



Education Working Group Meeting Notes

December 15, 2020

via Zoom Meeting

In Attendance

Lindsay Chichester, UNCE

Shane Fryer, CWSD

Sean Hill, SNJ

Brenda Hunt, CWSD

Elana Ketchian, RCI

Kelli Knowles, NVRWA

Lori Leonard, TNC

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD

Rob Pyzel, Lyon County

Carlos Rendo, NDWR

Catrina Schambra, CWSD

Katie Smith, CWSD AmeriCorps

Christy Sullivan, LCD

Jordan Volk, Washoe Tribe

Courtney Walker, Douglas County

Birgit Widegren, NDEP

Round Robin Updates

Lori Leonard, TNC

TNC Reno Office has held three webinars so far, and they were recorded so can be shared with the group. Getting for ready for groundwork again. They will be harvesting Cottonwoods with heavy equipment soon, but no volunteers with this for safety reasons. The trees are 10-12' tall! In spring will be bare-root shrub planting. Hoping to be able to include volunteers, but it depends on COVID restrictions.

Carlos Rendo, NDWR

Worked with SNJ on Flood Fighter video game and with NWS on a 3rd Grade project. Also working on videos for 2021. He has had training sessions with teachers, although it was not well attended. He is working with FEMA on a project to provide High Watermark signs in watershed. These signs will have QR codes, so they can be scanned for further information at the posted sites.

Birgit Widegren, NDEP

The Education position that has been open since July has been filled and the new person will be starting in February. There is news regarding NDEP 319 projects, watch for a press release soon.

Jordan Volk, Washoe Tribe

They were able to get an outreach project done in early November before they were shut down again due to COVID restriction. It was a Meek Meadows educational outing with a Girl Scout troop. Successful event! He is now working on their work plan for the coming year. One idea is a Community Day Cleanup on the Carson River in the Dresslerville Reservation area. There is lots of trash. Still in planning phase.

Sean Hill, SNJ

SNJ has rededicated its work to bringing the program online, with virtual STEM Family Nights, virtual Fieldtrips, and interactive PDF forms for kids. This works well for teachers with both virtual and remote learning. A Virtual STEM Classroom with lesson plans is available to teachers. He feels like they are still able to serve the community at high volume, even with COVID restrictions! They were able to do some in-person events in the Fall. They hosted weekend family camping trips over 7 weekends. They were a huge success. Each family had their own cabin, and everything was outside and socially distanced. IT was a successful, safe event. Everyone had fun! They are currently working a pilot program one day a week called "In Your Schoolyard." Its an outdoor classroom on Fridays at Washoe. They also have a special needs program that has been going well. He thinks our partnerships are especially critical during this time. They are working with many groups that are here today and are always looking for more. Brenda suggested DRI's Green Box Program might be good partner for SNJ.

Christy Sullivan, LCD

She has been working on their website update. It is ready for Board approval. Continuing work on Bench Bottom project. Will be forming a local working group in January regarding conservation needs with input for landowners in the area.

Rob Pyzel, Lyon County

Tammy Kinsley has left her position and moved to South Carolina! They are juggling her work as Senior Planner until position filled. Working on implementation of North Dayton ADMP by educating public on why a drainage plan is important and necessary. A new Floodplain Manager will be in place soon. Job was posted and everyone is filling the void for now.

Lindsay Chichester, UNR

They are stuck in COVID limbo right now. However, they are working on a virtual Bee Keeping class to begin in February. It will be open to all but targeted to the North Nevada region. They are hoping to hold the Eagles & Ag program in small groups but depends on COVID restrictions. They will be beginning a Farmers & Ranchers Class for area educational outreach, either virtual or in person. Trying to adapt all programs to online options.

Courtney Walker, Douglas County

Most of their FAW outreach was cancelled due to COVID. She is working with the Johnson Lane plaintiffs to meet the Settlement Agreement with BLM. She is excited to be able to get improvements started.

Darcy Phillips, River Wranglers (Reported via Brenda Hunt.)

Just finished some big projects at Dayton State Park including updating the kiosks with river/flooding/NPSP information. Did some weed abatement, etc. Our watershed/NPSP curriculum is out and the feedback has been very positive. We distributed backpacks full of workbooks, projects, science experiments, and school supplies to all kids whose classes are doing the curriculum. Expecting to distribute approximately 500 by the end of the school year. Not ideal, but a good COVID substitute for a workday.

