

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 16, 2013, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd
Carl Erquiaga
John McKenna, Treasurer
Barry Penzel
Mary Rawson
Ernie Schank, Chairman
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Ray Fierro
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson
Greg Lynn, Vice Chairman
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Joe Ricci

Staff present:

Brenda Hunt, Watershed Coordinator
Edwin James, General Manager
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist
Courtney Walker, Watershed Assistant

Also present:

Robert Little, Nevada Department of Agriculture

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m. in Churchill County Commission Chambers, 155 N. Taylor, Fallon, 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 Penzel.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda.

To accommodate Director Erquiaga who had to leave the meeting early, the order of the agenda items was changed so that action items would be heard first. Therefore, Item #13 would be heard first, then Item #12, and then Item #11, and the meeting would proceed as agendized thereafter.

Director McKenna made the motion to approve the revised agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 - Approval of September 18, 2013, Board Meeting Minutes. *Director Stodieck made the motion to approve the September 18, 2013, Board meeting minutes, which were seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for September 2013.

Item #10 - Discussion and possible action regarding disposal of non-functioning office equipment.

Director Stodieck made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-10. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Best Management Practices (BMP) Education Grant Final Report. Courtney Walker, CWSD Watershed Assistant, briefly explained the background information for the Carson Clear Water Revival. The original pilot project was cost intensive and only helped two homeowners. Therefore, the remainder of the funding was diverted to studying how to implement a program with was more cost-effective and more likely to work.

Next, Ms. Walker explained that the goals of the existing rollover grant were to: 1) determine the best public education methodology based on other models of these types of programs out there already; 2) to find effective, simple, low cost BMPs that are easily implemented by homeowners and will give us the biggest bang for the buck in the Watershed; and 3) to marry these efforts and create a Carson River Watershed program.

Ms. Walker reviewed the work which was done, then summarized the 11 programs and highlighted elements that could be adapted for use in the Carson River Watershed. Next, BMPs were selected that were cost effective, easy to implement, and that would reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering storm drains flowing to the Carson River. The selected BMPs were used to identify recommendations for a watershed-wide strategy.

Ms. Walker next listed the selected BMPs:

- Creating regional messaging through partnerships
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Online tools
- Plant Selector
- Benefits Calculator
- Rebate Program
- Workshops, Volunteer Programs, Garden Tours
- Citizen Monitoring
- Include multi-family and commercial properties

She explained that CWSD envisions a three-pronged approach to create a successful overall BMP program and that ideally, elements of each would take place simultaneously; however, due to potential funding constraints, a phased approach may be necessary. The first prong would involve developing an informed public, which can be accomplished seamlessly and cost-effectively by creating regional partnerships and using PSAs to get consistent messages across. The second prong is to use online tools and rebate programs to teach and inform the public about nonpoint source pollution (NPSP) and solutions to limit NPSP impacts. Finally, the third prong is hosting workshops, volunteer programs, garden tours and demonstration gardens to show the public how to implement the practices that reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Carson River.

The focus was mainly on residential BMPs, but Ms. Walker believes it would be good to include multi-family and commercial properties.

(At this point, the recording device for the meeting was turned on.)

Ms. Walker then listed rain barrels, grass cycling, and rain gardens as examples of BMPs. She noted that rain barrels and rain gardens would be more effective in the upper watershed because that area receives more precipitation. Lawn care is important throughout the watershed. Native plantings are effective throughout the watershed, but the species vary in different areas. Water conservation is important throughout the watershed. She mentioned that water conservation and water quality go hand in hand because many BMPs conserve water.

Ms. Walker ended her presentation by listing the next steps to take to implement a watershed-wide BMP program. Those steps would be to: 1) pursue regional partnerships to create consistent messaging with Truckee River and Walker River watersheds; 2) identify modifications to Truckee Meadows Water Authority's plant selector tool to adapt for Carson River Watershed; and 3) apply for funding when it becomes available.

Ms. Walker asked if there were any questions. Director Schank asked if it would be better to band all sites together and have each agency link to it. Ms. Walker replied yes and that is a really good idea. She mention that a lot is going on in the state, so it makes sense to connect with others who are doing the same things and use their information and share it amongst all who would find it useful.

