



**Education Working Group
Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Meeting Notes**

Time: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Place: CWSD Offices, 777 E. William Street, Suite 110A, Carson City, NV
Contact: Linda Conlin 775-230-0633 or Brenda Hunt 775-887-9005

Attendees: Linda Conlin (River Wranglers); Leah Kniffen (DVCD); Brenda Hunt (CWSD); Courtney Walker (CWSD); Mary Kay Wagner (NDEP); Tess Braun (AWG); Margie Evans (UNCE/CC Weed Coalition); Pat Fried (Great Basin Sports); Kathi Lawrence (CWSD)

1. Welcome & introductions: Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The group welcomed Tess Braun, Alpine Watershed Group's new AmeriCorp volunteer.
2. Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates
 - a. Snapshot Day – Mary Kay: Mary Kay has received the data results and has briefly reviewed the data. The analysis did not show any glaring problems. She received good feedback from all of the team leaders. Approximately 244 students participated in this year's Snapshot Day. One class failed to show up at one of the Alpine County sites, and no one has been able to make contact with that teacher. Next year there will be more support planned for the Alpine County sites, including a runner to bring the samples to Mary Kay in Carson City before she leaves to deliver samples to the lab. Brenda shared a 'thank you' book created by the Montessori School students. Montessori School would like to continue to participate in Snapshot Day every year, possibly even 'adopting' the Lloyd's Bridge site as their own. Linda suggested the possibility of the school releasing their trout each year at Lloyd's Bridge. Mary Kay has worked with an intern in her office to create a binder for each Snapshot Day site. Included in each binder is the site ID page; photos from previous years; student assignment page; field data sheet; habitat assessment; streamflow data; and charts. Mary Kay brought 3 binders to share with the group. Everyone thought the binders were a great historical record, and that they will be an important resource to show students photo documentation from previous years. The binders can be used as part of the pre-event classroom presentations.
 - b. Harley Davidson Workday – Margie and Linda: Margie reported the volunteer group was small, but very enthusiastic and appreciated the opportunity. Margie and Linda educated the group as to why it is important to protect wetlands and the need to pick up dog waste. They cleaned up a lot of trash, and Margie reported seeing Russian Knapweed growing in Harley Davidson's landscaping. Juan Guzman from Carson City Parks and Rec Department attended the event and provided a trailer.
 - c. Conserve Carson River Workdays (Linda) – Linda recently held 4 workdays in the Dayton area, involving students from 2 Dayton High School classrooms, a Virginia City High School classroom, and elementary students from all the elementary schools in the area. Dayton Valley Conservation District provided assistance, including digging trenches for willow planting. Linda will be spending time in the classrooms doing workday wrap-up throughout the month of December.

- d. Sierra Nevada Journey's Environmental Education Summit (Linda): Linda shared a flyer with details about an Environmental Education Summit which is being hosted by Sierra Nevada Journeys on Tuesday, December 17. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to Laurie Gray – Margie, Linda, Brenda and Courtney are considering attending. It will probably be a fairly small group and will be a good networking opportunity.
- e. Nominations for 2014 National Wetlands Awards - Linda: Linda shared a letter from the Environmental Law Institute, announcing the 2014 National Wetlands Awards. Nominations are now open; deadline for nominations is December 4.
- f. DVCD Poster Winner (Leah) The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts hosts an annual poster contest for kids in 1st through 5th grades; DVCD participated in the contest this year for the first time. This year's topic was "Where does your water shed?" 35 kids participated locally; the 1st place local winner won 2nd place at the state level. He received a ribbon and \$35.00. Photos will appear in the upcoming winter edition of The Flow.
- g. Mayweed Chamomile Hearing (Courtney and Brenda) On December 11 there will be a hearing at the Nevada Department of Agriculture regarding a request from Pacific Northwest seed growers to remove the Mayweed Chamomile from Nevada's noxious weed seed list, and allow for seed mixes potentially containing the seed to be sold and planted in Nevada. The growers will be at this hearing, and a decision could be made that day. Brenda stressed the importance of having many representatives from the watershed and Northern Nevada attend the meeting, speak in opposition, and/or submit letters of opposition. CWSD has drafted a letter in opposition, which focuses on the economic impact of the decision. The draft has been emailed to the various weed folks throughout the watershed to see if they would like to sign the letter as well. Courtney gave a presentation to the Carson Valley Conservation District board. Courtney and Brenda recently met the State's Conservation Districts Program Coordinator, Joe Locurto; he forwarded the hearing information to all of the conservation district offices. Brenda has electronic copies of all of the letters which have been submitted to the DOA; CWSD's letter will mention support of relevant letters. There was discussion regarding people who should be contacted and encouraged to speak in opposition at the hearing: Marie Barry or John Warphea; Duane Petite; Mike Hayes, etc. **Brenda will contact these folks.**
- h. Stewardship Plan Update – Brenda: Brenda is in the process of updating and revising the Stewardship Plan. She is up to Chapter 4; Jean Stone will be assisting with Chapter 6 regarding water quality. Brenda spoke with the River Corridor Working Group about the update; she will be sending them an email regarding each county's projects and project maps, which need updating – is the project ongoing or completed? Are there any new projects? Are the maps correct and do new projects need to be added to the maps? She intends to beef up the environmental education section of the plan. **Brenda plans to have the draft update completed in early January; she will then be send it out to everyone for review.**
- i. Other – Margie: Margie sits on the Open Space Advisory Committee as a citizen. On Thursday she and Juan Guzman (CC Open Space Manager) are meeting with a teacher from Sierra Nevada College, who is interested in arranging for her students to work on Carson City projects. **Margie will give the group an update at the next EWG meeting.**

3. NDEP 319 Watershed Literacy Grant (Brenda and Courtney)
 - a. Proposed Elements: The elements of the grant which will receive funding are (i) Creating an Education and Outreach Plan – this will be an extension to the previous EWG workshops with Steve Lewis, taking it to the next level by creating an action plan; (ii) Performing a Watershed Survey to gather baseline information to determine how literate people are about their watershed; (iii) Children’s Museum – funding to maintain and update the watershed display; (iv) Clear Creek – since the Clear Creek Coordinator grant ends 12/31/13, this will provide funding for Clear Creek activities until these tasks can be included in the next CRC Coordinator grant; activities to be funded include a Clear Creek page in the quarterly newsletter and an annual Clear Creek work day; (v) Watershed map reprint – the group agreed that the EWG members should take the time to thoroughly go through the map to identify needed changes and updates before they are reprinted; and (vi) Grant reporting.
 - b. Grant Elements Not Funded: Two elements which were not funded are (i) Stewardship Pledge – creating the pledge and adding it to the CWSD website, with the ability to be interactive and to calculate the benefits in the background; and (ii) Hiring of a part-time AmeriCorp volunteer.
 - c. **Brenda, Courtney and Ed will be meeting with Mary Kay in late-December or early-January to revise and finalize the scope of work and grant budget.**

4. River Wranglers Capacity Building (Linda and Margie): As President of the River Wranglers Board, Margie has taken the initiative to engage fellow board members in discussion regarding the future of River Wranglers – she wants to increase its capacity to make River Wranglers a sustainable organization which lives well beyond Linda’s time there. She envisions actively seeking new board members, who are interested in being involved and active; actively recruiting new members and volunteers; forming committees; revamping their logo; creating a new tagline (“empowering youth through hands-on education”); and offering youth memberships as well as adult memberships (youths could pledge a certain number of volunteer hours instead of paying a membership fee). Effective January 1, 2014, Linda will officially be an employee of River Wranglers; grant payments from Linda’s work on the Environmental Education grant will be paid to River Wranglers, which will increase their budget and make them eligible to apply for more grants. A new logo kickoff meeting could occur in early to mid-2014. Linda and Margie requested ideas and suggestions from the group. Brenda shared that the Association of Nevada Nonprofits (ANN) offers workshops on capacity building and provides grants to assist in capacity building. Pat offered to provide rafting, kayak and snowshoe trips at events. Brenda mentioned that Andrea Minor is retiring and may be interested in getting involved.

5. Invasive Species Awareness Week (Margie): Carson City Weed Coalition promotes a yearly awareness week (invasive species, not just weeds); the first year (2009?) CWSD funded \$750 to purchase a 40’ weather resistant banner, which includes the CWSD web site address. The month of June is dedicated to outreach and awareness – June was chosen because weeds are beginning to green up. The Carson City mayor proclaims the Invasive Species Awareness week and the banner will be hung by City employees over Carson Street. For 2014, Margie has applied to the City for either the week of June 16-21 or 23-28. She would like to make this watershed-wide, and possibly hang the banner in other locations, such as Alpine and Fallon. Margie is hoping to apply for an NDA grant for additional funding; she is awaiting the release of the RFP to fine-tune the focus. Brenda commented that perhaps a portion of the CWSD weed abatement fund (\$15,000 per county per year) could be allocated for education and outreach (currently the entire amount must be used for weed treatment). Margie plans to make presentations to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Boys and Girls Clubs, service organizations, Open Space Advisory Committee, and Board of Supervisors. Notices could be run on the changeable signs at the library and Community Center, as well as NDOT highway changeable signs.

6. Conservation Tours (Pat): Pat will be providing raft/kayak tours at the Eagles and Ag event February 21 through 23, 2014, depending on the flow levels. Her tours were very successful at last year's event. The Starbucks plant and Pioneer High School have shown interest in possible trips in the spring.
7. Other – Brenda: John Cobourn has received grant funding from the Army Corp of Engineers to establish a Northern Nevada Flood Awareness Week, and for education regarding floodplain conservation and flood awareness. He is working with the Corp and the Nevada Division of Water Resources (Rob Palmer and Jenna Damon). They are considering setting the Awareness Week for October or November. They would like to include events in the schools, and would like the EWG of assist with this. Mary Kay and Rob Fellows are on the core working group. Since Snapshot Day occurs in October, perhaps school presentations for both topics could be grouped together. The various Snapshot Day Powerpoint presentations which are currently being used throughout the watershed in classrooms need to be reviewed and possibly revamped to present a focused message. 2 watershed models are being purchased, which can be used in school presentations. **Note: Northern NV Flood Awareness Week has been set for November 10-15.**

Brenda passed around a photo that Lu from the Children's Museum took of an interesting skull display at another museum.

Brenda is tentatively planning to set a main CRC meeting for some time in March or April.

8. Other – Mary Kay: Mary Kay is continuing to work on the green box project with Margie and Linda, as time allows. They will have their next planning session in the next few weeks.
9. Other – Mary Kay: NDEP is funding a 319 grant for a professional development group to help produce and conduct workshops on topics such as Project WET and aligning watershed education with common core standards. They will be rolling out a lot of workshops regarding water education and watershed emphasis; **Mary Kay will include the workshop schedule in an upcoming newsletter.** Workshops will include guest speakers.
10. **Next meeting: Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 8:30 – 10:30 AM at CWSD offices.**