

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 15, 2020

**Minutes**

***The CWSD July 15, 2020 Board of Directors meeting was held via Zoom Videoconference and teleconference due to Governor Sisolak's statewide Emergency Directive in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.***

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  
Stacey Giomi, Director  
Ken Gray, Director  
Jack Jacobs, Director  
Barry Penzel, Director  
Larry Walsh, Director  
Mike Workman, Director

**Absent Directors:** Ernie Schank, Fred Stodieck, and Steve Thaler.

Roll call of the Caron River Watershed Committee was taken which included CWSD Directors and Committee Members Kathy Canfield and David Griffith. Committee Member Don Jardine was absent.

**CWSD Staff present:**

Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II  
Catrina Schambra, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board  
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney

**Others present:**

John Sheridan, Gardnerville Ranchos GID

*The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Erquiaga.*

**Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment** – None

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

*Mr. James noted that there was an error on the agenda: Item #12 lists the title of the resolution to be adopted incorrectly, so this will be a discussion item only and it will be brought back for action on the August agenda. Director Pence made a motion to approve the agenda with noted stipulation to Item #12. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2020**

*Director Bonkowski made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2020 with a few typo corrections previously noted. The motion was seconded by Director Giomi and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**\*\*CONSENT AGENDA\*\***

**Item #7 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for June 2020**

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

**Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Time Extension for the TCID Carson Diversion Dam Project – Contract #2019-9**

**Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of funding increase of the HDR Carson Valley Model Study in the amount of \$3,900**

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Temporary Suspension of the General Manager’s Car Allowance from July 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020**

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

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

**Item #12 - For Discussion Only: Adopt Resolution #2020-1 to accept CWSD/Storey County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Debbie Neddenriep gave an overview of the topic. Currently CWSD is classified as a cooperating technical partner with FEMA. If CWSD is added as a “Jurisdiction” or “Annex” to a county, it would change CWSD’s status in that area and allow CWSD to be eligible to apply for bigger project implementation grants, and planning grants, which are much higher dollar grants, with a 25% match requirement. The first step in this process is for CWSD to formally adopt the CWSD/Storey County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. James explained further that this was an opportunity to work closely with counties in assisting them with obtaining grants using our expertise in the FEMA process.

In reviewing the document, the Board had lots of questions regarding the age of the information and the demographics used. It was also found to be confusing in that it only referred to CWSD’s part of the plan but was not presented as such. The Board suggested certain changes and updates to be made before it was again presented at the August meeting.

*No action taken.*

**Item #13 - For Discussion Only: Presentation Reviewing the 1998 Carson River Regional Water Management Plan**

Mr. James gave a history of the report which was completed before he was hired, over 20 years ago. It was an update to a 1988 report and has not be updated since. The report only included Carson City, Douglas County and Lyon County and Water Supply was its main focus. The goal at the time was to build a dam on the Carson River. This would have been a huge project and the assumptions and population projections were way off from the actual data. However, much of the planning since has used this data. He identified the areas that need updating and explained why it is so important to have more accurate

projections based on current data.

Mr. James reviewed the need to hold a workshop to discuss several water issues. He was hoping the state would take the lead on this project to update data, but they would like CWSD to pursue this instead.

Director Penzel wonders why we need this update now. Mr. James explained in 2014 CWSD had received a USBR grant to do a Basin Study for the Carson River. This Basin Study would be used to update the regional water plan. However, before this process could start CWSD became aware of this large Water for the Seasons Study that would provide information that would be useful to developing the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan was placed on hold until the Water for the Seasons Study was complete. Director Penzel thinks CWSD has a lot of supporting plans to help us project a more accurate picture, instead of hiring water market pros to do the work. He thinks we should use our own resources.

Director Jacobs commented that he thinks the water availability drives all the rest of growth, in all areas. Director Penzel agrees.

Director Bonkowski says Carson City has a very detailed water analysis. Water supply for Carson City should never be for more than 85,000 population. He feels the data is already out there and just needs to be consolidated into a useful comprehensive report. Mr. James agrees, but CWSD currently does not have the time and money to put the data together. Mr. James hopes that CWSD can get another Basin Study grant to put this plan together.

*No action taken.*

#### **Item #14 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –**

Mr. James reported on the following:

- The application for 319 Grant to continue the Watershed Coordination Program will be coming out around the end of August. Staff will be working on this application and will present it to the Board in the future. Brenda Hunt says it will probably be in September because of Covid-19 delays.
- Mr. James announced that he had been notified today that he was chosen as 2020 Floodplain Manager of the Year Award recipient. He felt awkward announcing his own award and tried to say that it was recognition for the entire staff and CWSD, but the staff and Board members disagreed and gave much deserved kudos! The award will be presented at a virtual conference in September. Director Bonkowski asked that a press release go out to Carson Now.

**Legal** – None

**Correspondence** – None

*No action was taken.*

#### **Item #15 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –**

Director Bonkowski reported on the following:

- Carson City is currently in litigation with a Hemp Company regarding outdoor growing which is prohibited, like marijuana. Carson City owns the 90 acres of property being proposed for cultivation, but not the water rights. The city initially sent them a cease and desist order, and now they are in court. He just wanted to report this is happening so the Board is aware.

- Carson City Open Space has extended the trail system by 2.5 miles along the river. This completes an 8.5 miles long loop from Morgan Mill to Silver Springs Ranch and was grant funded.

*No action was taken.*

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

Committee Member Griffith reported the following:

- Committee Member Griffith was sad to report that Committee Member Don Jardin has resigned from the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and therefore, CWSD. He was the longest serving Board Member in Alpine County – 34 years! Also, he was the longest Alpine Supervisor to serve on CWSD, almost 20 years! He will be missed. CWSD will plan to honor his years of service as soon as we can all get together to celebrate.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #17 – For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County – None**

*No action was taken.*

**Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment –**

John Sheridan (Gardnerville Ranchos GID) said he understands that Mr. James will be making a presentation to Douglas County tomorrow and he would like Rocky Slough monitoring to be added to his presentation. He also has concerns that the Alpine Decree has issues that affect Carson Valley at the expense to the aquifer that he would like addressed. Including the headwaters at Stateline. There was brief discussion. Mr. James confirmed that he was presenting to Carson City, Douglas County and Silver Springs tomorrow. He hopes to present to all water purveyors and counties over the next few months.

*No action was taken.*

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Erquiaga adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board