

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 18, 2015, 6:30 P.M.
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman
Brad Bonkowski
Carl Erquiaga
Ray Fierro, Treasurer
Don Jardine
Greg Lynn, Chairman
Barry Penzel
Mary Rawson
Ernie Schank
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff
Doug Johnson
Austin Osborne, Storey County
Chuck Roberts

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

Also present:

Peter Kulchawik, Balance Hydrologics
David Shaw, Balance Hydrologics
Mary Kay Wagner, NDEP

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in Room 1214 of the Nevada State Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson 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 Fierro.

Item #5 - Approval of Agenda. Item #8 was moved from the Consent Agenda for discussion. *Director Fierro made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2015. - *Director Schank made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on January 21, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Jardine and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Item #7 - Public Comment None

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for January 2015.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the revised CWSD job descriptions.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of revised staff salaries to correspond with job descriptions.

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the proposed cost of living adjustment for FY 2015-16.

Director Schank made the motion to approve the consent agenda items #9-12. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board. There was no public comment.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for January 2015. Ed James explained that the time period for the Acquisition/Construction Fund Profit and Loss report was incorrect. The correct report was in the hand outs.

Director Abowd made the motion to approve the Profit and Loss report for the Acquisition/Construction Fund. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding a presentation by Balance Hydrologics, Inc. on the East Fork Channel Restoration Study. Mr. James reminded the Board of a field trip the Board and staff took last summer near the Carson Valley Golf Course in Gardnerville to observe the river bank erosion problem there. Dave Shaw and Peter Kulchawik with Balance Hydrologics, Inc. gave a presentation on the work that they have done to study the East Fork Channel Restoration.

Problem statement: Erik Nielsen of Douglas County approached Balance Hydrologics to evaluate the bank erosion upstream of the Virginia/Rocky Diversion. The channel could shift, or avulse, as a result of the erosion.

Key questions: What is the risk of avulsion? If the risk is significant, what design/management alternatives are feasible?

Approach: Define project goals and objectives. Review background reports/data. Characterize key processes. Fill in gaps with additional site-specific work. Assess the risk of channel avulsion. Preliminary design/management approaches.

Location: Adjacent to the Carson Valley Golf Course south of Gardnerville between Hwy. 395 and the golf course, upstream of Virginia/Rocky Diversion Dam.

Process of geology and soils: This area is an alluvial fan setting where streams exit steep canyons in the mountains. When there is a heavy rain event, they move a lot of sediment and deposit it at the bottom.

Sediment transport: The study reach is characterized by aggradation. There is a high sediment supply from a steep, narrow canyon and an abrupt slope transition at the canyon mouth (2% slope to 8 % slope). Human impacts further reduced the gradient by putting in diversion dams which further encourages the river to increase the sediment load. Inter-fluve (1997) described how aggradation in the reach is the cause. Levees were built in late 1950s and early 1960s by BOR which causes the river bed to want to widen. The levee is forcing the channel to the east out of its historical meander belt.

Mr. Kulchawik explained more site specifically about the sinuosity and meander belt width. He said that he had received the 1906 data from Randy Pahl at NDEP. The levees were put in place in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The river tried to readjust and regain sinuosity but began moving to the east. He showed a geomorphic map based on field work in November. The floodplain is widening: Within the channel there are different recent surfaces from the past 100 years. They are starting to see inset floodplain widening and establishment since the BOR projects.

Flood frequency analysis was made from the USGS stream flow gage measurements at Markleeville. Flooding in the Carson Valley has always been broad and shallow. The existing flood pattern zone A gets 1-3' deep flooding. Flood waters overtop the highway and moves towards the east side of highway toward the medical center and other businesses.

Future potential flood pattern: If the channel avulses, levees and boulder barbs will keep the channel to east. The risk of avulsion is significant. Meander development is affected by hard structures. Ongoing adjustments are expected. Rain-on-snow events may become more frequent with climate change. Lack of scouring flows is allowing vegetation to encroach.

Director Schank asked what seems to be causing it to eat away the west bank. Director Lynn responded that there is a large gravel bar upstream from the new diversion structure. Historically, before FEMA got involved, the gravel bar would be pushed toward the diversion dam and get washed away. Director Stodieck noted that after the 1955 flood, between 1957 and 1960, ACOE, BOR, and Civil Defense pushed gravel out of the river with dozers. They are called a spoils bank instead of a levee. Director Stodieck explained that he has two and a half miles of land on both sides of the river and his family didn't grant entry to private property for ACOE to clear. The family had a private contractor completely remove the gravel bars, so during overbank flooding, the water will return to the river downstream. Director Stodieck noted that the biggest part of the problem was State Lands telling what you could and could not do in the channel. The gravel bars are now vegetated and won't move.

The presentation continued to next step design solutions. Determining how to maintain the diversion point AND enhance function of river system. Extend the reference meander belt width downstream and reduce the severity of the transition. Provide flood relief to reduce right bank stress. Bio-stabilization where possible. Use the irrigation canals for flood relief. Design solution tools included 2D modeling to quantify bank stress reductions using SRH-2D 2.2 (BOR, 2012) and surface modeling system 11.2 GUI (Aquaveo LLC, 2015). Director Lynn suggested pushing the river bar into the oxbow and letting the river reassume its earlier channel and opening a cross section area more for less stress on the bank.

Director Penzel asked the depth of bank. He was told it is 10 feet from toe to top. He suggested taking the material out before the river does. Director Stodieck asked who we have to convince that this is a good idea to alleviate the problem. Mr. James responded that approval must come from ACOE, BOR, and State Lands for permits. You can create a design, but the biggest problem is the cost. Director

Stodieck suggested plugging the channel off at beginning of the oxbow and open a small channel to relieve the pressure.

Mr. James asked how far they are in the study and what the next steps are. He was told that the report is about 70% done, but Basic Hydrologics' Scope of Work stops at design. It is up to CWSD and Douglas County to determine how to proceed. Director Stodieck suggested staying within the river bounds. Director Lynn noted that the next discussion is with Erik Nielsen since it hasn't been brought to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners yet. Director Penzel asked why a permit is needed to do the traditional relief. Director Stodieck suggested using old survey with the rolling stock permit. Mr. James noted that approval is needed from NDEP and State Lands. It is also important to consider physical boundaries and physical constraints. Director Lynn noted that this may not be considered to be maintenance. The presentation was oriented to creating solutions instead of additional problems.

Director Schank noted erosion on both sides and suggested opening up the sand bar through the middle and utilize both sides to fortify both banks. The key is what kind of an engineered barb is going to keep the river in the center? Look at a bigger perspective of the river to consider what needs to be done. Director Stodieck suggested moving the stream bar and letting the river run its course.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding the need for additional funds to cover the cost of the Carson River Watershed Educational Survey Project. Brenda Hunt explained that CWSD has received NDEP 319 funds to conduct a watershed-wide educational survey to determine a baseline knowledge of residents. The grant is for \$10,000 to undertake this survey but firms responding to the RFP say it will cost about \$20,000. She has asked for additional funding from NDEP and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC has a 319 grant for outreach and education and have asked NDEP for permission for \$3,000 of that to be put toward this survey, along with \$2,600 additional NDEP funds. Both have been approved. This brings the total to \$17,000. Staff is asking the CWSD Board for an additional \$3,000 from the Outside Professional Services account and authorization to go forward with the contract to undertake the survey by Responsive Management.

Director Schank asked it that would cut into the amount that could go to projects. Mr. James responded that this is a request from this year's budget. The project list handed out to the Finance Committee members will come from next year's budget.

Director Schank made the motion to approve the use of \$3,000 from the Outside Professional Services account and authorize the General Manager to sign the contract with Responsive Management pending the additional funding from NDEP. The motion was seconded by Director Abowd and unanimously approved by the Board.

Public comment: Mary Kay Wagner with NDEP Water Quality Planning emphasized just how critical water is to this watershed, our economy, and the future. The survey enforces the CRC Vision Statement to be assured that we give a compelling public message. This firm will be able to conduct a reliable and repeatable survey. The firm has agreed to analyze the results and provide them to NDEP and to be published on the CWSD website. Doing this survey will help to refine outreach efforts that we are doing continually throughout the watershed and identify gaps. The choices and values with regard to watershed decisions we make have a profound impact on quality of life.

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Nevada Legislature. Mr. James explained that a Legislative Committee meeting was held on February 6. A few more bills are coming out. SB 65 and SB 81 were heard before the Senate Government Affairs Committee, and the State Engineer held a half day workshop yesterday to discuss how the bills will be re-written. Mr. James will be giving a presentation to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on CWSD tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

Director Lynn noted that the connection between surface and groundwater was not as confident as it is today. If the connection is wrapped into the Clean Water Act, that's scary. Mr. James noted that the Clean Water Act is separate from this. With the drought we are being impacted. Two places which are really in a world of hurt are Pahrump and Diamond Valley.

