



Carson River Coalition Meeting Notes

October 21, 2015

Name		Entity	Name		Entity
Jill	Alves	Nevada Division of State Parks	Kevin D	Porteous	Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement Distinct
Karen	Baggett		Kristin	Roaldson	Resource Concepts, Inc.
Tim	Bardsley	National Weather Service	Kristin	Sanderson	Nevada Division of State Parks
Douglas	Carey	Lahontan Regional WQ Control Board	Jenny	Scanland	Nevada Division of State Parks
John	Cobourn	University of Nevada Cooperative Extension	Mike	Shipman	Nevada Division of State Parks
Linda	Conlin	River Wranglers	James	Strong	Nevada Division of State Parks
James E.	Corr	Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement Distinct	Cody	Tingey	Nevada Division of State Parks
Dennis	Davis		Nancy	Upham	Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement Distinct
Jenny	Dawson	Nevada Division of State Parks	Virginia	Mahacek	Cardno
Hannah	Drummond	Alpine Watershed Group	Fallon A.	Merbs	Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement Distinct
Robb	Fellows	CC Public Works	Debbie	Neddenriep	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Shane	Fryer	Alpine Watershed Group	Erik	Nilsson	Douglas County
Dan	Greytak		Quinn	Nuffer	Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement Distinct
Shawn	Harper	Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement Distinct	Karin	Peternel	Douglas County
Brenda	Hunt	Carson Water Subconservancy District	Duane	Petite	The Nature Conservancy
Steve	Huntley	Consultant	Courtney	Walker	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Ed	James	Carson Water Subconservancy District	John	Warpeha	Washoe Environmental Dept.
Jessica	Johnston	US Forest Service	Alan	Welch	CC Open Space
Rachel	Knyder	Resource Concepts, Inc.	Maurice	White	
Brianna	Kooreman	US Forest Service	Rich	Wilkinson	CC Recreation - Open Space
Shyla	Lemons	CC Public Works	Stephanie	Wilson	US EPA
Steve	Lewis	University of Nevada Cooperative Extension	Lynn	Zonge	Resource Concepts, Inc.

After a welcome & meeting overview by Brenda Hunt, *Daniel P. Beard, Former Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation and Author of Deadbeat Dams spoke about his book and gave a brief overview of his views regarding dams.*

1. Working Group and Member Introductions and Updates

- a. Working Groups: Updates about each working group was provided.

Carson River Coalition: Brenda Hunt gave a brief explanation of the CRC, the plans created, and how they are used to implement on the ground work. There is an overall [Stewardship Plan](#) which meets the 9 criteria to receive EPA 319 grant funding. Yesterday, CWSD received a 319 grant to implement the Watershed Literacy Program. Elements of this grant include:

- Create a needs assessment/gap analysis/Communications strategy to focus outreach strategies in a targeted manner,
- update online Explore Your Watershed map, add the timeline and new content,
- translate the Carson River Watershed map into Spanish,
- work with NDOT to create Watershed Boundary signs.

CRC Education Working Group –Linda Conlin invited all who are interested in Environmental Education to join the Education Working Group, the next meeting is November 16, 2015. She also urged interested parties to ask to be on Education Working Group email list (contact Brenda Hunt, brenda@cwsd.org). The Education Working Group created a vision and Mission Statement for Watershed Education (see below) and identified 3 main audiences – adult citizens, youth, and policy and decision makers. Linda underscored the importance of understanding what a watershed is, how we are connected, how our actions impact the watershed and how to change behavior for the health of the watershed.

Carson River Coalition’s Education Working Group’s Vision for the future...

A Carson River Watershed community that believes their behavior impacts watershed-wellness and applies their knowledge to act in ways that benefit the Watershed as a whole.

Carson River Coalition’s Education Working Group’s Vision Mission Statement: *“To educate, through active participation, the watershed communities, inviting everyone to explore and conserve our watershed through community programs and hands-on experience; advocating the protection of our lifeline in the desert.”*

Recent Education Working Group accomplishments:

In 2013, CRC Education Working Group hosted an education roundtable and from that effort, created a booklet of watershed environmental educators. The next roundtable will be early 2016, so if you are interested in environmental education, now is a great time to get plugged in.

Redesigned map – it's so much better! Timeline on back, mountains labeled. **Take some for your agency** – be generous about sharing.

She noted the group had worked to help develop the [Watershed Literacy Action Plan](#) and that a watershed wide survey had been conducted.

