

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 21, 2021

**Minutes**

***The CWSD April 21, 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.***

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

**CWSD Directors present:**

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

Absent: Mark Gardner, Stacey Giomi, and Pete Olsen.

Roll call of the Carson River Watershed Committee 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  
Ramon Naranjo, USGS  
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 Committee Member Griffith.*

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

Director Engels commented he would like CWSD to consider a PR campaign with the counties regarding the serious lack of water due to severe drought conditions. Director Gray asked Mr. James to add this discussion item to the agenda for our May meeting.

**Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda**

Director Gray announced it was requested to move Item #17 to #7, before Consent Agenda.

*Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve today's Agenda with the*

*requested change. The motion was seconded by Director Jacobs and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2020**

*Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021 with a typo correction noted. The motion was seconded by Director Schutte and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**\*Item #17 – For Discussion Only: Discussion regarding CWSD Board of Directors Liability**

CWSD Legal Counsel, Patrick King addressed the issue raised by Committee Member David Griffith at the March Board meeting: does CWSD liability insurance cover Civil Rights at a local, State and Federal level. Mr. King confirmed the coverage and read the relevant language to the Board. This liability insurance is thru POOL/PACT and Mr. King would be the contact should the need for a claim arise. His legal opinion would be considered in determining the liability claim merits. CWSD has a \$10 Million policy.

*No action was taken.*

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

**Item #7 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for March 2021**

**Item #8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for March 2021**

**Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Contract #2021-24 Kimley-Horn: Conduct Smelter Creek LOMR Study in an amount not to exceed \$70,000**

**Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of Contract #2021-25 Michael Baker: Develop a Web Access System for Flood Studies Data in the Carson River Watershed in an amount not to exceed \$160,000 and 3 years of hosting infrastructure at \$7,200 annual fee**

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of Contract #2021-26 HDR: Develop a Carson River Regional Flood Forecasting Model in an amount not to exceed \$67,886**

**Item #12 - For Possible Action: Authorize CWSD staff to apply to FEMA for CTP funding in the amount of \$785,000**

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

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

**Item #13 - For Discussion Only: Presentation by Ramon Naranjo with the USGS regarding Nitrates in Carson Valley**

Mr. Naranjo presented information gathered on changes in Nitrate levels in the water of Carson Valley after years of USGS monitoring. There was discussion on the use of 3-D models and the changes in the aquifer. Ruhestroth and Johnson Lane areas were the focus of these studies. Mr. Naranjo stated that the main source of nitrates in the groundwater is coming from septic tanks. Director Workman stated DWR has a map guide with septic tank density by basin. Mr. Naranjo said this may be included in future

reports. He then explained the recharge of the aquifer and the calculation used. Director Engels mentioned that it is important to keep septic tanks well maintained.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #14 – For Discussion Only: Update on the Watershed Wednesdays Forum**

Brenda Hunt presented a report on the participation and insight gained from the extremely successful Watershed Wednesdays Forum that spanned all 5 Wednesdays in March. The virtual forum used both YouTube and Zoom platforms as well a dedicated mobile app for participants to engage. A few of the stats reported:

- 51 Presentations with 46 Individual Speakers
- 197 total registrants & 662 unique viewers
- 3,700 views of videos & over 322.7 hours of watch time on the CWSD YouTube Channel

The results of surveys and interest in future working groups was also part of the report. [CLICK HERE](#) to see her full presentation. Watershed Wednesdays is one of CWSD's most successful forum events and we look forward to building on this new method of outreach.

There were kudos from the Board of the great report and the successful event. Director Schank suggested we build on this with selected groups of students or classes in each county, maybe 2-3 times a year we can work with teachers in the classroom like Sierra Nevada Journeys or River Wranglers. Mr. James responded RW does work in the classroom and gets kids out to the river. Director Schank said this can enhance their programs, especially with the use of an app to participate! Director Schuette agrees. This is a great idea to educate and connect the communities. Debbie Neddenriep said RW has done a great job continuing their program throughout the pandemic and explained some of the things they have been doing to with their virtual curriculum. Director Schuette reiterated kudos for the Watershed Wednesdays Forum! Great outreach!

*No action was taken.*

**Item #15 – For Possible Action: Approval to submit application for a USBR WaterSmart Applied Science Grant in the amount of \$110,000**

Mr. James gave a brief explanation on the reasoning behind CWSD pursuing this grant. The Regional Water System & Flood Committee met on March 30, 2021 and voted unanimously to recommend the Board give staff approval to apply for this USBR grant. Mr. James explained for the new Board members why CWSD goes after grants instead of using our own money for funding in these areas. Years ago, the Board had directed staff not to use Ad Valorem funding for studies. It was the goal that we pursue grant funding for all study grants. Mr. James went over CWSD history of BOR grants and went over the total amount to be applied for with this one. Director Jacobs said this is a terrific project!

*Director Schank made a motion to approve Staff apply for a USBR WaterSmart Applied Science Grant in the amount of \$110,000. The motion was seconded by Director Workman and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #16 – For Possible Action: Adopt Resolution #2021-1 authorizing the Board of Directors of Carson Water Subconservancy District to apply to the United States**

**Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSmart Applied Science Grant to update the USGS models for the Carson River and develop a Water Resource Plan**

Mr. James explained this Resolution must be adopted by the Board as part of the grant application protocol discussed in Item #15.

*Director Jacobs made a motion to Adopt Resolution #2021-1 authorizing the Board of Directors of Carson Water Subconservancy District to apply to the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSmart Applied Science Grant to update the USGS models for the Carson River and develop a Water Resource Plan. The motion was seconded by Director Schuette and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**\*Item #18 - For Possible Action: Adopt revised CWSD Director Meeting Compensation Policy & Procedures**

Mr. James explained the reasons for the changes in the policy during the pandemic lockdown and how moving forward we will continue “hybrid” meetings until further notice. However, during summer field trips a reliable Wi-Fi signal may not be available for a virtual option. Annual field trips have always been a team building and to better understand water issues in each county. All Board members are encouraged to attend and participate. The Directors Fee requirement of having to appear in-person at meetings was waived during the lockdown period and is the question at hand in the revised policy. Director Gray and Director Schank agree it ought to be kept in place until the end of the year as is, since we have no idea what will happen with the pandemic in the coming months. Committee Member Riddle comments that we must remember that members may not have access to virtual meetings and can only phone in. Consensus arrived that telephone conference attendance (w/no video) will continue to be paid until the end of the year and the Board will revisit this issue in December or January.

*Director Workman made a motion to keep the compensation policy for Board Members as it is currently: waiving in-person attendance requirement for compensation, through the end of 2021. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #19 - For Discussion Only: Update on the 2021 Legislation Session**

Mr. James discussed the various issues being addressed in the legislation session and how they would possibly affect CWSD. Director Gray noted that he would like to be present when the Storey County CWSD legislation is passed and would like the action publicized. It has been years in the making!

*No action was taken.*

**Item #20 - For Possible Action: Future use of Lost Lakes**

Mr. James announced they is new information regarding the increased fees for Lost Lakes water use. The increased fees apply if the water used as a source of income. Because we sell the water to Carson City, we are subjects to this new fee structure. He suggests the way to handle this new development would be to not charge Carson City for the use of our water. If we amend our agreement with Carson City we can still have them agree to pay the annual permit fee but give them the water for free. They would still be required to use the Mud Lake water first which they would pay for. Mr. James believes this is the best solution to the fee problem. Director asked about the possibility of moving the water rights. Mr. James said that would take 3-5 years

to accomplish and we need to address the exorbitant fees issue now.

*Director Jacobs made a motion to amend our agreement with Carson City on Lost Lakes water use to have them only pay for annual permit fee and get the water for no charge after they have used Mud Lake water first. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #21 - For Discussion Only: Update on 2021 Water Year**

Mr. James gave a slide presentation on the 2021 Water Year to the Board. Not much has changed since the report last month. Water levels are still far below normal as the drought continues.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #22 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –**

Mr. James reported the following:

- The Float Trip is coming up on April 29 from Cradlebaugh Bridge to Carson River Park. Not sure there will be enough water! We will not know until next week. Fingers crossed!
- Individual meetings with Mr. James and Board members are being setup now. This is part of his annual review process. He will be in contact to see the best place and time for Directors to meet with him to discuss progress, goals, and ideas.
- CWSD is hoping to start up annual field trips in June. Directors, please submit specific areas you want the Board to visit in your county.
- The May 19 Board meeting will be a hybrid in-person/zoom meeting. Board members can come to the CWSD office to attend in person if they wish.

Brenda Hunt reported the following:

- The PSA video launched this week. It was prepped to correspond with Earth Day. Site has had 7,000+ views so far. Ms. Hunt did 3 interviews this morning on radio and TV. Huge kudos to NEON Agency for their great work!

**Legal** – Mr. King said he is looking forward to seeing everyone in person soon.

**Correspondence** – (1) Letter of Support to CCPW for EPA grant application.

(2) Letter of Commitment to match funds for Do Cty Westwood project

*No action was taken.*

**Item #23 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –**

- Director Schank announced Director Olsen is absent because of a family issue. He asked that all keep him and his family in our prayers.
- Director Engels reported that he met with City Manager Cates and learned that HUD Bay Mining Co. wants to dig in West Lyon County, expanding into Douglas County (NE quadrant). If project approved, it would be one of the largest open pit copper mines in the US. He is not sure if this would affect the Carson River. It is only in discussion stage at this point.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #24– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County** – None

**Item #25– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County** –

- Committee Member Canfield reported the Gold Hill Treatment Plant is not expected to be completed until the end of summer due to shipping delays. The Mark Twain area has culvert and ditch work being done.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #26 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment** – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board

*\*Changed agenda item order.*