Director Schank commented that Lovelock is concerned about the Humboldt River being over appropriation. Mr. Benesch also mentioned Smith and Mason Valleys. He also noted that as a housekeeping issue the Legislative Committee meeting minutes may be approved at a Board meeting since the committee meets so infrequently.

Director Schank made motion to approve the recommendations noted in the minutes of the Legislative Committee meeting. Director Bonkowski seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #17 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the runoff predictions for 2015. Mr. James talked about surrounding watersheds which have some ruling. The Walker River: Mason Valley: perennial yield 25,000 af, 2014 pumping 149,000 af, 2014 groundwater level drop eight feet. Smith Valley: perennial yield 17,000 Af, 2014 pumping 42,000 af, 2014 groundwater level dropped 12 feet. State Engineer ordered 50% curtailment of all supplemental irrigation rights in Smith and Mason Valleys. People in these basins may bring a lawsuit against the State Engineer.

On the Humboldt it's a different storage. As you go farther downstream the river flow goes to 0 at Imlay. 2015 prediction is no water to Rye Patch users, no groundwater curtailment on the Humboldt watershed. Even if upstream users were cut off, the cone of depression would take years to refill. The only solution the State Engineer had in the short term is to hope for a wet year. Long term consider limiting groundwater pumping to perennial yield. Mr. Benesch noted that groundwater quality around Lovelock is so bad it can't be pumped to use for agriculture.

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

Item #18 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) On April 22, CRC Flood Management Forum. Speakers set up. Venue may be in Dayton. 2) Get on the Bus Tour on June 9-10. 3) Strategic Planning Session on Mar 29.

Brenda Hunt reported: 1) next month presentation from BLM on Resource Management Plan.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

Correspondence – As included in the Board package and handed out. In explanation of one article Courtney Walker explained that Gary Swift is part of the Douglas County Leadership Program and

wants to do an assignment with CWSD. Other articles are about sage grouse habitat protection and Dean Heller introducing the Lands Bill in Congress.

Director Schank explained that he and Mr. James met with Assemblywoman Titus. He asked Mr. James if the funding is in NDEP and confusion over which committee we need to work with. Mr. James noted he met with Senator Kieckhefer, and there is no money in the account at this point. He sent more information to Assemblywoman Titus. She plans to bring it up with the Governor about it. Mr. James is researching how to best move forward and State Engineer will talk with Senator Kieckhefer. Director Schank heard that the money came in to that fund from NDEP. It is in Statute that the funds are supposed to be in the State budget.

Director Schank noted that he and Mr. James serve on CTWCD. Todd Westergard is Chairman of CTWCD and also Chief of Staff of the Senator Majority Leader Aaron Ford. Mr. Benesch suggested instructing Mr. James to send letter to CTWCD and approving it next meeting. This item will be put on the agenda for next Board meeting.

Item #19 - Directors' Reports

Director Fierro reported that Rich Wilkinson of DVCD talked with him about the clearing and snagging fund, and Director Fierro also talked with Dr. Titus and Mr. James, The Lyon County lobbyist is to support the importance of that being funded.

Director Jardine reported: 1) California is funding projects within the state for stream restoration, water storage, and water quality issues within California. The total of all funds will be going up by 20% from \$1.1 billion to \$1.3 billion, so there may be funds for upstream support for drought related activities like water supply and storage. Some of the funding sources are federal funds. The Lahontan Water Quality Control Board (LWQCB) is a good contact. 2) He visited with Assemblyman Bigelow's Chief of Staff regarding Lost Lakes and should have a legislative response by the end of the month. Mr. James noted we received a phone call from California Assemblyman Bigelow's office. One option to reduce our fees is for CWSD to fall under the farm classification. We would need \$1,000 in farming activities to qualify.

Director Lynn noted that AB 65 and 81 is getting a lot of attention. Steve Walker, the lobbyist for Douglas County, was also at the meeting about changes.

Directors Stodieck, Rawson, Bonkowski, Erquiaga, Penzel, and Abowd had nothing specific to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Fierro made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Abowd, and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler
Secretary