present:

David Bruketta, Lyon County
Nick Charles, Lumos
Melissa James
Dave Merrill, Vidler Water Co.
Tim Russell, Lumos

Committee Member Erquiaga called the video/teleconference meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District's Regional Water System and Flood Committee to order at 12 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum of the committee was determined to be present.

Item #3 – Discussion Only: Public Comment - None

Item #4 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Committee Member Jacobs made a motion to approve the Regional Water System and Flood Committee Agenda. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Regional Water System and Flood Committee.

Item #5 - For Possible Action: Approval of the Regional Water System and Flood Committee Minutes of March 16, 2020

Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve the Regional Water System and Flood Committee Minutes from March 16, 2020. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Jacobs and unanimously approved by the Regional Water System and Flood Committee.

Item #6 - For Possible Action: Recommend approval of a funding request from Lyon County to obtain a Utility Right-of-Way from Dayton to Silver Springs

David Bruketta, Utilities Director for Lyon County presented the funding request to the committee. The Highway 50 Corridor Right-of-Way Project would run between Dayton and Silver Springs and be used for water, sewer, and reclaimed water. Mr. James stated the funding must come from the Acquisition/Construction Fund per the Regional Water System & Flood Committee Policy and there is approximately \$700,000 earmarked for these types of projects. This funding request is for a total of \$125,000.

Director Workman made a motion to recommend the CWSD Board approve the funding request as presented for a total not to exceed \$125,000 from the CWSD Acquisition/Construction Fund. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Regional Water System & Flood Committee.

Item # 7 – For Discussion Only – Review the CWSD Water Marketing Plan Update Memorandum from Lumos & Associates

Nick Charles from Lumos & Associates gave a data presentation on the Water Marketing project which is funded through a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant. The project is about 1/3 complete and he showed the data that has been gathered and what has been learned at this point. There has been a decrease trend in flows and more variability in the river. The data also shows the trends in use of the water.

Committee Member Griffith asked what the R square value was for the trends. Mr. Charles mentioned that the R square values are very low and stated the independent value is time. A better statistical method is to calculate the “P” values. Director Jacobs asked if they had analyzed any correlation with precipitation – rainfall and snowmelt? Mr. Charles responded that the report included just trends in the river system. Mr. James stated the East and West Fork stream flow gauges are located before any diversions, so these show what Mother Nature is giving us over time. The groundwater usage date comes from the State Engineer’s office. There was discussion of Perennial Yield (rainfall & snow melt) compared to System Yield, which includes active recharge to the aquifer. Director Jacobs say farmers will be excited about this information when it is available.

There was further discussion and Mr. James suggested that this presentation be shared with the full Board at the May 20, 2020 meeting.

No action was taken.

Item # 8 - For Discussion Only: Review the USGS 2009 Analysis of Streamflow Trends, Groundwater and Surface-Water Interactions, and Water Quality in the Upper Carson River Basin, Nevada and California Analysis

Mr. James reported his efforts to update the data used in the 2009 USGS Analysis. The data used for the report covered years 1940-2005, leaving a 15-year gap in the record. Due to questions brought up by a current USGS project, he wants to update the data to see whether

there are any measurable changes to the flows into Lahontan Reservoir. Mr. James and others are working with the water purveyors and the Federal Water Master to ensure the data they collect is accurate. The goal is to have the best data set available.

Committee Member Jacobs asked if the Alpine Decree considers the impact groundwater pumping on surface flows. Mr. James responds that it does not. However, there are concerns by people in the lower watershed that they are being impacted by upstream pumping. In 2009, the USGS published a report regarding this concern. The report mentioned that they did not see any changes to the flows into Lahontan Reservoir. This is most likely due to other changes in the watershed that are off setting the groundwater pumping. The purpose of updating the 2009 report is to see if there are any changes occurring now.

No action was taken.

Item #9 - For Possible Action: Recommend approval of the 5-year Mud Lake Lease Agreement with Carson City

Mr. James presented the Mud Lake Lease Agreement with Carson City. It is a 5-year Agreement and it is time to renew. There was brief discussion among the committee.

Director Jacobs made a motion to recommend the CWSD Board approve the 5-Year Mud Lake Lease Agreement with Carson City as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Regional Water System & Flood Committee.

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Recommend approval of the Lost Lakes Agreement with Carson City

Mr. James presented the Lost Lakes Agreement with Carson City. It is an annual Agreement and it is time to renew. This is a secondary water source for Carson City. This source is used only after the Mud Lake water and last year it was not used at all. Currently Carson City is our only market for this water, so we want to have an agreement in place in case they need it this year. Mr. James notes that there may be a need by Lyon County for use as a water source in the future. This is wintertime water and there are few wintertime sources available.

Director Jacobs made a motion to recommend the CWSD Board approve the Lost Lakes Agreement with Carson City as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Regional Water System & Flood Committee.

Item #11 - For Possible Action: Recommend Approval of the HDR Agreement and Scope of Work for the restudy and remapping of the Churchill County Floodplain

Mr. James explained the proposed Agreement with HDR for its work in the Restudy and

remapping of Churchill County Floodplain project. This is a project approved by Churchill County and started last year with preliminary hydrology studies. The cost of this project will be funded through FEMA MAS 10. There was a noted typo to be fixed and Director Jacobs asked that the insurance amount be verified by Mr. James prior to signing.

Director Bonkowski made a motion to recommend the CWSD Board approve the HDR Agreement for the FEMA Churchill County Restudy & Remapping Project with noted edit. The motion was seconded by Director Workman and unanimously approved by the Regional Water System & Flood Committee.

Item #12 – For Discussion Only: Update on Lost Lakes

Mr. James reminded the committee members that over the past ten years, Lost Lakes has cost \$100,000. Most of these costs were associated with the dam safety fees. Now USFS is looking at charging us a permit fee. It is important that we decide how we want to move forward with Lost Lake water rights. He thinks our best option would be to exchange our Lost Lakes water right with California Fish & Game for Red Lake water rights. In fact, Red Lake has some water quality issues that we can address with the revenue generated.

Ms. Hunt says that she has just started her research into this. The exchange would be the most beneficial to both entities, so she is looking into this possibility. She is working on learning what California Fish & Game goals are with Red Lake and here is still a question of Dam Safety fees.

Mr. James suggested that the next best idea is to transfer the water right to an induction well downstream. He has discussed this possibility with the Water Master. CWSD would have to install equipment to measure the flow at the existing location. This process would also require submitting a water right transfer request which could take 3-5 years.

Mr. James states this will be a slow-moving project. He will update the Board as we progress.

No action was taken.

Item #13 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Regional Water System and Flood Committee, Director Erquiaga adjourned the meeting at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board