



**Education Working Group
Wednesday, September 25, 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: Linda Conlin (River Wranglers); Leah Kniffen (DVCD); Brenda Hunt (CWSD); Courtney Walker (CWSD); Mary Kay Wagner (NDEP); Shane Fryer (AWG); Kathi Lawrence (CWSD)

1. Welcome & introductions: Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates
 - a. Harley Davidson Workdays – Linda: Linda is waiting to hear back from the Harley Davidson representative about new dates for the Harley Davidson workdays; possible dates are November 13, November 14 or November 15. Linda noted that since it is getting so late in the season, it may be best to postpone until spring, as we want the workday to be fun and well attended.
 - b. DRI Green Box – Linda: Mary Kay, Margie and Linda have been moving forward with the creation of the green box; at their last meeting they each chose segments of the box to work on, and will meet again as time allows. The topic of this first box is Terminal Watersheds.
 - c. Events (Markleeville Creek Day, Kiwanis Clean-up, Green Living Fest) – Brenda shared Sarah Green's recent email regarding the success of Markleeville Creek Day. 33 volunteers worked on 5 different projects. Sarah wrote an article which will appear in the upcoming edition of The Flow newsletter, along with photos. Alpine Watershed Group has also posted photos on their Facebook page. Shane Fryer (AWG) joined the meeting later and shared more detail with the group. California State Parks was very helpful this year, with 2 employees acting as crew leaders on state park property. The volunteers saw what an impact they could have in a relatively short amount of time, and a core group of volunteers plan to meet approximately 4 times per year. Brenda spoke with someone who attended the Green Living Fest, who said it was fun and well-attended. No one was present to report on the Kiwanis Cleanup.
 - d. Children's Museum Meeting – Courtney and Brenda recently met with Lu Olsen, Children's Museum Director. Lu plans to add a computer to the Watershed display room, so that children have access to the interactive watershed map. Computer Corp will be building a computer for her. The remodeled block puzzles look great and get a lot of use. Lu wants to add the title, "The Water Cycle" to the displayed picture to identify it better. She is searching for funding to move the skulls into a display case, where they will be mounted but touchable, and labeled. Linda commented that she recalls a discussion about displaying each animal's skull, scat and print all together. She suggested not labeling each animal, but instead having the children flip something which displays the answer after they've had the

opportunity to guess for themselves. If the 3 items will be displayed together, Linda needs to look at the skulls to identify which animal scat needs to be purchased. The scat costs approximately \$10 each; Linda has left a message with NDOW regarding possible funding for the purchase of the scat. Others suggested funding may be available from Nevada Division of Forestry or Oxbow Nature Preserve. Brenda advised that CWSD has applied for a 319 grant which includes a funding request for maintenance of the museum display. She should know in approximately one month if the grant funding is approved. The group discussed at length the turbidity display. Linda shared that when she teaches students about turbidity; she relates it to NPS pollution and teaches the students how runoff into the river makes it turbid. She talks about the difference in clarity between Lake Tahoe and Lake Lahontan (can you see your feet?). The turbidity display containers need to be clear, but not be made of glass; they need to be attached so they don't get taken, but loose enough so that the children can shake them up and hold them up to the light. Suggestions included baby bottles and Nalgene bottles, and possibly using water from actual local bodies of water. **Brenda will research possible containers for the turbidity display; Linda will research scat funding; Mary Kay would like to create (as time allows) a second puzzle blocks set to use at events; display of the skulls/scat/prints may have to wait until a funding source has been identified (possibly the 319 grant).**

- e. Other: Brenda gave a brief update regarding the new NDEP 208 grant. The scope of work has been completed for this \$40,000 grant, which will be used for planning and promotion of low impact development (LID) practices throughout the watershed. A consultant will be hired to review what educational plans already exist, then combine them into a package which can be provided to developers, county staff and the general public. This will be a work-in-progress, expected to begin in early 2014.
3. Snap Shot Day Planning (Mary Kay)
 - a. Training Day Planning for Oct. 9: Training will take place at Carson River Park from 3:00 to 5:00. Team leaders will be divided into 3 groups; the groups will rotate through 3 stations. They will receive a clipboard with the SSD forms – Check In/Check Out Sheet; Field Data Sheet/Observations; and Visual Assessment Form. The team leaders will complete these sample forms throughout their training. A Streamflow Data Sheet could also be included, with training being provided for sites where there is expected to be actual flow. Ping-pong balls will be used for measuring streamflow.
 - Station 1 - At the ramp, the trainer will be Mary Kay. Training will include showing how to take water samples; discussion of water quality, parameters used for field testing and sources of pollution. Photo taking instructions will be reviewed and photos will be taken (upstream). Trainers will receive Appendix A regarding temperatures, life cycle of a fish and NPS pollution/healthy ranges. Team leader handbooks and step-by-step manuals are available on the NDEP website; hard copies could be provided in the team leader boxes for reference purposes.
 - Station 2 – Walk to the platform, the trainer will be Margie. Margie can review the plant diagram and weed mapping sheets. The group can draw maps during the walk. Margie will discuss the watershed as a whole, smaller sub-watersheds and watershed boundaries.
 - Station 3 – At the platform, the trainer will be Brenda. Additional photos will be taken (downstream). The Carson River activity sheet for students will be

reviewed. It was suggested that Mary Kay add reference ranges to the activity sheet; add dots to the map which show each monitoring site; and add the question, "What is the most important thing you learned today?".

- b. Calibration Day
 - i. Set date: October 8, 2013, 8:30 AM till completed, CWSD conference room
 - ii. Any equipment needs? Shane informed Mary Kay that Alpine Watershed Group has 7 (and maybe 9) kits; he will check with Sarah Green to okay using them for the 2 SSD monitoring sites in Alpine County. Shane can calibrate the equipment himself, rather than bringing all of the equipment to calibration day at CWSD.
 - c. Event Day Oct. 18: Mary Kay outlined the current status for each monitoring site, reviewing her list of site leaders and schools. After the meeting Mary Kay provided a spreadsheet containing all of the information, including site leader and teacher contact information. **See Attachment to these minutes.**
4. Other
 5. Set date for next meeting: **Wednesday, December 4, 2013 from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM**

