



Education Working Group
Meeting Notes
Thursday, April 24, 2014
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
CWSD Conference Room

Present:

Tess Braun, Alpine Watershed Group
John Cobourn, UNCE
Margie Evans, UNCE/Carson City Weed Coalition
Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)
Ed James, CWSD
Ryder Kiel, student
Toni Leffler, CWSD
Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP
Courtney Walker, CWSD

1. Welcome and Introductions - Introductions were made around the room.

2. Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates

- a. Update on Invasive Species Month (Margie/Courtney)** – Slogan: “Play, Clean, Go – Stop Invasive Species in YOUR Tracks” Margie is going to be putting together a card insert to go in with water bills throughout Carson City. She will need 15,500 stuffers which could be printed four to a 11” x 17” piece of paper. Mary Kay will look into possibly having it printed by the State or approaching a local print shop to do the printing for a reduced price if they are acknowledged on the stuffer. Rich Wilkinson also wants to put stuffers in the Lyon County water bills.

JoAnne Skelly will write three noxious weed related articles for the newspaper on Perennial Pepperweed, Russian Knapweed, and Medusahead in June for the Record Courier, Nevada Appeal and Lahontan Valley News. Jeff Begovich is having a meet and greet with landowners in Douglas County on June 27. Nancy Upham in Churchill County wants to do advertisements in the newspaper. CWSD is providing \$500 to each county to help pay for these efforts in the month of June.

Actions:

- Joann Skelly - newspaper articles
 - Margie Evans - water bill stuffers in Carson City
 - Mary Kay Wagner - check with State print shop regarding printing stuffers
 - Rich Wilkinson - water bill stuffers in Lyon County
 - Jeff Begovich - meet and greet with ranchers in Douglas County
 - Nancy Upham - newspaper advertisements in Churchill County
- b. CRC Forum Update (Brenda)** – A survey was conducted at the forum with about 50% of forum participants responding. Overall the forum was well received but there was some good feedback/criticism. One person wanted more break time. One person suggested bringing in

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more of the local community speakers, like ranchers and environmental businesses (ex.-Hungry Mother). Brenda is trying to come up with strategies to include them more, perhaps by incorporating them in more events.

Mary Kay suggested attracting the educators in the Carson River watershed as another important audience. One educator is a small rancher in Fallon, so if we advertise the CRC forum to the Carson River watershed educators, we might get more people.

It was suggested that the room set up might be altered to put the speakers on the right to provide better access to the restrooms at Ruvo Hall. Mary Kay suggested also having a follow up forum to the Environmental Forum which was held a couple of years ago since it was so well received. She also suggested having more in-service opportunities that schools might be able to participate in.

Brenda mentioned that Michael Smith videotaped the forum again and will break it down into programs to be shown on Access TV. She will ask that he inform her of their showing early enough to be able to alert the CRC group to watch.

Actions: Consider future event formats and timing which could include more local rancher and environmental business participation.

- c. **Trout in the Classroom Update (Linda)** – Linda had trout releases on March 28, April 4, and April 11. With the help of volunteers Dan Kaffer, Pat Fried, Candace Stowell, Benda Hunt, Courtney Walker, Sonya Vasques, and Andrea Minor, the children also went through a variety of information stations lead by adults. All the fish were released into Baily Pond. Margie coordinated a weed pull of poison hemlock at the same time, including a wash station to wash hands afterwards. Overwhelmingly the active station of pulling the weeds was the most popular because the kids felt like they were really participating in improving the environment.
- d. **Upcoming Workdays/Events in Carson City, Carson Valley, and Churchill County (Duane/Linda)** – On May 2 there will be a work day with Empire Elementary School 4th graders and the Carson High School Biology Dept. under the leadership of Julie Koop. High school students will have to come and go during their classroom time only so volunteers will have the elementary students in small groups for tree wrapping in between when high school students are traveling back and forth.

There will also be a work day in Churchill County on May 9, at Norm Frey's ranch. They are partnering with Nevada Fish and Wildlife to do wood duck boxes. They were hoping to do some planting but there will be no water runoff from field next to where they were going to plant.

Courtney will be helping Duane Petite with a work day at River Fork Ranch. Scarselli Elementary 2nd graders will be doing the nature scavenger hunt and pole planting by the river.

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- e. **Update on the "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour (Brenda)** – The tour is planned out and Courtney and Ed drove the upper watershed last Tuesday to make sure of timing. We will still catch the bus at Smith's, but this year the tour will start on the East Fork at Heenan Lake coming down to the Markleeville Creek restoration site, then J.B. Leukemberry will talk about the Ranch 1 partnership with The Nature Conservancy at River Fork Ranch. The second day the bus will go to Soda Lakes instead of Stillwater, with a stop at the Churchill County Museum. Most speakers are confirmed, and teacher and engineering CEUs have been approved. CEUs for certified planners will be approved soon. Mary Kay suggested announcing the itinerary of stops to get more sign ups. Courtney and Ed will drive the lower watershed next week to determine timing.
- f. **Other** - 1) Fallon Earth Day – Mary Kay reported that the Earth Day venue was changed to Oates Parks which provided a larger area for display booths and more parking. There were three times as many set ups and participants as last year's event.

2) Green Boxes – Courtney reported that she met State Coordinator with DRI at a GREENevada meeting who has boxes set up. If an organization determines a desired theme, the program will put boxes together and supply them.

3. **Item continued from last agenda: Discuss evaluation processes and creating consistent measures required in 319 grants (Duane/Brenda/Linda)** – postpone until Duane is present.

4. **Working Group Exercise: Update the Explore Your Watershed Map for reprinting.**
CWSD has received 319 funding to update and reprint the watershed map. Brenda asked the group to suggest revisions to the map and she will contact Greg Brady about his ability to change map. For the panels on back, there is a huge amount of information which may be overwhelming for folks. Mary Kay suggested that it would be helpful to have Greg at a meeting to get a feel for what he can actually do to change the art work. John suggested just getting proposed changes in a list, whether possible or not.

Ed asked if we want to consider a Nevada Day float since the theme this year is celebrating 150 years of Nevada statehood. We can reduce the supply of current maps by handing them out at the parade again. Brenda noted that the last time the CRC sponsored a float the participants had a fun Nevada Day, but the planning for the float was crazy, so we need to have more people involved. It was suggested that the event could also serve as an outreach for Flood Awareness Week along with the float.

Suggestions for the map side included:

- Add Clear Creek;
- Mention open space lands in Carson City by putting in Silver Saddle Ranch, possibly shown by trees to represent a park;
- Show the floodplain and incorporate a legend on the front of the map with a panel on back using an icon for Floodplain and Open Space;

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- Show trails on the map;
- Add Indian Hills depicted with hills between Eagle Valley and Carson Valley;
- Identify more neighborhoods, esp. Mark Twain, to build a sense of connection with the watershed for those residents.
- Title the Stillwater Range;
- Get rid of the golf course at Genoa or move it lower;
- Title Soda Lakes;
- Below the Naval Air Station the lake needs to be named
- Show Lost Lakes.
- On the inset of the map, Pyramid Lake looks like it is draining into the Carson River watershed.
- Add the Truckee River and title the Truckee Canal.
- Add River Fork Ranch with a pond turtle.
- Leave the bear silhouette as an outline rather than colored in.
- Can use hiker as icon for trails.
- Title Leviathan Mine.
- Add Bryant Creek.
- Red fox, kit fox, and grey fox are all present in the watershed.
- Move golfer from Indian Hills.

Suggestions for the information panel side included:

- Update watershed challenges panel
- Floodplain message lost in there
- Section on Trails with a link to the CWSD website to show where all the trails are. Mary Kay mentioned that the Sierra Nevada College used “urban interface” as the area with the trail system.
- Add QR code to coordinate with the EDDmaps application.

Ed suggested discussing the existing panels and what should be changed and what’s missing. Have an extra meeting to initially discuss changes. Then maybe dedicate first hour of monthly meeting to map redesign or have longer meetings. Ask educators how the map could be more useful to them in teaching settings. Maybe folks involved in the round table to do a review of the current map. Schedule review meeting for June 3 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Between now and then Mary Kay will put it out to educators who may be using the map to review it and give feedback. Consider content and how it's visually laid out. What’s useful and what’s not? The map is interesting to children and adults. Use more bullets to present information in an easier to read format. Layout to make it more appealing to read or scan for information without taking too much time.

5. **Discuss potential flood awareness week (Nov. 10-15, 2014) activities for schools (Mary Kay/Courtney)** – John noted that the Flood Awareness group is putting together a fantastic website and publications, advertisement, and activities in different communities. Events in the schools would be wonderful to have. Mary Kay offered activities to put on the website for each grade level. She will put an article on Flood Awareness Week in the Enviro newsletter and let

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teachers know where the website is and about community activities. She is developing panels for exhibit addressing watersheds, floodplains, and wetlands. The PDF format for these panels could be put on the website for classroom discussion or as background for activities. John offered to help put together floodplain panel with Mary Kay.

Since Flood Awareness Week is about the same time as the Conserve the Carson River Workdays it was suggested that an activity could be done during the workdays to do something to help kids understand the importance of having floodplains protected. Mary Kay said there is an activity about emergency preparedness in Project WET which can tie into to the workdays with a station to bring awareness to the floodplain and preparedness. Maybe have swag to give out to every student. John noted that there are many aspects of the floodplain: preparedness, natural functions aspect, and a water quality component. Emphasize benefits and functions of a watershed. Mary Kay offered to work with the teenagers for a station at workdays.

- 6. Next meeting**– June 3 from 8:30-11:30 a.m., with 1.5 hours dedicated to map and 1.5 hours dedicated to the meeting.