

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
September 15, 2021

Minutes

The CWSD September 15, 2021, Board of Directors meeting was preceded by a tour of the Carson City Water Resource Recovery Facility. Dinner and the Board meeting followed at the CWSD Conference Room, 777 E. William Street, Suite 110A, in Carson City.

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:

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

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

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

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Specialist
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager (*via Zoom*)
Edwin James, General Manager
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney
Kaylee Maples, CWSD AmeriCorps Member
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resources Specialist 2 (*via Zoom*)
Austin Osborne, County Manager, Storey County
Catrina Schambra, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board (*via Zoom*)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Giomi.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment –

Director Engels reported the Farmer's Almanac says we are looking at a very dry winter. Douglas County is asking for a voluntary 20% reduction in water use.

Kaylee Maples was introduced as CWSD's new AmeriCorps member. She will be working for both CWSD and River Wrangles for a one-year term. Ms. Maples is excited for this opportunity and looking forward to a great year ahead.

Jim Hindle was introduced as the new CWSD Director for Storey County. Director Hindle has been a Storey County resident since 2010 and is currently the Chair of the Storey County Planning Commission. He is happy for the support of Kathy Canfield and Austin Osbourne and thankful for the appointment to this Board of Directors.

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2021

Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2021, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

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

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

Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval to hire a part-time employee to assist with grants

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of changes to the CWSD Personnel Manual

Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of changes to CWSD Policies (1) Criteria for Selecting Board Officers and rotation of officers, (2) Criteria for Budget Expenditures, (3) Criteria for Selecting Committee Members, (4) Cost of Living Adjustment Policy, (5) Debt Management Policy Compliance with NRS 350.013, and (6) Director Meeting Compensation Policy

Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented, excepting to pull Item #10 for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Director Jacobs and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of changes to the CWSD Personnel Manual

Mr. James gave an overview of the changes to the Personnel Policy Manual. Committee Member Griffith questioned Section 5.1 Holidays. Specifically, he cited the new Juneteenth Holiday declared this year. This new Federal Holiday was declared and signed into law without any notice, so observance was inconsistent throughout the state. CWSD did not observe the holiday, because we were not aware of it until after it had passed. The office will observe it for the first time as a Federal Holiday in 2022. Because of timing of this, Committee Member Griffith suggests that we add language to CWSD policy that specifies *CWSD will honor holidays declared with 30-days’ notice prior to the day of the holiday.*

Director Giomi made a motion to approve the changes to the CWSD Personnel Policy as presented and adding language to Section 5.1

Holidays: “CWSD will honor declared Federal or State Holidays with 30-days’ notice prior to the day of the holiday.” The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #12 – For Possible Action: Authorize staff to develop a Regional Water Resource Plan for the Carson River Watershed

Mr. James announced that CWSD did not receive the BOR grant but the Regional Water System & Flood Committee recommended to move forward with the project on our own. The project would have benefits to all counties in the watershed. The study would include hiring a consultant to help write the plan and hire USGS to update the Upper and Middle Carson River models. Included in the Board package is a copy of the draft USGS proposal. USGS has new staff so Mr. James would like to meet with them first and then bring back a revised proposal. Mr. James will also need to develop a proposal to hire a consultant. He is asking for authorization to move forward with the project.

Chairman Giomi stated that we should require funding (ARPA funds) from all counties since they all benefit. Storey and Douglas counties have already started their planning process. Mr. James noted that Douglas County is focused on ground water only and this project would evaluate ground water and surface water combined. Director Jacobs questions the word evaluate, wonders what is the final product? He would like to see more clarity in the proposal and a better understanding of the final product. Mr. James said that the data from the USGS surface and groundwater models are based on old data. This plan will determine how to meet the future water demand and have sustainable future supply under various climate change scenarios. He emphasized the importance of including surrounding counties in water planning. There was discussion regarding the value of these studies and Chairman Giomi stated that Carson City projects have come about as a result of CWSD studies. Mr. James clarified this plan was discussed in the Regional Water System and Flood Committee meeting and the committee recommended moving forward with authorization from the full Board. He is asking for direction from the Board to move forward with putting together a proposal for this project that would be presented at a future meeting.

Director Giomi agreed that with 12 water purveyors over 6 counties that this regional plan to include interagency data will be very complicated. The question is do we agree on the concept to move forward.

Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the concept as presented and authorize staff to move forward and return to the Board with a proposal and budget for the project. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 13 - For Possible Action: Authorize the Chairman to sign letter to the Nevada Joint Special Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning Innovation Zones regarding CWSD Regional Water Resource Plan for the Carson River Watershed

Mr. James reported on the proposed Innovation Zone in Storey County which is proposing to build a new community of 30,000-40,000 people. His question is where will the water come from? This issue ties into the regional water issues discussed in Item 12. The proposed letter of concern will hopefully open a seat at the table in the planning discussions. Committee Member Griffith suggests we send copies of the letter to all State Representatives. Austin Osborne notes that Storey County is willing to work with

the developer to build in Storey County, but they do not approve the Innovation Zones. A discussion followed regarding water rights and the difference between wet water and paper water.

Director Jacobs made a motion to authorize Chairman Giomi to sign the letter of concern to the Nevada Joint Special Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning Innovation Zones regarding CWSD Regional Water Resource Plan for the Carson River Watershed and send on behalf of CWSD. The motion was seconded by Director Nelson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item # 14 - For Possible Action: Update on the USACE determination that the Carson River is a navigable water of the United States pursuant to the Rivers and Harbors Act

Mr. James reported that he has a meeting scheduled for September 30 with State Lands, USACE and others to discuss Carson River permit requirements, streamlining, and a plan to host a Carson River community workshop in October.

Mr. King stated that he has looked into the possibility of an appeal to the determination and found USACE can decide IF they will hear an appeal, or not. But their internal process must be exhausted before any judicial remedy. CWSD has standing to file suit if needed at that point. He noted that CWSD staff working with USACE and setting up workshops will show a good faith effort on our part and bolster our position if a dispute becomes necessary.

Director Stodieck asked if State Lands claims ownership of the Carson River, how does that work for diversion structures and maintenance? That question needs to be answered.

No action was taken.

Item #15 – For Possible Action: Approval of the new salary ranges for the CWSD staff

Mr. James reported on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee to approve the new salary ranges for CWSD employees and also the recommendation of moving up the COLA increase from July 1, 2022, to January 1, 2022. Mr. James stated CWSD has a great staff and would like to give them recognition for a job well done over a rough year.

Director Jacobs agrees and wants to make sure that all employees are recognized including the General Manager. He stated we need to reward and retain a great staff. Chairman Giomi concurs and thinks that staff should receive COLA increase in 2022 on January 1 and July 1, instead of just moving the COLA date from the start of the Fiscal year.

Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the new salary ranges and COLA increase effective January 1, 2022, and another COLA increase on July 1, 2022, to all employees of CWSD. The motion was seconded by Director Schuette and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #16 – For Discussion Only: Update on 2021 Water Year

Mr. James reported this is the hottest year on record.

No action was taken.

Item #17 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –

Mr. James reported the following:

- There is a discussion going around the state that the state would use some of their Covid funds to upgrade the DWR records. CWSD may be asked to sign on the letter.
- There is concern on droughts effects on herds of wild horses. Possible discussion for a future agenda.
- Staff is hoping to do a Faith Valley field trip next month, but we will have to wait and see if Alpine County is open.

Legal – None

Correspondence – None

No action was taken.

Item #15 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports – None

No action was taken.

Item #16– For ta Only: Update on activities in Alpine County – None

No action was taken.

Item #17– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County –

Kathy Canfield reports the following:

- Storey County wrapping up their Water Resource Plan.
- She is happy Jim has joined the Board!

No action was taken.

Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Giomi adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board