

**CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
AND THE CARSON RIVER/ALPINE COUNTY WATER SUBCONSERVANCY  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

**REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM & FLOOD COMMITTEE**

**August 29, 2017, 2:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Directors Present:**

Brad Bonkowski, Carson City  
Carl Erquiaga, Churchill County  
Barry Penzel, Douglas County  
Fred Stodieck, Douglas County Ag

**Directors Not Present:**

Ken Gray, Lyon County

**Staff Present:**

Ed James, General Manager  
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant

**Others Present:**

Rob Holley, DVCD  
Austin Osborne, Storey County  
Rich Wilkinson, CVCD

Director Erquiaga called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District's Regional Water System and Flood Committee to order at 2:00 pm. in the Conference Room of Carson Water Subconservancy, 777 East William Street, Suite 110, Carson City, Nevada. A quorum of the Regional Water System and Flood Committee was present in person.

**Item #3 – Discussion Only: Public Comment** - None

**Item #4 - For Possible Action: Approval of the Regional Water System and Flood Committee minutes from March 29, 2016.**

Since the March 29, 2016, minutes were not included in the Board package, this item was postponed to next meeting. Director Penzel made the motion to table this item until next Regional Water System and Flood Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Regional Water System and Flood Committee.

**RECESS TO CONVENE AS  
THE CARSON RIVER/ALPINE COUNTY WATER SUBCONSERVANCY  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD**

**Item #5 – Roll Call for the Carson River/Alpine County Water Subconservancy Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board.**

**Directors Present:**

Brad Bonkowski, Carson City  
Carl Erquiaga, Churchill County  
Don Jardine, Alpine County  
Barry Penzel, Douglas County  
Fred Stodieck, Douglas County Ag

**Item #6 – Discussion Only: Public Comment** - None

**Item #7 - For Possible Recommendation: Discuss what possible financial assistance, if any, CWSD would want to provide for repairs to the grade control/diversion structures and/or provide to the conservation districts to assist in the repairs along the Carson River that were damaged by the January and February 2017 floods.** Mr. James explained that when CWSD worked with FEMA after past flooding, CWSD would administer the FEMA funds and also contribute funding. Now that the structures are considered private, CWSD can't provide funding to private entities. Rich Wilkinson and Rob Holley attended the meeting to explain the work that needs to be done and how the conservation districts can help. Director Stodieck divulged that he could be a recipient of some funding under discussion and thereby would recuse himself from the decision-making process. Director Penzel asked why it is better to give funding to the conservation districts if CWSD can't give funding to private organizations. Mr. James responded that we can provide funding to the conservation districts as public entities who provides services on private property.

Director Penzel asked how to determine how much to give the conservation districts. Mr. James suggested that perhaps we can help pay for the conservation districts' staff time for working on flood recovery projects. Mr. Wilkinson who is working with landowners in Carson Valley explained that the Nevada Department of Water Resources (NDWR) can provide funding from the State but the conservation districts need match from private landowners, the county, or CWSD. The conservation districts can do all the work since it would be difficult for landowners to get the permits. The conservation districts can also get bids and administer the grant paperwork, etc.

Carson Valley Conservation District recently received State Clearing and Snagging Fund grants for \$75,000 and \$100,000 for the Cradlebaugh Slough Bridge and Lutheran Bridge projects. There are significant sandbars that need to be cleared out. These will create a bigger impact with next event. Some of this funding will be for sandbar removal. To do the work they must have permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE), the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), and a right-of-entry permit from the State of Nevada. Dealing with grade control structures is grey area because they were in place before the State declared the river navigable. The Cottonwood grade control structure suffered a big loss. The county has verbally committed \$100,000 to help with this process toward the 50/50 match. The biggest benefit of CWSD's support would be to provide match funds toward these other grants. This will be multiple years' worth of work. The grants from NDWR will have a start date as

soon as full funding is in place. The US ACE has given a little leeway because this is considered maintenance. The right-of-entry permit from the State will be expedited.

Director Penzel noted that CWSD funding is limited and asked if grade control structures are a funding priority. Mr. James responded that CWSD's priorities have been to support river work and flood protection. Funding to the conservation districts could be used as match which stretches our funding.

Mr. Wilkinson mentioned that the conservation district may ask for possible ongoing annual maintenance funding from the state or counties. Mr. James pointed out that there are two issues on the table: grants and maintenance funding.

When asked what Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD) needs, Rob Holley responded that DVCD is working with contractors and with Tom Minor who suffered the most catastrophic damage. There are only eight diversions in the Lyon County stretch of river. Mr. Minor is hoping through preliminary permitting to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to follow up on their funding commitment which is reimbursable at 75%. Mr. James noted that there is a meeting tomorrow (8/30/17) with FSA to see if we can get the committed funding released. There will also be a tour with U.S. Representative Mark Amodei's representative of the Minor Ranch damage on Thursday, 8/31/17.

Mr. Holley reported that DVCD has started resurveying the topography of this reach of the river to see if projects from last fall are still practical or whether the river has changed too much. He noted that he doesn't expect that the project near the Ft. Churchill area has changed much. There are funds available for DVCD to work with grantors to change projects. The Minor Ranch is the highest priority.

Mr. James noted that the Finance Committee will discuss budgeting to replenish the Floodplain Management Fund. He asked Mr. Wilkinson what he estimates that CVCD's administrative costs to be. Mr. Wilkinson responded that estimate of damages that CVCD received from a NRCS engineer was \$1 million. He estimates for CVCD administrative costs, including permitting and reporting, to be 13.5% of \$1 million or \$135,000. As an example of the time requirement he anticipates, he mentioned that he has already spent 84 hrs. for permitting on the Hussmann project. He also mentioned that the US ACE permit fee is \$250 and the NDEP permit fee is another \$250.

Mr. Holley estimated that he is spending 8-10 hrs./wk. on flood-related work. They can't see the extent of the damage at Cardelli structure due to the amount of water still flowing in the river. He estimated \$140/week of administrative time for the last month, the next two months, and next summer, with some maintenance during the winter and spring months, or approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. Director Penzel suggested that CWSD writing a letter to the Governor and Nevada's federal delegates requesting that permit fees for repairs for this declared emergency. CWSD

would pay for conservation district administration up to \$150,000 to be used as match, split with Douglas County. CWSD will work cooperative with Douglas County to determine amount.

*Director Bonkowski made the motion that the JPA Board members of the Regional Water System and Flood Committee recommend that CWSD cover Carson Valley Conservation District's administrative time working on flood repairs up to \$135,000. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel, with the caveat that he also serves on Douglas County Board but doesn't feel this is a conflict of interest. The motion was unanimously approved by the JPA Board members of the Regional Water System and Flood Committee, with Director Stodieck abstaining.*

Public Comment: Director Stodieck commented that all this is only a band aid. If he loses any more of the diversion, he won't be able to get water in his ditch. He has spent more than \$12,000 just to get water, not to preserve the diversion. Mr. James noted he will be having meeting with State Lands to discuss what to do in event of next flood. Director Penzel suggested that CWSD may need a policy to make each county responsible for its donations to private landowners. Director Bonkowski noted that since Carson City is owner of 90% of land along river that might not be equitable.

*Director Bonkowski made the motion that the JPA Board members of the Regional Water System and Flood Committee recommend that CWSD cover Dayton Valley Conservation District's administrative time working on flood repairs up to \$15,000. The motion was seconded by Director Penzel. The motion was unanimously approved by the JPA Board members of the Regional Water System and Flood Committee.*

Public Comment: Director Stodieck commented that when filling out paperwork for the Farm Service Agency, they suggested noting all funding needed to help cover the costs.

**Item #8 - For Possible Recommendation: Discuss possible changes to the Funding Assistance for Regional Water System Policy and Procedure and the possibility of including regional wastewater collection systems as eligible projects for funding assistance.**

Mr. James explained that there are several regional wastewater collection systems being discussed. He noted that the CWSD Regional Water System Policy does not include funding sewer projects. Regional wastewater collection systems are good to promote but CWSD has limited funds for regional systems. Director Bonkowski expressed his concern that CWSD would be opening a Pandora's box by getting involved in wastewater systems and recommended caution about getting involved. CWSD's focus is on water. Mr. James noted that there is approximately \$750,000 in the Acquisition/Construction Fund now, but \$1.5 million in water projects have already been identified for potential funding.

Director Penzel noted that Douglas County is also considering a regional wastewater collection system. Director Penzel mentioned several wastewater collection systems being considered in Douglas County but there is not a clear understanding if any of them will be considered regional collection systems. Director Penzel suggested a "dig once" policy and plan for those lines but not get into the business of wastewater treatment. There was consensus by the committee

members to not include regional wastewater collection systems into the Regional Water System Policy.

*No action required for this item.*

**Item #9 – For Possible Recommendation: Discuss the possibility of providing funding assistance to evaluate the 100-year flows downstream of Lahontan Dam.** Mr. James explained that the flooding in Churchill County is different from the other counties in the watershed. He is setting up a meeting with interested parties about how to evaluate the floodplains in Churchill County. There may be money from FEMA to create the new flood maps but we need to determine what is the 100-yr flow. He suggested hiring a consultant to work on flooding issues in Churchill County. This is probably several months away with an estimated cost of \$30,000-\$50,000 from CWSD. Controlling flooding below Lahontan Dam also involves regulation of the reservoir.

Director Bonkowski noted that this year should be a good template for how to handle flood releases in the future. The early precautionary releases from Lahontan Reservoir saved Fallon from flooding.

*No action required for this item.*

**Item #10 – Discussion Only: Public Comment** – None

**ADJOURN TO RECONVENE AS  
THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Item #11 – For Possible Recommendation: Discuss what possible financial assistance, if any, CWSD would want to provide for repairs to the grade control/diversion structures and/or provide to the conservation districts to assist in the repairs along the Carson River that were damaged by the January and February 2017 floods.**

*This topic having been discussed with Item #7, Director Erquiaga noted that there was a consensus that the Regional Water System and Flood Committee will forward the recommendation of the JPA to the Board with directions to the staff to put it on the next Board meeting agenda.*

**Item #12 - For Possible Recommendation: Discuss possible changes to the Funding Assistance for Regional Water System Policy and Procedure and the possibility of including regional wastewater collection systems as eligible projects for funding assistance.**

*This topic was discussed with Item #8. No action required for this item.*

**Item #13 – For Possible Recommendation: Discuss the possibility of providing funding assistance to evaluate the 100-year flows downstream of Lahontan Dam.** This topic was discussed with Item #9. *No action required for this item.*

**Item #14 – Discussion Only: Public Comment.** None

**Item #15 – Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before the Regional Water System and Flood Committee, Director Penzel made the motion to adjourn, Director Stodieck second, and the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary