

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
June 16, 2021

Minutes

The CWSD June 16, 2021, Board of Directors meeting was held-at the Genoa Town Hall, 2287 Main Street, Genoa. The meeting was preceded by a tour of Carson Valley Conservation District projects led by Richard Wilkinson and dinner at Genoa Town Hall.

Chairman Giomi called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:33pm. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Mark Gardner
Stacey Giomi, Chairman
Ken Gray, Vice Chairman
Jack Jacobs
Ernie Schank, Treasurer
Lisa Schuette

Directors Absent: John Engels, David Nelson, Pete Olsen, Fred Stodieck, and Mike Workman.

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

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Edwin James, General Manager
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney
Catrina Schambra, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board
Carmen Schank, Public

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Chairman Giomi.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment - None

Patrick took this opportunity to explain that the change in location of the meeting was made at the last minute by the venue to move our meeting next door to the Genoa Town Hall. CWSD had called him for guidance in how to proceed in compliance with Open Meeting Law requirements. Mr. King then consulted Greg Ott, Nevada Chief Deputy Attorney General who confirmed our plan to post a meeting update to our regular sites and put sign on door was sufficient to satisfy OML compliance.

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Mr. James asked to pull Items 9 & 20 from the agenda for a future date, possibly the July meeting. The COLA discussion was pulled for further preparation and the presentation by Courtney Walker, Stormwater Manager for Douglas County had to be rescheduled due to an injury.

Director Schank made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021

Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

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

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

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of State Contract #2021-1 Carson Valley Conservation District – Carson River Bioengineering Project in an amount not to exceed \$75,000

Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of State Contract #2021-2 Carson Valley Conservation District – West Fork Bank Stabilization Project in an amount not to exceed \$100,000

Item #12 - For Possible Action: Approval of State Contract #2021-3 Dayton Valley Conservation District – River Projects Inventory Project in an amount not to exceed \$100,000

Item #13 - For Possible Action: Approval of State Contract #2021-4 Lahontan Conservation District - Lower Carson River Project in an amount not to exceed \$25,000

Item #14 - For Possible Action: Approval of Non-Profit Agreement #2021-5 Sierra NV Journeys – Family Watershed Nights in amount to exceed \$3,280

Item #15 - For Possible Action: Approval of Non-Profit Agreement #2021-6 River Wranglers – Carson River Workdays in an amount not to exceed \$36,000

Item #16 - For Possible Action: Approval of Non-Profit Agreement #2021-7 Alpine Watershed Group – Carson River Upper Watershed Programs in an amount not to exceed \$25,000

Item #17 - For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Contract #2021-8 Churchill County – Lahontan Valley Water Level Measurement Program in the amount not to exceed \$44,000 over 3 years

Item #18 - For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Contract #2021-9 Truckee-Carson Irrigation District – Carson River Diversion Dam Repairs Project in an amount not to exceed \$50,000

Director Schank made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented minus pulled Item # 9. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Item # 19 - For Discussion Only: Presentation on the USACE Alluvial Fan Study in Douglas County

Mr. James gave a presentation on the USACE Alluvial Fan in Douglas County. He explained the results of the study and the risk assessments of the alluvial fans identified for analysis. [CLICK HERE](#) to view presentation slides.

No action was taken.

Item # 21 - For Discussion Only: Wrap up on the 2021 Legislative Session

Mr. James reported that the most important bill for CWSD was SB98 for Storey County to have two official Directors on the CWSD Board of Directors. It was signed into law and will become effective July 1, 2021! Chairman Giomi commented that he hopes that one of the Directors will be a county commissioner. It is important to get participation from community leaders on our Board.

No action taken.

Item # 22 - For Possible Action: Discussion to send support letter regarding the Douglas County Lands Bill

Ed James directed Board members to a brief history of this item in their Board package and spoke of why CWSD should support the Douglas County Lands Bill. Director Schank commented that Churchill County is also supporting the bill.

Director Jacobs made a motion to authorize Chairman Giomi to sign the letter of support for the Douglas County Lands Bill to be sent to Senator Cortez Masto, Senator Rosen, and Congressman Amodei as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 23 - For Possible Action: Approve General Manager Review

Chairman Giomi introduced the annual review of General Manager. He stated that he wished we had more participation, but he understands that we have 6 new Board members. He hopes for better participation in the future. That being said, he thinks Mr. James does an excellent job and CWSD is lucky to have him! He believes Mr. James is the leading expert in the entire state for his knowledge and experience in Nevada water issues.

Director Gray apologized for not getting his review turned in but for the record says he would have scored him as high as possible with a great review. He states when Ed eventually decides to retire, it will be a huge loss for CWSD and the state of Nevada.

Director Schank wanted to clarify for the record that he misunderstood the form and meant to give all 3s! He asked that his review form be amended to the highest possible rating of 18 total, and stated Ed does a great job for CWSD.

Director Gardner reiterated that he feels he has not worked with Mr. James long enough to review his job. He and 5 others joined the Board in January this year.

Director Giomi says Ed is the first expert in Nevada he thinks of when he thinks water issues. Mr. James is outstanding in his field. Director Jacobs votes outstanding as well.

Mr. James commented that the comments on his review forms had goals suggested by Board members for him to achieve during the coming year. He will have an agenda item for the July meeting to discuss these goals, completing a Mission Statement for CWSD and planning a Strategic Planning Meeting for early 2022.

Director Jacobs made a motion accept the results of Mr. James Annual Review as submitted adding GREAT JOB; and to authorize the annual longevity bonus of \$500. The motion was seconded by Director Schuette and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 24 - For Discussion Only - Update on 2021 Water Year

Mr. James reported on the continuing record-breaking dry year. [CLICK HERE](#) to view presentation slides.

No action was taken.

Item #25 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –

Mr. James reported the following:

- Brenda Hunt and Debbie Neddenriep were not at the Board meeting because they were giving a presentation on the current Water Campaign and Water Marketing Study to the Indian Hills GID. Mr. James and staff have been visiting all water purveyors in the past month with this presentation and will continue thru July, including county Boards and Commissions.

This led to a discussion of community outreach and how CWSD gets our message out there and educating community leaders on what we do. Director Schuette suggests Ed meet with County Planners as well. Mr. James discussed the Eleven Guiding Principles adopted by all counties in the past. Due to turnover and other changes, he thinks we need to make it known to current staff and planners. Chairman Giomi suggests it be reissued and added to the next agenda for consideration. Director Gray says this would be a good foundational document to be presented with a mission statement and goals.

Director Schank suggests the Alluvial Fan Study go on a Road Tour, too, to the counties affected.

Director Gardner stated Ed should take presentation he gave to Douglas County Commissioners to the Douglas County Planning Department too. Director Jacobs and Director Schuette agrees, what we are doing and what we do ongoing needs to get to Board and Commissions. Especially how we are all a part of the watershed. Development and infrastructure must be healthy since it is all tied together. Chairman Giomi agrees that a watershed campaign to educate the public on the health of the entire watershed, throughout the entire watershed, must be ongoing.

Director Schank laments the attraction of our area can not be the degradation of the area.

Legal – Mr. King reported the Nevada Supreme Court established a Commission of Water Experts and Water Right attorneys to study water adjudication law cases. He will keep CWSD updated on the actions of this Commission. Director Schank asked for a list of the members. Mr. James is not sure if there will be Water Courts here but will look into the issue of Water Rights litigation. The focus will be on quantity. Director Schank says Water Masters could help these Judges to understand water right issues.

Correspondence – A copy of *The Record Courier* article “Carson River a surprise to many residents” was included in Board package. Brenda Hunt was interviewed for the article written by Kurt Hildebrand.

Mr. James mentioned the recent USACE designation of the Carson River reach as navigable. [CLICK HERE](#) to view notice. He will be sending this to the Board and suggests we send a letter of concern.

No action was taken.

Item #26 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –

- Director Gardner led a groundwater versus surface water discussion. He is hoping the USBR grant is approved. He stated the perennial yield does not reflect water resources accurately in our watershed. He also announced Douglas County passed a resolution to cut back water use on a voluntary basis due to dire water shortage. He would like to see Carson City plan for conservation.
- Director Schank asked if the oath of office is provided to CWSD Directors. Mr. James will follow up on this request.
- Director Jacobs stated the Lumos Report on Water Marketing was a great document and appreciated the presentation at the May Board meeting.

No action was taken.

Item #27– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –

- Committee Member Riddle reported the Markleeville Water Company gets all its water from Jarvis Creek and it is really low. There is talk of rationing; letting lawns and flowers die, but there are no meters so it would entirely on the honor system. She feels their situation is dire. She realizes they are not alone or isolated in this drought condition.

No action was taken.

Item #28– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County –

- Committee Member Canfield reported (1) USGS Water Measuring Study in Highlands has asked to extend one more year due to drought situation. Currently the report is updated every Fall. Chairman Giomi suggests she share the report as all counties would be interested. She says some areas are trucking in water because residents do not want to pay to dig their wells deeper.

And (2) She has talked to Rob Holley (DVCD) regarding spraying for white tops. This idea is that they would possibly use DVCD equipment and Storey County Staff for weed abatement.

No action was taken.

Item #29 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board