

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
December 16, 2020

Minutes

The CWSD December 16, 2020 Board of Directors meeting was held via Zoom Videoconference and teleconference due to Governor Sisolak's statewide Emergency Directive in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Director Erquiaga called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Brad Bonkowski, Treasurer
Carl Erquiaga, Chairman
Stacey Giomi, Director
Jack Jacobs, Director
Barry Penzel, Director
Ernie Schank, Director
Steve Thaler, Director
Larry Walsh, Director
Mike Workman, Director

Absent Directors: Ken Gray & Fred Stodieck

Roll call of the Carson River Watershed Committee was taken which included CWSD Directors and Committee Members Kathy Canfield and David Griffith.

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Specialist
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager
Edwin James, General Manager
Don Jardine, Alpine County
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II
Austin Osborne, Storey County
January Riddle, Alpine County
Catrina Schambra, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board
Katie Smith, Watershed Technician – AmeriCorps
Steve Walker

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Erquiaga.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment –

Katie Smith, CWSD's new AmeriCorps intern was introduced to the Board.

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Director Schank made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion

was seconded by Director Workman and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of Nov. 18, 2020

Director Bonkowski made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2020. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #7 – For Discussion Only: Recognition of Board Members who are leaving CWSD Board/Committee in 2020

CWSD honored its departing Board/Committee members at with a friendly roast presentation compiled by Mr. James, that fondly reminisced their years of service and adventures with us. Leaving the CWSD Board of Directors in 2020 are:

- Brad Bonkowski, Carson City, 2015 –2020
- Carl Erquiaga, Churchill County, 2013 – 2020
- Don Jardine, Alpine County, 2001 – 2020
- Austin Osborne, Storey County 2009 – 2020
- Barry Penzel, Douglas County, 2013 – 2020
- Larry Walsh, Douglas County, 2019 – 2020

CWSD thanks them being such great members of our team! They will be missed! New Directors/Committee Members will be appointed by counties in January 2021.

No action was taken.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for November 2020

Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for November 2020

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Rescind Agreement #2019-13 with River Wranglers

Item #11 - For Possible Action: Authorize General Manager to attend the NWRA Annual Conference, January 26-28, 2021

Item #12 - For Possible Action: Approval of the 2020 Activities & Accomplishment Annual Report

Director Schank made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Giomi and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Item #13 - For Possible Action: Discussion regarding introducing legislation to have Storey County and Alpine County become official members of CWSD

Mike and Mary Walker are attorneys who represent Lyon, Storey, Douglas, Carson City and Eureka counties in the Nevada State Legislature. Mr. Walker was asked by Austin Osborne of Storey County and Ed James of CWSD to contact legislators to sponsor a bill to incorporate Storey County into CWSD as an official member of the CWSD Carson River Watershed

Committee. This has been done. The legislation is BDR579 and will be introduced by Senator Settelmeyer, the Minority Leader of the Nevada Senate. Senator Jim Wheeler and Senator Robin Titus have both been apprised of this bill also. This process is the same as when Churchill County was added to CWSD through legislative procedures. He noted that the other similar action for Alpine County will have to progress separately since he has no standing in California to add Alpine County to CWSD via California State legislative procedures. He can pursue a mutual or co-bill with California legislators later and will do so. He thinks it is better to tackle them one at a time.

Mr. Walker explained the legislative process. There are approximately 18,000 BDRs of which about 1,200 will become bills. BDR579 should become a bill by late February. Senator Settelmeyer has requested a draft bill that will be sent to Mr. Walker, Mr. Osborne, and Mr. James for their chance to comment before it is made public. Once the bill is made public and goes before committee, we will want a show of support from our elected officials on the CWSD Board of Directors at that committee meeting. He sees no controversy with this being smoothly adopted.

Mr. James will prepare a thank you letter to Senator Settelmeyer from CWSD and Storey County.

Mr. Walker noted that there will be no Ad Valorem Taxes paid by Storey County residents. Storey County will look at their assessed property taxes to calculate the proper amount to payable to CWSD, but the funds will come from their General Fund.

Committee Member Griffith suggests that down the line we will put something forward for Alpine County and California will do the same.

Director Giomi asks Mr. Walker what can CWSD do to move this forward? Alpine County needs to pursue the same thing through California legislature. Mr. Walker replied that judicial standing is required to put forth BDR so Nevada cannot do so on behalf of California. Alpine County will need to do that work on the California side. Mr. James says he will be talking with Committee Member Griffith to plan how to move forward. Director Schank urges us to move forward on this. Mr. Walker clarifies that he cannot represent Alpine County, only Storey County, so it must be a separate issue. Director Schank states he would like Patrick King (CWSD Attorney) to be involved in this process.

No action was taken.

Item #14 - For Possible Action: Discussion regarding the upcoming 2021 Nevada Legislation Session

Mr. James discussed the various issues being addressed in the upcoming legislation session and they would possibly affect CWSD. A summary of upcoming legislation was provided in the Board package.

No action was taken.

Item #15 - For Possible Action: Select the 2021 Andy Aldax Award Recipient

The Board members had been sent the nominations for the Andy Aldax Award prior to the meeting for their consideration. Nominees for the 2021 Andy Aldax Award are:

- Phyllis Atkinson – nominated by Linda Conlin, River Wranglers Board Member
- Alpine Watershed Group – nominated by David Griffith, Alpine County Supervisor & CWSD Board Member
- Duane Petite – nominated by Paula Comba, Chief, Bureau of Water Quality Planning, NDEP

- Settelmeyer Ranch – nominated by Carson Valley Conservation District

There was discussion of the nominees by the Board members. The idea of creating a separate award for groups or entities was discussed as something to consider in the future by the Administrative Committee. Consensus of the Board is that it is meant to honor individuals. Of the individuals nominated it was determined the 2021 award should go to Phyllis Atkinson.

Director Penzel made a motion to award the 2021 Andy Aldax Award to Phyllis Atkinson. The motion was seconded by Director Giomi and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #16 - For Possible Action: Update from FEMA for MAS 11 Contracts

Mr. James reported MAS 11 contracts are still on hold awaiting direction from FEMA. It will be best if they allow CWSD to go thru with original contracts. He expects to wait a few more weeks for their decision on this. He discussed exemptions in Nevada statutes and exemptions from professionals bidding. This may require an opinion from the Attorney General for CWSD.

No action was taken.

Item #17 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –

Mr. James reported on the following:

- The RFP for a new auditing firm will be in the paper on Saturday. Details have been posted on our website.

Ms. Hunt announced the following:

- The annual Watershed Forum is planned March and the format will be new and different. It is still in the planning phase, but the idea is to have 5 workshops over the course of the month, every Wednesday. They will be shorter sessions and each having a specific topic. It is being planned as a virtual event. She will keep the Board posted on the progress.

Legal – None

Correspondence – None

No action was taken.

Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –

- The departing CWSD Directors said their goodbyes. This is the last Board meeting for Director Erquiaga, Director Bonkowski, Director Penzel and Director Walsh.

No action was taken.

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

- Committee Member Griffith reported Alpine County just finished their Wildfire Mitigation Plan to protect citizens from catastrophic fires. They received a \$200,000 grant from Cal Fire. He thanked the departing Board members for their service to CWSD. It has been a great group and a lot of fun!

No action was taken.

Item #20 – For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County –

- Kathy Canfield reported Storey County is continuing the Water Resource Study. Construction is ongoing for their new storage tank and they are starting the Gold Hills project soon.
- Austin Osborne reported on the 140mph wind that collapsed their water tank. He also said his goodbyes to the Board members.

No action was taken.

Item #17 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Erquiaga adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra, Secretary to the Board