

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 17, 2017, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Chairman
Brad Bonkowski
Carl Erquiaga, Vice Chairman
David Griffith
Don Jardine, Treasurer
Doug Johnson
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative
Barry Penzel
Ernie Schank
Fred Stodieck
Steve Thaler

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff
Ken Gray
Chuck Roberts

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II

Also present:

Steve Lewis, UNCE

Chairman Abowd called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. in the Douglas County Commission Chambers, 1616 8th St., Minden, 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 led by Director Osborne.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda. Director Abowd requested that Item #6 be pulled from the agenda for reconsideration at the June meeting. *Director Schank made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2017. This item was pulled from the agenda, to be reconsidered at the June Board meeting.

Item #7 - Public Comment – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for March 2017. -

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for March 2017.

Item #10 – Discussion for possible action to surplus office equipment.

Item #11 – Discussion for possible action regarding CWSD partnering with the USGS to collect data on mercury and methylmercury in the Carson River Watershed.

Item #12 – Discussion for possible action regarding various bills that CWSD may want to support, oppose, or monitor during the 2017 Legislative Session.

Director Johnson made the motion to approve Items #8-9 and #11-12 of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Board. In Item #10, the date of purchase of Item #00148 was corrected to 4/28/10. Director Schank then made the motion to approve Item #10 with correction. Director Jardine seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Item #13 – PUBLIC HEARING – The Carson Water Subconservancy District will hold a Public Hearing on its FY 2017-18 Tentative Budget. Chairman Abowd opened the public hearing of the CWSD on its FY 2017-18 Tentative Budget. There being no questions or comments, the hearing was closed.

Item #14 – Discussion for possible action regarding rejection, modification, or adoption of the FY 2017-18 Final Budget. Mr. James explained the changes between the tentative and final FY 2017-18 budgets. He went over page 53 of Board package and explained changes from Tentative Budget to Final Budget and a revised Final Budget was handed out. Also included were the requests by Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD), Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD), and Carson City to carry over funds from FY 2016-17 to FY 2017-18.

Mr. James pointed out that the revisions were mostly to include an increase in interest on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and Mutual of Omaha CD in the Acquisition/Construction and Floodplain Management Fund budgets.

Director Thaler asked what ending fund balance goes toward. Mr. James explained that the Tax Department requires an ending balance of 4% of the budget to cover cash flow. The beginning balance for this fiscal year will be ending balance from FY 2016-17. "Equity" is the same thing as beginning balance.

Director Schank made the motion to adopt the FY 2017-18 Final Budgets. The motion was seconded by Director Erquiaga and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #17 – Discussion for possible action regarding the Strategic Planning Session to discuss and prioritize CWSD’s future activities. Mr. James went over the outline of the proposed three-part Strategic Planning. Part One, Orientation/Review, was covered at last month’s meeting. Part Two, establishing short- and long-term goals, will be facilitated by Steve Lewis at this month’s Board meeting. Part Three, to review the five- and ten-year budgets developed by staff to achieve the list of priorities developed by the Board in Part Two, will be included in June’s meeting.

Mr. James showed the CWSD overview video which is in the process of being updated. Then Steve Lewis took over running the Strategic Planning Session. He went over an abbreviated version of the CRC Mission Statement:

“To promote cooperative action across agency and political boundaries in the Carson River Watershed, using integrated watershed management.”

The CRC Vision Statement is:

“A healthy sustainable Carson River Watershed, led by community and private/public partnerships, plans and projects, where all lands and waterways (surface and underground) safely receive, store, and release clean water for the good of all peoples, environments and natural resources of the Carson River Basin.”

CWSD is the lead agency for integrated watershed planning and management for the Carson River Watershed. Balancing environmental, agricultural and municipal water needs requires diligent planning and management. CWSD works with local, state, and federal entities to plan, fund, and implement projects and programs to address challenges in the manner that provides regional benefits. Challenges include:

- Protecting critical floodplain lands from development
- Meeting demands for future water supply
- Managing and promoting use of reclaimed water
- Enhancing water quality and riparian habitat throughout the watershed
- Tracking and controlling invasive species
- Raising awareness of watershed issues with general public.

Mr. Lewis pointed out that the lists on the wall in white represent programs/projects funded by grants and those on yellow paper are non-grant funded projects over the past five years. The categories and programs/projects, along with comments added during discussion, are as listed below:

- Future integrated planning:
 - Non-grant funded:
 - analyze potential storage sites – surface and groundwater – build relationships, regional infiltration
 - instream flow
 - pursue legislation regarding Carson River channel – weed problem, clearing and snagging, state ownership, fencing, SHPO, permits, federal legislation
 - monitor legislative action
 - cloud seeding

- modifying grade control structures so river sediment and recreation users can get through the structures
 - landscape scale approach including forest
 - Grant funded:
 - NDEP – Watershed Management Program
- Outreach and Education:
 - Non-grant funded:
 - Carson River Work Days
 - Alpine Watershed Group – watershed coordination
 - Sierra Nevada Journeys – Family Night at elementary schools STEM nights
 - Churchill County Ag Expo
 - Grant funded:
 - NDEP – Environmental Education Coordinator Program
 - NDEP – Carson River Conservation Tours
 - NDEP – provide funding assistance (cash or in-kind match) for CRC grant projects)
 - Watershed Literacy II Outreach
 - Watershed Literacy III
 - Watershed Education
 - Watershed Bus Tour
- Water Quality:
 - Non-grant funded:
 - Watershed coordinating activities
 - USGS Churchill County Groundwater and Water Quality Data Collection
 - USGS Groundwater Study – Eagle, Dayton, and Churchill
 - USGS water quality studies – Douglas County
 - Nitrate studies
 - Arsenic studies
 - USGS water quality studies – Lyon County
 - Nitrate study
 - Dayton Valley Septic Tank Project
 - Regional MS4 Stormwater Master Plan
 - Water quality enhancement projects
 - Grant funded:
 - NDEP Clean Water Act 208 – East Fork Algae Study
 - NDEP Clean Water Act 208 – Low Impact Development Project
 - NDEP – Clear Creek Non-Point Sources Program

 - NDEP – Carson City Non-Point Source Program
 - NDEP – Carson City Non-Point Source Pilot Program
- Rehabilitation and Stabilization:
 - Non-grant funded:

- CVCD bioengineering/erosion control projects
 - CVCD clearing and snagging project (Virginia/Rocky)
 - DVCD restoration projects
 - Eagle Creek streambank restoration
 - Buzzy Ranch streambank project
 - LCD clearing and snagging project
 - LCD sand bar removal project
 - Virginia/Rocky streambank design project
 - Grant funded:
 - NDEP – Virginia/Rocky streambank design project
 - CVCD bank stabilization
 - Carson City Golden Eagle Lane project
 - DVCD projects
 - LCD sandbar removal
 - Virginia/Rocky project
 - Forest management in the upper watershed
- Invasive Species:
 - Non-grant funded:
 - Noxious weed control: Alpine, Douglas, Carson City, Lyon, Churchill, and Storey Counties
 - Invasive Species Program
 - Grant funded:
 - State Parks – motorized noxious weed signs – Carson City and Churchill County
 - Federal – ARRA weed control project
 - Noxious weed control
 - BLM weed grant
 - NFWF weed grant
 - Invasive species programs
 - Dayton Valley Storey County weed abatement
 - LCD weed programs
- Recreation:
 - Non-grant funded:
 - Churchill County River Park Design
 - Carson City River Park
 - Carson River vehicle removal project
 - Carson River mosquito control
 - Grant funded:
 - Q1 – Habitat Conservation Program
- Water Supply
 - Non-grant funded: (We get 15% less today in ad valorem property taxes than what we got in 2009 and 2010.)
 - Douglas County Regional Pipeline - CWSD pays \$125,000/yr. to CC and Douglas County to pay for pipeline debt service.

- Carson City Regional Pipeline
 - Lyon County – Dayton stream gage
 - Lahontan Valley Water Level Program
 - Dixie Valley Water Level Measurement
 - Water rights dedication tracking database
 - Assisted Alpine County with state-mandated South Carson Valley groundwater elevation monitoring
 - Assisted Alpine County with Mesa groundwater elevation monitoring
 - Water conservation programs
 - Water and Sewer Rate Report
 - USGS stream gage contracts
 - USGS Douglas County groundwater data collection
 - Lahontan Valley Water Level Program
 - State Engineer Groundwater Inventory
- Grant-funded:
 - Alpine County – California mandated Carson Valley groundwater elevation monitoring
 - Alpine County – assisted Alpine County with Mesa groundwater elevation monitoring
 - USBR – Carson River Water Plan Study
 - Churchill County – groundwater study in Churchill County
- Floodplain Management:
 - Non-grant funded:
 - Churchill County Drainage Study
 - Douglas County Drainage Study
 - Pine Nut Soil Infiltration Study
 - Grant funded: (grants cover staff time to administer)
 - FEMA – restudy and remapping the Carson River upstream of Lahontan Reservoir
 - FEMA – restudy and remapping of the:
 - Alpine View Estates
 - Voltaire Canyon
 - Goni Canyon
 - Eagle Canyon
 - Ramsey Canyon
 - FEMA – Johnson Lane Area Drainage Master Plan
 - FEMA – Sheckler Shunt Study
 - FEMA – Smelter Creek Study
 - FEMA – update to the Regional Floodplain Management Plan
 - FEMA – review of counties’ floodplain ordinances and mitigation options
 - NDEP – LiDAR for Carson Valley
 - NDEP – Hydrology and Hydraulic Model Manual

Then Mr. Lewis posed the question: “Are we on the right path and where do we want to go?”

Mr. James explained that the Acquisition/Construction Fund was created to purchase water rights and fund construction. In the past, the majority of the funds going into the Acquisition Construction Fund came from the General Fund. In 2010, CWSD identified approximately \$1.5 million in future projects. Today, the Acquisition/Construction Fund has a little under \$700,000. In 2009, the Floodplain Management Fund was created to deal with flood planning and projects. After 2010, when there was a downturn in the economy, we began dealing with current demands for funding each year instead of being able to put money away for future projects. People have come to depend on us for most of their funding. If we want to dedicate money to future projects, we will have less money to fund year-to-year projects.

Director Schank noted that one of his concerns is the need to address the true ownership of the riverbed to the average high-water mark. It is also important to streamline the process to get permits to work on state lands. Director Johnson noted that we may need to address Federal legislation. Legislation needs to be one of our greatest priorities.

Director Penzel noted that there are eight broad categories of projects/programs to pursue but CWSD has a very limited staff. Director Johnson noted that the committees were designed for the Board to participate.

Director Griffith noted that it is helpful to show which are grant vs. non-grant projects. CWSD is one of few organizations that looks at a watershed-wide approach. He suggested also looking at forest health as part of the water quality and take measurements of project impacts.

Director Johnson asked about where we are with invasive species programs. Mr. James responded that we have a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grant for weed treatment on BLM land. He reminded the Board that we have provided funding assistance to our weed partners since 1999. CWSD staff coordinates the efforts. Director Schank suggested teaching the State what we have learned about capitalizing on available funding. Mr. James noted that we are able to do things that the State can't do, like FEMA funded projects. We work with the counties and get consultants to do the studies.

Director Abowd stressed the importance of the State defining their river ownership. Director Penzel said that he doesn't feel we are organized to work on legislation, but a partnership group of counties can help impact legislation. Debbie Neddenriep noted that members of our Board used to be more active in the National Association of County Organizations (NACO), etc., to address more activities.

Director Johnson noted that we are still capped in our ad valorem tax income. Mr. James noted that interest income on our investments has also gone down due to the reduction in interest rates.

Director Schank suggested that we can get someone from the state's interim legislative committees to take river tours so they can relate first hand to what's going on.

A new prioritization sheet was handed out. The Board was asked to identify four of the seven categories of activities as their greatest priorities. Directors Penzel and Bonkowski identified floodplain management as a plan to control the river, then rehabilitation and stabilization, then

water supply and water quality. Director Schank suggested that floodplain management and rehabilitation/stabilization are on equal footing. Perhaps rehabilitation/stabilization is a subcategory under floodplain management.

Mr. James explained the Acquisition/Construction Fund budget on p. 79 of the Board package and the Floodplain Management Fund budget on p. 80. The Acquisition/Construction Fund money was used to buy Mud Lake and other water rights and for upsizing regional pipelines. He Floodplain Management Fund is for flooding repairs. Under future integrated planning, Director Johnson suggested that cloud seeding be crossed off the list.

Director Griffith asked how purchasing water rights enhances integrated planning. Mr. James explained that Lost Lakes and Mud Lake water rights enhance river flow and generates income by leasing the water to Carson City. If we had purchased Red Lake when we had the opportunity, we could have managed that water body better than how it is being managed now. Director Griffith asked why we need to keep river flow when there was no historic flow. Mr. James explained that historically there was an active fishery on the Carson River as far down as the Dayton area before changes in land use and the environment.

Director Penzel suggested that under the “other” priorities category, we could cut down on dust problems by using magnesium chloride.

Director Schank commented that we need to be careful when it comes to analyzing better storage sites because any change will end up in Court. Instead, build relationships for interbasin transfers, etc. Dams are cost prohibitive, and the Alpine Decree would be debated in Court. Director Bonkowski noted that we don’t necessarily have to build structure for water storage but can infiltrate water to bank it.

Ed went through the activities under each main category of work that CWSD does. Director Bonkowski noted that there are high priority items under each category.

The Board took a break at 8:10 p.m. The meeting was resumed at 8:15 pm.

Mr. Lewis went over the Board’s prioritization:

1. Tie between Floodplain Management and Rehabilitation/Stabilization
2. Tie between Water Supply/Demand and Water Quality
3. Tie between Invasive Species and Outreach/Education
4. Recreation

Future project reserves priorities:

1. Floodplain Management Fund
2. Future integrated planning
3. Acquisition/Construction Fund

Director Bonkowski suggested taking the priorities and making allocations for each category, then use a scoring system for rating the project funding requests which will be heard next year. Director Penzel agreed that this would be an ideal system since it gives CWSD the tool to

allocate the money. The justification for approving funding for request is following the priorities set by the policy makers.

Mr. James will develop proposed five-year and 10-year budgets which he will review with the Finance Committee and then present to the full Board. Director Schank noted that the availability of grants will run the priorities more than what the Board developed tonight. Some projects may be pursued depending on whether grant funding becomes available.

Mr. James thanked Mr. Lewis for his help with the strategic planning process.

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

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding the proposed federal FY 2018 budget's potential impacts to the Carson River Watershed. Mr. James explained that proposed FY 2018 federal budget would cut 319 and other needed EPA funding. He asked for the Board's direction in how to address our concerns to our federal representatives. Mr. James suggested that we need to at least make our federal representatives aware of our concerns. Director Schank noted that it is his experience that more gets done when you get the federal representatives to come visit and see the on-the-ground projects. He suggested also inviting the Governor. With the current flooding situation, it is a good time for them to see the impacts in person. Director Bonkowski offered to set up meetings the representatives who grew up in Carson City, Congressman Amodei and Senator Heller. Director Johnson suggested writing a letter explaining our work which can be handed to them after a tour. Director Griffith noted that lobbying is our best approach; join with other organizations, like NACO, Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and League of Cities to lobby for us. The majority of the population is urban, so it is hard to get rural projects funded. It is good to have those on this Board with personal connections to contact our federal representatives.

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

Item #16 – Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the grade control/diversion structures in the Carson River damaged by the January and February floods. Mr. James explained that he, George Benesch, and Director Roberts had a meeting with representatives from the Nevada Departments of Emergency Management and State Lands. The State doesn't claim ownership of structures in the river, so even if CWSD wanted to take the lead regarding repairs to the diversion/grade control structures, State Lands cannot give CWSD the legal responsible authority for those structures. CWSD will meet with other agencies to see if they can help with repair costs. Mr. James suggested meeting with the Regional Water System and Flood Committee to see what assistance CWSSD can provide regarding the diversion/grade control structures.

Director Thaler noted that the State doesn't clear and snag the river that they claim ownership of, so how can they expect someone else to take responsibility for their inaction? Mr. James noted that when the State took ownership of Lake Tahoe, they took ownership of the piers, and users must have a permit. But in the case of riverbed ownership, the State did not claim the structures.

Director Schank suggested finding someone in the Attorney General's office to talk with, help them understand the situation, and ask them to help us. Perhaps Mr. James and Director Abowd could talk with the Attorney General. Mr. Benesch noted that the protocol to meet with the Attorney General must be through a State agency. The Attorney General's office first talks with their client, the Director of State Lands. Perhaps Senator Settelmeyer could talk with the Governor to get the conversation rolling.

Item #18 –Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported:

- Get on the Bus Tour will be on June 6-7. Directors are encouraged to participate, paid for by the District.
- TCID has released enough water out of Lahontan Reservoir that the threat of flooding in Churchill County is reduced.
- Shane Fryer has been flying his drone over the river and watershed taking wonderful video footage.
- Orangetree Studios is creating the "Floodplains as Community Assets" videos which may be completed by the bus tour.

Legal –Mr. Benesch did not have anything specific to report.

Correspondence – As handed out at the meeting.

Item #19 - Directors' Reports

Director Schank reported that 371,000 af of water was let out of Lahontan Reservoir as of today and about 90% of that is going to the sink. Lahontan has a 313,000 af capacity.

Director Johnson thanked Mr. Hussman for his part in the Board's tour before this meeting.

Director Thaler reported that Douglas County used trap bags behind Alpine Trailer Park to protect the park from flooding.

There were no other Directors' reports.

Item #20 - Public Comment. None.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Schank made the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary