

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 21, 2014, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

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

Directors not present:

Karen Abowd
Carl Erquiaga
John McKenna, Treasurer
Joe Ricci

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary

Also present:

Devere Dressler
Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group (AWG)
Kris Hartnett, Markleeville Water Company
Donald O'Connor, Alpine County
David Thompson, R.O. Anderson
Jacob Thompson
Judy Wickwire, AWG/Friends of Hope Valley
Zach Wood, AWG/Alpine County

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 State Route 89, Markleeville, California. 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 George Benesch. Director Schank thanked the Alpine County for hosting the meeting.

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

Item #7 - Approval of April 16, 2014, Board Meeting Minutes. *Director Rawson made the motion to approve the April 16, 2014, Board meeting minutes as amended, which was seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board, with Director Penzel abstaining for not being present at that meeting.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. Shane Fryer reported that Alpine County received a grant to purchase Markleeville Creek Restoration property. They are hoping to receive another grant to begin their river restoration work on this property. Mr. Fryer invited everyone to the Markleeville Creek Day event on August 23 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and to the Aspen Festival which will be held September 25-28. AWG also started a sustaining membership drive which allows them to go out for grants, talking series, etc.

Zack Wood, AWG Director, also mentioned that AWG appreciates support from CWSD for the 10 years of their existence and he appreciates the CWSD Board coming to Alpine County for meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for April 2014.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding approving Agreement #2014-11 with Alpine County for groundwater monitoring and reporting to the State of California.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding adjustments to the FY 2013-14 Final Budget to reflect actual beginning balances.

Director Rawson made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-11. The motion was seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Shane Fryer on Alpine Watershed Group activities occurring in Alpine County. See Mr. Fryer's report under Item #7 - Public Comment. No additional presentation was given.

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

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Dr. David Thompson on re-analysis of Carson River Flood Hydrology for FEMA Floodplain Mapping. Dr. David Thompson explained the hydrology work he has done over the past few years toward FEMA Floodplain Mapping. He explained that the Carson River history includes episodic flooding that both predates and post-dates the installation of the streamgaging network used to collect flow data. Major flooding is associated with rain-on-snow or rain-on-wet-mantle events and is the focus of talk on the Upper Carson River watershed. The greatest floods are associated with rain-on-snow type events. Annual snowmelt floods complicate analysis. For evaluation it is necessary to assume either a homogenous dataset or to separate precipitation-based floods from annual snowmelt floods.

Dr. Thompson noted that he only used data from oldest stream gages. Stream gages on the Carson River are as follows:

- East Fork (EF) near Markleeville, CA (10308200) with data 1961-current
- EF near Gardnerville, NV (10309000) with data 1890-current
- West Fork (WF) near Woodfords, CA (10310000) with data 1890-current
- Carson River near Carson City, NV (10311000) with data 1939-current
- Carson River at Deer Run Road, Carson City, NV (10311400) with data 1979-current
- Carson River at Dayton, NV (10311700) with data 1994-current
- Carson River at Ft. Churchill, NV (10312000) with data 1911-current

The streamgage data used for analysis include that from the Carson River at Carson City, EF near Markleeville, EF near Gardnerville, and WF near Woodfords. Data from the Deer Run and Ft. Churchill streamgages was used to confirm the analyses. Dr. Thompson explained that the original SCS and USACE work included laborious separation of annual snowmelt and precipitation events; two series of peaks log-Pearson Type III distribution fits; and applying the total probability theorem to the results to obtain the general Flood Frequency Curve (FFC). This original work was lost and not found until late in the second phase (Carson Valley/Douglas County) portion of the project. Dr. Thompson used the homogenous assumption to obtain new estimates of the flood frequency curves for the study streamgages and then used those results to develop flood hydrographs for use in unsteady flow modeling (for HDR).

The target is to produce an estimate for a 100-yr event. Dr. Thompson explained that the unsteady hydraulic model requires estimates of the peak discharge and the flood hydrograph (for the 100-year event). This is different than the original hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, which relied on steady hydraulic modeling and therefore needed only the peak discharge. HDR is working on the hydraulic modeling.

Results:

- EF Carson River at Gardnerville: from SCS 20,356 cfs and USAC 27,400 cfs to proposed 21,350 cfs
- WF Carson River at Woodfords: from SCS 8,465 cfs and USACE 9,500 cfs to proposed 6,985 cfs.
- Carson River at Carson City: from SCS and USACE 36,000 cfs (effective) to proposed 33,500 cfs.

If there is less than a 10% difference, FEMA isn't usually interested in changing. However, because an unsteady hydraulic modeling approach is being used for floodplain delineation, we have hydrographs for use with the hydraulic modeling and this will require a change to the effective hydrology to produce consistent results.

Conclusions: The original work was done by the Soil Conservation Service, now Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in the 1970s and the USACE in the mid-1980s and was based on a mixed population assumption. In the original work, no hydrographs were produced. The new work is based on homogeneous assumption and created balanced hydrographs for use in the Flood Model and modest changes to flood frequency curves.

Director Lynn asked what changes we can anticipate out of this. Dr. Thompson responded that as far as hydrologic work, not much, but we now have better topographic data and hydrologic tools, so we can create more accurate results.

Mr. James reminded the Board that Mitch Blum talked about flood mapping in the Carson City area at the April Board meeting, and Director McKenna had asked about the hydrology of flood coming through and the hydraulics of water around the physical structures. The mapping process is completed in Carson City and beginning in Douglas County. We want to ensure that this is the best data to be used following FEMA's protocol. The 1997 flood was not a 100-yr event, but was probably closer to a 85-yr event.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the FY 2014-15 Final Budget. Mr. James went over the final budget with a few slight changes from the tentative budget. Final income is \$65,000 higher because the final estimate of ad valorem taxes is higher and because of the timing of grants incurring expenses and when they will be reimbursed. Expenses are the same except for the timing of grants and a reduction in the USGS costs since they are taking over the expense on the East Fork gauge at Gardnerville. This reduces CWSD costs by \$12,500. Another change is the increase in the Preliminary Planning account by \$25,000 for a total of \$450,000. Mr. James also proposes to move \$90,000 to the Acquisition/Construction Fund to continue to build that fund. We have requests for potential regional water projects that exceed funds in that account by \$1.5 million.

Director Johnson noted on page 53 of the Board package that insurance went down and asked how and why? Mr. James responded that it has gone down with POOL/PACT for the past three years.

Director Fierro made the motion to approve the FY 2014-15 Final Budget. The motion was seconded by Director Lynn and unanimously approved by the Board. The final budget cover sheet was circulated for Director signatures.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding 2014 water runoff predictions. Mr. James explained that at the Gardnerville gauge the peak occurred around April 20. The peak is only about 35% of average. On the West Fork at Woodfords the peak was about April 19 but has been dropping pretty fast. At the Carson City gauge the peak was about May 22. At the Ft. Churchill gauge, the peak was about April 23. Lahontan Reservoir peaked at 95,000 af but is now at 72,000 af. Boat launches must close below 85,000 af. Lahontan Reservoir irrigation releases will get shut off in July once the storage gets to 13,000 af. According to the Northern Sierra precipitation at 8-station index, we will be dryer than the last two years. Fire is going to be a big concern during the summer.

Director Schank explained that TCID made a deal with US Fish and Wildlife that they would take their deliveries in the fall.

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

Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) He has been looking at EPA and Army Corps of Engineers rulings on Waters of the U.S. and its impact on ranchers. At the June meeting he will

possibly have a letter for the Chairman to sign expressing concerns and suggested changes to the rules.

2) Mr. James has been researching the original legislation on CWSD. At the Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD) meeting it came up that some thought that CWSD is still under CTWCD. The legislative history is very interesting. CWSD was originally going to be called the Carson River Water Conservancy District but the name was controversial. Director Schank called Mr. James and suggested drafting legislation to drop “sub” to Carson Water Conservancy District. The Board has to unanimously approve a name change in resolution form, send to the resolution to the District Court in the county in which it was organized (either Douglas County or Washoe County). Director Schank talked with Tom Grady who was willing to introduce legislation but wanted to talk with the Legislative Counsel Bureau first.

3) Mr. James approached Storey County to see if they would be interested in becoming a full member of CWSD. There may be some interest, but a lot more discussion needs to occur before we would propose any legislation.

4) Mr. James reported that staff has been working on website changes, and he passed around a potential web page for the Board to see.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing to report.

Correspondence – As in the Board package.

Item #17 - Directors’ Reports

Director Jardine thanked Mr. James for working with Director Rawson and him to approach California legislators about reducing the fees for Lost Lakes. This may happen by the end of the year. He would also like to work on a management plan for Red Lakes.

Director Lynn reported an aggressive lobbying effort with FEMA on the part of the Douglas County Planning Director regarding getting a reduction in FEMA flood insurance rates due to their flood preparedness programs.

Directors Stodieck, Penzel, Rawson, Fierro, and Johnson had nothing specific to report but joined the others in thanking Alpine County for hosting this meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Lynn made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Johnson, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary