

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 16, 2014, 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd
Carl Erquiaga
Greg Lynn, Vice Chairman
John McKenna, Treasurer
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Barry Penzel
Mary Rawson
Joe Ricci
Ernie Schank, Chairman
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Ray Fierro
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Coordinator
Edwin James, General Manager
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist

Also present:

Linda Conlin, River Wranglers
Dan Kaffer, Alpine Watershed Group
Rich Wilkinson, Dayton Valley Conservation District

NOTE: The recording device did not function correctly, so the meeting was not recorded.

Vice- Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Lyon County Utilities Conference Room, 34 Lakes Blvd., Dayton, Nevada. 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 Brenda Hunt.

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

Item #7 - Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on June 18, 2014. *- Director Penzel made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on June 18, 2014. The motion was seconded by Director Ricci and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Chairman Schank arrived late, apologized for his tardiness, and took over the meeting.

Item #7 - Public Comment. None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for June 2014.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding an Addendum to Revised Interlocal Contract #2013-4 with Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD) for Middle Carson River Restoration Projects.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding the General Manager attending the Floodplain Management Annual Conference, September 2-5, 2014, in Santa Clara, California.

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

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

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation and request for sponsorship by Dan Kaffer on the Alpine Watershed Group's Aspen Festival in September. Dan Kaffer spoke to the Board about the Aspen Festival in Alpine County. He introduced himself to the board and discussed his experience in the Watershed. He is now volunteering full time and is on the Alpine Watershed Group Board in order to help conserve the Carson River in Alpine County. Mr. Kaffer presented a short video of Hope Valley in the fall before giving a PowerPoint about the Alpine Watershed Group. He explained Alpine Watershed Group's primary job as stated in the Mission statement: "To conserve, preserve, and enhance the natural system functions of Alpine County's watershed for future generations." He explained that the Alpine Watershed Group was created in 1994.

In his presentation Mr. Kaffer asked why Alpine County matters and why have an Aspen Festival? He pointed out that the average annual water discharge of the- East Fork Carson River was 273,000 AF while the average annual water discharge of the West Fork Carson River is 78,600 AF, noting that 95% of Carson River water originates in Alpine County. He explained that Alpine Watershed Group's programs focus on watershed restoration, water quality monitoring, and community outreach and education.

Mr. Kaffer informed the Board that the Alpine Aspen Festival was September 25–28, 2014 in scenic Alpine County, California. He mentioned that River Wranglers is their first major sponsor and invited CWSD to participate. He asked if CWSD would provide \$500–5000 for festival production and promotion. He also mentioned it would be helpful if CWSD staff could lend expertise/ personnel for public education, digital marketing, etc.

Mr. James pointed out that this funding request was not included in the 2014-15 budget. CWSD does have \$500 in the miscellaneous expense account. Any request greater than \$500 would require board action to transfer from one account to another.

Director McKenna made a motion to approve spending \$500 and provide additional staff/ supply in-kind support of \$1000. Director Rawson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Director Penzel made the motion for the Finance Committee to meet to discuss the possibility of providing more funding for the Aspen Festival not to exceed \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Director Erquiaga and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Linda Conlin on the various River Wranglers activities for fiscal year 2013-14. Linda Conlin introduced herself and River Wranglers. She explained that River Wranglers has three Nevada Department of Environmental Protection grants with CWSD: Conserve Carson River Work Days, Environmental Education, and Conservation Tours, which was taken over by River Wranglers when Pat Fried resigned. Ms. Conlin explained the current focus is getting community support. She also explained the River Wranglers' mission and vision statements. Its mission statement is "Empowering youth through action and education", and its vision statement is "Youth of all ages committed to healthy watersheds, rivers, and streams."

Ms. Conlin then explained River Wranglers' projects and activities by showing a series of pictures:

- Conserve Carson River Work Days (CCRWD) is a watershed event started in 1995. This event covers all counties in the watershed, including Storey County. Ms. Conlin explained how CCRWD started in Dayton with one school, two grades, and about 100 students. This year there 10 events with around 100 people at each.
- Classroom presentations and activities – Carson River Watershed Map is a tool River Wranglers uses in many ways. It helps to teach children that water flows downhill and they also learn basic map skills.
- Field trips - Ms. Conlin shared that some of the school field trips taken this year were for Agriculture in the Classroom, floodplain protection education, and Snap Shot Day.
- Trout in the Classroom - There were three trout releases this spring. Ms. Conlin explained that River Wranglers partnered with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to grow trout and release them.
- Community Outreach - She mentioned clean up events in Carson City: releasing wood ducks, giving presentations at The Nature Conservancy, Carson City fishing derby at Bailey Pond, and with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe for Earth Day
- Carson River Festivals at Oodles of Noodles in Dayton. The Carson River Festival is one of Ms. Conlin's favorite events because it includes a career exploration component. This year there was one girl interested in mosquito abatement, another young man interested in beekeeping, and another teen who learned about careers in wildlife by helping a NDOW biologist with fish stocking. Other high school students learned about the work done by conservation districts, about mammals, and about the Leave No Trace program. Ms. Conlin showed a picture of two elementary girls who wanted to volunteer, so a teen mentor agreed to mentor them; therefore a teen became a mentor to these two girls and was being mentored by a resource professional.

In addition to all the programs listed, River Wranglers also participated in a library program. Ms. Conlin explained how River Wranglers' teaching model is to train area high school students to mentor elementary students in their county and/or city. Ms. Conlin then handed out an invitation to

the 20th Conserve Carson River Work Days event. She asked everyone to fill out the RSVP by selecting a date and/or place to be involved and indicated she would contact each person via phone, text, or email.

Director Schank asked if Ms. Conlin could answer a question in regards to 4-H. He noted that the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension has suffered huge cuts the last few years and that 4-H has suffered. He asked if there would be any kind of interest in a 4-H club focused around the river and conservation. Ms. Conlin answered that it could be possible if there was a 4-H leader willing to lead such a group. They agreed it was a good idea and encouraged one another to promote such a 4-H club.

Mr. James mentioned what an amazing job Ms. Conlin and River Wranglers do to get kids interested and excited about the Carson River. Mr. Conlin thanked Mr. James and the Board for their support and said she appreciates the opportunity to do the job she loves. Dan Kaffer added the public comment thanking the CWSD Board for supporting River Wranglers' work and mentioned that over 30,000 children have participated in the River Wranglers' Conserve Carson River Work Day program over the past 20 years.

George Benesch asked Ms. Conlin if the River Wranglers' name was safe. Ms. Conlin replied that yes, it is safe, but the logo was changed to avoid confusion.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding a review of the General Manager's performance and annual review. Director Schank deferred the evaluation of the General Manager to Director Abowd, since she is the chairman of the Administrative Committee. Director Abowd informed the Board that 9 of 14 Board members filled out the evaluations (two additional evaluations were completed at the Board meeting). The General Manager received a score of 17.56 out of 18. Mr. James noted that he had read the reviews and will work on his presentations to the Board. Director Lynn urged all the board members to fill out reviews. Director Abowd mentioned the simplified form was created to make the review process easier. Director Schank thanked the Administrative Committee for creating the new form because the previous form was much more time-consuming.

Director Schank thanked Mr. James for the fine job he has done over the years. He noted that folks in Churchill County who had doubts in years past have gained confidence in CWSD because of Mr. James. He stated that Mr. James has done a great job. All attending members thanked Mr. James for his work and excellence. Staff members also noted he is a great boss.

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

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the 2014 water picture for the Carson River Watershed. Mr. James explained he did not prepare a computer presentation because there is just not much water out there. That being said, our watershed conditions are not as bad as those seen in 1977. Mr. James asked Director Schank when water released from Lahontan would be turned off. Director Schank answered that, as of today, the thought is that TCID will shut off Lahontan water on July 26, 2014.

Mr. Benesch mentioned that the Federal Water Master is planning on turning off ditches in the Truckee Meadows area on July 28, 2014. Director Abowd asked Mr. James if he had any

projections for next year. Mr. James said he heard that next year should be better but it is too early to tell. The good news is that we are not California in the Central Valley where they are experiencing water conditions similar to 1977. The drought is having major impacts on the environmental, agricultural, municipal, and industrial users. Director Abowd noted the negative social impacts of the drought in California. Director Schank mentioned an article about subsidence occurring in California.

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

Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Director Schank asked for an update on the new EPA regulations and asked the status of the letter being composed for official comment. Mr. James reported that he attended a webinar on the subject that afternoon. Since it was an EPA created webinar, he noted that its focus was that there are little or no changes as a result of the new regulations. However, Mr. James said there are still questions because of ambiguous language in the regulation which could leave portions open to interpretation. He stated that the official letter would address those uncertainties, as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE) making "case-by-case" decisions. He noted the US ACE's current workload is in a backlog and that projects have been delayed as a result. There is concern the new regulations will increase this backlog for the US ACE if individual cases will need to be reviewed.

Director Schank mentioned that the Churchill County Manager suggested all the counties in the watershed send letters which are similar to indicate they were sent in a cohesive manner and suggested a telephone conference with county managers in which CWSD could offer a draft. Mr. James responded that the goal is to have a draft to the CWSD Board in September; therefore, it would be available to all the counties. Comments are due by October 20, 2014.

Director Schank noted that in his recent trip to Washington, D.C., he was able to meet a deputy head of both EPA and US ACE about the new regulation. They responded that the intent is to take vagueness out of the old rule. Director Schank noted that the biggest complaint is the new regulation has more vagueness than the former rule. Mr. James promised he would send the information he has gotten to the Board.

Other staff reports:

- Mr. James went on to report that NDEP had made a grant announcement and that CWSD planned to apply for Brenda Hunt's Watershed Coordinator grant and the Environmental Education grant.
- Mr. James also commented on NDEP rolling stock permits and how CWSD staff had worked with conservations districts and NDEP regarding the permitting process.
- Mr. James also discussed the National Science Foundation's (NSF) \$4 million grant to study the Carson and Truckee River Watersheds. He noted it considers many of the same things the US Bureau of Reclamation's Basin Study will examine. Mr. James' hope is to also work with the NSF to coordinate efforts and avoid needless duplication.
- Mr. James also mentioned that he attended a Truckee Basin Study meeting and found it interesting that it did not consider groundwater. He mentioned the key point that climate change will have more impact than all municipal and industrial use on the Truckee River.

Director Penzel asked if climate change meant a few tenths of a degree, and Mr. James answered they predicted a drop of 6 degrees Celsius.

- Mr. James also noted that Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River are sensitive to climate change because there is a huge storage area in Lake Tahoe, but only use the top six feet can be used. The Lake loses 430,000 AF to evaporation annually; therefore, if climate reduced the flow by 20% and there was a 10% increase in the evaporation rate, it would result in a 93% flow reduction out of Lake Tahoe.
- Director Schank informed the Board of the water shortage being encountered by Pershing County and how they intend to send representatives to speak with the State Engineer about surface and ground water interaction. They contend the lack of surface water has been caused by groundwater pumping near the Humboldt River. Mr. James commented that he anticipates a change in Nevada water law regarding surface and ground water interaction and noted there are lawsuits going on currently. He also stated that the Carson River Watershed is overall in good shape.
- Brenda Hunt reported that the NDEP request for grant proposals came out. She mentioned that \$1 million is available and that a large amount of money will go to watersheds who have Watershed Plans, putting the Carson River Watershed in a good place with its Watershed Plan. She mentioned counties can apply for funds using the Stewardship Plan. She also thanked Courtney Walker and Debbie Neddenriep for help publishing the CRC newsletter, The Flow, while she was on vacation.
- Debbie Neddenriep thanked Ed James and Brenda Hunt for their excellent work on the Carson River Coalition forum and bus tour.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing to report.

Correspondence – Two articles were handed out that discussed the impact the drought is having on California.

Item #17 - Directors' Reports

Director McKenna invited all to attend the fair in Carson City at the end of the month.

Director Rawson invited all to the Aspen Festival in Alpine County in September.

Director Lynn mentioned some concern in Douglas County that the Senior Center detention ponds are sucking water out of the Cottonwood Slough.

Directors Abowd, Erquiaga, Penzel, Stodieck, Ricci, and Schank had nothing specific to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Abowd made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Rawson, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Neddenriep
Meeting Clerk