Snapshot Day was on October 16, 2015 at 11 sites throughout the watershed. This is one day when water quality is tested and grab samples are compiled 11 sites from headwaters to terminus of the Carson River Watershed. This benefits NDEP because they do not have staff to collect samples on this wide scale. Coordinated annually by Mary Kay Wagner, once again she did a great job. Linda noted that even though she didn't bring back samples from Ft. Churchill due to lack of water in the river, it was a great day with 35 students participating. She thanked CWSD staff for their work helping coordinate the Education Working Group.

CRC River Corridor Working Group – Ed James explained how CWSD is a FEMA cooperating technical partner and has been working with FEMA to remap the floodplain. Current maps are very outdated, dating back from the 1980s. HDR is doing the modeling, and is linking the entire watershed to show cumulative effects from development upstream and how that will impact downstream communities. CWSD staff will also be working with county staff regarding flood ordinances. The CRC approaches this from a living river concept and underscores the importance of keeping floodplain lands open. [See 2007 Carson River Floodplain Plan, which was adopted by 5 counties in 2008. See also the 2013 Update.](#) Brenda Hunt mentioned the Floodplain Management Forum which was held in February 2015 in Dayton.

Members of the River Corridor Working Group are also part of the Nevada Flood Awareness Week (FAW) Committee. The 2nd annual Nevada Flood Awareness Week is November 1-7, 2015. FAW committee members have been meeting monthly since April to plan and prepare. These are the upcoming FAW events:

November 1st - Carson City – will be at N. Wal-Mart in Carson City 1-3 pm.

November 2nd – Battle Mountain

November 3rd – Fallon event – flood model demonstrations with Logos Christian Academy

November 4th - Yerington

November 5th – Douglas County Community Center in Gardnerville

November 6th – Reno/Sparks

November 7th - Elko

Check out Nevadafloods.org for a full listing of events.

CRC Invasive Species Working Group: Courtney Walker helps facilitate this working group. She mentioned each of the CWMA's and weed districts have quite a battle to fight weeds. She just applied for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant to get more funding to fight weeds and will find out if CWSD got the grant by end of year. She is working on a project funded through Nevada State Parks to install signage and rumble pits in Carson City and signage

in Churchill County. CWSD is working with NV Dept of Agriculture who is monitoring to see if the rumble pits are successful in shaking weed seeds off of tires as they enter and exit motorized trails. This working group provides great communication about all the areas where invasive species are being treated in the Watershed. This group holds an invasive species forum annually in early spring to foster communication and coordinate work throughout the watershed. Courtney also noted June is invasive species month and CWSD has funding if counties are able to conduct outreach during that month.

- b. Everyone - Please provide a brief update (two minutes) on your Carson River Watershed projects and/or programs.

Brenda asked everyone to introduce themselves and their agency and provide a brief 2 minute update:

Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) spoke of the amazing last 6 weeks in Alpine County. October 10 -11, 2015: 2nd Alpine Aspen Festival had > 750 participants; 250 participants in workshops/ classes. September 9, 2015: Markleeville Creek Day ~70 volunteers worked on several river restoration projects at several locations, pulled weeds and planted a native garden at Grover's Hot Springs. He noted this event had more volunteers than any previous Creek Day. In the river restoration area on the East Fork, AWG had strategically placed 3 ton boulders to limit motorized trail use. AWG also received funding to expand its river ranches program. Meadow restoration work in Hope Valley with funding and help from with American Rivers is ongoing. Finally, Shane introduced Hannah Drummond as its new SNAP intern through October 2016.

Linda Conlin, River Wranglers (RW) invited people to join the organization. She is gearing up for conserve Carson River Work Days and has 9 events scheduled in Carson Valley and Dayton Valley. High School students are trained to mentor 4th graders about environmental education. RW was also recognized by Carson City Parks Commission as the 2015 Volunteer Organization of the Year in early October.

Dan Greytak is retired.

Steve Huntley introduced himself as a semi-retired environmental consultant who came to the CRC meeting as a concerned citizen.

John Cobourn, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) and Steve Lewis have recently completed a Floodplain Inventory of Protected Riverine Portion in Carson City, Douglas County, and Lyon County. It is a new publication which the River Corridor Working Group requested to indicate how much floodplain land is protected in the Carson River Watershed.

Lynn Zonge, Resource Concepts, Inc (RCI), proclaimed source water protection is alive and well in Carson River Watershed. With Churchill County just finishing its source water protection plan, all of the entities in the watershed have plans. She announced there is project money available, so if you have project ideas, see Lynn.

Jill Alves, Administrative Assistant at Nevada Division of State Parks.

Kristin Sanderson, Nevada Division of State Parks at Ft. Churchill mentioned she would love to integrate watershed education.

Jim Strong, Nevada Division of State Parks is responsible for weed mitigation for Carson River at Ft. Churchill.

Cody Tingey, new regional manager, Nevada Division of State Parks, which includes Dayton, Lahontan, and Ft. Churchill/Buckland Station in Carson River Watershed.

Mike Shipman, Nevada Division of State Parks noted they are working hard at Lahontan Reservoir to fight weeds. Since the reservoir is dry, weeds are everywhere. Spotted knapweed has been sighted but only has James (Strong) to spray and with the entire lakebed inundated, they are looking for solutions. NSP is trying to work with NDF to deal with weeds.

Jenny Scanland, Administrative Manager at Nevada Division of State Parks: State Parks have dried with lack of water there are less users and different types of users. In the past year, she has been coordinating with CWSD to put up educational signs and rumble pits.

Jenny Dawson, Nevada Division of State Parks based at Washoe Lake. She noted Dayton State Park hosted the River Wrangler Round Up.

Nancy Upham, Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement District. Staff is encouraging landowners to take ownership of controlling their weeds. Staff is also working with county and local agencies to minimize flood potential issues by river restoration. To that end, they are trying to clear Sagouspe dam where sediment is building up.

Quinn Nuffer, Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement District, mentioned that the dam is considered historic; therefore, the district has to make sure it's complying with additional requirements as a result.

Ms. Hunt wondered if mercury is a problem in dam project. Nancy replied it is not, the district just has to have a staging area before removing dirt.

John Warpeha, Washoe Tribe Environmental Department, mentioned he deals with non-point source pollution and is developing climate change plan. One of major goals of the tribe is to collaborate; therefore, he will also be meeting with NDOT about erosion control issues along Clear Creek.

Robb Fellows and Shyla Lemons, Carson City Public Works are studying and remapping alluvial fan floodplains. They almost have all areas mapped, just finished Eagle Valley Creek, will be getting Goni Canyon remapped.

Rich Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resource Specialist Carson City Open Space explained their recent focus has been Carson River Cleanups. They have done cleanups with groups (Kiwans & Grace Works). They've been tree wrapping at Ambrose and Morgan Mill. At the Public Lands Clean-up, 12 dump truck loads of material were hauled away. They've done a lot of invasive

weed treatment; there is yellow star thistle by the prison, and have applied multiple treatments along Carson Canyon. The Carson City Open Space Management Plan final or revised draft will be out by end of the year. Staff also conducted a CRC tour of Carson City Open Space. Started at Golden Eagle Lane and covered areas around the Carson River. They are also doing a minor stream bank restoration at Eagle Creek.

Virginia Mahecek, Cardno Entrix is an engineer who lives here and is trying to get more connected to the Carson River Watershed after working extensively in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Stephanie Wilson, Environmental Protection Agency introduced herself as the local EPA administer.

Maurice White introduced himself as an interested citizen.

Alan Welch, Open Space Advisory Committee, mentioned they are trying to get together to get a grant for Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA).

Erik Nilsson, Douglas County Engineer noted 5 washes in county are almost remapped. He announced November 1 – 7 is Flood Awareness Week and Douglas County is having a public event on November 5, 2015 from 11:00 am to 6:30 pm at the Community Center.

Tim Bardsley, new Senior Service Hydrologist, Reno National Weather Service office who replaced Gary Barbato. NWS sent out a great link to their blog post introducing Tim: To learn a little more about Tim's background, see our [blog post](#) at nwsreno.blogspot.com

Karen Baggett, retired with a checkered past who worked 30 years in water.

Steve Lewis, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) announced that in Douglas County at CVIC hall there would be a showing of the movie "DAMNATION" and speaker (Dan Beard); free, but donations to Green Act Nevada appreciated.

Kristin Roaldson, Resource Concepts, Inc helped with developing source water protection plan.

Rachel Cryder, Resource Concepts, Inc introduced herself and noted she had recently relocated from Southern Nevada.

Brianna Kooreman and Jessica Johnston, US Forest Service Carson Ranger District are AmeriCorps volunteers and have been spraying noxious weeds in East Fork Carson River and China Springs area.

After a short break Brenda Hunt and Courtney Walker, CWSD, explained the next steps of the Carson River Watershed-Literacy Survey and Program. Brenda Hunt, gave an overview of Low Impact Development in the Carson River Watershed report. Ed James gave an update about the on-going drought and Nevada's Drought Forum before the meeting was concluded.