

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 17, 2018, 6:30 P.M.  
Minutes

Chairman Abowd called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 p.m. in the NAI Alliance Conference Room, 1000 N. Division St., #202, Carson City, NV. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

**CWSD Directors present:**

Karen Abowd, Chairman  
Brad Bonkowski  
Carl Erquiaga, Vice Chairman  
Don Frensdorff  
Ken Gray  
Doug Johnson  
Barry Penzel  
Chuck Roberts  
Ernie Schank  
Fred Stodieck

**Directors not present:**

Steve Thaler

**Staff present:**

Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Specialist  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Patrick King, Legal Counsel  
Toni Leffler, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board  
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II

**Also present:**

David Griffith, Alpine County  
Austin Osborne, Storey County

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Abowd.

**Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment** – None.

**Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda.** Director Abowd requested that Items #12 and #13 be moved to before Item #11. *Director Roberts made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2018.** Director Schank made the motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of September 19,

2018. The motion was seconded by Director Bonkowski *and unanimously approved by the Board, with Directors Frensdorff and Johnson abstaining for not having been at that meeting.*

CONSENT AGENDA

**Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for September 2018.**

**Item #8 – For Possible Action: Payment of Bills for September 2018.**

*Director Johnson made the motion to approve Items #7-8 of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the CWSD Board.*

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

RECESS TO CONVENE AS  
THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

**Item #9 – Roll Call** – Director Abowd convened the Carson River Watershed Committee and a roll call was taken.

**Committee Members present:**

CWSD Directors as present in roll call above  
David Griffith, Alpine County  
Austin Osborne, Storey County

**Committee Members not present:**

Don Jardine, Alpine County  
Steve Thaler

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

**Item #12 – For Discussion Only: Update on the “Get on the Bus” tour.** Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Brenda Hunt explained that on Day 1 the tour of the upper watershed began in route to Alpine County with an overview of the watershed, the CWSD video, and an explanation of the Alpine Decree and groundwater by Ed James. David Griffith explained the geology of the area. The first stop was at the Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration site where Kimra McAfee and Mo Loden of the Alpine Watershed Group, Zach Wood of Alpine County, and Debbi Waldear of Friends of Hope Valley gave information about the various river restoration projects along the East and West Forks of the Carson River. At Heenan Lake Yolanda Sanchez of the EPA, Hannah Schembri of the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board, and Rachel Van Horne of the US Forest Service addressed the group on the Leviathan and Zaca Mines, and fisheries, frogs, and toads.

At the Dangberg Home Ranch Park, Jacques Etchegoyhen spoke about conservation easements and gave a Lands Bill update and Susan Jamerson talked about Washoe Tribe issues. Folks were also allowed to tour the park buildings. A presentation on the whole Carson Valley water system was requested for a future tour topic.

Erik Nilssen and Courtney Walker of Douglas County spoke about the Johnson Lane Area Drainage Master Plan and Douglas County Stormwater Program, and John Cobourn spoke about alluvial fan flooding issues and flash flooding.

In route to Fuji Park, the Floodplains as Community Assets videos were shown. At Fuji Park, Lyndsey Boyer explained about the Carson City stormwater detention ponds. Jason Perock from NDOT explained about the Clear Creek erosion control project along Hwy. 50. Jena Huntington from the USGS spoke about water quality monitoring and the non-point source pollution signage. Juan Guzman talked about Muscle Powered and the Carson Valley Trails Association including about a parcel that Carson City is trying to purchase along Clear Creek.

On Day 2, the tour of the lower watershed began at the East Silver Saddle Ranch where Ann Bollinger told about Carson City's Open Space Programs; Dirk Goering talked about the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant; and Marena Disbro talked about weed issues.

Traveling to Lahontan Dam, Lynn Zonge of Resource Concepts Inc. (RCI) explained about source water protection, Rob Pyzel of Lyon County explained about Lyon County projects, and Ernie Schank gave an historic perspective on the Newlands Project. At Lahontan Dam, the group was welcomed by Tony Beauregard of Nevada State Parks, and Ernie Schank lead a tour of the dam and gate house. Dr. Glenn Miller of the University of Nevada Reno explained the Mercury Superfund Site and methylation process.

Lunch was provided by the River Wranglers at Ft. Churchill State Park where Darcy Phillips talked about Environmental Education and various other River Wrangler programs. Brenda Hunt and Shane Fryer discussed Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) and Low Impact Development (LID). Scott Egy of Nevada State Parks talked about private vs. public property during a walk to the river.

Following a brief tour of a Dayton Valley Conservation District project site, the bus headed for Virginia City, a new destination for Carson River Watershed bus tours. Along the way Christy Sullivan of Lahontan Conservation District talked about some of their Churchill County river restoration projects; Sean Gephart of the Nevada Department of Agriculture explained the State's Weed Free Hay and Gravel Program; Yolanda Sanchez of the EPA and Dave Friedman of NDEP gave information about the Mercury Superfund Site; and the group watched the Marlette Water System video. Once in Virginia City, Joe Curtis gave a brief Virginia City historical overview at Courthouse, and Mike Nevin of Storey County explained the Virginia City Stormwater/Sewer Project; and Blake Hiller gave a tour of the Virginia City Water Treatment Plant.

Ms. Hunt summarized the bus tour by the numbers:

- 45 participants
- 11 stops
- 39 volunteer speakers
- 5 videos
- 43 topics
- 6 counties
- 8 communities
- 2 8-hr. days
- 6 sponsors

- 5 CWSD staff & 1 AmeriCorps member
- 2 funders
- 13 professional education credits for Engineers, AICP, and CFMs
- 215 miles
- 1 amazing bus driver
- 1 Carson River Watershed: A lifeline connecting our communities

**Item #13 – For Discussion Only: Presentation on the Carson River Watershed signs.** Shane Fryer reminded the Board that the watershed boundary signs are part of a broader project within the Watershed Coordinator Grant through NDEP to raise a broader awareness the watersheds. He explained that there are 22 signs at 12 different locations across the Nevada portion of the Carson River watershed. At each location, a sign on one side of the highway notes that a vehicle is entering the Carson River Watershed, and on the opposite side of the highway, the sign indicates what other watershed the vehicle is entering (ex., the Truckee River Watershed or the Dixie Valley Watershed).

Creation and placement of the signs had to be confined to Nevada because funding was from Nevada sources. The Nevada Department of Transportation provided \$12,000 for making the signs, cement, and materials. They will also monitor the condition of the signs and replace them in perpetuity. Mr. Fryer noted that CWSD paid Horizon Construction for the sign installation and explained the rather involved process, including securing 11 NDOT permits, a federal highway permit, traffic control, and inspections. He noted that CWSD will be working with Cal Trans to install signs in Alpine County in the near future.

Director Gray arrived at 6:55 p.m.

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Adopt the 2018 Regional Floodplain Master Plan Update.**

Debbie Neddenriep gave a presentation on the Carson River Watershed Floodplain Master Plan (FMP) 2018. For every \$1 spent on flood mitigation/prevention, \$6 is saved in disaster recovery costs. In 2004, the Carson River Coalition held a flood conference to address flooding. In 2005, a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Agreement was signed between CWSD and FEMA. The CTP programs allows CWSD and local communities to take the lead in FEMA studies and projects, lending local expertise to create more accurate flood mapping, thus improving Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Part of the continued partnership with FEMA includes updating the Regional Floodplain Management Plan (Plan) every five years. The Plan was created in 2008 and updated in 2013; both versions were approved by all the counties in the watershed. Since 2010, FEMA has provided approx. \$3.5 million through CWSD to perform studies, projects to reduce flood hazards for watershed communities, and flood awareness. Although no match is required, the counties and CWSD have been able to leverage approximately half a million dollars of cash and in-kind match to jump start several studies.

We are beginning the ninth round of funding which includes:

- South Dayton Valley Area Drainage Master Plan,
- Pine Nut Creek Restudy in Douglas County,
- North Carson City Flood Mapping, and
- Flood awareness outreach and education.

Previous funding rounds included:

- Physical Map Revision (PMR) of the Carson River in Lyon County, Carson City, Douglas County, and Alpine County,
- Hydraulic model for this new PMR and a new ordinance in these counties,
- Inundation maps of the river channel and Carson City,
- Multiple Letters of Map Revision (LOMR),
- Multiple Area Drainage Master Plans (ADMP),
- Flood awareness outreach and education, and
- 2018 Floodplain Master Plan (FMP) Revision and Discovery Report.

Included in the FMP is an updated Rapid Evaluation of the watershed (Appendix B), county progress on the suggested actions (Appendix E), a list of projects completed by CWSD (Appendix D), and the FEMA Discovery Report (Appendix C). The Discovery report is a FEMA requirement to identify future projects/studies for future funding.

This plan provides guidelines and tools to help communities reduce flood risks through eight categories of strategies which list suggested actions:

1. Protect natural floodplain function and values;
2. Set higher regulatory standards;
3. Collect flood data information and maintenance;
4. Balance channel mitigation and bank erosion monitoring;
5. Increase floodplain and flood hazard outreach and education;
6. Reduce infrastructure impact;
7. Map/study alluvial fans; and
8. Minimize stormwater impacts.

