



Education Working Group
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, July 29, 2014
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
CWSD Conference Room

Present:

Tess Braun, Alpine Watershed Group
Linda Conlin, River Wranglers
Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)
Leah Kniffen, DVCD
Toni Leffler, CWSD
Karen Staffen, Storey County School District
Courtney Walker, CWSD

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

2. Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates

a. Invasive Species Month Summary (Courtney) –

- CWSD offered \$500 per county and Douglas County and Alpine County used the funding for a BBQ since they are linked by agricultural interests and do a lot of weed management together. Courtney attended the Douglas County Invasive Weed BBQ. It was a good opportunity to network with the folks involved in Douglas County, although the most of the attendees were mainly large property owners who are already involved in noxious weed treatment.
- Carson City Library had a noxious weed display in its lobby and an advertisement on its reader board.
- There was an advertisement on the Carson City Community Center reader board for Invasive Species Month.
- Joanne Skelley from UNCE wrote three newspaper articles about invasive species which was shared with outlying area newspapers.

b. Carson River Festival (Linda) – The Carson River Festival was held on June 21 in Old Town Dayton. River Wranglers partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and the Oodles of Noodles event. Leah Kniffen volunteered all day at the invasive weed activity. Twenty high school students volunteered off and on during the day. All of them had done a mentoring activity previously so they were able to answer questions at the festival. The festival received positive feedback from both adults and kids.

c. "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour Summary (Brenda) – The bus tour was full with staff, speakers, and 52 participants who had been registered three weeks or more in advance, much earlier than expected. Sponsors this year included Resource Concepts Inc. (RCI), AMEC, and Cardno ENTRIX, as well as Costco and Trader's Joes. The survey at the end of the two-day tour provided mostly positive comments. The negative comments were primarily that there were too many stops to absorb the information provided and that folks would like fewer stops with more time at each. Since this tour is intended to be a brief overview of entire watershed

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CWSD staff is considering maybe having a couple less stops and then have more focused field events spending more quality time at key locations, like a tour of fish hatchery at Heenan Lake or a closer view of Soda Lakes. This year's bus tour included new stops in Markleeville and Heenan Lake on the East Fork of the Carson River instead of in Hope Valley on the West Fork, and at the Churchill County Museum, and Soda Lakes instead of Stillwater. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were offered for planners, teachers, and engineers.

- d. Carson City Weed Coalition Update (Courtney)** – Courtney explained that Carson City used to have a invasive weed control coordinator who was housed at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) office in Carson City, but UNCE can no longer do that. CWSD staff has been talking with Carson City Parks and Recreation (CCP&R) to assume the role to house and coordinate the effort. Carson City is hesitant to work on private property, so Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) or Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD) may take over that project since they already work on private property. Brenda explained that she had talked with Roger Moellendorf, CCP&R Director, who will be the point person for weed management questions, along with Ann Bollinger. CCP&R is trying to cobble together a base budget since this issue arose after Carson City's budgeting process for FY 2014-15. CWSD provides \$15,000 annually that partially funds the coordinator for Carson City.
- e. NDEP Clean Water Act 319 funding RFP (Brenda)** – CWSD staff has been working on submitting proposals to NDEP to get 319 funding to support Watershed Coordinator (Brenda) and Environmental Education Coordinator (Linda) positions. The grant applications will be changing to add funding for the Watershed Assistant (Courtney) into Brenda's grant and Conservation Tours (formerly with Pat Fried) into Linda's grant, along with a salary increase for Linda. The grant proposals are due on Sept. 5. Staff is also talking with other groups throughout the watershed to see what other projects are being proposed.
- f. Motorized Trail Signage update (Courtney)** – CWSD received a grant from the Nevada State Parks Motorized Trails Program to install signage at five locations and rumble pits to shake weed seeds off tires as people come off trails. The rumble pits are in at three locations in Carson City (Ash Canyon, Kings Canyon, and Voltaire Canyon) which will be monitored to determine their effectiveness. The next step is to put in informational signs at those locations and four signs at Soda Lakes. It is hoped that the signs will be installed this fall.
- g. Flood Awareness Program Update (Courtney)** – Courtney and Brenda have been part of a working group to plan Flood Awareness Events for November 10-15, 2014 The website at www.Nevadafloods.org has a lot of helpful preparedness information. There will be a media event, TV/radio advertising, proclamations, education in the schools, etc.
- h. Carson River Watershed Facebook Page (Courtney)** – CWSD took over the Facebook page for the Carson River Watershed which was previously managed by UNCE. Courtney posted amazing footage of the recent flash flooding in the Fish Springs area of Douglas County. Staff is planning to post news stories and will post a recent interview with Charlie Condron, the Federal Water Master on the East Fork of the Carson River. It is hoped that the page can

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allow for posts by other interested parties. The link to page is:
<https://www.facebook.com/carsonriver>. Linda also mentioned that the River Wranglers also has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/riverwranglersnv>

i. Upcoming Events -

1) Alpine Aspen Festival (update on funding Tess/Brenda) – Tess said there are banners up around Alpine County for the Aspen Festival. People are slowly signing up for various activities, mostly for the classes. Dan Kaffer is spearheading organizing the event. CWSD has offered a sponsorship of \$500 and the Finance Committee will be meeting this afternoon to consider additional funding. Linda mentioned that's the weekend for various other big events, like the Candy Dance. For information on the festival:
<http://www.alpineaspenfestival.org/>

2) Work Day with Comstock Youth Workers (Linda) - Storey County and Lyon County are partnering with local businesses to offer apprenticeships youth for summer without financial output from employer (Comstock Youth Works). It is to provide job readiness for at risk students. On July 30, under the conservation tours grant, 60 kids from Virginia City, Dayton and Silver Springs will be meeting Linda, Brenda, Courtney, Dan Kaffer, and Eric Johnson from State Parks at Carson River Park in Carson City for a park clean up. Karen mentioned that Virginia City High School requires 50 hours of community service for students to graduate so it would be helpful if people let Sarah Richardson know about opportunities to volunteer.

j. Other - Markleeville Creek Day is August 23

3. Watershed Literacy Grant Updates (Brenda/Courtney)

a. Update the Explore Your Watershed Map – Linda explained that changes were being made to front of map but the group is also looking to make changes to the back panels.

1) Share feedback from teachers on map updates (Linda) – Linda invited Karen, a fourth grade teacher from Virginia City, to attend this meeting and share her insights. Linda also contacted another Virginia City teacher, one in Douglas County, and one in Fallon. Karen mentioned that she has been using the watershed map in her classroom for three years. Karen noted that the information on the watershed map hits with the Human Impact section of the new Next Generation Science Standards throughout all the grades. She suggested marketing that it meets the new standards since it addresses pollution, etc. – human impact on the earth. The map needs to be marketed more widely to the school system, especially to lower grades.

Karen explained that she uses the map by having a group of her students take each section to investigate and research throughout the year. Courtney asked for help creating the best layout so information on the back panels so it is most easily absorbed by teachers and kids. Karen offered to help identify what core standard each section addresses. She was happy to learn about the interactive map on the CWSD website.

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Karen will be a "core advocate" at the September 20 teacher's conference in Reno and will use the map in her group presentation. Karen also working on workshop "Focus" about the Next Generation Science Standards.

Mary Kay Wagner is working with Lou Loftin on connecting science standards with Project WET. Perhaps CWSD can get additional funding in its 319 grant proposal to do the same with the watershed map.

- 2) **Finalize budget, printing, and artist tasks and costs (Brenda/Courtney)** – CWSD has about \$3,500 set aside for revising and reprinting the watershed map. Brenda and Courtney will be meeting this after with Greg Brady, the artist for the map, who has give a bid of under \$1,000 for revisions to the map and will input the back panel revisions to prepare for printing.
- 3) **Task: Set up subcommittee to revise back panels on map (Brenda)** – Brenda talked with Duane Petite who would like to be on subcommittee. Other subcommittee volunteers include Karen, Linda, Brenda, and Courtney. A subcommittee meeting will be set up before August 10. Linda mentioned that she is involved next week in teacher training in Silver Springs for Science and Math, so she will try to work out attending the subcommittee meeting around that.
 - b. **Update on balance of grant** – The Watershed Literacy Grant included funding for the watershed map updates. Brenda is also meeting with Lu Olson from the Children's Museum to talk about how to use the \$1,500 to enhance the Carson River Watershed display. The action plan is to lead to a watershed-wide survey to get a baseline of people's watershed literacy.
4. **CWSD New Website Preview (Courtney/Brenda)**
 - a. **Discussion on Education and Outreach Content** –Topics address elements of the Stewardship Plan from a watershed-wide perspective.
 - b. **Explore Your Watershed Section Update** - There is an interactive watershed map by sections of the watershed (upper, middle, lower). working on a Stewardship Pledge to offer their time to do specific activities
 - c. **Overview of New Site** - Courtney and Brenda showed the new website to the group as it has been developed to this point. CWSD staff is creating site content and hopes to have the website live on August 4.
5. **Stewardship Plan Update (Brenda)** – The watershed-wide Stewardship Plan was originally created in 2007 to meet the nine elements required by the EPA to receive 319 grant funds. The plan is to do a "by-the-numbers" summary to show progress over the past seven years. The total number of students who have been on the river since 2007 is an example of the data needed. Linda said she can give an average classroom size and how many classrooms she has been in since 1999. There was a reminder that this is a plan versus a report, so it needs to be determined what kind of stats would aid in

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future planning. The update should report what works and what doesn't. We can report the number of students, adults, volunteers, policy-makers who have been exposed to watershed info, along with the number of events, etc. Brenda suggested the number of people in watershed, with the percentage of population which have been exposed to information. It can be tied to the watershed survey to help determine how many people we have reached in five years.

What else do we want to report to EPA about how we are doing education and outreach for NPS pollution and watershed stewardship? It is important to show the effectiveness of any program. Tess will send a template of the report she has to submit to SNAP (Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership) to CWSD and Linda. This could be a useful template for tracking stats in the future.

6. Other Items

The Carson River is 303(d) listed impaired river – all NPS pollution
TechSoup.org offers discounted software and computer ware to non-profits and libraries – software program that develops charts and graphs in meaningful ways.

7. Set date for next meeting – Thurs., Aug. 21, 8:30-10:30 a.m.