Grant Updates

- 319 Projects
Courtney Walker reported that DC has applied for an outreach & implementation project under 319: Area in Westwood neighborhood in Minden near Douglas High

School has algae problem in the river. They will work with the community and the High School students and try to figure out the cause of the algae. This will include fertilizer management and LID implementation project to educate students on the importance of the impact to the river by the surrounding area. The project will also include discussing career paths for interested students that do not require a college degree. The work plan is still in progress.

- **RTP NV State Parks**

Shane Fryer reported on his grant proposal to improve and enhance the Aquatic Trail. The project will include more funding to complete the Mexican Dam Portage, safety signage throughout the trail, access at Cradlebaugh and Santa Maria enhancements. He showed group a clip from his project proposal video. TNC is very interested in exploring a put in site at River Fork Ranch or across the street and using the ranch parking lot. He hopes to hear if grant is awarded by end of the week. This would be a great project!

- **NDEP Watershed Coordination/Watershed Literacy (Brenda Hunt)**

- Brenda Hunt reported filming for the drinking water PSA video was completed on December 4 at the Carson City Theater. It was Katie Smith's first day on the job! She did great! They filmed 14-16 people at staggered times and used the stage, so they were able to distance properly and have a COVID safe event since the auditorium is so big. NEON now is going through the footage and working their magic. She hopes to premier the film during the March 2021 Forum. She is very happy they were able to move forward with this project despite the COVID restrictions. Work is starting on the scripts for the "Watershed Moments" that is the next video project. "Watershed Moments" are non-point source pollution educational vignettes (30 second PSAs). She is in the starting stages of the script writing using the NPS issues discussed in the I am Carson River Watershed "A Walk Through the Watershed" video.
- LID Section 208 Grant: This grant ends on Dec 31, 2020. Rob Loveberg is working on the final report. Carson City's LID Ordinance was pulled from the agenda for December, but the 2 required readings will take place in January 2021 instead. The LID language is added to an overall updated Drainage Manual for Carson City. The draft ordinance language for Douglas, Lyon and Churchill counties has been completed; however, the grant will be over before these ordinances are brought to each board is still in progress.

- **UAS Monitoring Grant (Shane Fryer)**

- This was an amazing grant of a lifetime! Shane really enjoyed working on it! There is a huge demand for this type of imagery in the watershed. For purposes of the grant the plan was run missions in 10 areas of the river, and he ended up covering 24! He has been busy with requests for footage from our partners. NDEP owns the Drone and is allowing CWSD to house it and use it as needed. (The original grant ended September 30, 2020.) This has been a great opportunity and benefit to the watershed. There are 3 main uses for the drone data: (1) River Assessments-3-D models to check erosion and quantify loss; (2) Project Assessment – pre- and post-images of projects; and (3) Create Inventory of Structures & Monitor Sites. A GIS database has been created. He has a NWRA presentation coming up that he is working on now and will bring to the group in

- the future. He hopes to get out in the field again soon. TNC is anxious to for a mission at River Fork Ranch!
- Birgit Widegren noted that NDEP Bureau of Water Quality Planning recently prioritized certain reaches in the Carson River and NRCS is focusing on their source water protection initiative. There will be lots of increased planning, implementation, and monitoring in these reaches in the Carson Valley. Also, several 319 restoration projects have been funded in these areas.
 - **FEMA Grant Updates (Debbie Neddenriep)**
 - [The RFP for an Environmental Educator for 2021](#) went out last week. The deadline is January 6, 2021 for proposals. Contact Ed or Debbie with questions.
 - MAS 9 – Wrapping up MAS 9 which includes Pine Nut LOMR, South Dayton ADMP, North Carson City Drainage Study, and FAW projects. Submitting the Pinenut LOMR and MAS 9 will be done.
 - MAS 10 – Projects include Ruhenstroth ADMP (Phase 1), West Carson City ADMP, Churchill County Mapping, and Carson Valley Physical Map Revision 2-D Model projects and FAW 2021 Communication Plan. Ruhenstroth Phase 1 is completed, and the other projects are moving forward after some delays.
 - MAS 11 –Projects include: Smelter Creek Restudy & Remap, Clear Creek Restudy & Remap, Ruhenstroth ADMP (Phase 2), Web Access System for ADMP Data; Carson River Flood Forecasting Model, and Flood Awareness (FAW) 2022. CWSD selected Michael Baker as contractor on the Web Access System. This is an exciting project because it will house all ADMP information throughout the watershed so county staff can access information as needed. This will be a very useful tool in the future!
 - **Flood Awareness Week Recap (Carlos Rendo)**
 - FAW ended up being completely virtual due to COVID, so they relied heavily on social media. Their number on Facebook and Twitter were great! They worked with partners for messaging and have great ideas for next year. Debbie brought up that she thought his plan of a Social Media Calendar to help with messaging was great! He is working on the draft concept now.

Watershed Forum 2021 *(editor note: Forum will now be 5 Sessions, 9am-12pm each Weds. in March 2021)*

- **Proposed Format**
 - There are 5 Wednesdays in March. The current plan is to have a series of 4 Wednesdays, the first 2 and the last 2: March 3, 10, 24 & 31. The time will be 3 hours each day, probably 9am-noon. The day will start with webinar presentation followed by Zoom meeting discussion. Shane suggests we use YouTube Premieres for our pre-recorded presentations to ensure consistent quality that we cannot get with Zoom. We can then meet at Zoom meeting for group discussion with the panel of presenters after the premiere of the presentations.
- **Proposed Themes/Ideas**
 - The Shift to Outside: *Good Connections and Challenging Management Issues*

- Education and Outreach: *Adapting and Innovating During COVID*
- Floodplain Management: *Projects, Plans and Policies*;
- E-Bikes on Trails/Increased Aquatic Trail use and the challenges of this increased use & management issues
- Climate Change: Kiss the Ground Carbon Sequestration in soil; promote this and focus in our area; get great speakers on Regenerative Farming!
- Virtual Lobbies (breakout rooms) with focused information on what partners are doing
- TNC has mapping resources (1) Resilient Communities (2) Groundwater Mapping
- Laurel Saito's Study on groundwater ecosystems
- TNC Project – Mining the Sun: Using Mining Sites for Harnessing Solar Power
- Speakers from NDACD, per Christy S.
- Kristin Aberyt – contact to speak on Climate Change, per Carlos R.
- Carlos mentioned he really enjoyed the 2nd day of Forum last year when we broke into small groups by area. He suggests we do something like that virtually this year if possible.

AmeriCorps

Katie Smith reported that she is working on a white paper outreach: NPS Best Management Practices for AG/Farming. She is also assisting in putting together the newsletter that will be published by end of month, while getting familiar with CWSD and the Carson River. Lots to learn! If you have any articles, ads or info for the newsletter please send to brenda@cwsd.org

Meeting Chat Transcript:

From Debbie Neddenriep to Everyone: 09:58 AM

Birgit, I wonder if you have been advertising to fill Environmental Educator? Or is that position on hold?

From Lindsay Chichester to Everyone: 10:20 AM

That is great!

From Elana to Everyone: 10:21 AM

Great visual!

From Carlos Rendo to Everyone: 10:21 AM

Fantastic looking project Shane!

From Birgit Widegren, NV Division of Environmental Protection to Everyone: 10:22 AM

Shane: I think you have a calling as a voice over person! Great work,

From Lindsay Chichester to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Haha Birgit, I was thinking, Shane has a perfect voice for a children's book!

From Shane Fryer to Everyone: 10:26 AM

Thanks everyone! You all are so kind.

From Sean Hill to Everyone: 10:27 AM

yep super cool project!

also - I can stay on until 11, not 10.30!

From Sean Hill to Everyone: 10:59 AM

thanks all, it was great to be here today and I'm sorry I need to sign off early.

From Debbie Neddenriep to Everyone: 11:00 AM

Proposed forum dates are 3/3/2021, 3/10/2021, 3/24/2022, 3/31/2021

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From Lindsay Chichester to Everyone: 11:19 AM

Steph McAfee is the UNR drought Specialist, so she may be a good fit?

From Christy Sullivan to Everyone: 11:21 AM

Thank you! Sorry I need to go. From Debbie Neddenriep to Everyone: 11:26 AM

Lindsay, appreciate your suggestions. We need to reconnect with our UNR and UNCE contacts