

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 21, 2020, 8:30am – 1pm
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Brad Bonkowski, Carson City
David Griffith, Alpine County (for Don Jardine)
Barry Penzel, Douglas County
Ernie Schank, Churchill County
Mike Workman, Lyon County

Committee Members Not Present:

Don Jardine, Alpine County

Staff Present:

Edwin James, General Manager
Catrina Schambra, Secretary to the Board

Others Present:

Daniel Bright, USGS
Jorge Guerrero, Churchill County
Mike Hayes, Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD)
Sean Hill, Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ)
Rob Holley, Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD)
Ron Kauble, USGS
Alexandra Lutz, DRI
Chris Mahannah, Churchill County
Kimra McAfee, Alpine Watershed Group
Dave Merrill, Vidler Water
Ramon Naranjo, USGS
Dorothy Palmer, Vidler Water
Darcy Phillips, River Wranglers
Eddy Quaglieri, Carson City Public Works
David Smith, USGS
Christy Sullivan, Lahontan Conservation District (LCD)
Rich Wilkinson, Carson Valley Conservation District CVCD

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Committee Member Schank. The meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Carson Water Subconservancy District, 777 E. William St., #110, Carson City, Nevada. A quorum of the Finance Committee was present.

Item #2 - Public comment: None

Item #3 - Discussion for possible action regarding approval of the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on February 28, 2019: *Committee Member Griffith made the motion to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on February 28, 2019. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Workman and approved unanimously.*

Item #4 - Discussion regarding the Tentative General Fund FY 2020-21 Budget and hear presentations for proposed projects; review the Tentative Acquisition/Construction Fund FY 2020-21 Budget; and review the Tentative Floodplain Management Fund FY 2020-21 Budget:

Mr. James explained the General Fund Budget spreadsheet and the committee process. The committee will reach consensus on budget recommendations to be brought to full Board for action at the March 18, 2020 meeting. The funds granted need to be for projects enhancing the watershed. For clarification, FEMA & NDEP Grants have specific requirement and these funds cannot be diverted to other projects.

Director Schank asks about the focus of funding going to studies vs projects. Mr. James explains prior to his joining CWSD most of funding requests went to studies of storage on Carson River, but the past 21 years there has been push for projects and that has been the main focus. Committee Member Griffith says studies need to be included for projects. Director Workman asks if there are specific requirement to specific grants to which Mr. James responds yes, for instance most FEMA grants are for studies only. It's important to know that studies are valuable to future projects and our partners.

Director Schank states looking at Budget pie chart, our percentages of how we spend our funds look great! He suggests the amounts spent on programs and projects are over half our budget and should be moved next to each other on the pie chart to emphasize this. Discussion follows regarding distribution of funds for studies vs projects and gathering data. Mr. James points out the use of funds for administration show CWSD as an organization is lean.

Mr. James presented his proposed budgets and announced we will need to cut \$267,000 from the grant funding for FY 2020-21. Director Penzel asked Mr. James if we have any liability issues with Mud Lake. The answer is no, because we don't put water into the lake. Mr. James gave a brief history of CWSD and Mud Lake.

Turning back to the proposed 2020-21 budget and starting in the income section, Mr. James explained that the proposed county taxes are based on a conservative 3.5% increase over last year, but the official numbers from the state will not be available until March 25. The increase may be as high as 5.5%, but we will base our proposed tentative budget at 3.5%. He further explained grant income and interest income on the spreadsheet. On the expense side, he noted an increase in salary based the assumption of a 2% cost of living and a merit increase, benefit cost increases due to health insurance changes with staff and increase in PERS contribution.

Mr. James reviewed the continuing, multi-year projects and grants, as well as all the grant expenses that are offset by the grant income. He also noted that it is required by law that there be a minimum 4% of expenses in our ending balance.

Presentations of Proposed Projects

Carson River Projects:

Carson Valley Conservation District - Bioengineering, Maintenance and Debris Removal (Proposal #4)

Mike Hayes, Grant Manager/River Coordinator

Project to stabilize vertical cut banks as needed throughout the Carson Valley. These cut banks have migrated faster than usual because of the two flooding incidents that we experienced in 2017. The goal would be to use bio-engineering techniques to stabilize the soil, improve water quality and re-establish desirable vegetation. CVCD would like to continue our work on channel maintenance and woody debris removal throughout the Carson River. CVCD would like to partner with CWSD, CTWCD, NDWR and Douglas County to complete this river work by the summer of 2021. **Funding request: \$85,000**

Carson Valley Conservation District – Westwood Channel Clear, Snag, Maint & Bio (Proposal #5)

Rich Wilkinson, Grant Manager/River Coordinator

CVCD will attempt to restore river function along a 1.25 miles section of the East Fork of the Carson River. The overall goal of this project would be to use bio-engineering techniques to stabilize the soil, improve water quality and re-establish desirable vegetation for wildlife. In addition to bioengineering, CVCD will perform channel clearing, snagging and maintenance work in this area which was impacted by recent flooding events. The district considers this project a high priority since this area was severely impacted in 2017 and is close to the Westwood subdivision. CVCD would like to partner with CWSD, CTWCD, NDOW, USFWS, Douglas County and NDEP to complete this river maintenance project by the winter of 2021. **Funding request: \$100,000**

Dayton Valley Conservation District – Fort Churchill MCR 049 Bank Stabilization (Proposal #6)

Rob Holley, District Manager

MCR 049 is a streambank stabilization in the area of Fort Churchill State Historic Park, and in close proximity to the Buckland Ditch and Fort Churchill Road. The stabilization project is approximately 1,100 linear feet, to a height of 12', with two rock refusal trenches (at the up and downstream ends), nine stream barbs approx. 50'long by 8.5' tall, and erosion matting over 6,000 sq. ft. Additionally, 225 willow/cottonwood pole plantings will be utilized, along with reseeding of the bank and upland portions of the project. Immediately adjacent to the Buckland Ditch and Fort Churchill Roads, MCR 049 is vitally important in the protection of this critical pieces of infrastructure. In addition to infrastructure protection, MCR 049 will reduce and trap sediment, increase native vegetation, and promote improved water quality and wildlife habitat along this stretch of river. **Funding request: \$90,000**

River Wranglers- Conserve the Carson River Workdays (Proposal #1)

Darcy Phillips, Executive Director

River Wranglers (RW) continues the Conserve the Carson River Workdays (CCRWD) throughout the watershed. In the 2019 year, RW worked with 15 elementary schools (an increase of 3 schools) and 8 high schools in the watershed. RW worked with 6,655 people in the watershed, approximately 6,000 of which were students (as opposed to adults). Of these contacts, approximately 2,275 are unique individuals. Bringing these students to the river is an important part of our work - approximately 50% of the students we work with have never seen the river.

RW plans to continue the good work of prior years with tree wrapping, water quality testing, marking storm drains, cleaning up trash, and working on stream bank stabilization. RW is requesting \$6,000 per county for these projects. RW uses local conservation district employees to supervise and prep for these river projects. In addition, RW works with city, state, federal, and county partners. The remaining \$2,000 would cover administration and travel costs related to the grant. **Funding request: \$26,000**

Sierra Nevada Journeys – Family Watershed Nights for Carson River WS Communities (Proposal #2)

Sean Hill, Education Director

Funding from CWSD will serve over 500 children and their parents in communities within the Carson River Watershed with four community-building and educational events called Family Watershed Nights (FWN). FWNs invite K-8 students, their parents and siblings to attend a fun, family-friendly evening, which provides watershed education at the family level and reinforces STEM concepts in the classroom. Through hands-on activities, participants will gain a sense of ownership and stewardship for the health of their community watershed. **Funding request: \$3,278.88**

Alpine County Watershed Group- Upper Carson River Watershed Programs (Proposal #3)

Kimra McAfee, Executive Director

AWG's mission is to preserve and enhance the natural system functions of Alpine County's watersheds for future generations. For nearly 20 years, AWG has organized volunteers and inspired community participation to address water quality monitoring and restoration needs in Alpine County. To further the stewardship of our county's natural resources, our organization has developed diverse partnerships

around watershed issues. Through this project, AWG will staff: 1) involve local citizens in watershed stewardship; 2) plan and implement watershed monitoring and restoration activities; 3) recruit diverse stakeholders and strengthen community partnerships; and 4) support local watershed education and community outreach. **Funding request: \$25,000**

Lahontan Conservation District – Lower Carson River Clearing & Snagging (Proposal #7)

Christy Sullivan, District Manager

Project to prevent and minimize property loss and other damage during flood condition. Also to maintain a clear channel to enable citizens to utilize the river for recreation and maintaining river flow velocity to prevent stagnant pools that pose health risks. Includes removal of dead vegetation and debris, beavers and beaver dams and clearing brush and sediment back to original riverbank starting at Diversion Dam and continuing downstream. Removing sediment build up above and below Sheckler Bridge, McLean Bridge, Highway 50 Bridge, Highway 95 Bridge, Bafford Bridge and repairing eroded embankments along the river. **Funding request: \$20,000**

Director Schank remarks that maintenance of the Highway 50 Bridge is very important for flood issues in the area. A discussion follows regarding a need for a sediment removal/diversion structure study to reach a long-term plan to address these issues permanently.

Community Projects:

Lyon County Right-a-Way project (10)

Carson City Carson City Kings & Ash Canyon Watershed Control Plan (11)

TCID Diversion Dam Repairs (8)

Churchill County Park (9)

Vidler Water Company – Highway 50 Right-of-Way Acquisition Project (Proposal #10)

Dave Merrill & Dorothy Palmer

The proposed 2-3 Year project is to obtain the requisite right-of-way along the Highway 50 corridor for a future utility/water pipeline between Dayton and Silver Springs. The work would involve researching and identifying existing easements and utilities; determining the best route that benefits the most amount of people, the most cost effective and least disruptive; and obtaining approvals from the affected governmental entities such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Transportation.

The right-a-way and future pipeline would further the connectivity between the two communities and allow for the modernization of water service. Once completed, the pipeline could serve the daily needs of the communities as well as assist in times of water shortage and emergencies. **Funding request: \$129,000**

Carson City – Kings & Ash Canyon Watershed Control Plan (Proposal #11)

Eddy Quaglieri, Water Utility Manager

The Quill Ranch Water Treatment Facility (Quill WTP) was completed and commissioned in 1991. The plant is supplied by three surface water sources when available; Ash Creek, King's Creek and springs, and the Marlette Hobart Water System owned and operated by the State of Nevada. The beautiful Kings and Ash Canyons are becoming more and more popular amongst the public. These two Canyons provide Carson City clean and sustainable drinking water within the Carson River Watershed as well as recreation opportunities for the public. There are now world renown mountain biking and hiking trails in the two canyons as well as increasingly amount public use. The purpose of this project is to develop a Watershed Control Plan to help keep the City's drinking water supplies safe and sustainable, while still allowing the public to enjoy the open spaces. The goal is to create a living document that outlines the many different uses and stakeholders of Kings and Ash Creeks as well as the certain safeguards needed in keeping the watersheds healthy. This project would be in compliance with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's Long Term 2 Treatment Rule that monitors for Cryptosporidium in source waters. **Funding request: \$25,000**

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District - Gates at Churchill CR Diversion Dam Repairs (Proposal # 8)

Rusty Jardine, General Manager

Improvement/Repair to four (4) Carson River gates at Carson River Diversion Dam, consisting of refurbishing the slide gates to original dimensions, replacing deteriorated wooden gate seats, and cleaning/recoating slide gates. This would enhance the operational ability of designated river gates at the Carson River Diversion Dam to safely convey as much as 2,000 cfs of water during flood operations as declared for the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project by the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

Funding request: \$100,000

Churchill County Parks & Recreation – Carson River Park Phase I (Proposal #9)

Jorge Guerrero, Director

Churchill County Parks and Recreation Department has acquired a 2.26 Acre property at the intersection of Sheckler Cut Off and the Carson River approximately 5 miles west of Fallon. The purchase was made possible using Question 1 Funds in 2005. In 2011, funds were awarded through the Carson Water Subconservancy District for a preliminary plan. In 2012 a plan was developed. The parcel includes approximately 420 feet of river frontage with another 140 feet possible. Funds being requested would be used to carry out the 1st phase of the overall project. The 1st phase would include demolishing of the current house on the property. The parcel would lend itself well to a day use picnic area use, interpretive site potential and river access for recreational use of the river. The main goal is to provide the community the ability to access the Carson River. **Funding request: \$10,537.50**

USGS:

USGS Middle Carson Groundwater Monitoring (Proposal #12)

Ron Kauble, Hydrologic Technician

4-Year Project with 50% Match: The proposed study is aligned with the USGS science strategy goal of informing the public and decision makers about the status of freshwater resources across the US and is consistent with the goal of the USGS Strategic Plan of providing water- resource managers with accurate, reliable, and impartial scientific information. The data will provide an increased understanding of groundwater levels in Eagle, Dayton, and Churchill Valleys and provide water managers with information on how water resources are affected by increased development. Project benefits include: (1) Groundwater-level observations in approximately 220 wells. Additional monitoring wells will be included near areas of proposed expansion with the USA Parkway Highway with the addition of at least 3 monitoring wells. Sites will be monitored at quarterly (61 wells) and annual (159 wells) frequency. The network will be dynamic and adjust to best monitor issues reported to the USGS during the project timeline. (2) The continued collection of bulk precipitation on McClellan Peak, Brunswick Canyon, Churchill Butte, and in the Virginia Range, for future use in potential groundwater model scenario development. (3) Publish and maintain data online for public use in the USGS National Water Inventory System database. **Funding request: \$61,000 (\$15,250 per year x4 years)**

USGS Carson Valley Groundwater Study (Proposal #13)

Ramon Naranjo, Research Hydrologist

3-Year Project with 35% Match: This proposed work documents (1) the status of water levels, arsenic and nitrate in groundwater, (2) evaluates the current well network efficacy for monitoring arsenic and nitrate in the Carson Valley, and (3) development of a web-based tool for tracking changes in hydrologic data collected in the Carson River watershed. The study will analyze seasonal and annual trends in water levels, nitrates and arsenic in the alluvial aquifer to provide an up to date assessment of water quantity and quality. This study also proposes to develop a web-based application to allow water managers and the public to get near-real time information on the status and trends of data as it is being collected for the Carson Basin. **Funding request: \$103,192 (\$31,105/\$41,079/\$30,964)**

New Projects:

Desert Research Institute - Stream Flow Analysis 1940-2019 (Proposal#14)

Alexandra Lutz

In 2009, DRI reviewed streamflow and climate records from 1940-2009 at locations in the Carson River system for CWSD. We propose revising the review up to include records from 2019. It has been an interesting ten years since the original review: the economy grew and population increased, the area experienced several years of below average precipitation, an above-average “pluvial” year, and some seemingly average years. The 2009 review reported statistically significant trends with respect to spring runoff occurring earlier and increase of temperatures during winter and spring. There were visually discernible trends for snow water equivalent (SWE) that were just outside the statistical significance threshold. The revised review will re-test all trends and include locations that started recording SWE in the early 2000s. The revised review will try to determine if trends are steady, accelerating, or decelerating over time. **Funding request: \$17,931**

No action was taken.

Item #5 - Make recommendations for the Tentative General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund FY 2019-20 budgets.

During a working lunch, Mr. James reviewed the Acquisition/Construction and Floodplain Management Funds with the committee.

Mr. James reminded the committee there needs to be a cut of \$267,000 from the funding requests. Based on further discussion the committee proposed the following adjustments and cuts:

- Reduce Carson Valley Conservation District/ Bioengineering (4) request by \$20,000
- Reduce Dayton Valley Conservation District FT Churchill Project (6) request by \$15,000
- Reduce TCID Diversion Dam Repairs (8) request by \$85,000

The Committee recommended not funding:

- Churchill County Park
- Carson City Ash/King Watershed Project
- DRI Stream Flow Analysis
- Right-A-Way Analysis in Lyon County
- USGS Carson Valley GW Study

The Committee also recommended adding \$145,000 to Acquisition/Construction Fund.

Director Schank made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend that the tentative budgets for the General Fund be approved as adjusted above. Committee Member Griffith seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.

For the Acquisition/Construction Fund, the Committee suggested that Lyon County submit a funding request for this Right-A-Way Analysis and see if Lyon County can contribute some funding.

Director Penzel made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend that the tentative budgets for the Acquisition/Construction Fund be approved as adjusted above. Director Schank seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.

For the Flood Management Fund, the Committee recommended using the funds in the account for Churchill County Flood Study. These funds were set aside to help cover the costs to do the new flood mapping study, but FEMA is covering all the costs.

Director Schank made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend that the tentative budgets for the Flood Management Fund be approved as adjusted above. Director Penzel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.

Item #6 - Public comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 1:18p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catrina Schambra
Secretary to the Board