

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 18, 2013, 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
Kathi Lawrence, Watershed Clerk
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist
Courtney Walker, Watershed Assistant

Also present:

Merrie Benesch, private citizen
Lisa Erquiaga, private citizen
Janice Johnson, private citizen
Sharon Osgood, private citizen
Carmen Schank, private citizen
Betty Stodieck, private citizen
Suzanne Towse, private citizen

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at Red's Old 395 Grill, 1055 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 Johnson.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda. *Director Jardine made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of November 20, 2013, Board Meeting Minutes. *Director Rawson made the motion to approve the November 20, 2013, Board meeting minutes, which were seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board, with Directors Erquiaga, Jardine, Ricci, and Stodieck abstaining as not being present at that meeting.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. None

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for November 2013.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding entering into an agreement with River Wranglers to provide Environmental Education Outreach.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval to apply for the Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) Motorized Recreational Trails grant.

Director Fierro requested that Item #8 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. *Director McKenna made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #9-11. The motion was seconded by Director Frensdorff and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.*

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

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for November 2013. Director Fierro noted that there were several bank certificates of deposit (CDs) shown as investments in the Treasurer's Report. He requested that staff include information in the report to indicate the interest rates and terms of the CDs and cautioned that staff needed to be cautious about tying up large amounts of cash in CDs for too long a term. Mr. James commented that staff considers that very carefully as investments are made. We diversify our investments because the State Local Government Investment Pool, our primary investment vehicle, is offering such a low rate right now (0.02%). We can maximize our income from interest by investing the maximum \$250,000 FDIC-insured amount in bank CDs that offer significantly higher short-term interest rates. Mr. James offered to talk more with Director Fierro after the Board meeting if he would like.

Director Fierro made the motion to approve the November 2013 Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the 2014 candidate for the Andy Aldax Carson River Watershed Award. Director Schank explained that this year there were three nominations of candidates for the Andy Aldax Award: Carson City Open Space Program, Judy Wickwire of Alpine County, and Mahmood "Moody" and Genie Azad. The Administrative Committee met to review the nominations and expressed the desire to see an individual receive the award over a group/business. With that in mind, and since the Committee found great merit for receiving the award in both of the other nominations, the Committee chose to forward the nominations of both Judy Wickwire and Moody and Genie Azad to the full Board for a selection.

To begin the discussion of the two nominees, Director Rawson explained that she had done some extra research on Judy Wickwire for this nomination. A list of her notes are on page 49 of the Board package. Additionally, Director Rawson noted that Ms. Wickwire wakes up every day looking for what she can volunteer towards that day and "lives and breathes" volunteering. As indicated by the list, her volunteer accomplishments are vast and varied. Director Jardine mentioned that Judy is native to the Alpine County area, and he has known her all her life. She runs a fly fishing school and has done much in a volunteer capacity for both the private sector and the environment. Director Rawson added that most people in the community do not know the immensity of Ms. Wickwire's contributions because she is not braggadocious, but Ms. Wickwire had mentioned that win or lose, just being nominated for the Andy Aldax Award "made her day."

Director Schank spoke about his knowledge of Moody and Genie Azad's individual and collective contributions for the benefit of the watershed. Director Lynn noted that Moody's work at Lake Tahoe, especially in the area of establishing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), was foundational to much of the work toward an improved environment in many watersheds. Mr. James pointed out that Mr. Azad passed away last year and Genie, who worked for CWSD for nine years, is getting ready to leave the area. His nomination of the couple was in hoping to acknowledge their contributions before neither of them are available to receive the award.

Director McKenna suggested giving the award to each of the nominees and noted that he feels that recognizing both nominees doesn't diminish the award. Director Johnson stated that he prefers to stick with one award recipient per year. He noted that the Azads contributed both through their work environment and as volunteers. Director Fierro expressed his opinion that having more than one recipient per year takes away from the honor of receiving the award. He suggested, as he had in the Administrative Committee meeting, that an additional system of recognition through certificates, etc., be established in order to honor more people's service each year.

After further discussion, Director Penzel made the motion to grant the 2014 Andy Aldax Award to both Judy Wickwire and Moody and Genie Azad. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd. In trying to reconcile the differing viewpoints, the suggestion was made that the Azads receive the award this year since Genie is leaving the area and Ms. Wickwire receive the award next year. Director Penzel commented that this is a big watershed and different tasks were done by each nominee, so granting the award to both shouldn't take away from the value of the award. Mr. James noted that the most important thing is to recognize the achievements for the benefit of the watershed. Since there was a motion and second on the floor, the Board voted unanimously to grant the award to both parties for 2014.

Item #13 - Discussion and possible action regarding an update on the dam work completed at Lost Lakes. Mr. James explained that Debbie Neddenriep of the CWSD staff had been primary in supervising the recent work at Lost Lakes and turned the floor over to her. Ms. Neddenriep reported with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation about the process of outlet clearing over the past couple of months. She expressed her appreciation for the assistance of Shane Fryer of the Alpine Watershed Group in diving into the reservoir to clear sediment from the dam outlet structure, for advice and assistance from Directors Stodieck and Jardine, for the directions and use of Director McKenna's come-along, and for the field crew.

Mr. James reported that he had received a phone call from the California Division of Safety of Dams in response to our letter requesting the reduction of dam inspection fees. They noted that

they do not have the regulatory authority to reduce our dam fees. The change would require legislative action. Mr. James told them that we were aware of this and that CWSD's Board members are planning to contact their local legislators. Mr. James assured them that CWSD wants to work cooperatively with their staff as well as with legislators on this issue. Directors Rawson and Jardine will address this issue to state legislators on behalf of Alpine County and CWSD.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Hearing on Mayweed Chamomile. Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Coordinator, gave a brief background on the issue. The Pacific Weed Growers petitioned for removal of Mayweed Chamomile from Nevada's invasive weed seed list. It is on both Nevada's invasive weed seed and invasive weed lists. Nevada interests are opposed to removing an invasive weed seed from the seed list since it would grow into the invasive weed and be a burden to Nevada to treat.

Ms. Hunt noted that the Nevada Department of Agriculture hearing on the issue was held on 12/11/13, and that she, Mr. James, and Ms. Walker all attended in opposition on behalf of CWSD. The Carson River Watershed and other northern Nevada watersheds were also well represented in opposition. A decision is expected to be made by the Department of Agriculture on 12/20/13, and Ms. Hunt will pass along any information she receives.

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

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding pursuit of a US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART grant to fund water conservation projects as recommended in the Comprehensive Regional Water System Plan. Mr. James explained that the Regional Water Conservation Plan requires us to look for grants for water conservation. There are residents who are willing to remove some of the turf from their property but find that re-landscaping is too expensive. The goal of this grant is to provide some funding to home owners to remove turf and re-landscape in such a way that will reduce water demands. The match would come from the homeowner. Residents in all Carson River watershed counties would be eligible to receive this grant funding, including Storey and Alpine Counties. The total grant amount will be approximately \$250,000. Some of the grant would go toward larger projects and some to smaller ones. The grant will be marketed through landscapers, and the projects will include the use of residential Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Director Penzel asked if the landscaping plan is for xeriscaping. Mr. James responded that they would not necessarily be xeriscaping but would be designed to produce a pleasing result for the community.

Director Abowd asked how long CWSD would be accountable for the residents maintaining the new landscaping. Mr. James mentioned that our goal is to set up the program such that if the project meets our criteria we will not need to do any long term monitoring. Mr. James responded that this is a one-year grant with funds coming next summer. Staff has talked with the USBR grant administrator who said our match is good. Director Fierro confirmed that no CWSD funds would be required, only grant funds.

Director Stodieck asked if the grant could be used for agricultural improvements that would conserve water, like laser leveling. Mr. James responded that he would look into it and get back to the Board with an answer to that question.

Director Rawson made the motion to approve writing and submission of USBR WaterSMART grant by staff to fund water conservation projects in the Carson River Watershed. Director Stodieck seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) He has been talking with Douglas County water purveyors regarding cooperation among purveyors. Further discussion is on hold until the Town of Minden conducts its strategic planning session. 2) The USGS contacted Mr. James regarding modifying their nitrogen sampling in Lyon County. What the USGS is proposing will provide Lyon County with additional information at no additional cost to CWSD. Mr. James referred the Board members to the handout. 3) Mr. James handed out an article talking about EPA's goal number 4 for 2014. EPA's focus will be on stormwater and defining "Waters of the US." 4) Mr. James drew the Board's attention to a news article which was handed out about the outcome of the "takings" lawsuit. Basically, residents claimed that a change in the FEMA floodplain maps was a taking of their property, but the Court concluded that the modified floodplain was not a taking.

Legal – Mr. Benesch reported on a Court decision in White Pine County. The State Engineer's office was required to recalculate all water available in all the counties.

Correspondence – As in the Board package and handed out.

Item #18 - Directors' Reports

Director Rawson reported that she had enjoyed interviewing Judy Wickwire.

Director Schank commented that he appreciates all that the CWSD staff does to make the organization run smoothly and all of the Directors who make this a good participatory Board.

Directors Abowd, Fierro, Frensdorff, Johnson, Osborne, Penzel, Erquiaga, Jardine, Ricci, Stodieck, and Lynn had nothing specific to report by joined the others in thanking the staff for a fun Christmas celebration and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Johnson made the motion to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary