

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 19, 2014, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd
Ray Fierro
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson
Greg Lynn, Vice Chairman
John McKenna, Treasurer
Barry Penzel
Mary Rawson
Ernie Schank, Chairman
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Carl Erquiaga
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Joe Ricci

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Coordinator
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist

Also present:

Dave Thompson, R.O. Anderson Engineering

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room #1214 of the Nevada Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, Nevada. It was noted that the recording equipment was not working to record this meeting. 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 George Benesch.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda. Mr. James noted that on Item #16 Pat Fried will not be here so Brenda Hunt will give the report. He explained that, due to the drought conditions over the past several years, Ms. Fried has been forced to go out of business. *Director Stodieck made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of January 15, 2014, Board Meeting Minutes. Director Abowd made the motion to approve the January 15, 2014, Board meeting minutes, which were seconded by Fierro and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #7 - Public Comment. None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for January 2014.

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for January 2014.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding ratification of an Addendum to extend Contract #2011-16 with Alpine County for the Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM) signed by the General Manager.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding employee Cost of Living Adjustment for FY 2014-15.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding changes to the Personnel Policies Manual including:

Sick leave payout policy

Vacation time accrual

Health insurance

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding updates to the Personnel Policies Manual.

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding updates to the policy on mileage reimbursement for Directors.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding modifying the Watershed Coordinator Assistant job description.

Director Lynn made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-15. The motion was seconded by Director Fierro and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Pat Fried on the Carson River Conservation Tours program. Brenda Hunt explained that Pat Fried of Great Basin Sports has been conducting the Carson River Conservation Tours program. Despite the drought, Ms. Fried got 218 people on the river last year.

Mr. James and Ms. Hunt will be working with NDEP to determine what to do with this grant now that Ms. Fried is no longer available to conduct tours when there is water in the river. Mr. James explained that grant goes to end of calendar year and its purpose is to increase awareness of the Carson River. Staff will be working with Linda Conlin to coordinate more clean up days involving the public and possibly conduct stream-side tours instead of river tours.

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

Item #17 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by CWSD staff on changes to FEMA's Flood Insurance Program. Mr. James explained that as CWSD has been re-mapping the floodplain some issues have come up. In 2012, Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (BW-12) which changed several major components to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in an effort to make the program more financially stable. Mr. James explained the possible impact on homeowners within the floodplain. Most homeowners insurance does not cover flooding. To address this need, the NFIP was established in 1968. The insurance premiums are intended to cover the costs from flooding; however, the extreme costs of rebuilding after several hurricanes have caused FEMA to borrow from the federal government. For the NFIP to remain sustainable, its premium structure must reflect the true risks and costs of flooding. This is the purpose of BW 12. Insurance premiums will be going up substantially over the next five years. Additional changes to premium rates will occur upon remapping.

Mr. James explained about mapping along Hells Bells Road. The road looks like it is a barrier and keeps water from flooding homes south of Hells Bells Road. Since we are working on remapping the floodplain it is important that we make sure the mapping is correct before submitting to FEMA. Carson City may be able to fix the problem before the modeling is completed. Director McKenna noted that most of the land north of Hells Bells Road is open space and agriculture.

Director Johnson expressed his concern about the mapping meeting FEMA requirements after Douglas County's experience with FEMA mapping. Mr. James emphasized that CWSD is working with all parties for accuracy before the mapping is submitted.

Public Comment: Dave Thompson of R.O. Anderson Engineering, noted that one of the things they've learned is that if the floodplain is on your property and you get a mortgage, the mortgage company can require flood insurance.

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

Item #18 - Discussion for possible action to create a formal policy regarding selection of CWSD officers. Mr. James explained that in 2007 the procedures were set up for the election of officers but not formalized in a policy. Director Schank pointed out two changes to the draft policy on pages 106-107 of the Board package. Under "General Procedures, Guidelines, and Responsibilities", the second bullet should read: "Elections will be held every odd year..." Secondly, under the rotation list at the end, the second set of three bullets under "Election cycle #1" is a duplicate and needs to be deleted.

Director Abowd made the motion to approve the policy setting forth the Criteria for Selecting CWSD Board Officers with the corrections to odd year and the duplication deleted. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #19 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the 2014 runoff projections. Mr. James reported that the recent storm really improved river flows but the river is coming down. The Lahontan Reservoir is 24,000 af lower than last year. The Truckee Canal is running at 300 cfs but the Carson River is only running at 172 cfs today. The storm event improved the amount of water in Marlette Lake. For a while before the storm we were below the 1977 drought levels. Another

big storm is anticipated in two weeks, but the area's precipitation will still not reach normal.

Director Schank noted that Lake Tahoe gained almost half a foot. The Water Master reported that with the increase of water in Lake Tahoe farmers are guaranteed Floriston rates throughout the entire summer. This was the largest storm event that didn't cause a flood because there was no snow to melt.

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

Item #20 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) NDEP has sent out proposed changes for Working in the Waterways (previously called Rolling Stock) Permit which got folks up in arms. He and Ms. Hunt have had several conversations with NDEP representatives, who have promised to meet with the CWSD and the conservation district group to go over the plan before implementing. 2) There will be a Carson River Coalition (CRC) forum on April 3 to give updates on watershed issues. 3) The CWSD "Get on the Bus" Carson River Watershed tour is scheduled for June 11-12, and staff is working on the itinerary. 4) Summer board meetings coming up soon so Mr. James asked the Board to let Ms. Leffler know about suggested tours. 5) A Finance Committee meeting coming up next Monday, 2/24/14, to discuss the FY 2014-15 budget. 6) There is a proposed race track on Washoe Land in the Clear Creek drainage which is creating concerns for some residents in Douglas County. Director Schank asked if there are some river problems associated with a track. Director Johnson responded that there could be.

Legal –Director Schank reported that he had a conversation with Jason King regarding Judge Estes' ruling on the southern Nevada pipeline. The State Engineer's office is going to the Nevada Supreme Court. Mr. Benesch added that the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the State Engineer have both appealed the Court decision.

Mr. Benesch asked if anything is happening on the litigation on the Truckee Canal. Director Schank responded that they the Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID) met today with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) and has continued dialog for two years. They have made some very positive in-roads and are trying to deal with the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Correspondence – As handed out and in the Board package.

Item #21 - Directors' Reports

Director Stodieck explained at the request from Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) that when the West Fork is on rotation new people to the area see water in the ditch and take it. He estimates that 90% of them are out of rotation the first week. Several irrigators who have older rights with several hundred acres expressed the desire to have something on a website which shows what areas are in rotation by indicated green, yellow, and red areas. Director Stodieck asked Mr. James to research to see if there is something like that. We may be able to work with the Federal Water Master while we are updating our website.

Director Rawson reported that Alpine County hasn't heard anything from California Senator Gaines' office regarding Lost Lakes dam safety fee reduction.

Director Lynn noted that Mr. James deserves more credit than he's taking by addressing the rolling stock issue.

Directors McKenna, Frensdorff, Jardine, Penzel, Johnson, Fierro, Abowd, and Schank had nothing specific to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Lynn made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Director Jardine, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary