



Education Working Group Meeting Notes

July 8, 2020

via Zoom Meeting

In Attendance

Sarah Fichtner, NDWR

Shane Fryer, CWSD

Sean Hill, SNJ

Brenda Hunt, CWSD

Lori Leonard, TNC

Mo Loden, AWG

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD

Darcy Phillips, River Wranglers

Carlos Rendo, NDWR

Catrina Schambra, CWSD

Loren Secor, CWSD AmeriCorps

Christy Sullivan, LCD

Erin Warnock, NDWR

Birgit Widegren, NDEP

Lynn Zonge, RCI

Round Robin Updates

Lynn Zonge, RCI

Currently working on a Watershed Control Plan with Carson City Public Utilities, helping with waterfall in North Canyon and river access at Mexican Dam.

Mo Loden, AWG

Have moved program meetings online using Zoom & WebEx. AWG gets a lot more attendance and involvement at virtual meetings.

Sean Hill, SNJ

Because of Covid-19 all Spring & Summer programs were cancelled. SNJ was able to secure a PPP loan to help get thru this time, but because the extra hiring for spring/summer programs did not happen they are now at a staff of 17 when they would normally be at 90. SNJ is currently focusing on home learning for teachers and building content. Over 400 teachers have registered so far, and they have record of 8,000 unique users, which represents reaching 15,000 students! They are now starting their Fall offerings with live webinars for students, virtual fieldtrips, etc. SNJ is doing their best to be creative in dealing with the pandemic restrictions. They are working on a proposal for an indoor/outdoor school plan to help in opening schools in the Fall while trying to employ many recently unemployed environmental educators.

Sarah Fichtner, NDWR

She has been working with Erin Warnock and Carlos Rendo on planning how to make a virtual FAW week work. Have some ideas, but still trying to figure out what plan to go with given the uncertain future. Also, the Story Boards project is in the final edits phase before publication. No date yet but will keep group updated.

Erin Warnock, NDWR

NDWR also working on RFP (Request for Proposal) for curriculum content on Flood education outreach.

Carlos Rendo, NDWR

Currently updating Flood materials and guides. He is very excited for the Story Boards coming out soon. He is also busy planning for Flood Awareness Week in mid-November. Looking to get maximum educational outreach via virtual webinars and presentations for students and their families.

Darcy Phillips, RW

River Wranglers is using this time to increase their online presence via social media. She introduced a new project call "Thank You Thursdays" that she invited the group to participate in. It is a way to recognize, introduce and honor those of us working so hard to preserve and enhance our watershed. To profile and thank donors, partner organizations/professionals, and their volunteers. She requested pics (fun and action shots best) and maybe a little write up or quote about what you do and why you love it. Contact her directly to participate or nominate. dphillips@riverwranglers.org

Lori Leonard, TNC

River Fork Ranch has closed its facilities thru September, but the trails are open. Outdoor activities are being worked on and she is finishing up yearend reporting. She announced that TNC is hiring a new State Director.

Shane Fryer, CWSD

Shane is busy with both CWSD and Muscle Powered and doing about the same with both. A lot of field work and it has been fun! He has been rafting the river and noticing some problems that he is reporting as the new unofficial river snitch! He is also finishing up the NFWF grant by writing the final report. This has been a 5-year weed project. The Geomorphology Project he has been working on with Lynn Zonge is almost completed. It will be a less than 10-minute educational outreach presentation to show Planners, Boards, etc. He completed a Watershed Adventure project for River Wranglers. He is excited about the new Drone grant and will update on that later in agenda.

Birgit Widegren, NDEP

Nothing new to report, except she is still getting used to working from home. She informed the group that Patricia Tierney has left her position and she is seeking Governor Sisolak's approval to fill the position due to the COVID-19 hiring freeze. Be on the lookout for a Scientist III position she is hoping to get a waiver to fill. The position is needed! Birgit also mentioned she and Patricia Tierney are working with Darcy Phillips and Sean Hill to modify their current contracts to be flexible given COVID-19 restrictions.

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD

The FAW program through FEMA activities have stopped for now due to COVID-19 restrictions. She is doing a lot of training. CWSD has been added as a jurisdiction to the Story County Hazard Mitigation Plan which will enhance our FEMA funding opportunities in the future. She is researching outreach without in-person activities.

Loren Secor, CWSD

He is busy working on the CWSD website update project, working on a water database project with Ed James and doing fieldtrips with Shane working with the drone.

Brenda Hunt, CWSD

CWSD is working to stay in contact via social media, eblasts, etc. Ideas include videos to present at virtual meetings, etc. Wants to keep the content relevant and engaging. We also find that we have more attendance at our virtual meetings which is something to think about in the future. For FAW we are thinking of having the 3 models demonstrated via video that would be available online. We are also focusing on how we can produce our deliverables, given the COVID-19 restrictions. Brenda notes that a positive of the current situation is an opportunity to learn all areas of various platforms to their fullest extent. It is great opportunity to move forward with our use of technology!

Christy Sullivan, LCD

LCD is working remotely on their Bench Bottom program. She is taking a Weeds class and completing the yearend reporting. LCD is also building a website which she is very excited about.

Grant Updates

- **NDEP Watershed Coordination/Watershed Literacy (Brenda Hunt)**
 - A new contract with the NEON Agency on the Watershed Literacy program was just signed. The next steps in the “I AM CARSON RIVER WATERSHED” campaign are the community drinking water video and the “Watershed Moments” videos. These may be challenging to figure out how to move forward given COVID-19 restrictions. “Watershed Moments” will be real people vignettes talking about non-point source pollution. She is eager to get started on filming again when it is safe to do so and asked the group if anyone would like to be a featured speaker.
 - Brenda has been working on the LID Ordinances project. Draft ordinances are completed, but changes how counties want to proceed, and changes to various boards are causing delays. Additionally, the Pine Nut fires have been an issue as well as Rob Loveberg, our contractor, is the Smith Valley Fire Chief. Unfortunately, it has been a busy time for him there.
 - CWSD just published and the latest newsletter. It will now be published twice a year going forward, approximately every six months, instead of quarterly. She welcomes and encourages content from the group.
 - CWSD is updating its website! We are working to make it more user friendly, interesting, and relevant. It a group effort with all the staff.
- **UAS Monitoring Grant (Shane Fryer)**
 - He has been working hard to get good data and is really pleased with the picture quality. The elevation data has proved to be a bit harder, but it is coming along. Loren has been a great help with the project, and he is also working with Shaker at RO Anderson and CVCD. He has already put together a great presentation that he hopes to show to the group soon.
- **FEMA Grant Updates (Debbie Neddenriep)**
 - MAS 9 – Finishing up MAS 9 which includes Pine Nut LOMR, South Dayton ADMP, North Carson City Drainage Study, and FAW projects. Between August and December projects should be finished.
 - MAS 10 – Projects include Ruhenstroth, West Carson City Drainage, and Churchill County Mapping projects. The funding is in place, but there have been delays due to COVID-19.
 - MAS 11 – This is the current funding round and will be announced in August, but it looks like CWSD should get awarded the grant funding. There is a privacy training requirement that is new and outreach funding will extend thru 2023. Mas 11 projects include: Smelter Creek Restudy & Remap, Clear Creek Restudy & Remap, Ruhenstroth ADMP (Phase 2), Web Access System for ADMP Data; Carson River Flood Forecasting Model, and Flood Awareness (FAW).
- **BOR WaterSmart Grant (Debbie Neddenriep)**
 - Debbie reports that this is Ed’s project, but the study is looking at groundwater and surface water in relation to the Alpine Decree, State Engineer and Water Master. It is looking for areas where we can store water for use at different times during the year. Ed is wrapping up an update of the Water Picture to start a road show to county boards. The data in this study will be a great resource moving forward! This is the database project that Loren has been working on with Ed.

Dream Tags Grant Collaboration Brainstorm

Sean Hill (SNJ), Darcy Phillips (RW), and Lori Leonard (TNC) reported on their joint effort for this funding opportunity and asked the group for their help and/or possible collaboration. The Dream Tags Grant is a State funding provided through hunting and fishing licenses with a 5% match. It is a wildlife theme grant requiring a positive impact to wildlife. The idea for the proposal is a restoration project on the Carson River and the education tied to that. RW and SNJ would do the outreach for community awareness and project would include curriculum, field trip(s) maybe signage. They hope to engage multiple partners for collaboration for a possible \$15,000 - \$25,000 grant. The application deadline is July 31, so it needs urgent attention now. Sean thinks this may be great timing to use as an outdoor educational opportunity. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join them in the planning sessions and help in this effort. **Their next meeting is Friday, July 10.**

- Contact Sean Hill for meeting link at sean@sierranevadajourneys.org
- Link for Project Ideas <https://nvdreamtag.org/projects/>

Please Note: DVCD (Rich Wilkinson/Rob Holley) has an example of a successful application from 2015 as does Carson City Parks and Rec from 2019 (Lyndsey Boyer)

Reminder: NDEP Grant Apps are due at the end of August. 319 Funding/Vision Plan is still being developed. AWG was to host public forums to discuss plan, then COVID-19 hit.

Next Education Working Group Meeting will be in mid-August.