



Education Working Group
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, June 4, 2014
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM
CWSD Conference Room

Present:

Ann Bollinger, Carson City Open Space
Tess Braun, Alpine Watershed Group
Linda Conlin, River Wranglers
Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)
Ed James, CWSD
Leah Kniffen, Dayton Valley Conservation District
Toni Leffler, CWSD
Courtney Walker, CWSD

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

2. Brief Announcements/Two Minute Updates

a. Update on Invasive Species Month (Courtney) –

- Carson City Library display
- advertisement on Caron City Community Center reader board
- three weekly newspaper articles in the Nevada Appeal, Record Courier, Leader Courier and Lahontan Valley News by Joanne Skelley
- Douglas County Invasive Species BBQ on 6/27/14

Actions:

b. Conserve Carson River Workdays Wrap-up (Linda) –

- Carson City High School and Churchill County High School spring time events conducted the end of April last year but in May this year. The scheduling made big difference because there is so little time on the school calendar in May.
- Lahontan Elementary in Churchill County with freshmen FFA members at Rambling River Ranch, had a work day at the conservation easement owned by Norm and Sue Frey. The students constructed wood duck boxes with Fish and Wildlife specialists. They monitored a box on the ranch that had just hatched and watched them peck their way out and get banded. They wanted to do planting at Rambling River Ranch but the reduced water wouldn't allow it this year.
- There was a challenge with the work day at Fuji Park/Clear Creek. Empire Elementary does not allow any field trips before standardized testing is completed at the end of April and Carson High School didn't allow field trips in May. A class group had to be brought from the high school for their class period only and the classes switched out to work with the younger students. It worked out because of adult volunteers helped hold things together during the student switches since the students worked on individual stations instead of managing groups of students.

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- c. **Update on "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour (Brenda)** – Registration is full already, which is earlier than normal. The tour will go to new sights: to Heenan Lake on the East Fork instead of Hope Valley on the West Fork and to Soda Lake in Churchill County instead of the Stillwater Reserve. There will be 30 speakers, some new to the tour.
- d. **GREENevada update (Linda/Courtney)** – GREENevada stands for Growing Resources for Environmental Education in Nevada. Linda and Courtney have been going to some of the meetings. The organization requires that an interested party go to three meetings and be voted in to join. Linda said GREENevada was overwhelmed by the interest other organization showed and they weren't prepared for it. They wanted to make sure there was an alignment of interests, like Environmental Education for weeds, river, air quality, etc. There was a difference of opinion on how the group should function so they are having a strategic planning session which Courtney will attend. This is intended to be a state-wide organization, but they have so far been focused in Washoe County.
- e. **Motorized Trail Grant update (Courtney)** – CWSD got the grant from Nevada State Parks. They are placing rumble pits covering the width of the trail and three tire rotations long. The rumble pits will be at trail heads in Carson River Canyon, Ash Canyon, and Voltaire Canyon, all on Carson City Open Space property. Invasive species signs will be placed at the corner of Snyder and Golden Eagle, Carson River Canyon, Voltaire Canyon, Ash Canyon, Kings Canyon, and at Soda Lakes. The sign design will consist of a tire with weeds growing out of it to help prevent the spread of invasives through motorized vehicles. The rumble pits will be installed in June and work will begin on sign design next month. CWSD and Carson City will monitor the rumble strips monthly by observing what is growing in the strip areas.
- f. **Carson City Weed Coalition update (Courtney)** – Rob Holly from Dayton is interested in the Carson City Weed Coordinator position just vacated by Margie Evans. He sent a resume to Roger Moellendorff at Carson City. CWSD has provided \$15,000 in funding for weed management in each county. Brenda had a conversation with Birgit Widegren about 319 funding and mentioned need for funding for a Carson City Weed Coordinator. She suggested making the connection to water quality in a written grant request.
- g. **Other Upcoming Events -**
 - 1) Alpine Aspen Festival – Sept 25-25, 2014 www.alpineaspenfestival.org
 - 2) Markleeville Creek Day – Aug. 23 – www.alpinewatershedgroup.org
 - 3) Carson River Festival – June 21 – The event is partnered with the Oodles of Noodles event in downtown Dayton. It is a two day event but the Carson River Festival will only be on Saturday when there is a noodle cook off.
 - 4) Work Day with Comstock Youth Workers - July 30 or 31 - Under the conservation tour grant - Storey County and Lyon County partnering to apprentice youth for summer

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employment with businesses to mentor kids but not pay them. Linda is looking for projects for the youth and may need assistance from CWSD.

5) CWSD Website Redesign Update - Staff has the framework done with the goal of having it live before July 1. They are adding content now. As of July 1, CWSD legally has to have Board agendas and meeting minutes on our website. Feedback is welcome.

- 3. Children's Museum (Watershed Literacy Grant)** – Brenda explained that the Watershed Literacy grant is a 319 grant to do a multitude of things: Education in the Action Plan update to the Stewardship Plan, a baseline survey of the entire watershed to determine current public knowledge of the watershed and another survey later to determine growth in knowledge, and an update of the Children's Museum watershed display.

Actions: Brenda will talk with Lou at the Children's Museum about what we want to be doing. Brenda came up with a timeline for milestones, so in July-August she needs to contact Lou with what we need to do vs. what she can do to update the display. Lou has a lot of ideas of what she would want to do.

- 4. Working Group Exercise: Update the Explore Your Watershed Map for reprinting.** CWSD has received 319 funding to update and reprint the watershed map. Brenda asked the group to suggest revisions to the map, and she contacted Greg Brady about making changes to the digital version of the map for \$70/hr. She needs to examine the budget to see how much can be spent on this.

The group began working on revisions to the map last meeting, just touching on a few things. One hesitation everyone has is that it is already a busy map, so adding a lot may not enhance the map. Mary Kay has not talked with teachers about feedback yet but still wants to have their feedback.

Put all suggestions on the table and then determine priorities within budget. Linda suggested listing changes.

On inset map:

- Pyramid Lake does not drain into the Carson River
- Should mark the Truckee River and move the Truckee Canal a little
- Add Fernley
- Show the whole Truckee River coming out of Lake Tahoe and turning toward Pyramid Lake

On map:

Label:

- Create icons to represent floodplains or open space and coordinate legend on front of map with info sections on back with inset of floodplain - show open space lands with cottonwood trees
- Link to trails in Recreational Opportunities section on back with link on interaction map on website - Utilize hiker in trail locations

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- Title Leviathan Mine? – show Bryant Creek coming from mine to river (conversation started regarding Superfund Site and river pollution) – determine where and how Bryant Creek enters the Carson River
- Kingsbury Grade below Monument Peak
- Stillwater Mountain Range and Desert Mountain Range
- Hwy. 28 at N. Lake Tahoe – put a few little houses to show communities along shore of Lake Tahoe
- Snow Valley Peak north of Hwy. 50.

Draw:

- Clear Creek along Hwy 50 and show it going to the Carson River
- Hills to show division between Carson Valley (Douglas County) and Eagle Valley (Carson City)
- White house and label for Buckland Station near Lahontan Reservoir
- Quad by Ruhestroth
- Soda Lakes near 40 Mile Desert (title lakes)
- Lost Lakes as origin of West Fork
- Make bear without color to look like surprise part of mountains
- Tracks and move V&T RR toward Virginia City
- Casino/buildings at S. Lake Tahoe
- Historic mill site near Dayton
- Replace owl near River Fork with Bald Eagle on slope of mountains

Move:

- Owl toward mountains and move white house (make it yellow) between Brockliss Slough and West Fork to represent River Fork Ranch. – add pond turtle between forks
- Houses at Stagecoach down a little and change name to Mark Twain. Show Stagecoach between Mk Twain & Silver Springs.
- Ruins between hill and river and Ft. Churchill on north side of CR – move bare root trees closer to man w/shovel
- Motorcycle rider south
- Hobart Reservoir uphill and to the west – north of Snow Valley Peak near snowshoer
- Dairy cow from next to Minden and move it to Fallon/Churchill County and replace black cow w/dairy cow
- Indian and baskets near Mud Lake

Delete:

- Golfer in Indian Hills –

On back panels:

- Mention open space lands - list all – can be shown on map with cottonwood trees
- Red fox, grey fox, and kit fox are in watershed (per Eric Johnson with State Parks)

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- Bullets instead of long paragraphs
- Watershed facts: river length, number of counties, precipitation range, etc. – could condense written material.
- Revise Watershed Challenges: floodplain protection/management – paragraph 3 - flows hard to relate to but shows magnitude between wettest and driest years – maybe put in graph or picture of river channel with indications of high and low flows – info needs to be updated to include 2006 flood and more recent droughts
- Delete Western Nevada RC&D
- Revise Habitats and Vegetation into watershed areas. Possible approach to follow breakdown of Stewardship Plan: main goals (water supply, water quality, habitat, recreation), guiding principles, vision statement and main message
- Additional information about topics can be online.

Linda suggesting giving Greg list of possible changes and getting his professional opinion on what would enhance/detract from the map. Ask for a quote to make changes.

Actions:

- CWSD staff will list potential changes by categories: label, draw, move, delete.
- CWSD staff will send notes to group to prioritize lists before next meeting.
- Brenda will call Greg to discuss changes.
- Possibly make design changes with current budget and not print as many maps right away. Then include printing more maps in Watershed Coordinator and Environmental Education grants for next year.
- Linda will contact high school, middle school, and elementary teachers for what is valuable info.
- Toni will send Word document of back page panels to Linda to show teachers
- Subcommittee to work on panels over the next few months.
- Include Stewardship Plan, Watershed Plan, Floodplain Plan as links to CWSD website.
- Combine Ag & Ranching with Our History to free up a panel to another topic.
- Possibly ask Lou at Children's Museum for feedback, Duane at RFR, Steve Lewis, Dan Kaffer, Joanne Skelly, Kim at State Parks, Margie Evans – feedback by June 20
- Nevada Day Parade float?

5. Set date for next meeting – Tues., July 15, 8:30-10:30 a.m.