



# River Corridor Working Group

## Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
CWSD Conference Room

### **Present:**

Mitch Blum, HDR, Inc.

Jackie Bogdanovicz, Lahontan Conservation District (LCD) (by teleconference)

Ann Bollinger, Carson City

John Cobourn, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)

Jenna Damon, Nevada Dept. of Water Resources (NDWR)

Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group

Dan Greytak, Washoe Tribe Environmental Protection Dept.

Juan Guzman, Carson City

Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)

Ed James, CWSD (by teleconference)

Toni Leffler, CWSD

Shyla Lemons, Carson City Public Works

Erik Nilssen, Douglas County

Duane Petite, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Jean Stone, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)

Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP

Courtney Walker, CWSD

Rich Wilkinson, Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD) (by teleconference)

**1. Welcome and Introductions** - Introductions were made around the room and by teleconference.

**2. Brief Announcements** (everyone)

**Update on 208 Plan Funding and Low Impact Development** – Brenda reported that the 208 Plan \$40,000 funding CWSD received will be used to investigate Low Impact Development (LID) over the next two years. The recent kickoff meeting had good attendance from the watershed. Resource Concepts Inc. (RCI) will be following up, interviewing everyone, and starting to work on the project. The project will determine which LID applications can be used and which are less applicable in our watershed. EPA has also been using the term "green infrastructure" as somewhat interchangeable with LID; however, green infrastructure incorporates existing green spaces and links LID practices when needed.

John observed that since LID works on Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution, LID is a newer reincarnation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), but more jurisdictional and proactive.

**Watershed Literacy 319 Grant** – Brenda reported that CWSD has received a 319 grant for Watershed Literacy, creating an outreach and education action plan and completing a

watershed-wide baseline survey to determine what the environmental literacy is about our watershed. The survey will be repeatable and will hopefully show an increase in Watershed Literacy over time. The grant also includes keeping the Children's Museum exhibit maintained, the CWSD website updated, sending the CWSD newsletter to Clear Creek residents, and updating and reprinting the Explore Your Watershed maps. The contract is currently being signed.

**Conservation District Funding concerns** – Brenda reported that a meeting was held recently with conservation districts and AWG to discuss serious concerns about funding conservation districts' work. If anyone hears of potential funding, please let us know. One of the biggest losses of funding was from Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD).

Ed explained that CTWCD has an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to maintain flow in the Truckee River. CTWCD is required to spend about \$400,000 this year to clean the Truckee channel. CTWCD's annual income is only about \$200,000, so there is no money available for the conservation districts. The conservation districts implement most of the work on the river and we need to collaborate with them and try to help them with funding.

Mary Kay suggested that the CTWCD might consider community events for clean up in smaller areas and projects that don't require heavy equipment, so the Truckee River community or schools can get involved. Perhaps the money saved getting work done by volunteers could help make money available for Carson River conservation districts.

**Action:** Ed is on the CTWCD board and will ask whether they might have any additional funds to give the conservation districts to use as match for other grants.

**Get on the Bus Tour: Save the date June 11 & 12, 2014** - Brenda reported that CWSD staff is planning the annual "Get on the Bus Tour" for June 11-12, 2014. The tour will be going to some new sites including Soda Lake in the Fallon area instead of Stillwater and the Markleeville Creek Guard Station, Hangman's Bridge, and further into the East Fork instead of Hope Valley in Alpine County. Brenda will be contacting potential speakers to give presentations on the bus and at sites in the next month or so.

**Other -**

Brenda reported that the NDEP Water Pollution Control is revising the state-wide Working in Waterways permit, and water quality sampling will be required during any sort of project. CWSD foresees the main problem with water quality sampling standards is the turbidity in the river. There is a fact sheet on NDEP's website for comment and the draft permit is available by contacting Peter Lasaline. The comment period was extended to February 21. CWSD will submit comments and will be meeting with the permit writer Peter Lasaline before the state-

wide permit is finalized.

Ed noted that people on the Walker River are very concerned about it, and he will also be talking with people on the Humboldt River. The concern is that this would disrupt any repair activities on the river.

Shane reported that ambient monitoring will take place in Hope Valley on March 8. On March 15, there will be an EPA class on monitoring at Woodford Station from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to these events. He also noted that AWG has revamped their website and their Facebook page.

**3. Presentation and discussion on recent ARkStorm meetings (Mitch)** – Mitch reported on a presentation by USGS about ARkStorm. ARkStorm is the term used for studying atmospheric river superstorms. The USGS based their theory on the 1969 and 1986 storms. Storm scenarios, often related to a Pineapple Express, are created and analyzed. These “superstorms” can cause billions of dollars in damage. Tahoe-specific implications were covered. These ARkStorm scenarios have implications for flooding, floodplain management, and emergency response.

**4. Member reports on Floodplain Management Plan progress and updates on suggested actions:**

Update on SA 3 - Power Point Presentation/Discussion about Draft Carson City Open Space Management Plan (Juan Guzman and Ann Bollinger) – Ann gave background on the Suggested Action #3, drafting the Carson City Open Space Management Plan. Carson City recently released the first two chapters of the Management Plan for Open Space and Parks in the Carson City area. This requirement comes from the Federal Lands Bill and Omnibus Bill which transferred lands to Carson City. The creation of conservation easements called for a management plan, and Carson City identified management areas leading to this plan. Carson City is looking at the entire Carson River corridor as open space and parks, over 5,000 acres along the river. Carson City is working on the rest of the chapters of this 80-100 page plan. The plan is on the Carson City website for comment by Friday, February 14, but Carson City will accept comments from this group throughout the plan development process.

The plan purpose is to satisfy the BLM Conservation Easement; to describe the condition, development and use of lands; and to summarize in a baseline report, the Open Space Plan, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the Unified Pathways Master Plan. There will be recommended actions and the management guidance documents will be incorporated into the plan.

Brenda noted that Courtney is working with Juan (Carson City) and Jorge Guerrero (Churchill County) to create motorized trail signs for weed control. They will install gravel rumble pits to

drive through at the beginning and end of trails to shake off weed seeds. Brenda suggested that Juan talk with Rich Wilkinson, as he has experience coordinating with off-road vehicle folks and trail maintenance.

**Action:** Send comments on the draft Open Space Management Plan to Juan or Ann!

**Update on SA-14 + MAS projects including MAS 4 (Ed/Mitch)** – Mitch reported that HDR has finished the mapping for MAS 2, which is under internal review and will be submitted to FEMA this month to complete MAS 2. FEMA will complete flood insurance rate map revisions for phases 1 and 2 within three or four months after submittal. There will be a 90-day public comment period. MAS 3 is the modeling portion for the Carson Valley and will be completed next. HDR has the HEC-RAS 2-D maps of Carson Valley and the hydrology is completed, so they can begin working on the models. MAS 4 is on the back burner until HDR is finished with MAS 3.

**Action:** Mitch will bring preliminary results from MAS 3 to the next meeting to show animations.

**Progress on SA-7 Retention of floodplain lands for flood storage (mapping acreage) (John/Steve)** – John brought maps to show progress of the mapped floodplain combining FEMA mapping with the Flood Extent Map from the Bureau of Mines. He and Steve Lewis have been working with county staff and others to create a baseline map showing the floodplain that has been protected from development from the Alpine County line to Lahontan Reservoir. This baseline map will be for public viewing as a Floodplain Protection Progress Map, then repeated to show progress over time. John needs each person in this working group to review the map to check and ensure all open space and protected lands are included.

To date the map has been a volunteer project as no budget was allocated to complete this task. The maps are close to being ready to print. There will be an online version. John thinks there will be 8-10 color pages of maps and about 500 copies would need to be printed or 2,000 if Lahontan Reservoir is included. He would like to publish the maps in the next two-three months, then have a peer review.

**Action:** Each RCWG member will review the map for their area and provide John and Steve comments, especially regarding areas not currently permanently protected and roads/driveways that could act as levees. Mitch will help with mapping and production of figures for original maps prior to printing. Brenda will talk with Ed about putting in a proposal for map printing in CWSD's next fiscal year's budget process.

**Update on SA-33 Annual Flood Awareness Week (John/Courtney)** – John reported that there is a verbal agreement with ACE to get \$25,000 in support to UNCE for Flood Awareness Week for Northern Nevada. The group is working on slogans and messages: "Know Your Risk" and "Are You Prepared for Flooding?" The website will be hosted by the state and will have similar information to the current California Flood Awareness webpage.

Events will hopefully be held in each county and including outlying areas. Flood Awareness Week will be Nov. 10-15, 2014. There is \$25,000 for advertising using a variety of media.

5. Discussion and planning regarding main CRC meeting. Save the date: April 3, 2014, Ruvo Hall, Governor's Mansion, Carson City. (Brenda) – Brenda reported that the next main CRC meeting will be similar to forum held in 2012 but with fewer speakers talking for longer periods of time and poster presentations of river projects. There will be a \$10 registration fee to cover the costs of the forum. Lunch is included in the registration. See program and registration form on [www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org).

6. **Regional Stewardship Plan Update Progress (Brenda)** – Brenda has completed the update on Chapters 1-4 with feedback from Ed James and Jean Stone. She will send for group review. She is working on Chapters 5-9. The update needs to be done for the EPA. She still needs project detail information from a few people.

**Action:** Brenda to send out updates to the group when ready.

If you have not sent in your project update sheets, please do so as soon as possible.

**Action:** Brenda requested newsletter articles for *The Flow* by March 21 and also that folks send events to promote.

7. **Schedule next meeting** – ~~Tues., March 18, 2014, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.~~  **canceled**