Ms. Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Coordinator, mentioned that the upcoming Nevada Water Resource Association (NWRA) Terminal Rivers Conference being held November 5 to 8, 2013, might be a good way to network with others to create a clearinghouse of information which could be shared throughout the state. Director Schank thanked Ms. Walker for her presentation.

No action was taken. Receive and file.

Item #12 - Discussion and possible action regarding the future utilization of the Lost Lakes water rights. Mr. James explained that CWSD staff has been communicating with residents and the Board of Supervisors of Alpine County regarding utilization of the Lost Lakes water rights. He then showed pictures of Lost Lakes which depicted the topography of the reservoirs. He briefly reviewed the basic facts about the reservoirs:

- They were built in 1920 by Carson Valley ranchers.

- The depth of the upper lake is ~ 16' deep with ~ 92 AF capacity, while the lower lake is ~ 18' deep with ~127 AF capacity.
- The lower lake usually fills in the winter, but the upper lake does not completely fill in dry years.
- There is a small dead pool in Lower Lost Lake and a larger dead pool in Upper Lost Lake.

Mr. James explained some of the work which needed to be done on the dam at Lower Lost Lake and showed pictures of the dam's inlet and downstream face as he described the challenges in repairing the dam. Mr. James went on to show pictures of the upper and lower gates while describing they were 12 and 15", respectively. He explained that Lower Lake has a problem with sand and debris clogging its gate. After installing the new gate it is not closing properly. In addition, sediment is backing up from water from downstream of the lower lake causing backflow of sediment. The dam safety inspector has also identified that the back face of the dam would also need to be enhanced. One of the contractors who bid on the last work suggested putting in and extending the outlet pipe and adding backfill. This would also address the problem of sediment clogging the outflow of the pipe.

Director Stodieck asked if we had run that idea by the dam inspector. Mr. James answered the inspector said it would be ok if you used the same material of the dam. Mr. James also discussed the road's degradation with Alpine County and that he would try to work with them to grade the road every other year.

After looking at the photographs of the gate at Lower Lost Lake, Director Schank suggested if we continue to have trouble, a vertical gate should be installed to reduce pull. Director Stodieck noted they alleviated sediment problem on Lower Kinney Lake by a device called a bear trap where a 10' piece of culvert is connected to the front of gate to catch sand. Director Schank commented that the slope of the lower gate makes it a perfect collection trap. Director Stodieck concurred and also stated that greater wave action seems to create more sediment when Kinney Reservoir is not kept full.

Mr. James thanked the directors for their input and mentioned that tomorrow (October 17, 2013) staff would be going to Lost Lakes to try to open the gate. Shane Fryer of Alpine Watershed Group, who is a certified diver offered to try to help. Director McKenna has provided a come-along to facilitate the work. If the gate is successfully opened, Ms. Neddenriep and a group of hired workers will go to Lost Lakes on October 22, 2013, to fix or replace the gate, clean the inlet, and secure the grate.

Mr. James then explained how the dam fees have increased since CWSD acquired them. In 2002, CWSD paid \$1,192 in dam fees, and in 2013, CWSD paid \$4,965 and also has to pay fees to California Department of Water Resources (DWR). He also contrasted the price CWSD is charged compared to less than \$1,000 per year it would cost with an agricultural exemption. Ed explained the increase of dam safety fees.

He mentioned that some of the maintenance costs used to be recovered by selling the water to Carson City in the late fall, but now with the intertie project complete, Carson City no longer needs the water. CWSD has been spending over \$8,000 per year to keep these water rights.

He reviewed the options he had presented at the Alpine County meeting:

- Try to reduce fees in order to maintain current operations.
- Transfer some or all the water rights to another location. Mr. James mentioned one possibility is to transfer the right to Indian Creek Reservoir.
- Sell the water rights.
- A combination of all three mentioned above.

Mr. James described that the response at the Alpine County meeting would be to maintain current operations and how several individuals at the meeting had offered to work with CWSD to lower the dam fees. Director Schank asked if in-stream flows would be a good case for lowering the rate. Mr. James answered that it has not been done before, but Alpine County is willing to work with CWSD to lower rates for in-stream flows.

Director Schank asked if water was released, how far it would go down before it got diverted. Mr. James responded that the water would be released in winter and end up in Lahontan. As an example of other uses the water might have in the future, he described how Carson City uses Mud Lake water in the winter to pump induction wells. They will reconsider in the future since that's currently a five year agreement. Mr. James reminded the board that the Lost Lakes contract was year-to-year and that CWSD would like to keep these reservoirs and try to lower rate and that Alpine Board of Supervisors support the concept of approaching California legislators and trying to reduce fees for environmental enhancement.

Mr. James explained that the Regional Water System Committee met on October 14 to discuss this item. Draft notes from the Committee meeting were handed out. He deferred to Directors on the committee to explain the discussion that led to the recommendation that CWSD staff seek to lower dam fees. Director McKenna explained that the committee wondered what percentage of water storage Lost Lakes represented in the watershed and realized it contributes 10%. He stated the committee expressed that Lost Lakes, though small, was a resource worth keeping. Directors Schank, Abowd, and Stodieck agreed.

Director McKenna made the motion to approve the Regional Water System Committee's recommendation of seeking to lower the dam fee. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.

Director Erquiaga left the meeting.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update by Robert Little of Nevada Department of Agriculture about the Mayweed Chamomile issue and other NDA projects. Robert Little explained the Mayweed Chamomile review by Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). The department had been requested by seed growers in the Northwest region of the United States to consider removing Mayweed Chamomile from its noxious weed seed list. The Northwestern seed growers requested the change so that US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would remove Mayweed Chamomile from its national list of prohibited seeds and enable them to sell seed mixes for re-vegetation to the BLM. The NDA is required by law to follow state administration procedure regarding this request; therefore, they held a public meeting May 24, 2013. NDA asked the BLM for clarification of their master list and how Nevada's removal of Mayweed Chamomile would affect BLM's decision to keep or remove this noxious weed seed from its master list. Mr. Little read the BLM's response verbatim to the board of directors (see attached letter). To summarize, The BLM will not remove Mayweed Chamomile from its list of prohibited seeds,

regardless of NDA's decision. The BLM stated the introduction of Mayweed Chamomile would be detrimental to Nevada range lands and sage grouse; therefore greatly reducing BLM's efforts to re-vegetate BLM lands in Nevada. Furthermore, the letter stated the BLM is opposed to Mayweed Chamomile being removed from Nevada's noxious weed seed list.

Mr. Little announced another public hearing reviewing this regulation would be held December 11, 2013, at the NDA office, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV. Mr. Little asked that someone from CWSD attend this meeting to represent the District in opposing the removal of Mayweed Chamomile from the list.

Mr. Little solicited questions. Director Abowd asked why Nevada would allow an invasive species into Nevada for the convenience of an out-of-state seed business. Mr. Little responded that is the question they would like to answer. Director Stodieck asked why other states don't have Mayweed Chamomile on their lists. Mr. Little said that Mayweed Chamomile is such a widespread problem weed in some other states they do not have the resources to control it; therefore they have not put it on the list. Mr. Little also clarified that the review is not to remove from the noxious weed list; it's to remove from "noxious weed seed" list. One cannot buy anything that is on noxious weed seed list. He also stated that nobody in Nevada wanted Mayweed Chamomile removed from the noxious weed list. Director Stodieck asked if other buyers won't buy just because it's on our state's list. Mr. Little respond that the BLM takes into account each state's lists and creates its own master list. He said that BLM had no plans to buy Mayweed Chamomile regardless of what Nevada does.

Director Schank asked Mr. James to put it on next month's agenda to send staff to the December 11th meeting. Mr. James stated that the board had already authorized staff to represent CWSD at NDA's next meeting so, unless the board has changed its mind, we can send an official representative.

Director Schank noted that BLM may not use Mayweed Chamomile if NDA removes it from its noxious weed seed list but others could, so he thinks it's a good idea to keep it on list. Director Schank thanked Mr. Little for his presentation.

No action was taken. Receive and file.

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Carson River Watershed water supply. Mr. James briefly described that there was not much water in the Carson River, but that irrigation had ended for the year. He asked if board members had noticed how low Lahontan Reservoir was and noted it had reached its lowest allowed level of 4,000 acre-feet.

No action was taken. Receive and file.

Item #15 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported how he has been visiting all the water purveyor boards with updates on the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan and the Regional Floodplain Management Plan and that there have been questions as how to move this forward. Next, he mentioned a FEMA grant request for Highway 88 in Douglas County and that Douglas County had requested CWSD to take the lead on this grant. The grant was rated #4 on one list and #1 on another list. We are waiting to see if the grant gets funded. Finally, he informed the board of a workshop Nevada State Lands is conducting to discuss navigable waters. Mr. James will be

attending the meeting, but he also has planned to meet with State Lands representatives prior to the meeting to find out more about the workshop and will keep the board informed.

Ms. Hunt reported that Snap Shot Day would be occurring this Friday, October 18, 2013. She explained that children from 4th grade through High School would be at 11 sites on the river to learn about water sampling and to collect water samples.

Director Schank expressed to Ms. Neddenriep that the board wanted a report about the excursions to Lost Lakes at a future board meeting

Legal – Mr. James noted that Mr. Benesch had just finished surgery and hopefully, was recovering well and that we hope to see him next month. Director Schank requested Mr. Benesch be given our best.

Correspondence – Director Schank requested that staff send a thank-you letter to Dairy Farmers of America for the wonderful tour.

Item #16 - Directors' Reports

Director McKenna wished staff good luck at Lost Lakes and instructed Ms. Neddenriep to be careful. Director Abowd agreed. Director Rawson knew one person who was interested in the Lost Lakes water rights purchase and thanked Mr. James for contacting that person. She had gotten great feedback about his response.

Director Schank thanked everyone for coming to Fallon and having dinner. He urged everyone to buy something before you leave Churchill County.

None of the other directors had anything specific to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Penzel made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Neddenriep
Clerk



Attachment to 10-16-13 CWSD
Board Meeting Minutes
United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>

AUG 29 2013

In Reply Refer To:
4000 (WO220)

Ms. Dawn Rafferty
Plant Industry Division Administrator
Nevada Department of Agriculture
405 South 21st Street
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Dear Ms. Rafferty:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to submit comments concerning proposed changes to Nevada Regulations NAC.587.173, which would remove mayweed chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) from the State's prohibited noxious weed seed list and place it on the State's restricted weed seed list. Such action would allow for this invasive species to be present in turf and revegetation seed mixes sold throughout the State, resulting in the introduction and spread of an invasive species into areas not previously infested.

The BLM considers the National Invasive Species Council's Prevention and Early Detection and Rapid Response initiatives to be two of the highest priority measures for the BLM's weed and invasive species program. In support of this important action, mayweed chamomile is listed on the "BLM's National List of Weeds of Concern" and is a prohibited "weed-seed" on seed mix purchases for the Bureau. The BLM is the largest user of non-agricultural seed; one of the primary uses is in the Bureau's Emergency Stabilization and Restoration (ESR) program following wildfires. In 2012, 613,000 acres burned in the state of Nevada with 165,128 acres subsequently restored. The BLM has not purchased seed mixes containing any mayweed chamomile seed.

More specifically, the BLM's seed programs serve many purposes in Nevada. One is within the Great Basin Region to conserve sage-grouse habitat that has been severely impacted due to wildfire. The sagebrush biome, including sagebrush-steppe and Great Basin sagebrush communities, is one of the most widespread and emblematic components of Western landscapes. The introduction and spread of mayweed chamomile in riparian areas will greatly reduce BLM efforts to restore riparian habitat that is critical to 60 percent of the wildlife species in semi-arid environments.

Current BLM policy 2000-073 on Weed Seed Free and the BLM's Partners Against Weeds – An Action Plan for the Bureau of Land Management, January 1996, outline the BLM's plan to

prevent and control the spread of noxious and invasive weeds on BLM lands. In addition, the 1999 Executive Order No. 13112 addresses invasive species, stating that each Federal agency shall not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States. The BLM feels that the proposed changes to remove mayweed chamomile from Nevada's prohibited noxious weed seed list violates the BLM's policy as well as the Bureau's action plan and the 1999 Executive Order.

It is not the BLM's intent to compete with the seed industry. The primary purpose of the BLM's seed purchases is for ESR following wildfires and other BLM restoration and reseeding projects on public lands. All of these efforts require the use of seed mixes free of weed seeds that are either on the Federal Seed Act or on state-specific weed seed lists. The BLM recommends that the Nevada Department of Agriculture continue to list mayweed chamomile as Noxious Prohibited. A change to restricted status would be environmentally detrimental to Nevada's natural resources and the BLM public lands.

If you have any questions, please contact Gina Ramos, Senior Weeds Specialist, at (202) 912-7226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin L. Roberson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edwin L. Roberson
Assistant Director
Renewable Resources and Planning