

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 17, 2016, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman  
Ray Fierro, Treasurer  
Don Frensdorff  
Don Jardine  
Doug Johnson  
Greg Lynn, Chairman  
Austin Osborne, Storey County representative  
Barry Penzel  
Mary Rawson  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Brad Bonkowski  
Carl Erquiaga  
Chuck Roberts

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board

Also present:

Merrie Benesch, private citizen  
Hannah Drummond, Alpine Watershed Group  
David Griffith, Alpine Biomass Committee  
Carmen Schank, private citizen  
Steve Thayer, Douglas County  
Judy Wickwire, Friends of Hope Valley/Alpine Watershed Group

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. at the Churchill County Commission Chambers, 155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, 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 Jardine.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda. *Director Schank made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Fierro and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #6 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2016. *Director Abowd made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on July 20, 2016. The motion was seconded by Director Rawson and approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment – David Griffith from Alpine Biomass Committee introduced himself and invited everyone to a presentation by Dr. Roger Bales from UC Berkley regarding water yield from the forests at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, at Turtle Rock Park, Markleeville. Mr. Griffith commented that we can't control precipitation, but if we manage our forests properly, we have a chance to manage the yields.

Judy Wickwire invited everyone to Alpine County's Historical Society's fundraiser/membership drive on Saturday, August 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum Complex. They are going to fire up the Basque oven from the Dangberg cow camp in Hope Valley so people can see how it works and have pizza, salads and desserts.

Hannah Drummond, the AmeriCorp member of Alpine Watershed Group (AWG), thanked CWSD for its financial support of AWG projects. She invited participation in the Markleeville Creek Day, AWG's largest volunteer restoration event, on September 10, with a variety of different projects on both the East and West Forks of the Carson River. Also, AWG and Friends of Hope Valley are hosting the Alpine Aspen Festival during the weekend of October 8-9, generally between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for July 2016.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action to create a Water Resource Specialist II position.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding a letter of support for Nevada Land Trust to receive grant funding from Sierra Nevada Conservancy for creating a land management plan for the Jobs Peak Ranch property.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding leasing Lost Lakes water to Carson City.

*Director Fierro made the motion to approve the consent agenda, including items #8-12. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding applying for NDEP 319 grants. Ed James explained that CWSD is applying for two NDEP 319 grants: 1) To continue the Environmental Education Program, including Conserve Carson River Work Day events, conducted by the River Wranglers. The grant application includes reimbursement for River Wrangler and CWSD time and expense. 2) To continue the Watershed Literacy Program implementation (described on page 47 of the Board package) to hire a firm to help with the outreach program and marketing. Match will be in-kind staff time but the grant will require no direct dollars from CWSD.

*Director Schank made the motion to authorize staff to pursue Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant funding for the Watershed Environmental Education Program and the Watershed-Literacy*

*Implementation Program as outlined. The motion was seconded by Director Rawson and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding hiring Robert Loveberg to help with developing the draft floodplain ordinances. Ed James explained that in FEMA MAS #4 we have money set aside for a drafting floodplain ordinance by the end of December 2016. Considering staff's already busy workload, staff is requesting that CWSD hire Rob Loveberg to draft the ordinance. He just retired from Lyon County and has a significant amount of experience with planning and drafting ordinances. This will be just a draft ordinance which each county can customize. The counties may need to apply for funding in the next round of FEMA funding to continue the process.

*Director Fierro made the motion to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Robert Loveberg to provide assistance with developing a draft floodplain ordinance. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #15 – Discussion for possible action regarding reclassification of Debbie Neddenriep into the Water Resource Specialist II position at Step 4. Mr. James explained that in earlier action this position was approved. Debbie Neddenriep has been doing work outside her job classification and with the FEMA grant processing. She is currently at FEMA training. She also just finished her undergraduate degree. Mr. James recommends starting her at Step 4 with flexible hours of 30-40 hours/week.

*Director Schank made the motion to authorize the General Manager to move Ms. Neddenriep into the Water Resource Specialist II position at Step 4 upon completion of her college degree. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

#### Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James:

- Explained the handout of NOAA's projections of runoff using historic measurements. Almost all the model runs overestimated the runoff this year. There will be no carry over at Lahontan as predicted but now only a minimum pool is expected. We had a warm April and snow melted earlier than anticipated. Director Rawson noted that we haven't had the rain that we had last year. Director Schank noted that the Carson River has dropped this year without its usual peaks.
- This morning meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), and the Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) regarding the Virginia/Rocky project. The meeting produced good results with a proposal not to do any work on the berms which were put in the river inadvertently because once they do the Virginia/Rocky streambank project the berms will have to be put back in while they are working on it. There will be an agreement between ACOE and CVCD that they will assist with willows, etc. for the project, but the berms would be removed at the end of the project so there will be no additional costs for removing the berms now.
- Yesterday Mr. James went to Lost Lakes and took water levels. He was surprised to find the reservoirs pretty high. CWSD will be selling the water to Carson City later in the fall. There is over 150 af now, and he is hoping to have our full 219 af water right recognized by the Department of Water Resources. He has been talking with US Forest Service (USFS), California Fish and Game, NDEP, and the Water Control Board about the operation of Lost Lakes and how the dam fees have been impacting us and exploring ideas for disposition of

Lost Lakes. Mr. James would like to take USFS on a field trip to Lost Lakes in October so they can actually see the area.

- Director Schank asked for a report on the USA Parkway meeting on August 11. Mr. James reported that they were mostly talking about the construction time frame. They are on schedule to be done by the fall of 2017. They showed a video of the work being done 24 hours a day/6 days a week. Most of the questions were about the roundabout which will be installed at Opal Road, just beyond Weeks Cutoff and the art work around the freeway in Storey County.
- Director Penzel mentioned that Douglas County has been hearing reports that the Silver Springs residents are concerned about the State Engineer trying to control private wells and requiring all to be metered. Mr. James explained that he has been attending the Legislative Subcommittee on Water. The State Engineer mentioned that water levels have been dropping in the over 11,000 domestic wells in Pahrump. By the current Water Law, water delivery service is cut off by priority dates. Since most of the domestic wells in Pahrump have junior priority dates, they would be cut off first. To alleviate that, the State Engineer is talking with the Legislature about limiting the amount that domestic wells can take to protect health and safety by limiting the amount to half an acre foot in overdrawn basins. To enforce that you would have to put meters on those wells. Mr. James plans to attend the next Subcommittee meeting on August 26 in Carson City at the Legislative Building. The State Engineer is looking for more tools to work with in overdrawn basins. Silver Springs is our “canary” in the watershed being close to being overdrawn. Douglas County has plenty of water but is seeing the water level drop in the Fish Springs, Johnson Lane, and Ruhensroth areas. Running water systems may be the solutions there. The State Engineer is not asking for all domestic wells to be metered, only in basins which are over-pumped and the water level is dropping.
- Director Stodieck asked whether FEMA is now requiring that floodplain ordinances be reviewed and changed. Mr. James explained that our new flood modeling and mapping will be coming out later this year and need to be incorporated in the ordinances. Having the model in place will help determine the cumulative impacts whenever someone wants to develop an area. This will help streamline the process and incorporate some new tools we have. We also look at possible mitigation measures, especially in the floodway. We hired a firm to look at those, and he has met with all the counties to determine what makes sense to the counties to protect the floodplains and streamline the process. Director Stodieck asked if this is just an excuse to get more regulations. Mr. James responded that it is not since the ordinances are already there. The only difference is that there will be a continuous floodway through Carson Valley that there isn't today. It is more of a proactive approach for giving the counties a basis for reviewing development requests and keep everyone on the same page. Mr. James met with representatives from the Builders Association of Western Nevada (BAWN) who thought this was a great idea since uniformity between the counties can really help.

Legal –Mr. Benesch mentioned that Garry Stone died recently. Mr. Stone served as CWSD's General Manager at one point in his career and then for 30 years as Federal Water Master. Director Schank requested that CWSD send sympathy cards to Garry's widow and to Gwen Washburn's husband as she passed away recently.

Correspondence – As handed out at the meeting.

Item #17 - Directors' Reports

Director Jardine in Placerville today and noticed a newspaper article that the El Dorado Irrigation District which supplies consumptive water in the Placerville area is opposed groundwater budgets in California. There is currently a California Senate bill that would require water agencies to determine a water budget for each parcel within its service area during a drought and it has caught the attention of the irrigation district. Director Jardine requested that Mr. James look into it.

Director Rawson thanked everyone for coming to Alpine County for the tour, dinner, and meeting.

Director Abowd reported that Carson City would be having an active water discussion tomorrow.

Director Osborn reported:

- Yesterday the Storey County Commission adopted the 2016 Comprehensive Master Plan for the county. There are policies now in place for water issues across the county, identifying the issues and what should be done about them, including a goal for water planning.
- The USGS has come to Storey County with their preliminary finding of studies they have been doing in two wells since 1992 and in some areas back to 1972 and have only determined that there has been a two foot drop in the wells. They believe there may be a connection between the Mark Twain Estates in the alluvial area and Dayton Valley. They have asked for volunteers for monitoring private wells without cost to the citizens who volunteer. One of the Master Plan goals is to determine if there is an interaction between water in Storey and Lyon Counties and what needs to be done about it so that the counties can talk conceptually about sharing resources to be mutually beneficial. Studying Highlands 160-190' drop in wells since 1992. They have 17 people who volunteered to have their wells monitored to get a broader picture.
- The sewer reconstruction project in Virginia City will begin digging up streets this spring. Next month the CWSD Board will have the opportunity to tour the sewer plant and also the Divide Reservoir which has been restored. USDA has loaned the county \$20 million toward sewer improvements.

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 Schank made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Abowd. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary