

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
April 20, 2016, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman  
Brad Bonkowski  
Carl Erquiaga  
Ray Fierro, Treasurer  
Don Jardine  
Doug Johnson  
Greg Lynn, Chairman  
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative  
Barry Penzel  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff  
Mary Rawson  
Chuck Roberts

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel  
Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Specialist  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board  
Debbie Neddenriep, Environmental Specialist

Also present:

Jacques Etchegoyhen, Legacy Land & Water

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room #3137 of the Nevada Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV. 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 as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2016. *Director Bonkowski made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on March 16, 2016. The motion was seconded by Director Fierro and unanimously approved by the Board, with Director Osborne abstaining for not having been present at that meeting..*

Item #7 - Public Comment. Brenda Hunt introduced Shane Fryer, the new CWSD Watershed Program Specialist replacing Courtney Walker. She gave some background information on Mr. Fryer and invited him to address the Board. Mr. Fryer explained that had most recently worked for Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) and had previously worked for the National Park Service all over the US. He stated that he is looking forward utilizing the knowledge and experience he has gained to have a nice long career working with CWSD.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for March 2016. -

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for March 2016.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2016-2 converting the short-term \$30,000 loan to CVCD into a grant for the Flood Protection Project along the East Fork of the Carson River in Carson Valley.

*Director Schank made the motion to approve the consent agenda, including items #8-10. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding the 2016 Water/Sewer Rate Report for the Carson River Watershed. Ed James thanked Debbie Neddenriep for putting the 2016 Water/Sewer Rate Report together and noted that it has become more complicated over the years. This report is designed to provide information regarding water and sewer rates in one place for the entire watershed. Mrs. Neddenriep directed the Board attention to a handout showing the Gardnerville Ranchos GID change to p. 59 of the Board package regarding metered and unmetered customers and on p. 61 a reduction in sewer connection fees sewer rates with only two homes in the GID still on septic systems. She pointed out that the list of entities that changed water rates is on p. 45 and the entities that changed sewer rates is on p. 46.

Director Lynn commented that Douglas County has the highest rate per connection. Gardnerville Ranchos is going to push to get everyone on meters and he predicts that water fees will go up 60% in five years. The reason for that is that rate increases not popular so they haven't done incremental rate increases and must now raise rates a lot.

Director Osborne noted that Storey County had the same story with water rates but saw a reduction in use when rates went up.

*Director Johnson made the motion to accept the 2016 Water and Sewer Rate Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding a letter of support for SNPLMA funding for a conservation easement on the Dangberg Home Ranch located in Douglas County. Mr. James invited Jacques Etchegoyhen to explain the conservation easement project and pointed out the map handout. Mr. Etchegoyhen noted that he went to every town and county commission in

Douglas County to promote creating this easement on the Dangberg Home Ranch. He mentioned that the Park family has been in Carson Valley since 1856 and desires to preserve agricultural areas. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has not allowed submission for conservation easement for seven years. Mr. Etchegoyhen believes there are enough components on the table to get public funding for this compelling nomination which ties together the other 18,500 easements already done in Carson Valley.

George Benesch asked why BLM blocked conservation easements. Mr. Etchegoyhen responded that it seems to depend on whomever serves as BLM State Director. Most of the BLM Directors have preferred to buy land outright instead of create easements, but some have seen the value in easements to preserve the land and keep it under the landowner's management. Mr. Etchegoyhen had very positive meeting with the current State Director John Ruhs and hopes to nominate five or six more conservation easements next year.

There was a conversation about providing public access to the river, and Mr. Etchegoyhen noted that public access isn't always appropriate. There won't always be able to be a trail or public access point. They are considering a possible easement near Genoa Lane. Part of this conservation easement includes a 32-acre park.. The goal is opening up adjacent lands for easements. The next round for Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) funding opens in March of 2017.

Mr. James noted that conservation easement allows for land maintenance by land owner. Mr. Etchegoyhen noted that this will make over 21,000 acres or Three-quarters of Carson Valley protected from development forever. This has turned out to be a positive effort. CWSD Board and its leadership has been critical in encouraging conservation easements.

Director Johnson suggested modifying letter to say the CWSD Board "unanimously" supports the easement. Director Schank suggested identifying who CWSD is as an introduction in the letter. Director Osborne suggested using "regional approach" in the description.

*Director Schank made the motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of support for SNPLMA funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Dangberg Home Ranch as modified above. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding allocating Q1 funding. As background on Question 1 (Q1) Mr. James explained that Q1 was brought to voters in 2002 to create a conservation program. Ten million dollars of the funding was earmarked for the Carson River Watershed. CWSD served as the steering committee for Carson River watershed funding programs and originally the funds were evenly divided among the four counties. The sticking point for some counties was that there had to be a 1-1 match. In 2009, when the economy slumped, funding dried up because the State couldn't sell bonds. Mr. James recently received a call for State Lands that they had been holding \$80,000 for a project which didn't go forward and wanted it to offer the money for other projects. Mr. James talked to all the counties, and the two entities that have projects ready to go and meet criteria for Q1 are Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD) for their Buckland Ditch bank stabilization project and Carson City for their Golden Eagle Lane restoration project to keep sediment from entering the river. The Regional Water System Committee met on March 29, 2016, and recommended that the \$80,000 should be split evenly, \$40,000 each. Q1 is still active until 2019, so Mr. James will meet with all the

counties to discuss using the remaining \$3 million and see how that can be leveraged with 1-1 match into \$6 million in funding.

*Director Abowd made the motion to recommend to Nevada State Lands that the \$80,000 from Q1 be allocated \$40,000 to the DVCD streambank stabilization project near Fort Churchill State Park and \$40,000 to Carson City Golden Eagle project. Director Bonkowski seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board..*

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding a request to submit a grant application for FEMA MAS #7. Mr. James explained that the seventh round of FEMA projects are shown on p.95 of Board package. Churchill County is not ready to move forward with their project yet. The anticipated \$475,000 grant award to be allocated as follows:

- \$285,00 to develop the Johnson Lane Area Drainage Master Plan,
- 93,500 to restudy and remap the Lower Voltaire Canyon Floodplain in Carson City,
- \$40,000 to update the Discovery and Regional Floodplain Management Plan,
- \$10,000 toward the Carson River Flood Awareness Program, and
- \$46,500 to reimbursement of staff time for all these projects.

Director Fierro made the motion to authorize staff to submit a grant application for FEMA MAS #7. The motion was seconded by Director Erquiaga and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the runoff predictions for 2016. Mr. James showed pictures of a Carson River float trip done last night past in the Carson City area. He showed a graph of precipitation gauges which showed about 120% of normal so far this year. Runoff at the East Fork at Gardnerville gage shows flows in the river above average. The same at the Carson City gage and at the Ft. Churchill gage. Projections from NOAA forecast an end of May peak. Mr. James expects the peak will be sooner because of the drop in our snowpack at the SNOTEL sites. This is much better than in recent years. Director Abowd asked about float trips. Mr. James responded that there are several in the plans and he will keep the Board informed. Director Schank noted that we are looking at 7-8 days of precipitation at Kirkwood. Allocations from Lahontan were raised today to 80% but TCID hopes to raise it to 100%. Efficiencies are only at 30% with normal being about 68% because the canals are soaking up the water.

*No action required for this item; receive and file.*

#### Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) The summer meeting schedule begins with a field trip along the river in the Carson City area in May. We may look at the CVCD river project in June, and Director Osborne is working with staff to set up a field trip in Storey County. 2) Mr. James' review is coming up so he will be meeting with each of the Board members in the next week couple weeks.

Ms. Hunt reported that all day on 4/26/16 the Carson River Coalition/CWSD will host an Environmental Education Round Table with environmental educators. Mark Duda of Responsive Management will explain the Watershed-Literacy Survey results. The group will work to determine top messages and target audiences to work on over the next five years before the next survey is conducted. Ms. Hunt invited the Board to attend. 2) Staff has been planning

the "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour June 7-8, 2016. Registration forms are available. 3) Ms. Hunt showed the Board the new CRC swag bag which will be used for this year's events.

Mr. James mentioned that there may be a river trip on May 12 depending on the water level on the East Fork from Hangman's to the take out in Douglas County.

Legal –Mr. Benesch reported that he has decided to close his law office because of his wife's health issues. He is impressed with this Board and will continue on as CWSD legal counsel.

Correspondence – As handed out at the meeting.

Item #17 - Directors' Reports

Director Osborne reported that Storey County is about two months from completion of the Storey County Master Plan which has been in the works for six years.

Director Johnson asked Board members to let him know if any would be available for a possible raft trip on short notice. He also welcomed Mr. Fryer to CWSD employment and wished a happy anniversary to Mr. Benesch.

Director Schank reported that two weeks ago last Friday TCID settled eight pieces of litigation. Only thing left is the recoupment case. All Donner and flood related litigation involving TCID is now settled.

Director Lynn reported that there will be an "After Action Meeting" on the river projects on 4/27/16 lead by Fire Chief Carlini.

None of the other directors had anything specific to report.

Item #18 - Public Comment. None

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Abowd made the motion to adjourn.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary