

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

**Minutes**

***The CWSD July 21, 2021, Board of Directors meeting was held-at the Lyon County Utilities Conference Room, 34 Lakes Blvd., Ste. 103, in Dayton. The meeting was preceded by a tour of Dayton Valley Conservation District projects led by Rob Holley and a BBQ dinner at the Minor Ranch.***

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  
Pete Olsen  
Ernie Schank, Treasurer  
Lisa Schuette  
Fred Stodieck  
Mike Workman

**Directors Absent:** John Engels, Jack Jacobs, and David Nelson.

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

**CWSD Staff & Guests present:**

Geoff Brownell, Kimley-Horn  
Matt Freitas, American Rivers  
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  
Carmen Schank, Public

*The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Olsen.*

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

Chairman Giomi stated that it was a great tour! Thanks to Rob Holley who led the tour and also the Minor Family who hosted a BBQ at their ranch afterwards.

Committee Member Griffith expressed regrets on behalf of Committee Member Riddle who is absent this evening. Markleeville was hit hard by the Tamarack Fire and is currently under

evacuation orders.

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

Mr. James asked to pull Item 9 (Lost Lakes Agreement) from the agenda as it is unneeded. The current agreement is sufficient.

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

*Director Schank made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended and the Board Meeting Minutes of June 16, 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 June 2021**

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

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

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

**Item # 10 - For Discussion Only: Presentation by Kimley-Horn on West Carson Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP)**

Geoff Brownell from Kimley-Horn gave a presentation on the West Carson ADMP. He explained the study used existing data and built on it. He went over the study from the initial meeting to completion in an overview for the Board members. The complete report will be sent to Carson City and CWSD as final after this meeting. The study identified an almost \$20 million solution. [CLICK HERE](#) to view presentation slides.

There was a robust discussion on the size and cost of the proposed solution and whether it was feasible for Carson City. The idea of it being done in phases and with the assistance of a 5-year FEMA CIP grant was discussed. Director Giomi stated that Stormwater Funding was a hard sell to the public during a drought situation. Debbie Neddenriep stressed the importance of FAW (Flood Awareness) educational outreach to the community. She mentioned that the CRS (Community Rating System) awards points for mitigation efforts and has a direct affect of the insurance rates for homeowners. These types of projects can result in a 20% discount on insurance. Director Giomi stated the Flood Map Revision being done and the freeway helped for insurance issues too. The public needs to be aware of the importance and also the benefits to them personally of approving these mitigation efforts. Mrs. Neddenriep said she likes to stress to the public that every \$1 spent on flood mitigation efforts equals \$6 in savings to the community during recovery from a flood event. Committee Member Canfield suggests that an oversight committee maybe helpful to report to public. It could prioritize projects and report damage costs. She suggests a Utility Oversight Committee could meet annually for rates and projects review a report back to the community.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between CWSD, United States Forest Service, and American Rivers. Inc. for Beaver Dam Analogs in Faith Valley, California**

Mr. James gave a background of the issue and directed the Board to the proposed 3-Year MOU between the three entities. The USDA Forest Service has already signed in approval. The 3-Year study would analyze any adverse effects the Beaver Analog Dams Project in Faith Valley may have on downstream flows. Matt Freitas from American Rivers gave a presentation on the project and was available to answer questions from the Board. If the MOU is approved by CWSD, then Phase 1 of the project is scheduled for August 23, 2021 – October 1, 2021.

There was a lengthy discussion on concerns of water loss to downstream users. There was concern of use of CWSD water rights to Lost Lakes being used for this project. Director Giomi believes given the unknown impact of the project, that signing the MOU gives CWSD a seat at the table and therefore would be a positive move. Ms. Hunt suggests that we need to describe the goals of this project to include these: (1) functional headwaters to Carson River; (2) Ecologically significant & home to endangered species & Meadow dependent species; (3) Carbon sequestration, higher than the rain forest; and (4) other broad benefits to enhancing the environment.

Director Schank sees our water fights at issue and says damming off the river is using water they don't own to enhance headwater meadows. Director Stodieck asked who brought this project forward and it was identified as the USDA Forest Service, American Rivers, and various stakeholders. Director Workman commented that from our letter of concern, we are right where we wanted to be with a seat at the table. It's better to be in the agreement than not. Director Giomi agrees and says that should there be a litigious issue in the future, it puts us in a favorable position that we tried to cooperate in the beginning. Director Olsen points out that the analog dams are designed to eat water. It would be a failure if it didn't work. Director Schank says measurements must be taken throughout the 3-year project. Mr. James states that there are already lots of Beaver dams without the benefit of the MOU. Director Stodieck states his only concern is getting the water downstream.

*Chairman Giomi asked for a motion and a roll call vote. Director Schuette made a motion to approve Chairman Giomi signing the Memorandum of Understanding between CWSD, United States Forest Service, and American Rivers. Inc. for Beaver Dam Analogs in Faith Valley, California as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Workman and approved by the Board 9-1-0. Roll call vote recorded as follows:*

Yes	Canfield	Yes	Olsen
Yes	Gardner	No	Schank
Yes	Giomi	Yes	Schuette
Yes	Gray	Yes	Stodieck
Yes	Griffith	Yes	Workman

**Item # 12 - For Possible Action: Update regarding the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) expanding the navigability determination of the Carson River**

Mr. James reported on his efforts to get information on the recent USACE designation of the Carson River reach as *navigable*. [CLICK HERE](#) to view notice. Mr. James had a conversation with USACE representative regarding the history on this process. The 2021 designation that is based on a 1970 report that uses 1800's data. Director Giomi states he would like Ed to continue his

efforts to get information on this to put together a 1–2-page report, to send to our state reps. Director Gray suggests we need to argue its applicability and maybe amend the law. Committee Member Griffith mentioned that we should include the California reps. Mr. King states a law can be constitutional on its face and unconstitutional on its application. Director Giomi asks for an update on this issue to be added to the August agenda.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #13 - For Discussion Only: Update regarding Noxious Weeds in the Watershed**

Shane Fryer gave an overview of the CWSD noxious weed program that provides \$75,000 (5 counties at \$15,000 each) in financial assistance. He shared reports from counties and how they were able to apply the program during the past year despite Covid Pandemic:

- Alpine County – Completed their spraying program
- Churchill County – Drive-thru education program
- Dayton Valley Conservation District – Had classes, but lost staff. Landowners did weed applications.
- Carson City Weed Coalition – They use funds to pay for position, but have a high turnover
- Douglas County – Uses the funds to spray on county’s properties.

Carson City Parks and Open Spaces are planning a field trip to see Milfoil infestation. Storey County works with DVCD on weeds. The 6 Mile area is bad. Committee Member Canfield suggested a Fire Protection grant includes weed abatement and staff can help with this area. Mr. Fryer states all counties are having issues with getting staff. There was a suggestion of putting together a multi-county group to do applications.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #14 - For Possible Action: Review and approve the proposed Fiscal Year 21-22 Goals for the General Manager**

*Director Gray made a motion to approve the FY 21-22 Goals for the General manager as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

Mr. James reported on the continuing dry year and compared flows from 2015 - 2021. We did get a few thunderstorms in the East Fork drainage that saved us from being the driest year on record, but the precip did not affect the river flow at all and was not enough to help our drought situation. [CLICK HERE](#) to view presentation slides.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #16 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –**

Mr. James reported the following:

- The August meeting is scheduled as a field trip to Alpine County with a tour of Faith Valley and dinner/meeting at Turtle Rock Park. Due to the Tamarack Fire, it may have to be rescheduled for October and the August meeting will be planned as a regular meeting.
- Storey County is still in the process of selecting their Directors.

**Legal – None.**

**Correspondence** – A letter received from Sierra Nevada Journeys was included in Board package.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #26 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –**

- Director Gardner reported that after the last Board meeting his area experienced alluvial fan flooding.
- Director Schank asked if we can send a card to the Minor family to thank them for the great BBQ dinner they provided today.

*No action was taken.*

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

- Committee Member Griffith reported on the Tamarack Fire in Alpine County. They have been evacuated twice. Douglas County has been great to let them use their Emergency Ops center and donations from residents.
- The California Fish & Wildlife Service is proposing a fish barrier. They want to poison everything above the barrier and then put in cutthroat trout to achieve single species management. This idea is in the early stages.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #28– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County – None.**

*No action was taken.*

**Item #29 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment –**

Director Giomi mentioned in regard to the fire that in Nevada a declaration of emergency by the Governor is required before Federal Aid is available.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board