

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 17, 2021

**Minutes**

***The CWSD February 17, 2021 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.***

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

**CWSD Directors present:**

John Engels, Director  
Mark Gardner, Director  
Stacey Giomi, Director  
Ken Gray, Director  
Jack Jacobs, Director  
David Nelson, Director  
Erne Schank, Director  
Lisa Schuette, Director  
Fred Stodieck, Director  
Mike Workman, Director

**Absent Directors:** Pete Olsen, Director

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

**CWSD Staff & Guests present:**

Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Specialist  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney  
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II  
Catrina Schambra, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board  
Katie Smith, Watershed Technician – AmeriCorps

*The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Giomi.*

**Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment –**

Director John Engels and Director Mark Gardner introduced themselves. They are new to the Board and this is their first meeting.

**Item #5 – For Discussion Only: Presentation to Steve Thaler for his years of service on CWSD Board**

CWSD honored departing Board member Steve Thaler with a friendly roast presentation compiled by Mr. James, that fondly reminisced their years of service and adventures with us. Director Thaler is leaving the CWSD Board of Directors after serving from January 2017 through December 2020. CWSD thanks him for being such great members of our team! He will be missed!

*No action was taken.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda &**

**Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2020**

*Director Gray made a motion to approve today's Agenda and the Board Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2021. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**\*\*CONSENT AGENDA\*\***

**Item #8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer's Report for January 2021**

**Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2021**

**Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approve agreement with River Wranglers to conduct flood awareness outreach to the schools in the Carson River Watershed in an amount not to exceed \$8,500**

**Item #11 – For Possible Action: Approve agreement with Casey Neilon, Inc. to provide auditing services for the next three years in the amount of \$13,900 per year**

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

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

**Item #12 - For Discussion Only: A presentation by CWSD staff to give an overview of CWSD activities and financials**

Mr. James explained that due to Covid-19 restrictions the Strategic Planning Session could not be held as we had hoped this month. In lieu of that group session, the staff put together presentations for the Board on CWSD activities and a report on financials.

Ms. Hunt gave a slide presentation explaining the CRC Integrated Watershed Program. Afterwards, Director Engels mentioned his property and asked about diversion ditches in Carson Valley and Carson City. Mr. James explained that the Carson Valley was created by agriculture. Director Engels says he has a ditch committee in his area and the community is very involved in helping control weeds. There was general discussion during which Mr. King asks about the possibility of a float trip this year with Covid-19. It would be a great opportunity for the new Board members to get out on the river. Mr. Fryer says he is thinking that individual kayaks and a group float might work depending on the virus situation when the river rises. He is hoping we get to get out on the river this year too.

Ms. Hunt then showed the I Am Carson River Video. The walking through the watershed video is really inspiring and Director Gardner asks if we can put a link to it on all County websites. He

thinks the video is great!

Mrs. Neddenriep gave her presentation on Floodplain Management and Water Supply, followed by Mr. James giving an overview of CWSD financials.

New Board members, Director Nelson, and Director Schuette both thanked staff for their presentations saying they were great and so informative. Director Engels asked how to get this information out to the community? Can we share links to all the counties? He agreed the presentations were great!

Mr. James said a “road show” to all counties is planned for as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Chairman Giomi asked that the information in the Board Package be sent to Board digitally in full color for their use. (The printed packages were not printed in color to save toner.)

*No action was taken.*

**Item #13 - For Discussion Only: Review the draft Community Drinking video**

Ms. Hunt explained the video series and showed a draft of the in-progress Community Drinking Water video. She described the next video “Watershed Moments” as individual vignettes of community members talking about what we all can do to promote clean water in the Watershed. Director Jacobs suggests that the vignettes be focused on what to STOP doing instead. For instance, dumping motor oil, pesticides, and herbicides disposal. Also, flushing prescription drugs in toilets. There was further discussion of the campaign and Ms. Hunt asked that the campaign stickers be mailed to all Board members.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #14 - For Discussion Only: Presentation on the Watershed Wednesdays App**

Mr. Fryer gave a presentation on the App he has designed to be used by Watershed Wednesday Forum attendees. This is something new and different that CWSD is testing for the first time. Staff is excited to be able to use this as an outreach tool. He demonstrated how easy it will be to use right on your smart phone or other device of the users’ choosing. It is totally cloud based and does not take up space on your device and no signing up giving any personal information. It is basically just putting a link on your device and you are up and running. He showed what he has on the app so far, which has each days’ programing and speaker bios. Each week will have the link to the video premieres of the presentations on YouTube and the link to the Zoom Q & A Panel Session each day. He reported that he researched how people consume information in this area. While newspapers are still number one, next is their phone and computer. He thinks this will be a great addition to the Watershed Wednesday Forum.

Director Gardner noted that Melissa Blosser is the Information Officer for Douglas County and we should contact her to get the information out in his area.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #15 - For Discussion Only: Update on 2021 Water Year**

Mr. James gave a slide presentation on the 2021 Water Year to the Board. He said the last storm helped us get closer to average, but we need much more! We are at 69% now and runoff is going to be at 69% or less. Usually, the snowpack increases until April 1. The current flow is way below average. This year is another example of why the Truckee Canal is so important to the Lahontan water levels.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #26 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports – None**

**Legal** – Mr. King reported the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit has determined the Supreme Court of Nevada cannot reallocate water rights. It is against the law in Nevada. Other ways to mediate must be determined. He will keep the Board informed on this issue.

**Correspondence** – Thank you letter from Andy Aldax Award winner Phyllis Atkinson; Nevada Appeal article re: Phyllis receiving award.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #21 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –**

- Chairman Giomi reported Carson City will be considering adopting LID ordinance at meeting tomorrow. This would become part of CC Drainage Manual for future construction projects if adopted.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #22– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –**

- Committee Member Griffith reported that in response to constituents emerging concerns regarding pollution downstream to the water supply, Alpine County has taken samples at four points along the river for several years. They have not found anything hazardous to humans or the environment. No worries there, but the micro-plastics study has not been completed yet. He also wanted to note, regarding earlier discussion of flushing prescriptions in toilets – pharmacies will take back pharmaceuticals to dispose of. Director Engels asks if they decompose? Director Gray said they are finding detectable levels in treatment plants, but the levels are so low it is not significant.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #23– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County –**

- Committee Member Canfield reported construction on the Gold Hill Treatment Plant started at the end of January. They are very excited to start this project! The Water Resource Study is almost done.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #24 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Giomi adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board