

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 17, 2014, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd
Carl Erquiaga
Don Frensdorff
Don Jardine
Doug Johnson
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

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Coordinator
Edwin James, General Manager
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist
Courtney Walker, Watershed Assistant

Also present:

Lisa Erquiaga, guest
Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group (AWG)
Janice Johnson, guest
Nicole Lutkemiller, AWG
Russ Rawson, guest
Carmen Schank, guest
Karen Simpson, UNR
Loretta Singletary, UNR-UNCE
Kelley Sterle, UNR/DRI
Suzanne Towse, guest

Chairman Schank called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Pinon-Sage Room of the Gold Dust West Hotel Casino, 2171 E. William St., Carson City, 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 Director McKenna.

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

Item #7 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2014. - Ed James noted corrections to the minutes. The correct date is November 12, 2014, and Courtney Walker was not present at the meeting. *Director Lynn made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on November 12, 2014, as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment. Shane Fryer, Watershed Coordinator for the Alpine Watershed Group (AWG), gave a brief report on the results of the Alpine Aspen Festival. Despite several inches of snowfall that day, 365 people came to participate in 24 activities involving 54 volunteers and 30 organizations. He will schedule a more complete presentation to the CWSD Board at a future meeting. Mr. Fryer also handed out the flier "Drought Relief through Headwaters Protection in Alpine County" which was recently created by AWG. He also introduced Nicole Lutkemiller, the new Sierra Nevada AmeriCorp Partnerships (SNAP) member assigned to AWG.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for November 2014.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding renewing the General Manager's Employment Agreement.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding nomination of Edwin James for re-appointment by the Governor to the Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District Board.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding updates to the CWSD Personnel Policy Manual.

Director Schank remarked that Pete Livermore loved a long consent agenda when he served on the CWSD Board. With this in mind, Director Schank reported Director Johnson's request that the entire agenda for this meeting be declared as the Consent Agenda in honor of Mr. Livermore's passing. In lieu of that, Director Schank called for a few moments of silence in fond memory of Mr. Livermore. Director McKenna noted that the Edmunds Sports Complex has been renamed the Livermore Sports Complex since Mr. Livermore was a life-long champion of sports programs in Carson City.

Director Erquiaga made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #8-12. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

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

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Loretta Singletary on the University of Nevada-Reno and Desert Research Institute Study on the Carson and Truckee Rivers.

Dr. Loretta Singletary introduced the two doctoral students, Karen Simpson and Kelly Sterle, who will be working with her on the study of the Carson and Truckee Rivers. The study has been entitled "Water for the Seasons: Incorporating Decision-Making to Build Resiliency to Climate Change in a Snow-fed Arid River System." It is funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The study will focus on large-scale river systems to consider increasing and diverse demands for water use; urban population growth and decreasing and variable water supplies. The arid lands in the Great Basin depend on Sierra Nevada snowpack which faces challenges including earlier and more rapid snowmelt; more frequent, intense, and warmer winter storms; and precipitation as rain or rain on snow events leading to major flooding and water shortages if supplies are not managed. The decision-making processes under consecutive years of scarcity are not well understood.

In order to assess the resiliency of the system, the team of project scientists will co-develop climate-stress scenarios with stakeholders; populate scenarios with plausible and sufficient climate detail; understand the impact of climate change on the hydrologic system; and determine the efficacy of alternative water policies under climate extremes.

Who's involved? Agricultural producers, water managers, tribal communities, ecosystem managers, conservation organizations, economic development organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies will participate. Also involved will be the primary water source for the northern Nevada municipalities of Reno-Sparks, Carson City, Fernley, Fallon, and dozens of other communities, as well as the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe since Pyramid Lake is home to endangered and special status wildlife species.

The participatory research strives to determine how changing climate conditions stress water resources on the river system in moderate and worst-case scenarios. The interviews and survey instrument will also ask what information from climate and hydrologic models is most useful to water managers. What policy instruments are perceived as most useful for adapting to or mitigating water stress and how feasible are they for implementation?

The grant was awarded July 1, 2014, and the team is currently developing survey instruments for organizations and water right holders. The climate and hydrological modelers' input will include questions that test model uncertainties, identifying system thresholds and tipping points, and the importance of defining and understanding the system and actors in order to effectively. The Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG) will meet at least twice a year.

Director Abowd asked if exploring how cloud seeding will have positive and negative effect on the system. Dr. Singletary indicated that this question has not come up but they could investigate how that might add more water to the system.

Director Johnson noted that parts of the Carson River have been designated Wild and Scenic and asked if the impacts of that designation will be considered along with climate change. Ms. Sterle responded that they are in process of building their survey instruments and will take that into consideration. Ms. Simpson added that they will also consider the policies of riparian conservation.

Director Schank asked if they will consider the politics of water. As it was put in a meeting earlier in the day with local legislators: "Water runs downhill or it flows towards money." Money and

politics have a great influence which needs to be considered along with climate change when determining what will be included in the survey. Ms. Singletary noted that the survey questions are only in draft form and that a big part of survey is in response to various policy scenarios.

Mr. James how many years this study is expected to run. Ms. Singletary responded that they only having funding to do the study for four years.

Director Penzel asked what the point of the study is. You can't create water by making it rain more and the use of the water is dictated by the Alpine Decree. Ms. Singletary responded that the study is to measure how resilient communities are related to drought and flooding; what kinds of things communities and water right holders should consider if the current drought continues or is followed by a severe flooding event; and to what extent they are prepared and what they need to do to be prepared. Ms. Simpson added that the study will be looking at capacity and the willingness to deal with various scenarios including now and range of possible adaptations in the future. The evaluation will be done considering a range of options. Ms. Singletary noted that they are working with modelers to find possible solutions and will work with stakeholders from the beginning to explore questions and options. The study is not intended to resolve any ongoing conflict.

Director Penzel asked what she meant by "build capacity." Ms. Singletary responded that the modelers don't know everything and they will work with the stakeholders who have more knowledge to define and respond to scenarios, thereby building their capacity of knowledge.

Ms. Hunt asked to whom they will be reporting. Ms. Singletary explained that they will report to Maureen McCarthy, the Director of the UNR Academy for the Environment, to DRI, to the USGS, and to stakeholders. There are formal and informal evaluation pieces.

Ms. Hunt asked what are the next steps? Ms. Singletary responded that the study will come forward with some observations and recommendations. The Stakeholder Advisory Group will recommend the next steps.

Director Johnson expressed the hope that the study achieve positive results and solutions. CWSD is here to help but don't want more difficulties/road blocks/conflicts as a result of this study. Ms. Singletary noted that since the study will be driven by the stakeholders, there will hopefully be consensus throughout the process to avoid problems.

Director Schank commented that the counties that border the Carson River were at one time conflict with each other. This Board has been a wonderful place to come together to cooperate. Director Schank encouraged Ms. Singletary to work with Mr. James to take advantage of his knowledge and expertise.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the 2015 candidate for the Andy Aldax Carson River Watershed Award. Mr. James explained that the nomination from Jon Paul Kiel was for Pete Livermore to receive the Andy Aldax Award for 2015. The Administrative Committee voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Livermore as the award recipient.

Director Abowd made the motion to name Pete Livermore as the posthumous recipient of the 2015 CWSD Andy Aldax Award. Director Stodieck seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding authorizing the General Manager to enter into a contract with Michael Baker International to conduct a restudy and remapping of the Eagle Valley A & B Drainage in Carson City. Mr. James explained that the next three items come from Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for studies as part of FEMA MAS #5 which were approved in Discovery Process. They are 100% funded by FEMA. Director Schank suggested that agenda Items #15, #16, and #17 be approved in one motion.

Director Penzel made the motion to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreements named in agenda items #15, #16, and #17. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #16 - Discussion for possible action regarding authorizing the General Manager to enter into a contract with Kimley/Horn to conduct a restudy and remapping of the Alpine View Estates Drainage in Carson City. (See Item #15 for the Board action on this item.)

Item #17 - Discussion for possible action regarding authorizing the General Manager to enter into a contract with R.O. Anderson Engineering, Inc. (ROA) to conduct the Smelter Creek analysis for possible flood relief alternatives. (See Item #15 for the Board action on this item.)

Item #18 - Discussion for possible action regarding changes to CWSD officers for 2015-16. Ed James explained the criteria for selection of Board officers for the next two-year period as follows:

- No county would hold more than one officer position at a time.
- Officers would serve for a two-year period.
- The Vice Chair, Chair, and Treasurer would rotate every two years with the recommendation that officers not serve in the same position for more than one consecutive term.
- The Vice Chair and Chair positions be a rotation of Nevada counties, beginning with Churchill County, then Douglas, Carson City, and Lyon Counties.
- The Vice Chair is automatically nominated to take over the Chairmanship, if voted in.
- The Treasurer position rotate counties, to include Alpine County, and the Treasurer should also serve on the Finance Committee.
- The above officers should be voting Board members.
- The Secretary could be either a Board member or staff, and the position is not currently considered in the rotation schedule.
- Require that the officers be an elected official and a member of the CWSD Board for two or more years.

Considering all of these criteria, the Administrative Committee recommended that Greg Lynn (representing Douglas County) become Chair, Karen Abowd (representing Carson City) become Vice Chair, Ray Fierro (representing Lyon County) become Treasurer, and that Toni Leffler remain Secretary to the Board.

Director Penzel made the motion to approve Greg Lynn as Chair, Karen Abowd, as Vice Chair, Ray Fierro as Treasurer, and Toni Leffler as Secretary to the Board for 2015-17. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #19 – Discussion for possible action regarding approval for the General Manager to attend FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Training in Emmitsburg, Maryland on February 22-27, 2015. Mr. James explained that he received notification from FEMA that they were offering this class and will cover all travel and lodging. FEMA is a large funding source for the Carson River Watershed in the future. CWSD has high marks with FEMA and is the poster-child for CTP in Region 9. Mr. James was asked to attend.

Director Stodieck made the motion to approve the General Manager to attend FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Training in Emmitsburg, Maryland on February 22-27, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Rawson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #20 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) He has been part of several conference calls regarding cloud seeding. There has been discussion of submitting proposed legislation for the State to help fund cloud seeding in Nevada. Currently the discussion is for DRI to do cloud seeding. Mr. James said he thought cost was a little high at \$990,000 to run 27 units for cloud seeding. They will probably not do aerial seeding but from the ground because it is less expensive. 2) Staff just went through job description evaluations. The lady from POOL/PACT who did the interviews highly complemented the quality of CWSD staff.

Brenda Hunt reported: 1) At the beginning of the month, she, Courtney Walker, and Mr. James met with Irene Davidson, the new US Forest Service Manager for this area, along with representatives the weed districts in Carson City, Douglas County, Alpine/El Dorado Counties, and the Nevada Department of Agriculture regarding noxious weed management. The focus of the meeting was on coordinating weed management on federal lands adjacent to the various weed districts. It was a great meeting to introduce Ms. Davidson to everyone in the watershed and what each area is doing. Staff wants to have a similar meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BML), especially since they have a new manager in the Carson City office. Ms. Hunt pointed out that the whole Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest area only has a budget of \$250,000 for weed management throughout the forests. The local managers would like it to be higher on their radar but the decision for funding needs to come from Washington, D.C. The entire watershed puts a lot of funding into noxious weed treatment. There is a need to raise political consciousness about noxious weed control. 2) Ms. Hunt passed around the wonderful thank you notes from the Carson Montessori School for their Snapshot Day participation opportunity.

Director Rawson noted that the federal government defunded the sage grouse issue.

Debbie Neddenriep, Courtney Walker, and Toni Leffler did not give specific reports but expressed their appreciation to Mr. James and the Board for providing a great working atmosphere and helping staff to develop their skills.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report but thanked Director McKenna for his contributions on this Board.

Correspondence – As included in the Board package and handed out. Mr. James pointed out that the organizational chart was created at the request of Director Fierro.

Item #20 - Directors' Reports

Director Lynn thanked Director McKenna for his work on the Finance Committee in evaluating projects and preparing the annual budget.

Director Schank expressed his gratitude to each Board member for service over the past two years and said it has been his pleasure to serve as Chair and to work with the CWSD staff and George Benesch as legal counsel. He then turned the gavel over to Director Lynn as in-coming Chair.

Directors Abowd, Erquiaga, Frensdorff, Johnson, Osborne, Rawson, Stodieck, Jardine, Penzel, and Ricci had nothing specific to report but joined the rest of the Board in thanking Director McKenna for his years of service on this Board, thanking staff for arranging for tonight's wonderful dinner, and wishing everyone Merry Christmas.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Jardine made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board. Director McKenna made a few parting comments. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary