

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 18, 2015, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman
Brad Bonkowski
Carl Erquiaga
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Barry Penzel
Chuck Roberts
Ernie Schank

Directors not present:

Ray Fierro, Treasurer
Greg Lynn, Chairman
Mary Rawson
Fred Stodieck

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist
Courtney Walker, Watershed Program Specialist

Also present:

Niki Cutler, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Colleen Sievers, BLM
Leon Thomas, BLM
Ralph Thomas, BLM

In Chairman Lynn's absence, Vice Chairman Abowd called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in Room #2135 of the Nevada State Legislative Building, 401 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 Bonkowski.

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

Item #7 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2015. - Director Jardine made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 18, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board, with Directors Frensdorff, Johnson, Osborne, and Roberts abstaining for not having been present at the meeting.

Item #7 - Public Comment None

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for February 2015.

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for February 2015.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding proposed changes to the Personnel Policy Manual.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action for ratification of the General Manager's letter to the Chairman of the Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District regarding the State Clearing and Snagging Fund.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action for approval for the Watershed Program Manager to attend River Rally 2015 on May 1-4, 2015, in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.

Director Schank made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-12. The motion was seconded by Director Erquiaga and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on their Land Management Plan. Courtney Walker explained that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front and the Stillwater Field Offices are doing a BLM Land Management Plan update. CWSD staff will be reviewing the proposed Plan and bring the comments to the Board at the April Board meeting.

Colleen Sievers, RMP Project Manager for the Carson City District of the BLM, then introduced herself and explained that the Carson City District encompasses 8.9 million acres, 4.8 million acres are in the decision area. The BLM has been holding scoping meetings since 2012 and has received approximately 1,700 comments, primarily on wild horse and burros, special designations, special status species, mineral resources, and travel management. They have been working with many cooperating agencies. To date there have been 130 public presentations on this document. Ms. Sievers explained the five alternatives:

- Alternative A: No action
- Alternative B: resource use/industry focused
- Alternative C: conservation emphasis
- Alternative D: urban interface & recreation focused
- Alternative E: preferred alternative balanced between parts of the other alternatives.

Ms. Sievers gave a brief overview of the various components evaluated in the Plan.

The comment period for the Land Management Plan ends April 27, 2015. BLM is expecting a record of decision in the summer of 2016. Ms. Sievers mentioned that tomorrow (3/19) there will be a public workshop/hearing in Fallon.

With regard to the travel areas, Director Johnson commented that he had concerns regarding closing roads in Douglas County. He also requested that the Ruhestroth Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) under Alternative E be reduced in size with the concern that people who discover fossils in the future will not want to turn them in if that will cause closure of a favorite recreational area. Ms. Sievers replied that is a helpful and good comment to submit.

Director Penzel noted that Douglas County has a proposed bypass road and asked what Douglas County should do now to include that into BLM's LMP. Ms. Sievers responded that Douglas County should be in contact with BLM now so it will be included.

Director Erquiaga asked what happens to the wild horses that are outside of HMA boundary. Ms. Sievers responded that they should be rounded up.

Mr. James noted that Brenda Hunt and Courtney Walker are reviewing the RMP for CWSD to comment, and he wants to make sure we are in concert with the counties' comments. Ms. Sievers invited folks to call her if they wanted to discuss their comments.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the FY 2015-16 Tentative Budgets for the General Fund, the Acquisition/Construction Fund, and the Floodplain Management Fund.

Ed James thanked the Finance Committee for their time spent hearing the proposals and making recommendations on the proposed tentative budgets. Mr. James explained the budget format on p.58. Each of the tentative budgets is divided into three columns. The left column shows the proposed budget for FY 2015-16; the center column shows the adopted budget for FY 2014-15; and the right column shows the projected actual income and expenses for FY 2014-15. Mr. James explained that the projected ad valorem in the tentative budget is just an estimate. The actual projected tax figures will be available from the Tax Department on March 25. He asked that the Board authorize him to amend the approved budget to reflect the accurate Ad Valorem tax figures.

Director Schank made the motion to approve the FY 2015-16 Tentative Budgets for the General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund using the projected Ad Valorem tax figures which will be provided by the Department of Taxation. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding a report by the General Manager on the FEMA Cooperative Technical Partnership training on February 22-26, 2015.

Mr. James reported that CWSD has received \$1.5 million dollars from FEMA as a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP). At the training he attended in Maryland he learned that FEMA is modifying the program and also that each region does it differently. Therefore, it is important to stay up on the information. CWSD staff is on top of the requirements and expect to have the opportunity to receive more funding. He is meeting with Eric Simmons with FEMA and the county flood administrators on April 1 to discuss potential FEMA MAS #6 grant proposal projects. He also mentioned that Debbie Neddenriep is doing a great job managing the FEMA grants.

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

Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Nevada Legislature. Mr. James explained the status of the bills listed on pp. 75-76 of the Board package.

- AB 19, modifying the public hearing requirements on the tentative budget, is moving forward and is now in the Senate.
- AB 77, which staff is following because of its noxious weed component, in committee.
- AB 198, requiring a study on water conservation and alternative sources, has passed the committee and is moving on to the Senate.
- SB 28, about charging for public meeting documentation, probably will not pass.
- SB 45, allowing for event distribution of funding to conservation districts throughout the state, is moving forward to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.
- Mr. James has attended State Engineer workshops on SB 65, their housekeeping bill, and SB 81 regarding critical management areas. These bills will be sent back to the Senate Government Affairs Committee.
- SB 70, which makes general changes to the Open Meeting Law, has had no action.
- SB 173, requiring the mining industry to get water rights for pit mines, does not affect this watershed.
- SB 202, regarding hydraulic fracturing, also does not involve this watershed.

Mr. James reported that a new bill, AB 347, regarding conservation of domestic wells would change the 2 af currently allowed per domestic wells to a proposed limit of 0.5 af which would limit water use for house purposes only. The hearing will be later this week, and Mr. James will be watching the bill.

Director Osborne mentioned that seven wells have gone dry in the American Flat and Mark Twain areas. Mr. James said that any new domestic well could be limited to 0.5 af if this bill passes. Storey County does not have any critical management areas at this time. Mr. James noted that the State Engineer recognizes that every basin is different. The State Engineer's office will work with the counties.

Director Osborne asked about where the gray water bill is going. Mr. James responded that it doesn't look like it's going anywhere. Mr. James mentioned that Assembly Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Mining Committee Chairperson Robin Titus submitted BDR 1183 for funding for clearing and snagging. We are hoping that will become active.

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

Item #17 - Discussion for possible action regarding the 2015 Water Rate Report for the Carson River Watershed. Debbie Neddenriep explained the Water Rate Report has become a helpful advisory tool, and the water purveyors have thanked CWSD for providing the report. She started contacting water districts the beginning of February to update report information, but changes have been made since the Board package went out (see handout). In summary, the districts raising water and sewer rates are Carson City, Lyon County in the Dayton/Mound House area, Indian Hills GID, Churchill County, Silver Springs, Storey County, and Douglas County; and Stagecoach is raising only their water rates because they have septic tanks instead of a municipal sewer system. Each area raised rates at various times and based on various reasons. Storey County raises its rates

annually based on the rates of surrounding counties. Stagecoach GID raises rates annually based on the Social Security increase. The final 2015 Water Rate Report will be put on the CWSD website and a link will be sent to all the water purveyors.

Director Bonkowski made the motion to accept the 2015 Water Rate Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #18 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the runoff predictions for 2015.

Mr. James reported that things haven't gotten any better. At the East Fork gage at Gardnerville, last year started with less water than this year but the higher flows may be due to the above normal temperatures. This year we started higher but the flows may drop off quicker. The current snowpack is only about 19% of normal. In 1977, the flow was lower but we had some storms in April and June. Mr. James estimates that we may have seen the peak flow already this year at the Carson City gage because the weather has been warmer and irrigation has already started. Mr. James is not expecting more than 10,000 af of water coming into Lahontan Reservoir this year. At Blue Lakes, the SNOTEL shows that warm weather has already caused the snowpack to drop significantly rather than increasing like in the average year. At Marlette Lake, they anticipate only about 800 af, half of the normal draw. There are indications that this year may be worse than 1977.

Director Osborne noted that a well dried up in Mark Twain and asked Mr. James if he knew why one well was having problems drawing hot water. Mr. James responded that there can be several reasons why this is occurring. One possibility is that there is less cooler water in the aquifer.

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

Item #19 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported:

- 1) The tag line for the watershed map may be changed. A ballot was provided to each Director with the request that they all vote for their preferred option. Ms. Walker explained that on the original watershed map the tag line is: "Lifeline in the Desert." Duane Petite brought up his concern that this tag line is not inclusive of Alpine County, so we are considering alternatives. Someone from the CRC suggested "the Vanishing Oasis." Another person suggested "Sands of Our Times."
- 2) Mr. James reported that he was meeting with Carson City staff regarding problems with Eagle Valley Creek where the bank is eroding, threatening the stability of the trail. Carson City is asking that about \$13,000 of the funding from the Buzzy's Ranch Restoration Project be transferred to firm up creek bank at Eagle Valley Creek. Mr. James explained that Paul Pugsley who has been working on the Buzzy's Ranch project expects to be able to complete that project with remaining funds from NDEP. Mr. James will put the request to transfer funds to the Eagle Valley Creek project on the agenda for the Board's consideration at the Strategic Planning Session. Director Bonkowski mentioned that Carson City is putting in a \$100,000 bridge at that site, so they need to preserve the trail.
- 3) Staff has been working on the Floodplain Management Forum on April 22 at the Dayton Community Center. There will be multiple speakers to address this important topic.

Ms. Leffler reminded the Board about the CWSD Strategic Planning Session on March 27, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in the Wesley Room of the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Musser and Division Streets in Carson City.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

Correspondence – As included in the Board package and handed out.

Item #20 - Directors' Reports

Director Osborne reported that Storey County's new sewer system was up and running very well.

Directors Frensdorff, Johnson, Roberts, Bonkowski, Abowd, Schank, Erquiaga, Penzel, and Jardine had nothing specific to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Roberts made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary