

**CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
February 13, 2013, 9:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Carson City
Doug Johnson, Douglas County
Greg Lynn, Douglas County
John McKenna, Carson City
Ernie Schank, Churchill County (by teleconference)

Staff present:

Ed James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant

Others present:

Donna Giboney (for Austin Osborne), Storey County (by teleconference)

Director Abowd called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. at the Carson Water Subconservancy District Conference Room, 777 East William Street, #110, Carson City, Nevada. There was no public comment.

Item #3 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the Legislative Committee minutes from February 15, 2011. *Director Abowd noted that she and Director Schank were the only current Legislative Committee members who were present at the last meeting. Therefore, Director Schank made the motion to approve the minutes from February 15, 2011 and the motion was seconded by Director Abowd. Directors Schank and Abowd voted to approve the motion, with Directors McKenna, Johnson, and Lynn abstaining as not present at that meeting.*

Item #4 - Discussion for possible action regarding a review of various BDRs/bills that CWSD may want to support, oppose, or monitor during the 2013 Legislation Session. Mr. James handed out a list of BDRs/bills of interest to CWSD and noted that only one of those had become a bill at this point. AB 65 makes various changes to the Open Meeting Law, primarily requiring that all board materials are posted on our website the day the board packets go out, and we already do that.

Director McKenna asked about how AB 65 proposes to handle confidential material which shouldn't be publicized. Mr. James responded that CWSD doesn't deal with confidential matters so that doesn't effect us, but he encouraged the Directors to read the bill for information about how it might effect other boards on which they serve.

Mr. James asked how the Board wants him to handle reacting to bills as they come up quickly. He said he usually contacts Legislative Committee for direction and then follows the bill accordingly. Director Lynn asked if Mr. James can call our legislators about a bill of interest. Mr. James responded that as a register lobbyist he can contact the legislators to ask questions or express our concerns. However, he advised the committee that he will be taking some time off for vacation before the legislative session is over, and his assistant, Toni Leffler, will continue to monitor his watch list.

Director Abowd asked about BDR #763 regarding revisions to provisions governing the waters of this State. Mr. James responded that more explicit language hadn't come out for that BDR yet, but he will be following it.

Director Schank related that he had spoken to Assemblyman Settlemeyer regarding BDR #864 to revise provisions relating to water. It deals primarily with the fee structure.

Mr. James pointed out BDR #144 providing for an ongoing study of water issues in Nevada. He noted that this is the study which is currently being conducted on the Truckee River with the intent of expanding it to whole state. Mr. James noted that if it incorporates the whole state, he has no concern, but if only incorporates the Carson River, we should watch the bill. Director Schank mentioned that will be meeting with Assemblymen Grady and Settlemeyer on February 21, so he will ask them any questions we might have.

Mr. James went to the Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) meeting to talk about beaver control, and Assemblyman Settlemeyer mentioned that the proposed marginal tax on land assessed value over \$1 million could affect farmers. Director Lynn mentioned that it will also affect the development business as land values go back up before the land can be developed.

Mr. James noted that he will give a presentation about the regional water system and other activities of the CWSD to the Assembly and Senate to try to get accurate information to them. Director Schank asked that the five legislators with whom the CWSD officers and General Manager met recently have open invitations to come to our Board meeting next week. Mr. James agreed to contact each legislator to extend the invitation, and they can be introduced under public comment.

Director Lynn noted that the Assembly is two-thirds freshmen assemblymen, mostly Democrats, most of whom bring their Social Services Directors to the _____ meeting because social services are the focus. There are too many unfamiliar new people in the legislature to have a feel for where we stand. We live in a state that is concerned with social programs instead of infrastructure maintenance and preservation.

Director Johnson commented that we are trying to show legislators that we are already looking at some things that are not necessary for them to address. He would like to see the legislature give the counties the ability to act and not take up legislative time.

Mr. James mentioned that probably next session Carl Rushmeyer may be pushing to deal with the nitrate plumes in Carson Valley created by so many septic systems. The USGS will give a presentation in March on their Carson Valley groundwater nitrates study. We are seeing that it is expensive to put in sewer systems, and AB 198 funding from state isn't available until there is a violation. It doesn't make sense to have to pollute the entire area before addressing the problem. Director Lynn noted that we are heading toward a disaster. Director McKenna mentioned that if Carson City were to put in a new sewer plant south of the prison that could also be used for fee by northern Douglas County, it would benefit everyone.

Mr. James would like to keep Committee informed as things develop. *Director Schank made the motion for the Legislative Committee to recommend that the Board authorize staff to keep track of bills and, if anything comes up, to notify Committee. If anything becomes serious enough to warrant a meeting, the committee can get together. Director Lynn seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Legislative Committee.*

There being no further business to come before the Legislative Committee, Director Lynn made the motion, seconded by Director Abowd, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary