

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 16, 2014, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd
Carl Erquiaga
Ray Fierro
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson
Greg Lynn, Vice Chairman
John McKenna, Treasurer
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Mary Rawson
Ernie Schank, Chairman
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Barry Penzel
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:

Jamie Greer, Nevada Dept. of Agriculture

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in Room #1214 of the Nevada 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 Stodieck.

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

Item #6 - Approval of March 19, 2014, Board Meeting Minutes. *Director Stodieck made the motion to approve the March 19, 2014, Board meeting minutes, which was seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for March 2014.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding Interlocal Agreement #2014-2 with Carson City to help fund the Douglas County-Carson City pipeline intertie at Vista Grande.

Director Lynn made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-10. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Jamie Greer, Nevada Department of Agriculture, on noxious weed management. Jamie Greer, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Noxious Weed Program Coordinator, explained that she and Robert Little have been going to each county board to discuss State noxious weed statutes. NDA can serve notice to landowners to control their noxious weeds and so far they are concentrating on landowners with Category A noxious weeds. Abatements require Board of Commissioners/Supervisors involvement. Recently they have moving forward with a cost-share noxious weed abatement program (NRS 555.180). They are offering the counties the cost-share up to 80%. NDA plans to support on-going noxious weed efforts. Douglas County has been the most aggressive in noxious weed control, especially since they have the most weed-free feed providers. The first abatement was in Douglas County this week.

George Benesch asked about the budget for abatements. Jamie responded that it is currently \$100,000. They know that there is not a lot of money in that fund to cover all potential abatements but hope that as people realize that the State is enforcing abatements, they will start responding to letters to treat weeds on their property. The NDA is hoping to have funding for two full-time staff, four seasonal inspectors, and a pretty low general operating budget.

Director Lynn noted that there is a hole in the statute that will need to be considered. Some farmers will control weeds up to their property line, but right-of-ways are not treated. Ms. Greer noted that the statute includes every landowner whether private, federal, state, and local government. The county or city can also make their own nuisance ordinances to treat weeds along roads.

Director Schank asked what would happen if nothing is done by a landowner to treat weeds after served an abatement letter. Would there be a fine? Ms. Greer responded that there is a first letter which informs the landowner that they need to treat the weeds and is mostly educational. Then a second letter is issued informing the landowner that the abatement process will begin by notifying the county commissioners or manager who will use county weed management or whatever means to treat the landowner's weeds. Then the landowner will be sent the weed treatment bill. If the bill is not paid, a lien can be placed on their property. They can also serve notice to the feds, serve the abatement, and treat weeds on federal property, but they can't put lien on federal land if bill isn't paid. She has talked with US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives about the statute. Director Schank asked if the statute allows NDA to go on private property, to which Ms. Greer responded that it does.

Director Osborne asked a series of questions. 1) Noting that many homes in Storey County are on 5-acre, 10-acre, or 40-acre lots, Director Osborne asked whether the NDA is prepared to sweep the entire county to serve everyone. Storey County tries to do a lot of weed monitoring and control with very little staffing and funding. Ms. Greer responded that NDA doesn't currently have funding or staff to do a wide sweep and are addressing properties based on categories. Category A represents a rare distribution of weeds and is first priority. Category B representing intermittent distribution would be next priority. Category C representing large infestations which would require the most services is the lowest priority. She mentioned that Lynn Hettrick is specifically looking at refining the statutes during the next legislative session. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners approves the use of State cost-share program. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document per abatement goes to the County Manager who signs it, and the abatement is posted. The NDA is hoping to test the law for support to ask for more money and greater infrastructure. 2) Director Osborne noted that the program sounds good but there is not enough funding to address all the weed problem areas. Will NDA support county programs to treat weeds? Ms. Greer responded that there is grant funding available for which all weed districts and county weed programs can apply. After next fiscal year approximately \$100,000 more state funding will be available from state fees. NDA is looking for pots of money to apply to and pass along, like the ARRA funding which CWSD managed. 3) Does the county need to sign the MOU to be able to participate in grant funding? Ms. Greer responded that anyone can apply to the Request for Proposals (RFP) to be on a list serve. The MOU is only for state abatement funds.

Director Erquiaga noted that in Churchill County, the US Fish and Wildlife Service hasn't been willing to control dust and probably won't be willing to control their weeds. As part of the County Commission he is not comfortable with serving an abatement on a private landowner when the county has the same weed problem. He asked how much Douglas County has spent on the weed program. Director Lynn responded that Douglas County has committed about \$200,000 to weed control, as well as providing funding to the conservation district who helps treat weeds.

Brenda Hunt asked Ms. Greer for NDA's schedule of county commission visits. Ms. Greer said that they have already been to Douglas, Churchill, and Storey Counties, and will go to Lyon County tomorrow and Carson city on May 1. Their intent is to first to make contact and have discussions with the counties, then go back to work out details in the future.

Director Johnson commented that Douglas County had the same fears that they didn't want to be the final hammer to make landowners treat noxious weeds on their properties. He cautioned to make sure to have the MOU between the counties and State to share the hammer. Ms. Greer noted that if statute is in place, NDA can send out the educational letter, then folks will try to control weeds before abatements are necessary.

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

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Carson River Coalition Forum on April 3, 2014. Ms. Hunt reported that 70+ people came to forum to hear a variety of speakers covering a wide range of topics. There were amazing displays with a scavenger hunt for the participants. The survey taken after the forum suggested that most people liked the forum. A couple of comments were received, like the suggestion to involve private industry more and that these types of meeting should happen more frequently with speakers having longer to speak. She felt that there was a good turnout and thanked Steve Lewis for helping to put survey together.

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

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding the selection of RDM Infinity to upgrade CWSD's website. Ms. Hunt reported that CWSD sent out the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to five companies, of which three responded and two were interviewed. RDM Infinity was chosen to help CWSD staff with the CWSD website upgrade. Staff signed off on the Scope of Work today and paid half of the estimated \$7,000 cost to begin reconstruction of the website. RDM will be setting up templates and staff will be entering content.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding possibly pursuing FEMA Cooperatively Technical Partners Program Management Mapping Activity Statement for fiscal year 2014-15. Mr. James explained that each year CWSD has gone after funding from FEMA through the Cooperative Technical Partners Programs. Mr. James contacted the flood administrators in the watershed about projects which could qualify for this FEMA funding. The four potential projects listed on p. 51 in the Board package are:

- Evaluation of small embankment on Smelter Creek - Douglas County
- Eagle Valley Golf Course A & B drainage area study - Carson City
- Development of inundation flood maps from Alpine County to Lahontan Reservoir
- Evaluation of flood water shunt near Sheckler Reservoir - Churchill County

If additional funding is available, it might be able to go toward the flood awareness program for 2015 and 2016.

Mr. James also reported that CWSD went through a FEMA audit and came out with flying colors, thanks to Kathie Lawrence for her accounting of FEMA grants.

Director Lynn made the motion to authorize staff to work with the various counties in the watershed to pursue FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners Program Management Mapping Activity Statement for fiscal year 2014-15. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding CWSD summer meeting schedule. Mr. James explained that on p. 53 of the Board package is the tentative summer meeting schedule.

- May - tour of Heenan Lake - meeting at Turtle Rock Park in Alpine County.
- June – tour of Fallon water treatment plant - meeting in Churchill County Commission Chambers in Fallon.
- July – tour of Storey County water system beginning at 2:00 p.m. - meeting at the Storey County Courthouse in Virginia City.
- September – tour of the Rocky Slough - meeting in the Douglas County Commission Chambers in Minden.
- October – tour of the east slope of the Marlette System starting at 2:30 p.m. -meeting in Room 1214 of the State Legislature in Carson City.

Mr. James noted that if the weather looks like it is getting cold early, the September and October tours and meetings may be switched.

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

Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the 2014 water picture for the Carson River Watershed. Mr. James explained that we have had a nice warm spell and the streamflows are currently about average. It is predicted that runoff will peak about April 24, which is about a month earlier than usual. Not much water will reach Lahontan Reservoir this year. The projection of flow at the Ft. Churchill gage will be about 18% of average. Marlette Lake is behind what it was last year. This year is even drier than the last two years. Most of the snow is already melted. The prediction is that on next Sunday night temperatures will be about 12 degrees above normal. The fire index for June and July shows an above normal fire risk.

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

Item #17 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) The Bureau of Reclamation has signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and CWSD will start the Basin Study. 2) Mr. James reminded the Board of the special Board meeting at 7:30 a.m. on May 15 for a hearing on the tentative FY 2014-15 budget. The meeting won't last long, and a conference call will be set up for those not able to participate in person. 3) Staff opened a new CD earning 0.55% yesterday. This interest rate is better than the interest rate currently offered by the State Investment Pool of 0.08%. 4) Mr. James attended the Town of Minden strategic planning workshop on April 14. The USGS gave a presentation which was received with interest.

Ms. Hunt reminded the Board of the June 11-12 "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour. This year the tour will be going to Soda Lakes instead of Stillwater and to Churchill County Museum. It will also be going to Heenan Lake instead of Hope Valley in Alpine County. All Board members are invited and need to contact the office if they are interested in participating.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing to report.

Correspondence – As in the Board package.

Item #18 - Directors' Reports

Director Abowd reported that the lack of effluent is Carson City's current problem.

Director Johnson reported that Nevada legislators toured of areas of Douglas County for the Land Conservation Bill. Douglas County may ask CWSD for a letter of support.

Director Jardine reported that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) passed a new Basin Plan Amendment last week effecting Lake Tahoe and the eastern Sierras. Being a state agency, LRWQCB has regulatory authority over the BLM, USFS, and tribal entities. He will talk with Ms. Greer about abatements. Mr. Benesch asked if the amendment made changes to the background situation of phosphorus in Bridgeport Valley.

Director Rawson read an email from Shane Fryer of the Alpine Watershed Group inviting everyone to an appreciation party from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on April 26, with a monitoring appreciation presentation at 4:00 p.m. The pot luck will be at Barbara Howard's house in Alpine County.

Director Schank reported that he and Rusty Jardine, the District Manager for TCID, had made a trip to Washington, DC.

Directors Erquiaga, Fierro, Frensdorff, Osborne, Stodieck, McKenna, and Lynn had nothing specific to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Stodieck made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Lynn, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary