

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 19, 2021

## **Minutes**

***The CWSD May 19, 2021, Board of Directors meeting was held in person and via Zoom Video/Telephone conference due to Governor Sisolak's lifting Covid-19 restrictions.***

Chairman Giomi 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:**

Stacey Giomi, Director  
John Engels, Director (via Zoom)  
Jack Jacobs, Director  
David Nelson, Director (via Zoom)  
Pete Olsen, Director (via Zoom)  
Lisa Schuette, Director  
Fred Stodieck, Director  
Mike Workman, Director

Absent: Mark Gardner, Ken Gray, and Ernie Schank.

Roll call of the Carson River Watershed Committee included CWSD Directors and Committee Members present (via Zoom) - Kathy Canfield, David Griffith, and January Riddle.

### **CWSD Staff & Guests present:**

Nick Charles, Lumos & Associates, Inc.  
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

*The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Director Giomi.*

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

Director Engels commented he attended a Nevada Development Authority (NDA) meeting. Every meeting he brings up the topic of water. He feels there is a lot of talk about water, but not where we are going to get more water. He has concerns with all the new development, especially up in Fernley.

Director Nelson reported that Director Gardner is at an installation for the Elks Club and that is why he is not here today.

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

Mr. James asked to combine Items 16 & 18 together for discussion. Chairman Giomi said

we will allow that as long as there are no objections. They were no objections.

*No action taken.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2021**

*Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Jacobs and unanimously approved by the Board.*

*Committee Member Griffith asked that we make a motion on approving the Agenda. Chairman Giomi agreed. Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve the agenda, with the change requested. Director Stodieck seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

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

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

**Item # 9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Revised Lost Lake Agreement with Carson City**

*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 # 10 - For Possible Action: Public Hearing of CWSD FY 2021-22 Tentative Budget**

*Chairman Giomi opened the Public Hearing of the CWSD FY 2021-22 Tentative Budget. There being no comments, he closed the Public Hearing.*

*No action was taken.*

**Item # 11 - For Possible Action: Presentation by Lumos on the USBR Water Marketing Study**

In introducing Nick Charles from Lumos & Associates to give his presentation of the USBR Water Marketing Study, Chairman Giomi commended him on his comprehensive report. He said it is so good that it should be published and put in our libraries and schools for its information on the Carson River! A very well-done document.

Mr. Charles gave his presentation of the water study that included charts of river flows measured from 1940 – 2020 at four USGS stations: (1) West Fork at Woodfords, (2) East Fork near Gardnerville, (3) Carson River near Carson City, and (4) Carson River near Fort Churchill. He reported the flows are changing and are more variable; the highs are higher, and the lows are lower. The spring runoffs are earlier in the year and there is no storage on the Carson River. These are troubling trends for watershed users – irrigation and domestic wells, municipalities, and others. The perennial yield is decreasing, which includes rainfall, snow melt and natural recharge. Climatic trends in Carson City show that temperatures are increasing, and precipitation is decreasing. There are water management challenges that need to be addressed. He discussed the difference between perennial yield and system yield and municipal water usage estimates for 2020

to 2040: It is 26,650 AF per year in 2020, increasing to an estimated 28,007 AF per year by 2040 based on growth estimates. Management of the watershed and water marketing strategies are critical for the future demands. Mr. Charles discussed the options available now and for the future.

Committee Member Griffith asked how Lake Tahoe affects the system yield. There was discussion of the Alpine Decree rotation term, meaning junior water rights can be put in the que if available. This allows flexibility by the Water Master and allows for water to be fully utilized.

Director Engels commented Climatologists recognize climate change, but development seems to be in a frenzy right now and this doesn't seem to be taken in account in the planning. He says he is worries about water limitations. This seems to not be talked about and he wants answers. He is very concerned about increases in development and that there is not enough water for the increase in population to the area.

Director Jacobs had a question regarding water rights and benefits of these concepts presented. There was a discussion on AG users benefits.

*No action taken.*

#### **Item # 12 - For Discussion Only: Presentation on River Wranglers Activities**

Darcy Phillips gave a presentation of River Wranglers activities during the past year. Covid-19 restrictions required a change in the curriculum and required them to move to a virtual platform. All in all, it went well! She gave a video presentation of the backpacks with supplies that were delivered to the students to use in tandem with the online curriculum and projects. RW focus was on 4-5 graders. During a normal school year RW outreach connects with 6,000 students, with 2,500 be repeat participants. During the Covid-10 year the outreach was limited to only 500-600 students. She is looking forward to field trips starting again soon.