The Floodplain and River Management Working Group members suggested that the 2018 Revision include:

- Complete reorganization of format, content, and appendices;
- Incorporation of the 2013 updates into the document and appendices;
- Adding two new strategies related to alluvial fan and stormwater flooding;
- Re-aligning existing Suggested Actions and adding a few more; and
- Correlating Suggested Actions to the Community Rating System.

As communities implement these strategies, the benefits become apparent:

- Safer communities;
- Saving money by mitigating potential flooding rather than pay full flood recovery costs;
- Avoid duplication of efforts.
- Flood hazard planning which crosses jurisdictional lines;
- Synergy from all staff gathering data and working together to solve problems;
- Flood insurance premium discount for communities who participate in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS).

*Committee Member Schank made the motion to recommend CWSD Board adoption of the 2018 Regional Floodplain Master Plan Update and take it to the various counties for their approval. The*

*motion was seconded by Committee Member Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Carson River Watershed Committee.*

**Item #14 – For Discussion Only: Update on the NDEP 319 Grant and USBR WaterSMART**

**Grant** Mr. James explained that on p. 116 of the Board package is a letter from NDEP approving up to \$237,000 in grant funding for the Carson River Watershed Coordination Program and the Watershed Literacy Program. Also, on p. 117, is a letter from the US Bureau of Reclamation approving \$100,000 for the WaterSMART: Water Marketing Strategy Grant titled “Carson River Watershed Water Market (Exchange/Transfer) Program.” The NDEP grant will provide funding for Ms. Hunt’s and Mr. Fryer’s salaries for next two years and continuation of the Watershed Literacy program. The Watershed Literacy Campaign video is being tweaked to clarify that people get their water from the watershed, not the river. NDEP agrees that there will be more cost and are willing to provide more funds for the changes. In the future we will be focusing more on Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution because of the NDEP grant source.

Mr. James noted that we got the USBR WaterSMART Grant in the amount we requested but there is a change in what can be counted as match. This is a very competitive grant and not many communities in the West received this grant.

*No action is required for this item; receive and file.*

**Item #15 – Discussion Only: Public Comment.** None.

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

**Item #16 – For Possible Action: Adopt the 2018 Regional Floodplain Master Plan Update.**

This item was discussed earlier in the Agenda as Item #11.

*Director Schank made the motion to adopt the 2018 Regional Floodplain Master Plan Update. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #17– Discussion Only: Staff Reports**

**General Manager** – Mr. James reported:

- The Administrative Committee will need to have a meeting soon to modify personnel policies to meet new Nevada Revised Statute requirements. CWSD may hire an actuary to look at the medical liability for future retirees.
- Regarding the Public Trust Doctrine issues, Mr. King and Mr. James meet with the State Engineer’s Legal Department to discuss ideas for submitting our Amicus Brief. All the Carson River Watershed counties see this as an issue of concern. Mr. King noted that the county District Attorneys are knowledgeable and motivated.
- Mr. James attended a recent Silver Jacket program meeting. He learned that this year FEMA has about three times the normal amount of money for hazard mitigation. Mr. James suggested that Douglas County consider applying for funding for a Smelter Creek flood mitigation dam construction project. He noted that in the past this project was not funded because it did not have a favorable benefit/cost analysis. Mr. James said he referred Erik Nilssen to consultants who can help with preparing the benefit/cost analysis.

- For 2019, the Corps of Engineers agreed to do more analysis on alluvial fans in the watershed.
- For the proposed projects to be funded through the Silver Jacket program in 2020, Douglas County's proposal to upgrade its early warning system for flooding received the most votes.

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

**Item #18- Discussion Only: Directors' Reports** – Director Schank noted that four routes that cross the watershed are being considered for Highway 11. The preferred route is through Hawthorne. If one route would produce less impact on the watershed, perhaps CWSD should comment.

**Item #19 – Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County.**

Supervisor Griffith reported:

- The Good Neighbor Agreement between the US Forest Service (USFS) and Alpine County was signed. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is also negotiating a Good Neighbor Agreement with the USFS.

**Item #20 – Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County.** Committee Member Osborne reported:

- Storey County has begun 1,300 ft of water line from Five Mile Reservoir to Virginia City. The work is moving quickly and expected to be under-budget and on-time. Director Bonkowski asked about state-of-the-art sewage treatment facility in Tahoe Reno Industrial (TRI) Park. If the effluent line goes from TMWA to TRI Park, the treatment plant needs to be upgraded. There is talk about tripling the number of employees at TRI Park in the next 10 years which would require better transportation arrangements. Mr. Osborne mentioned that Panasonic is running commercial buses to bring 1,000 employees to and from work each day. Transportation routes are being considered.

**Item #21 – Discussion Only: Public Comment.** Director Abowd reminded the Board that the November meeting will be on 11/28/18 because of Thanksgiving.

*There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Stodieck made the motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Leffler  
Secretary