



**River Corridor Working Group**  
**Thursday, September 18, 2014**  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

***DRAFT Meeting Notes***

**Present:**

Steve Berris, United States Geologic Survey (USGS)  
John Cobourn, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)  
Bob Connor, RSK Engineering  
Dan Greytak, Washoe Tribe Environmental Protection Dept.  
Robb Fellows, Carson City Public Works  
Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)  
Ed James, CWSD  
Steve Lewis, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)  
Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD  
Erik Nilssen, Douglas County  
Terri Pereira, Churchill County  
Duane Petite, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Kurtiss Schmidt, United States Geologic Survey (USGS)  
Mary Taitano, Nevada Dept. of Water Resources (NDWR)  
Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP  
Courtney Walker, CWSD

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – Brenda Hunt welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the room.
- 2. Brief Announcements (everyone)**
  - a. Flash Flood updates–**

Robb Fellows, Erik Nilssen and Dan Greytak provided an update on the flash flooding that occurred within each of their jurisdictions.

Carson City responded to the two rain events that caused alluvial fan flooding on July 20 and August 10. The majority of the flooding was on the east side of town adjacent to Prison Hill with some in Goni Wash/ Canyon Area. Heavy rain caused hillside to erode and flooding carried large amounts of sediment into yards and over roads. Pipes and culverts were clogged with debris. Only 1 – 2 homes and several garages were water/flood damaged. Wind associated with these events uprooted trees and exposed root balls. City staff is still in process of cleaning up and contractors have been hired to help. Robb observed that the slightest deviation in terrain caused water to move in unexpected directions. Bailey pond and the stormwater basins associated with the area were also damaged and are in the process of being cleaned up.

Dan Greytak noted Topsy Lane had 350 cubic yards of sediment which filled the retention basin on Washoe Property, keeping it from entering Clear Creek. The basin has since been cleaned-out and Dan has pictures available. NDOT's Clear Creek work was greatly impacted along Highway 395. Water was pouring onto the highway at the bottom of Plymouth Drive. Several people were seen driving through deep water, highlighting the need for additional safety and flood risk education.

Erik Nilssen detailed the a series alluvial rain events in North/ Eastern parts of Douglas County, including July 20 the biggest event with the most damage which dumped approximately 1.2" in 20 min. and Aug 10 which effected Johnson Lane and Carson City.

He pointed out the sheer volume of water and the unpredictable nature of cloud bursts make it difficult to predict / prepare for these types of events. The combination of varying stormwater infrastructure sizes and a patchwork of subdivisions built with different drainage codes exacerbated the problem. Douglas County has ~ 1000 culverts and at current staffing levels each culvert could be cleaned once every 4 years. A dozen homes were damaged but there was no loss of life. Public relations have been a challenge and the Douglas County staff is doing their best to resolve issues. The floods have brought to light other issues including the need to communicate with wildland management entities, the impacts of OHV trails and how the trails may exacerbate flooding, and an overall stormwater management system/plan to eliminate the patchwork effect.

Erik has spoken with FEMA representatives and stated that FEMA does not address drainages less than a square mile and that when they do review alluvial areas, they simply designate a swath that is 1' deep. He also expressed a need for more rain gages throughout the county as a tool to predict potential disasters. Eric stated that Douglas County currently has three rain gages. It was noted that the reverse 911 system that was tied to three rain gages went down and that installing a rain gage network could be a great project for which to seek grant funding.

Seeking funding to retrofit existing deficiencies could prove difficult and it generally is much easier to address development moving forward. However, given the circumstances, the timing may be good to address funding for retrofits.

**b. 319 Grant Proposals –**

- CWSD is applying for three NDEP grants, Watershed Coordination Program, Environmental Education Program, and a Regional MS4 Plan involving Indian Hills GID, Carson City, Douglas County and Lyon County.
- Carson City is applying for two grant proposals, water quality improvement on Lompa Lane requesting ~ \$100k, and Ash Canyon Erosion Control project.

- Dayton Valley Conservation District has submitted a proposal to do a significant amount of river restoration.
- Lahontan Valley Conservation District did not apply, nor did the Carson Valley Conservation District or The Nature Conservancy.

It was noted that Juan Guzman retired and Ann Bolinger is Carson City's new open space administrator.

**c. CRC Forum follow-up –**

The CRC survey results from the post-forum survey created by Steve Lewis, UNCE were passed around the room. Comments were very positive. If anyone would like to see a copy, contact Brenda Hunt at [brenda@cwsd.org](mailto:brenda@cwsd.org).

**d. Get on the Bus Tour follow-up –**

The Get on the Bus Tour was very successful and popular this year. The event filled up three weeks prior in advance of the deadline. New stops included Heenan Lake, Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration, and Soda Lake. We received positive feedback with a few people wishing we did pack the agenda so full and we spent more time at each stop. The bus tour is designed to give an overview of the entire watershed; however, the feedback indicated that there is interest in more in-depth site visit at some of the more popular stops. CWSD has requested additional funds from NDEP in our Watershed Program grant application to provide a couple of site specific field trips. If you have an area you think would be a great spot to add to the Get on the Bus Tour or would be a great in-depth trip, let Brenda Hunt know at [brenda@cwsd.org](mailto:brenda@cwsd.org). A question was posed asking why the tour filled up so much faster and CWSD staff did not know at the this time. *Note: It is likely that the newspaper articles and press releases in advance of the event have been helpful, especially at getting the public to attend.*

**e. CWSD website –**

CWSD's new website is up and running. The design framework completed by RDM Infinity, a local web designing firm. Staff projected the website on a screen and walked the group through the features. All the content is now able to be edited, except the Explore Your Watershed pages because they were created on an old platform. CWSD will update to those pages when funding becomes available. Contact Brenda Hunt, [brenda@cwsd.org](mailto:brenda@cwsd.org) or Courtney Walker, [courtney@cwsd.org](mailto:courtney@cwsd.org) if you have questions, comments or edits.

**f. CC Open Space Management Plan–**

A draft Carson Open Space Management plan is completed and comments were due on September 12, 2014. CWSD staff provided comments regarding consistency with the Stewardship and Floodplain Management Plans. The draft document is comprehensive and focuses on the river corridor.

*Please note:*

*The plan is available online <http://www.carson.org/index.aspx?page=2521>.*

*September 12 – Deadline to submit comments. Comments can be mailed or emailed to Ann Bollinger*

*November (Tentative) – Carson City Board of Supervisors - the draft plan will be presented and public testimony will be accepted.*

*December 2 (Tentative) – Parks and Recreation Commission - final review and action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors.*

*December 15 (Tentative) – Open Space Advisory Committee - final review and action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors.*

*Early 2015 – Board of Supervisors – final approval*

Contact Ann Bollinger at Carson City if you have questions.

#### **Other –**

##### **Stewardship Plan Update –**

Brenda is still plugging away at the update to the Stewardship Plan. Please send in your responses to her emails if you have not already done so. A draft will be ready in the next couple of months for review. Getting the maps updated has been a small challenge to date. She hopes to include a “by the numbers” report for EPA that will hopefully provide the measurement or metrics piece they are interested in seeing. She will be asking everyone for specific input on that document in the near future.

##### **FEMA –**

CWSD submitted a grant request for Mapping Activity Statement (MAS) 5. The grant fund is proposed to fund two projects in Douglas County, one in Carson City, and one in Churchill County. The grant request also included a funding request to develop inundation maps, and repeat the flood awareness campaign for two additional years. The inundation maps will help predict areas of potential flooding in the river corridor. Alluvial fan flooding is not included in this request. Tracking match with back-up proof will continue. He expects work to begin in early October. CWSD has been verbally informed the grant will be awarded; however, official written notice has not been received at this time.

3. John Cobourn presented on and shared pictures of the alluvial flooding on Hot Springs Mountain after July 20, 2014 event in Douglas County. The aerial photos were taken by John Dunn, US Bureau of Mines, from his plane. The ground photos were taken by John Cobourn. A copy of the alluvial fan flooding presentation can be obtained by contacting John Coburn at [cobournj@UNCE.unr.edu](mailto:cobournj@UNCE.unr.edu).

- a. **USGS Presentation**

Presentation by Steve Berris and Kurtiss Schmidt (USGS) on crest stage gages for Buckbrush Wash and Johnson Wash and data gathered during recent rain events. A copy of the [USGS Presentation](#) can be found by clicking the link.

**b. Discussion regarding alluvial fan flooding and planning needs including studies, mapping, etc. –**

The USGS expressed the need to find a funding partner for additional crest stage gages to be installed to collect more data. Each gage costs \$12,000 and USGS would pay half the cost, \$6,000. Currently there are crest stage gages in Brunswick Canyon, Johnson Lane Wash, Buckeye Creek, Genoa, and Voltaire Canyon. There are no crest stage gages in Churchill County as continuous gages are more appropriate in that area.

**4. Member reports on Floodplain Management Plan progress and updates on suggested actions:**

- a. Update on SA-8: Low Impact Development –** CWSD staff gave an update on the Low Impact Development (LID) planning project and expected to have a draft final report from RCI later this fall. Hopefully we can then discuss next steps to promoting LID throughout the watershed.
- b. Update on SA-14: Secure funding for and conduct watershed-wide unsteady state modeling to identify flood water storage requirements and to look at the cumulative effects of watershed development - FEMA MAS 1-5 projects (Ed/Mitch)**  
HDR is finishing up the model for Douglas County. MAS 4 includes funding to review flood ordinances to determine common language, suggest mitigation methods, and provide a protocol to update the model. This grant also helped fund flood awareness week (see 4.d).
- c. Progress on SA-7: Retention of floodplain lands for flood storage (mapping acreage) (John/Steve) –**  
The map and related brochure were circulated for peer review in July/August. Comments on mapping acreages and brochure language have been received and are being incorporated into the document. The revisions will be sent out for further review upon completion.
- d. Update on SA-33: Annual Flood Awareness Week (John/Courtney) –**  
Flood Awareness Week is set for November 10, 2014 to November 15, 2014. A new flood awareness brochure was presented which is available by following this link: ?. The public outreach campaign is designed to direct people to the new website [nevadafloods.org](http://nevadafloods.org). The Nevada Flood Awareness Outreach Website, [www.nevadafloods.org](http://www.nevadafloods.org), recently won the Flood Management Association (FMA)

“Communications and Outreach Award” for 2014. Goals of the campaign are to raise community awareness about flooding and make people safer. The other goal is to get communities throughout Northern Nevada to have flood awareness events during the week.

Billboards, PSAs, etc. will be starting mid-October. A media event will be held with Governor Sandoval at the Truckee River on 10/10/2014 at 10 am. He will proclaim NV Flood Awareness week during the event.

John C. mentioned that the impetus for Flood Awareness Week came from the CRC River Corridor working group and was 8 years in the process. The RCWG deserves a lot of credit.

**5. Other – None**

- 5. Schedule next meeting** – Brenda let everyone she would send a doodle poll to determine the best time for the meeting. It is likely the meetings will not resume until the Stewardship Plan update is completed.