

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 18, 2014, 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd
Carl Erquiaga
Ray Fierro
Doug Johnson
Mary Rawson
Ernie Schank, Chairman
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Greg Lynn, Vice Chairman
John McKenna, Treasurer
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Barry Penzel
Joe Ricci

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist

Also present: none

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Churchill County Commission Chambers, 155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV. 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 Director Fierro. Director Schank thanked the Churchill County for hosting the meeting.

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

Item #7 - Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on May 21, 2014, and the Budget Hearing on May 15, 2014 - Mr. James noted several changes to the Minutes of the Board Meeting on page 6 of the Board package. The date of the meeting should be May 21, and Brenda Hunt and Debbie Neddenriep were not present at the meeting. *Director Johnson made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Budget Hearing on May 15, 2014. The motion was seconded by Director Fierro and unanimously approved by the Board. Director Johnson made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on May 21, 2014, as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Rawson*

and unanimously approved by the Board, with Director Abowd and Erquiaga abstaining for not being present at that meeting.

Item #7 - Public Comment. It was noted that there was no public present.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for May 2014.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of an Addendum to Interlocal Contract #2011-6 with **Churchill County** to Assist in the Lahontan Valley Water Level Measurement Program.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of a Second Addendum to Interlocal Contract #2012-5 with **Lahontan Conservation District** to extend the contract for Work on the Lower Carson River Task Force.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the Addendum to Agreement #2013-5 with **River Wranglers** for the Carson River Work Days and Vegetation Management Projects clarifying how the funds can be used.

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of an Addendum to Interlocal Contract #2013-10 with **Indian Hills GID** to extend the contract and carry over funds for Development of a Regional MS4 Stormwater Management Plan.

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Agreement #2014-3 with **River Wranglers** for the Carson River Work Days and Vegetation Management Projects.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Agreement #2014-4 with **Alpine Watershed Group** to Help Fund the Upper Carson River Watershed Programs.

Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2014-5 with **Carson Valley Conservation District** for Bioengineering and Vegetation Management Along the Carson River through Carson Valley.

Item #17 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2014-6 with **Carson Valley Conservation District** for Buzzy's Ranch Streambank Rehabilitation.

Item #18 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2014-8 with **Dayton Valley Conservation District** for Middle Carson River Clearing, Snagging, and Maintenance Projects.

Item #19 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2014-9 with **Lahontan Conservation District** for Clearing and Snagging on the Carson River Below the Diversion Dam.

Item #20 - Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2014-10 with Churchill County for Development of a Carson River Water Rights Dedication and Deed Tracking Database.

Item #21 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of Interlocal Contract #2014-12 with Douglas County for the Preliminary Evaluation for East Fork Channel Restoration and Irrigation Improvements.

Item #22 - Discussion for possible action to surplus outdated or unneeded office equipment.

Item #23 - Discussion for possible action authorizing the General Manager and Chairman to sign the terms of engagement with Kohn & Company for the fiscal year end 2013-14 audit.

Director Fierro made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-23. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #24 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the July 11-12 "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour. Mr. James pointed out the summary of comments from the "Get on the Bus" Watershed Tour which had been handed out. The only negative comment was that the tour was too rushed. Generally everyone really liked the tour. It is a great opportunity for the public to understand what is going on throughout the watershed. It was covered by the Nevada Appeal in a nice article which will be forwarded to the Board by email.

Debbie Neddenriep said she enjoyed the Churchill County Museum as a new stop on the tour. There were 30 speakers who all did a great job. Mr. James explained that the tour group had a little excitement at the Quill Water Treatment Plant when the alarms sounded because of a failed circuit which caused the backwash process to begin, flooding the floors of the facility. Fortunately Rit Palmer, Carson City Public Works Operations Manager for Water, and Brandon Mattiesen, Quill Plant Manager, were on the tour and were able to begin the recovery process and call in staff to do the clean up.

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

Item #25 - Discussion for possible action regarding sending a letter of concerns to the EPA and Corps of Engineers on the Jointly Released New Proposed Rule - Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act. Mr. James explained that information on the EPA website would lead us to believe that the proposed rule change would not have any impact to CWSD, counties, or ranchers in the watershed. However, there are several natural organizations that have been looking into the proposed rule change and they believe these changes would have an impact. Mr. James mentioned that he had a meeting with representatives of NDEP, and they have some concerns about interpretation of the new rule. There could be some potential impacts to ranchers and counties if the Corps of Engineers (COE) is given more jurisdiction. Mr. James noted that if additional permits are required from the COE, there could be further delays because the COE staff is already overloaded. CWSD has had projects delayed for a year or more waiting for COE permit approval. There is a 90 day extension for comment which will give us longer to get information before making comment.

Director Schank noted that the American Farm Bureau and the Family Farm Alliance have big concerns about this, and he encouraged Mr. James to talk with them. Director Schank reported that he was in Washington, DC about two days before this was made public and was assured that we would not have problems with this. However, he cautioned about open interpretation of the rule by bureaucrats.

Director Rawson said she belongs to a Rural Counties lobbyist group and will forward information she receives to Mr. James. Director Johnson noted that the draft letter in the Board package is good, and we might just mention concerns by the other organizations. Mr. James noted that when the letter was drafted the due date was before next Board meeting. With the time extension we have more time to do research.

Staff was given direction to continue to research this. No Board action was required.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding the water supply projections for this summer.

Mr. James reported that yesterday the flow on the East Fork of the Carson River was at 158 cfs which was 18% of historic average; flow on the West Fork was at 38 cfs which was 19% of historic average; flow at Carson City was at 38 cfs which was 6.9% of historic average; and flow at Ft. Churchill was at 1.5 cfs which was 1.5% of average. It is anticipated that the Truckee Canal will be shut off August 1. He noted that if we don't get a decent snowpack next winter, we will be in trouble next year.

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

Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) The General Manager's evaluation form was left as a handout to each of the Directors who had not already completed it. Mr. James requested that they be completed and returned to Ms. Leffler. 2) Mr. James received a request to submit an abstract for the Floodplain Management Association on the CWSD Discovery process. 3) Mr. James has met with most of the water purveyors about the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Plan of Study to make sure everyone is informed and to keep local entities participating. He would also like to set up communication groups in each county to have water purveyors meet quarterly. There would be one group in Douglas County which would include Carson City because of water pipeline intertie projects between the two counties; one group in Lyon County to include Storey County and Carson City; and one in Churchill County. 4) Staff is looking into another grant for noxious weed treatment.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing to report.

Correspondence – As in the Board package and as handed out. Ms. Leffler will email the Nevada Appeal article to the Board about the bus tour.

Item #17 - Directors' Reports

Director Abowd reported that Carson City needs to have a discussion with Mr. James on the handling of noxious weeds. She had a complaint by someone whose land won't grow anything on the other side of the fence of where the weeds were sprayed. They are wondering if there is an organic treatment method which would be as effective. Since Margie Evans left the Carson City Weed Program Manager position and Juan Guzman is retiring from Carson City Open Space, there needs to be better coordination to keep the noxious weed management going in Carson City.

Director Johnson reported that Douglas County has been trying to get 5-year water rates by consolidating water systems but they have been having a problem with one area at Lake Tahoe. Without consolidation some of their rates could go up significantly.

Director Schank commented that part of the CWSD charter is to educate the public about the watershed. He asked that staff consider what other things besides the bus tour that we could do. Perhaps there could be a one-day tour of the Truckee Canal/Lahontan Dam/Newlands Project. Mr. James responded that people do like field trips, but they take a lot of staff time in planning. A Newlands Project Outreach is a possibility. Director Schank also suggested a one-day tour of the Marlette Water System tour, esp. to teachers. Director Johnson suggested putting a lot of pictures/videos on the CWSD website as an education tool.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Stodieck made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Abowd, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary