

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 17, 2014, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd  
Carl Erquiaga  
Ray Fierro  
Don Frensdorff  
Don Jardine  
Doug Johnson  
Greg Lynn, Vice Chairman  
Barry Penzel  
Mary Rawson  
Joe Ricci  
Ernie Schank, Chairman  
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

John McKenna, Treasurer  
Austin Osborne, Storey County

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Coordinator  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary  
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist  
Courtney Walker, Watershed Assistant

Also present:

Janice Johnson, private citizen

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Douglas County Commission Chambers, 1616 Eighth St., Minden, Nevada. 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 lead by Ed James.

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

Item #7 - Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on August 20, 2014. *- Director Lynn made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on August 20, 2014. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board, with Director Johnson abstaining.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. None.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for August 2014.

### Item #9 - Payment of Bills for August 2014.

*Director Rawson made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-9. The motion was seconded by Director Lynn and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.*

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

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding attendance of CWSD Board members and staff at the 2014 Nevada Water Resource Association River Symposium in Reno on October 14-16, 2014. Ed James explained that on page 36 of the Board package is a draft agenda for the NWRA Symposium which has been modified to two days, Oct. 15-16. Even though the first day of the Symposium coincides with October's CWSD Board meeting, the tour and dinner before the Board meeting has been cancelled so Mr. James can come back to Carson City for our Board meeting on October 15. The bus tour will be on the second day after the morning session with stops along the Truckee Canal.

*Director Lynn motion to authorize interested board and staff to attend the 2014 NWRA Fall Symposium on October 15-16, 2014. Director Abowd seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding sending a letter of concern to the US EPA and Army Corps of Engineers regarding modifying the definition of Waters of the U.S. Director Abowd requested a grammatical correction to the letter, on page 44, second paragraph from the bottom should read: "...duplicate regulations that the State of Nevada currently administers."

Director Lynn expressed his concern that the EPA is making changes to the definition of "Waters of the U.S." Mr. James noted that EPA and the Corps say this will not make changes but it is open to interpretation. Case-by-case issues can create the real problem. The Corps' workload is already full. Director Lynn noted that it comes out of property rights.

Director Penzel thought maybe we should be addressing the House of Representatives. Director Johnson pointed out that this Board addressing it will give Congress additional information. Mr. James noted that the counties want our letter so that they can submit their own letters.

*Director Doug Johnson made a motion to authorize staff send the drafted letter of concern to the EPA, the Corps, our federal representatives, counties, and conservation districts as corrected. Director Abowd seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the regional water purveyor meetings. This item was heard out of order to allow more time to connect to the internet for Item #12. Mr. James reported that on page 40-41 of Board package CWSD talked about water purveyor groups. On Aug. 26, the middle Carson River water purveyors included Carson City, Virginia City, Dayton, Stagecoach, and Silver Springs. The meeting went well, and the group asked that next meeting the USGS come to talk about the projects that they are doing. All water purveyors are in pretty good shape water-wise; however, when the parkway goes through, there may be some issues in Stagecoach. On September 10, the upper watershed purveyors met, which included Gardnerville

Water Company, Town of Minden, Indian Hills GID, Carson City, and Gardnerville Ranchos GID. There was a good response with a similar agenda. Mr. James will forward the meeting notes to the Board members. The purpose of these meetings was to open communication and address concerns before they become big issues. The results were so positive that Mr. James may try to do the same thing in Churchill County.

Also on September 12, 2014, Mr. James attended a Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA) meeting in Lovelock and gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan. The CNRWA is looking to do something similar on the Humboldt River.

Director Schank asked when bill drafts for the 2015 Nevada Legislative session would be taken. Mr. James responded that there are already over 500 Bill Draft Resolutions (BDRs) with title only available. Director Schank reported that he talked with Jason King, and if the State Engineer doesn't draft legislation about the groundwater/surface water tie, there may be a push out of Pershing County. Mr. James noted that Jason King said they would have workshops before submitting legislation.

Director Lynn asked about the study that Doug Maurer did for the USGS which showed the relationship between groundwater and surface water. Mr. James noted that, according to the State Engineer, the perennial yield is allocated to the groundwater users. There are a lot of changes because of climate change and the timing of runoff. It is important to look at the whole picture and not just one aspect. Director Lynn cautioned CWSD about "jumping into that pond" cautiously.

Director Abowd reported that she had a long conversation with John McClain who suggests that CWSD start conversations about capturing stormwater. Mr. James noted that we are working with RCI, Inc. to put the Regional Stormwater Plan together.

Director Schank stressed that the Alpine Decree presents challenges. No matter what water the Carson River Watershed has, it is allocated.

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

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation on the new CWSD website. Staff could not connect to the internet to show the website in action. Courtney Walker explained that staff worked with a local company in Carson City, RDM Infinity, to do a complete overhaul of our website. They restructured how the website functions to make it easier to navigate and a new look. The Explore Your Watershed portion was brought over from the old website and is not changeable at this time, but staff hopes to change it in the future.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Carson River Watershed water supply. Mr. James reported that we have had three very dry years. The East Fork is down to 30 cfs. The West Fork is still dropping but not as low as in 1977 which was the lowest. The Carson City gauge shows 5 cfs still at Deer Run Road. Carson City is still running their induction wells. The water is not getting to Lahontan and is probably seeping into the ground. Carson City has been drawing down Marlette Lake and will continue to do so probably until end of September. Lahontan Reservoir is going down. TCID is currently releasing water from Lahontan for Fish and Wildlife.

Over 73.5% of the water in Lahontan Reservoir came from the Truckee River this year which shows how important the Truckee Canal is to the Newlands Project.

Director Lynn put into perspective the fact that in 1977 we had global cooling. Director Abowd asked about next year's water predictions. Mr. James responded that it does not look good. He has been reading articles by experts, and it's too early to tell. We had record heat this summer, but the Rocky's already have snow. The impact on water users today in California is worse than in 1977. Ag is being hit hard but the municipalities can all meet the current demands of customers. Carson City peaks are less than 5-10 years ago. Water rate increases are changing people's use patterns.

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

#### Item #15 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) There is a conflict with the National Association of County Officers (NACO) again this year, so we will have to reschedule the November Board meeting to a week earlier, on November 12. 2) CWSD received the full \$375,000 grant from EPA for MAS #5. Director Penzel asked about the Douglas County studies by Manhard. Mr. James will contact Douglas County staff so that we are not duplicating efforts. 3) Mr. James was going through old CWSD minutes and found that in the late 1960's there was discussion about changing the name to eliminate "sub" in CWSD. Also, in the 1960's, meetings went from 8:00-11:00 p.m. 4) Staff will be sending letters to counties about the reappointment of Directors Ricci, Abowd, Johnson, Stodieck, and Erquiaga. 5) The summary notes about the listening session by the State Engineer are in the correspondence section of the Board package.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing to report.

Correspondence – As in the Board package.

#### Item #17 - Directors' Reports

Director Abowd reported that Carson City received a Notice of Environmental Health Finding for West Nile Virus and the area is being sprayed.

Director Penzel gave a gold star to Mr. James for getting the Douglas County water purveyors together.

Director Johnson commented that Erik Nilssen gave a good presentation before the tour today.

Director Rawson thanked Mr. James coming to Alpine County to talk about Waters of the US. She also noted that, in cooperation with watershed group, the Alpine Aspen Festival next week. There are great events planned including horseback riding, fly fishing, a fair, etc.

Director Lynn reported on a dispute with ranchers about the community center. The irrigation ditch near Mack Ranch was shut off and water is still coming up in the detention pond.

Directors Fierro, Stodieck, Erquiaga, Frensdorff, Shank, Ricci, and Jardine had nothing specific to report but joined the rest of the Board in thanking Douglas County for hosting the very informative tour of the Virginia/Rocky Slough and proposed Douglas County project.

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Lynn made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Stodieck, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary