

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
May 20, 2015, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Directors present:

Karen Abowd, Vice Chairman  
Brad Bonkowski  
Carl Erquiaga  
Ray Fierro, Treasurer  
Don Jardine  
Doug Johnson  
Greg Lynn, Chairman  
Austin Osborne, Storey County  
Barry Penzel  
Mary Rawson  
Chuck Roberts  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck

Directors not present:

Don Frensdorff

Staff present:

George Benesch, Legal Counsel  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary

Also present: None

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of Lyon County Utilities, 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 Director Jardine.

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

Item #7 - Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2015. - *Director Abowd made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on April 15, 2015. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski and unanimously approved by the Board, with Directors Schank and Stodieck abstaining as not being present at the meeting.*

Item #7 - Public Comment None

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Approval of Treasurer's Report for April 2015.

Item #9 - Payment of Bills for April 2015.

Item #10 - Discussion for possible action to hire Video Quest Productions to produce an updated Leviathan video.

Item #11 - Discussion for possible action to surplus office equipment.

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

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

Item #12 - Discussion for possible action to review the proposed final budget for FY 2015-16. Ed James explained that on page 41 of the Board package is a brief summary of the budget. There are only a few changes from the tentative to the final budget, the biggest of which is with pass-through grants. Office equipment was reduced by \$500 to keep the 4% balance surplus. About \$49,000 is carried over from the FY 2014-15 Dayton Valley Conservation District. There is a transfer of \$2,000 from the General Fund to the Acquisition/Construction Fund.

Director Penzel asked the purpose of the Douglas County Arsenic Study. Mr. James explained that the study was requested by the upper watershed water purveyors to determine whether the large amount of pumping at the Minden wells could draw in arsenic from the surrounding areas. Director Penzel noted that there is already routine sampling being done, and Mr. James explained that in addition to the routine sampling, the USGS is doing a transport particle study.

Director Johnson asked if the Mud Lake water lease has gone up 10%. Mr. James responded that Carson City used all the water this year. The cost has increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). However, some years Carson City does not use all the water, so Mr. James budgets conservatively.

*The vote will be at the meeting tomorrow morning.*

Item #13 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the 2015 Floodplain Management Forum. Brenda Hunt handed out an evaluation survey which was completed after the Floodplain Management Forum on April 22. She reported that the forum went very well, including getting rain in the afternoon which was very well timed to cloud over the glare of the skylights in the Dayton Community Center. The event was attended by about 60 people, of which about 27 responded to the survey. The keynote speaker was Rob Palmer, the State Floodplain Manager, whose presentation was well received. There was a good variety of people present so there were varied viewpoints represented. Some of the comments were well thought out and indicated that participants got what we wanted people to get out of the forum. Most people were happy with what CWSD/CRC has been doing within the watershed. Folks generally liked the forum as a vehicle for sharing information. Most of the participants were from state, regional, and local governments but there were some general citizens in attendance.

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

Item #14 - Discussion for possible action regarding an update on the Nevada Legislature. Mr. James explained that a summary of bills being followed by CWSD is on page 54 of the Board package.

- AB 19 that modifies the tentative budget hearing date from the third Thursday or Friday of May to any time between the third Monday and the end of May. The Tax Department indicated that CWSD's proposal to change the time span to the second Monday would impact their operations for examination of all the tentative budgets. The bill passed.
- AB 169 regarding gray water passed both houses. He noted that our area reuses wastewater effectively.
- AB 198 requiring the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to conduct a study of water conservation and alternative sources of water for Nevada communities passed the Assembly but is just sitting in the Senate.
- AB 353 would require that professional services be awarded based on competitive bids. It is just sitting and is expected to die.
- AB 415 which allows landowners in the Newlands Project to use their water rights anywhere on their land was passed by both houses and signed by the Governor.
- AB 430, introduced by Robin Titus to provide funding for clearing and snagging, is being heard at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Mr. James reported that Robin Titus said that no one is against this bill but it is a matter of finding funding for it.
- AB 455, creating a committee to do an interim study on current and future water supplies, is just sitting.
- Of the two State Engineer's bills, SB 65 did not receive two-thirds vote to pass out of the Senate and is therefore dead. SB 81 to deal with critical management areas in Pahrump and Diamond Valley is in limbo but is still alive.
- SB 70 making changes to the Open Meeting Law has passed both houses.
- SB 423, a request for funding for cloud seeding, is sitting in the Senate Finance Committee.
- SB 476 for conservation districts assessment for noxious weeds was passed by the Senate.
- SB 485 requiring a claimant of a pre-statutory (1905 for surface water and 1935 for ground water) water right to submit proof of the claim to the State Engineer on or before December 31, 2025, passed the Senate and is on the Assembly side.