*No action taken.*

#### **Item # 13 - For Discussion Only: Update on Carson River Float Trip**

Shane Fryer gave a report in the April 29 Float Trip: The river flow was very low! Carson City was generous to let us borrow sit on kayaks for the day. There was a total 27 people that participated. It was a workshop type float to inform and introduce community leaders to the river. In attendance were reps from NDEP, the Washoe Tribe, Trails groups and a CWSD Board member! The river was at only 127 CFS, but it worked. The route flowed the New Aquatic Trail. It took 5 hours to float 5 miles, so they did not go as far as was planned. The group had lunch at the river and a great time was had by all. Mr. Fryer showed pictures from a beautiful day on the river!

*No action taken.*

#### **Item # 14 - For Discussion Only: Update on launch of "Water Connects Us All" program**

Brenda Hunt gave a brief history on the project for the new Board members. This campaign has been years in the making for education and outreach to the community. It has been a great success so far! Here are some of the stats reported:

Facebook: 8,516 views (7,991 of which played the full video!)

10,500 total engagements, in the 25-54 age group target.

Instagram: 562 views (which is 2 times the number of CWSD followers)

Instagram reach is up, and Facebook reported increase of 116% of outreach. Ms. Hunt shared a Channel 2 TV video clip of her interview to the Board members. She explained the upcoming Watershed Moments that will be the next phase of the campaign.

*No action taken.*

**Item # 15 - For Possible Action: Approval of the General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund FY 2021-22 Final Budgets**

Mr. James gave an overview the Final Budgets as approved by Finance Committee for recommendation to the Board for approval. The final Budget includes a recommended change by the Finance Committee to increase the River Wrangler Non-Profit Agreement by \$10,000 (to \$36,000) and to transfer \$30,000 to Acquisition Construction Fund.

*Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund FY 2021-22 Final Budgets as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Schuette and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item # 16 - For Possible Action: Work with Water Purveyors and Communities on Water Awareness and Conservation Program, AND**

**Item # 18 - For Discussion Only: Update on 2021 Water Year (Combined)**

Mr. James began with an update on the water year: He believes the peak was May 7. We might break record is the is no more precipitation. We are very close to an all time record for dry/lack of precipitation. We are at 20% of average in the Carson River and it goes down to 13% further downstream. A statistic from Sacramento puts us at @nd driest year on record for past 100 years!

Most municipalities do not expect us to have shortages this year, but we live in the desert. Water conservation is a precious commodity in our watershed. One watershed must work as one. He just had a meeting with county and water purveyors. He learned from that meeting it is predicted that another dry year will affect the Truckee Canal and that will have a major impact.

Director Giomi commented that all that we are doing is so important to getting this message out.

*No action taken.*

**Item # 17 - For Possible Action: Update on the 2021 Legislation Session**

Mr. James reported that the Storey County Bill has passed the Senate, going to Assembly now and then on to the Governor. It looks good!

*No action was taken.*

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

Mr. James reported the following:

- The General Manager Annual Review forms will be sent in the next few days to all Board members, please fill them out and return asap. Then they will be reviewed by Administrative Committee and reported back to the Board at the June meeting.
- The American Rivers MOU regarding Beavers Dams is in progress and will be presented at the June Board meeting.

- The Single Audit FEMA requirements have been met. CWSD has set up new internal policies for Federal grants and FEMA has resolved the issue.
- The June Board meeting will be the start of our field trips through the summer:

June – Genoa, CVCD Tour, Dinner, and meeting at Genoa Town Hall

July – Lyon County, DVCD Tour, Minor Ranch BBQ, and meeting at Utilities Office

August – Alpine County, Project Tour, BBQ, and meeting at Turtle Rock Park

September – Marlette Water System Tour, All Day trip, TBD

Field trips are a fun team building activity for the Board and he hopes everyone will attend!

- He has resumed meeting with Water Purveyors in the watershed as Covid-19 restrictions have lifted.

**Legal** – Mr. King said it was good to see Fred Stodieck! He also mentioned to John Engels to feel free to call him anytime to discuss his concerns.

**Correspondence** – None

*No action was taken.*

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

- Director Schuette gave a huge thank you to Shane and Ed including her on the Float Trip. It was an incredible day and they even saw a Bald Eagle!

*No action was taken.*

**Item #24– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –**

- Committee Member Riddle reported that she took part in Markleeville Clean Up Day, which picked up at least 300 cigarette butts and a lot of trash. She is happy to help in any way she can.
- Committee Member Griffith stated regarding water concerns, it would probably be possible to increase river flows by 5-6% by removing excess biomass in forests. This is being done in other places and its working.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #25– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County – None**

*No action was taken.*

**Item #26 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment –**

- Shane Fryer mentioned that he had requests to conduct East Fork float trips in 2022. Please let him know if you would be interested and he will keep all informed of future float plans.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board