



Education Working Group
Thursday, July 11, 2013

Meeting Notes

Time: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Place: CWSD Offices, 777 E. William Street, Suite 110A Carson City, NV
Contact: Linda Conlin 775-230-0633 or Brenda Hunt 775.887.9005

Attendees: Brenda Hunt (CWSD); Courtney Walker (CWSD); Shane Fryer (Alpine Watershed Group); Linda Conlin (River Wranglers); Margie Evans (UNCE); Kathi Lawrence (CWSD)

1. Welcome & introductions – Brenda welcomed everyone and introductions were made; the group welcomed newcomer Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group's new watershed coordinator, and Courtney Walker, CWSD's new Watershed Assistant.
2. Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates
 - a. Carson River Workdays and CR Festival (Linda Conlin) – Linda gave a brief description of Carson River Workdays, which involve teaching Carson River history to the students in their classroom, followed by a day spent at the river, where the 4th graders are broken into small groups and matched up with teen mentors, who have been trained ahead of time. The last workday of the school year did not work out as well as most – the elementary students were 4th, 5th and 6th graders from Montessori, and Linda found the 6th graders were not as interested in what was being taught. The teen mentors from Silver State Charter High School were trained on-site the morning of the event; instead of training the teens ahead of time. Linda felt the use of this approach didn't work out as well.

The Carson River Festival was held on June 22nd in conjunction with Oodles of Noodles in Dayton. There were at least 10 stations with activities run by approximately 20 teens, who did a great job. The teens prepared for the event by participating in job shadowing related to their particular activity topic, such as animals, reptiles, pollution, etc. Linda has posted photos of the festival on the River Wranglers Facebook page. Margie commented that Carson River Festival was originally designed to move throughout the watershed, and suggested that it could possibly be repeated at Carson Valley Days and/or Markleeville Creek Day. Expanding the festival throughout the watershed would require visits to additional high school classrooms to recruit teen volunteers. Some suggestions included targeting teens at the Boys and Girls Club, a year-round school, a school environmental club, and scouts. It was also suggested that Linda would possibly need an assistant to handle the increased workload of expanding the festival throughout the watershed. Margie suggested that CWSD obtain a Americorp volunteer to help Linda.

- b. Gardnerville Elementary School 1st Grade Field Trip to TNC's RFR (Brenda for Duane) – This was a fun day for 1st graders to participate in a fairly unstructured field trip to River Fork Ranch, where they explored, hiked and collected items for a scavenger hunt. The students were broken out into groups of approximately 8 students to one adult, who posed questions to the group and talked to them about watershed topics without lecturing.

- c. “*The Flow*” focus (Brenda) – Brenda shared with the group the Summer edition of The Flow newsletter, which featured the topic of invasive species and included many articles written by CRC members throughout the watershed. Brenda thanked Courtney for all of her work on this edition. Margie requested 10 copies for her office to provide to the public.
ACTION: Brenda to send or drop off Margie additional copies for her office.

- d. Other – Brenda recently read in the newspaper that Candace Stowell has been appointed to the Carson City School Board. Since Candace previously held the position of Douglas County Planning Director and has attended River Corridor Working Group meetings in the past, Brenda suggested that she may be a great link to the school board.
ACTION: Brenda will contact Candace and invite her to attend an Education Working Group meeting.

Brenda recently brought the Mayweed Chamomile issue before the CWSD Board. The Board supports submitting a letter formally opposing removal of the seed from the invasive species list. Brenda will do more research regarding getting approval from each county to speak on their behalf at the upcoming hearing. The Board also directed Brenda to speak about the issue with other area watersheds (Humboldt, Walker and Truckee).

Linda reported that Harley Davidson Financial is interested in participating in a work day, similar to a trail building day they once did with Duane. A tentative date of Friday, September 13th has been selected; they would also like some outreach to take place at their offices prior to the work day. The group made suggestions of other corporate groups who may be interested in participating in a work day, including: Starbucks, Greater Nevada Credit Union, Heavenly and Patagonia. These groups have a large number of volunteers, so a large project would be needed, requiring a lot of planning.

Margie provided a handout on DRI GreenPower Green Box and explained the program to the group. Green boxes, which are created by educators, contain “ready to go” lessons, promoting environmental, sustainability and climate education. Each box contains curriculum and materials for hands-on activities and projects. DRI will provide \$500 for the purchase of materials needed for the box. After the box is created, DRI sends it out to various schools to use, and they maintain/re-stock the box. Margie suggests that the EWG create a “Watershed In A Week” box to educate students about the Carson River Watershed. Each EWG member could create 1 day’s lesson plan. Brenda pointed out that there were quite a few EWG members not able to attend today’s meeting; they need to be contacted to see if they are willing

to participate in this task. A suggestion was made that the EWG check-out a box from DRI so the group can see how it works first-hand. Also, reviewing a list of existing boxes would ensure that efforts are not duplicated.

ACTION: Margie will 1) Send an email to group members including those not present at today's meeting (Duane, Mary Kay, Ann, Steve, John), including the DRI handout with the email; 2) Contact DRI to check out an existing box so the group can review it at the next EWG meeting; and 3) Obtain a list of existing boxes from DRI.

Margie reported that an Eagle Valley Middle School teacher had her students focus on invasive plants during Invasive Species Awareness Week. The students made posters, some of which Margie shared with the group. Suggestions were made for ways to use the posters: library displays, Children's Museum, city park gazeboes, and posting photos of the posters on Facebook. Also, the QR code for EdMAPs could be added to the posters.

3. Children's Museum

- a. Brenda reviewed the history of the Children's Museum display. She shared her concern regarding how to pay for the display updates, as there are no grant funds budgeted for Children's Museum display maintenance.
- b. Margie showed the group copies of photos taken in Carson City of Starthistle and Knapweed. She will email the photos to Brenda so that she can print and laminate them for use in the display. Margie also shared photos of Lahontan Dam and a diversion dam. Margie is planning materials to use for a weed display, such as a sock or boot with seeds stuck to it, and a bicycle tire with goatheads. The items would need to be encased in Plexiglass or a display case. Margie has some grant funds which could possibly be used to pay for the weed-associated costs. She also suggested taking photos of her goldfish bowl when it is clean, dirty, and in-between, to demonstrate water turbidity.
- c. Linda will research where to purchase scat and prepare a list for Lou. She thought perhaps NDOW could pay for the scat. Linda will also work on the animal tracks.
- d. The group noted that Mary Kay has been working on the blocks puzzle and the light-up board.
- e. Pat needs to be contacted regarding providing a kayak, life vests, etc. A suggestion was made for a fishing activity, providing a fishing pole with a magnet at the end to pick up fish and mudsnails, then deposit them into a bucket.
- f. It was noted that large additions to the display, such as the headwaters painting and kayak, need to be delivered to Lou soon so that they can be incorporated into here overall design for the area.

ACTION: Brenda will include a "to-do" list with these minutes; everyone should bring their contribution to the next EWG meeting.

4. Roundtable Follow-up and Survey results – Brenda reported that only 11 responses to the survey were received. Steve Lewis's administrative assistant is compiling the survey results. Brenda noted that in order to conduct a watershed-wide survey, funding will be needed from a 319 grant; after this year, 50% of 319 funding will be awarded to groups who have a watershed plan.

5. Conservation Pledge (Next Steps) – Brenda has the most recent version of the work-in-progress pledge. After the entire document has been revised for the Carson River Watershed, it will be designed to go on the CWSD website. A suggestion was made that an element of competition could be added, such as people earning points for accomplishing goals, and competing with each other for earning the most points. CWSD would like to make the stewardship pledge interactive, so users can track their progress to achieve milestones for their stewardship items they pledged. This will enable CWSD to analyze/measure watershed resident's habits and behavioral changes that benefit the watershed. It is also a means to interact with our watershed residents using interactive digital technology. This will be a larger task than just putting the pledge on the website like is done on which may require additional funding. An example is Endomondo (<http://www.endomondo.com>), which a website and app that tracks a user's workouts, challenges friends, and enables the user to analyze their training.
6. Snap Shot Day Planning – Mary Kay was not present to report on this item; it will be placed on the next meeting agenda.
7. Set date for next meeting – Next meeting set for **(canceled)** Wednesday, August 14, 2013, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

Meeting for August 14th changed to Monday, August 26th, 2013.