There was no public comment. *No action was required on this item; receive and file.*

Item #15 - Discussion for possible action regarding authorizing CWSD to pursue funding from FEMA under the Cooperative Technical Partner (CTP) program. Mr. James explained that staff is looking for authorization to submit a grant request with FEMA for MAS #6 projects. Has been in touch with all the counties for flood-related studies. Nothing has been proposed by Churchill County yet. After all the projects are in, Mr. James will prioritize the list in case funding falls short of covering them all. Director Lynn asked about what projects had been submitted by Douglas County and will follow up on the projects with county staff. The Rocky Slough project is not on the list. Mr. James noted that there was not a funding request from Douglas County for FY 2015-16. The study is completed but there was no request for construction.

Ms. Hunt explained that suggested action in the Floodplain Management Plan is for community education. She showed three YouTube videos to encourage using floodplains as a community asset:

one to the public, one to the government, and one to developers. There was discussion about how this message would need to be tweaked for use in our area to protect the floodplain.

*Director Roberts made the motion to authorize staff to pursue a grant funding from FEMA to conduct various flood studies and videos for the Carson River Watershed. The motion was seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board.*

#### Item #16 - Staff Reports

General Manager - Mr. James reported: 1) In the process for General Manager's review he will send out the form for his assessment and also wants to meet with each Director. The process may not come back before the Board until July or August. 2) Both Debbie Neddenriep and Courtney Walker worked last Saturday (5/16/15) representing the CWSD; Ms. Neddenriep was at Spring Wings in Stillwater, and Ms. Walker went to Alpine County for the Washoe Tribe Earth Day. Both were well received. 3) Mr. James pointed out the liability waiver for Leviathan Superfund Site tour which had been handed out and requested that each Director sign and return one to staff. 4) The next Board meeting will be in Churchill County with a tour at Charlie Frey's winery/distillery before the meeting.

Ms. Hunt reminded the Board that the Carson Watershed "Get on the Bus" tour is coming up on June 9-10, 2015, and urged Directors to sign up soon if they wish to participate.

Legal –Mr. Benesch had nothing specific to report.

Correspondence – As included in the Board package and handed out.

#### Item #18 - Directors' Reports

Director Rawson reported that former CWSD Director Gunter Kaiser passed away on 4/23/15. She will let staff know when his memorial service will be so that the Board can be informed to attend.

At Director Penzel's request, Director Schank explained that in 2008, the Newlands Project canal breached the Lewis Spill which is a safety structure on the V-Line Canal. It is used operationally all the time to avoid sending water through the main canal closer to the center of Fallon. A tractor brigade of local farmers fixed the breach but was it considered temporary. Since then Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID) has been working on replacing the spillway. Two years ago TCID received low cost loans from NV Energy to encourage wind and hydropower projects. The account has accumulated \$20 million since the 2009 Legislative authorization there were funds available to put hydro on the project. The Paniker Drop of 12-13 vertical feet also got low head hydro. It was supposed to be done by the end of the year but the split water season caused the project to not begin until the beginning of November 2014, so it went past the deadline for the rebate. Director Schank and TCID's General Manager Rusty Jardine were able to get a one year extension. The rebate is \$1.1 million on the \$1.5 million project. The contractor was supposed to be out of the canal the beginning of the water season but didn't get out until April 18. Twelve hours after putting water in the ditch it breached. It will probably cost \$500,000 and was repaired in 10 days with the help of other counties. They saved the facility and the hydro structure. They fired it up last Friday, so the Newlands Project now has water.

Director Rawson reported that California Fish & Game will be opening the road all the way to Blue Lake soon.

Director Johnson reported that Douglas County has concerns about the intake water systems at Lake Tahoe. Apparently the problem is not having water meters.

Director Jardine reported: 1) On May 28-29, he will be in workshop at PG&E in Barstow for the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board. 2) He noted that Caples Lake is up when he passed coming from Sacramento.

Directors Roberts, Osborne, Abowd, Bonkowski, Penzel, Stodieck, Erquiaga, Fierro, and Lynn had nothing specific to report but joined in thanking the staff for arranging the tour of the Mark Twain Subdivision sewer retrofit and dinner at 1st and 10 Bar and Grill preceding the meeting.

Item #19 - Public Comment. None

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Abowd made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Penzel and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary