

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 15, 2014, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd
Carl Erquiaga
Ray Fierro
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson
Greg Lynn, Vice Chairman
John McKenna, Treasurer
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Barry Penzel
Mary Rawson
Joe Ricci
Ernie Schank, Chairman
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present: None

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Coordinator
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist
Courtney Walker, Assistant Watershed Coordinator

Also present:

Andy Aldax, private citizen
Carol Aldax, private citizen
Genie Azad, private citizen
Shernie Azad, private citizen
John Barr, Alpine Watershed Group/Friends of Hope Valley
John Brissenden, Sorenson's Resort
Patty Brissenden, Sorensen's Resort
Gary Coyan, private citizen
Wanda Coyan, private citizen
Karen Dustman, private citizen
Rick Dustman, private citizen
Ben Ewing, California Fish & Wildlife
Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group
Sarah Green, Alpine Watershed Group

Rich Harvey, Alpine Watershed Group
 Dan Kaffer, private citizen
 Elona Lathrop, Friends of Hope Valley
 Petas Lathrop, Friends of Hope Valley
 Donald O'Connor, Alpine Fish & Game
 Jane Sweeney, private citizen
 Tom Sweeney, private citizen
 Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP
 Debbi Waldear, Friends of Hope Valley
 Judy Wickwire, Alpine Watershed Group
 Sharon Wilson, private citizen

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in Room #1214 of the Nevada Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, Nevada. The CWSD/Alpine County Joint Powers Board was convened. Roll call was taken and a quorum was determined to be present. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Director Fierro.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda. Director Schank noted that Item #10 is pulled from the Consent Agenda for hearing next month. *Director Lynn made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of December 18, 2013, Board Meeting Minutes. Toni Leffler noted a spelling error in the meeting location on the first line of the December minutes. "Gill" should be "Grill." *Director Fierro made the motion to approve the December 18, 2013, Board meeting minutes as corrected, which were seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. Ed James noted that Andy Aldax, former CWSD Board member, was present and about to celebrate his 80th birthday on January 21. He encouraged everyone to join him in singing Happy Birthday to Mr. Aldax. Mr. James also reported that CWSD received thank you notes from kids who participated in River Wrangler's River Work Days. As the thank you notes were being passed around the Board, Mr. James explained that Linda Conlin would have brought them to the meeting personally but she is out of the country.

Sarah Green, Senior Watershed Coordinator of the Alpine Watershed Group, reported that Alpine County now officially owns the Markleeville Guard Station. She thanked the Board for years of support and Alpine County Supervisors Jardine and Rawson for their work to accomplish this goal.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for December 2013

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for December 2013.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding ratification of an Addendum to extend Contract #2011-16 with Alpine County for the Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM) signed by the General Manager. This item was pulled from the agenda to be heard next month.

Director Johnson made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-9, with Item #10 continued to next month. The motion was seconded by Director Fierro and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding award of the 2014 Andy Aldax for Exemplary Service in Conservation and Protection of the Carson River Watershed Award to Judy Wickwire and to Mahmood "Moody" and Genie Azad. Dan Kaffer, NRCS (retired) and now a volunteer Board member of various organizations, noted that it is rare to find a couple who is as passionate about conservation as Moody and Genie Azad. He worked with Moody for over 20 years and enjoyed working with Genie as CWSD Watershed Coordinator. Genie championed watershed issues and Moody, with his engineering degree, fostered much research.

Mr. James explained that he enjoyed working with Genie during her time with CWSD. He mentioned that of all the candidates applying for the job, right from the beginning he noticed that Genie had great energy. Her enthusiasm encouraged the watershed to work together, and Genie was vital in the creation of the Carson River Watershed Stewardship Plan and the Regional Floodplain Plan.

Mary Kay Wagner from NDEP Water Quality Planning joined the others in thanking Genie and Moody, posthumously, for their work in the watershed. She noted that Genie has always had a very positive attitude and eagerness in her work.

Director Johnson told Genie that she has been missed very much, as is Moody and wished her good luck in her future endeavors. Director Jardine also thanked Genie for all that he learned from her during his time on this Board.

Director Jardine also explained that he has know Judy Wickwire for 40+ years. She focuses her volunteer efforts on the entire watershed and has contributed to fishery, water quality, planting willows, restoration projects, and educational programs which she never mentions.

Director Rawson congratulated Judy on receiving this award. She said that in the short time she has known Judy she has learned so much about watershed issues and nature.

Sarah Green, Alpine Watershed Group, nominated Judy for this award and said that it was an easy nomination because Judy so deserves the award. Ms. Green has worked with Judy for four years and Judy has been such an active volunteer. Knowing that Judy doesn't like to go to meetings, she is honored that Judy comes to the Alpine Watershed Group meetings. If they need a volunteer, Judy is there. In addition to her dedication, she has a passion and personality that is truly inspiring.

Dan Kaffer noted Judy's many involvements and accomplishments. To mention a few, Judy has been a licensed fly fishing guide for 45 years and aided in the purchase and conservation of Hope Valley, as well as contributing to the Red Lake water purchases, conservation of Heenan Lake, scouting, ranchers, and the general conservation and health of the watershed in Alpine County.

Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP, explained that as coordinator of Snapshot Day for eight years she is grateful to Judy who volunteers before even being asked. Ms. Wagner noted that her job is made

easier by being able to count on Judy Wickwire and Debbi Waldear for working with monitoring sites in Alpine County. Judy has also worked with youth and serves as a watershed steward, model, and mentor.

John Brissenden, Sorensen's Resort, added that over the years Judy has taught, educated, and cajoled thousands of their guests into conservation efforts to preserve their landscape.

Director Schank showed the Andy Aldax Award perpetual plaque which resides in the CWSD office. He then presented an individual award plaque to Genie Azad on behalf of Moody and her. He also presented an individual award plaque to Judy Wickwire. The occasion was commemorated with photos of the award winners with Andy Aldax and Director Schank.

Each of the awardees were given the opportunity to speak. Ms. Azad commented that as retired CWSD employee was nice to see everyone on the CWSD Board. She thanked the Board for this award and knows that Moody would be so grateful. Conservation was not just his work but his life.

Ms. Wickwire thanked the CWSD Board for granting her this award, esp. the Alpine County Supervisors for championing her to receive the award. She also thanked Sarah Green for nominating her and Debbi Waldear for being her co-volunteer. She said that for her receiving this award is like getting the Oscar. She emphasized that what is accomplished is a team effort by many dedicated volunteers and professionals in this field. Debbi Waldear is one of the people she most appreciates and tries to emulate. She also thanked the California Fish & Wildlife represented by Ben Ewing and her many long-time friends here to support her.

No board action was required on this item; receive and file.

Item #12 - Discussion and possible action regarding an update on the Final Report for the Clear Creek Grant. Courtney Walker, Assistant Watershed Coordinator, reported that the Clear Creek Watershed Coordinator grant from NDEP is finished. It ran from 2-15-11 to 12-31-13. A lot of work was done in the Clear Creek Watershed by several watershed coordinators during this grant cycle. Initially a lot of citizen participation which has waned so it has been determined that CWSD will not reapply for the grant. Erosion issues along Hwy. 50 are still being worked on by Paul Pugsley. There will still be Clear Creek articles in the CWSD newsletter, "the Flow", which will still be distributed to Clear Creek residents. From now on the Clear Creek activities will be incorporated into general watershed activities.

No action was required on this item; receive and file.

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on Mayweed Chamomile and concerns about noxious weeds on BLM properties. Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Coordinator, noted that after the Nevada Department of Agriculture hearing on the Mayweed Chamomile issue on 12/11/13, Nevada Department of Agriculture Director Barbee made the determination that Mayweed Chamomile will not be accepted in seed mixtures in Nevada. CWSD's outreach had great effect in bringing a lot of people to the hearing and encouraging many letters in opposition to having Mayweed Chamomile removed from Nevada's noxious weed seed list.

Ms. Hunt reported that she had heard that the Pacific Northwest Seed Growers have expressed an interest in approaching the Nevada State Legislature about allowing Mayweed Chamomile seed in mixes.

Ms. Hunt also reported that CWSD wrote a letter to Robert Little of the Nevada Department of Agriculture expressing concern about how poorly the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is managing weeds on BLM lands along private properties. This is contributing to weed problem on the adjacent land where weeds are treated. Mr. Little will be meeting with BLM management shortly and hope that the letters Nevada Department of Agriculture has received will help.

Director Schank asked Ms. Hunt how the Pacific Northwest group will come before Legislature. He believes that the Nevada Department of Agriculture is the authority on this issue. Ms. Hunt responded that she doesn't know the strategy but threat has been made. Perhaps they plan to try to persuade individual legislators to loosen the weed seed requirements.

No action was taken on this item; receive and file.

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding selection of Board committees for 2014. Mr. James explained that the current committee assignments are as follows:

- Administrative Committee - Directors Abowd, Frensdorff, Erquiaga, Ricci, and Rawson.
- Finance Committee - Directors Lynn, McKenna, Fierro, Schank, and Rawson.
- Legislative Committee - Directors Abowd, Johnson, Lynn, Osborne, Ricci, and Schank.
- Regional Water System Committee - Directors Jardine, Penzel, McKenna, Erquiaga, Osborne, Fierro, and Stodieck.

Director Schank noted that the work done by committees makes the Board's work easier. Director Jardine noted that even though the Legislative Committee is a committee which acts on Nevada issues, he looks to CWSD for help with California legislation also.

Director Stodieck made the motion for the committee assignments to stay the same for 2014. Director Abowd seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #15 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) Most of river gauges are frozen so USGS can't get data from them. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports indicate that this winter is predicted to be warm and dry. Also, the soil moisture in our area is at an all time low. We are looking at this year being equivalent of 1976-77 which is the drought of record. 2) Kathi Lawrence, CWSD's Watershed Clerk, has announced that she will be resigning in April, so the remaining staff will take on her duties. Ms. Lawrence has been a great employee but has other passions she wants to pursue. 3) Work is being done on the Rocky and Virginia Diversion which CWSD is not funding. 4) Staff was not able to put together the application for the Water Conservation Grant with BOR this round, but it didn't look likely that we had a strong chance of getting it. 5) Mr. James asked the Directors to please pay Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant, for guest meals at the Christmas dinner if they hadn't already.

Legal – Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

Correspondence – As handed out.

Item #18 - Directors' Reports

Director Osborne reported that Storey County is working on a new sewer plant in Virginia City. They are just waiting for BLM to deed over the land, then Storey County will go out for build for a contractor to design and put in a modern system over approximately three years. Gold Hill is not on the slate yet. Storey County is also working with Comstock Mining to update Marlette System in private-public partnership. They just installed an automated siphon system which is putting less pressure on the pipe to help preserve that pipeline.

Director Penzel reported that, despite evidence to the contrary, the Farmer's Almanac says it will be a wet winter.

Director Abowd noted that all the areas she visited on a recent trip are also struggling with drought issues.

Director Rawson reported that this Friday, she, Director Jardine, and Mr. James will be meeting with California legislators in Sacramento regarding reducing the dam fees for Lost Lakes.

Director Jardine reported: 1) He is looking forward to the meeting on Friday regarding Lost Lakes and hopes for a good result. 2) He thinks the group should also mention the management of Red Lake water at this meeting for the benefit of keeping up stream flow. 3) Regarding the west slope of the Sierras water issues he will be attending the Sierra Water Summit to discuss the impacts of wild fires on the forest and water yields.

Director Lynn reported on changes in the rolling stock permits on the river requesting that ranchers should be able to get in the river to make their own repairs.

Directors Ricci, Fierro, Frensdorff, Stodieck, Johnson, McKenna, and Schank had nothing specific to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Penzel made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Director Rawson, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary