

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

**Minutes**

Chairman Giomi called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:31pm in the Bonanza Room at the Carson City Community Center at 851 East William Street in Carson City. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

**CWSD Directors present:**

Stacey Giomi  
Ken Gray  
Jim Hindle (*via Zoom*)  
David Nelson (*via Zoom*)  
Pete Olsen (*via Zoom*)  
Lisa Schuette  
Ernie Schank  
Mike Workman

**Directors Absent:** John Engels, Mark Gardner, and Fred Stodieck

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

**CWSD Staff & Guests present:**

Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Specialist  
Brenda Hunt, Watershed Program Manager  
Edwin James, General Manager  
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney  
Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resources Specialist 2  
Catrina Schambra, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Board

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

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

(Note: Technical Error. Paused to correct meeting recording. Resumed at 6:40 pm.)

Debbie Neddenriep introduced new employee Holly Farnham, CWSD Senior Watershed Clerk.

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

*Chairman Giomi announced if there are no objections, the agenda will stand approved. There were no objections.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of Nov. 17, 2021**

*Director Gray made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2021, as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee*

*Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

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

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

**Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Director Hindle (Storey County) Committee Assignments**

**Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of General Manager Contract**

*Director Workman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, excepting Item #11 which was pulled for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of a Mission and Vision Statement for CWSD**

After robust discussion among those present it was agreed the Mission Statement should be:

***To promote cooperative action with communities to protect the Carson River Watershed.***

*Director Gray made a motion to approve the CWSD Mission Statement as: “To promote cooperative action with communities to protect the Carson River Watershed.” The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

Further discussion led to agreement the Vision Statement should be:

***A healthy watershed that meets the water needs of all users.***

*Director Schuette made a motion to approve the CWSD Vision Statement as: “A healthy watershed that meets the water needs of all users.” The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #12 - For Possible Action: Select the Andy Aldax Award Recipient**

Mr. James reported the CWSD Administrative Committee met on November 30, 2021 and recommends giving two awards in 2022: an individual award and an entity/group award. The recipients: Bruce Scott and Alpine Watershed Group. Mr. James gave a brief history of award and discussion followed. It was the consensus that nominations should dictate whether two awards would be given each year, but recognition to entities’ contributions to the watershed should be included in this annual award.

*Director Schank made a motion to approve the Andy Aldax Award be given to both Bruce Scott and Alpine Watershed Group as presented and any*

*needed edit to the award criteria be made at the January 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #13 – For Possible Action: Approval of the 2021 Activities & Accomplishments Annual Report**

Mr. James introduced the report and consensus was that our new Mission & Vision statements should be added to the front page as well as bulleted list of the information inside.

*Director Gray made a motion to approve the 2021 Activities & Accomplishments Annual Report with the suggested edits. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #14 – For Possible Action: Approval of Staff Salary Adjustment**

At the November 30, 2021 meeting the Administrative Committee voted to recommend approval of a 5% salary adjustment starting January 1, 2022, with the stipulation that it be subject to budget impact information being made available for discussion during the final vote at the December Board meeting.

The impact to the FY 21/22 CWSD Salary budget for the 5% increase is \$10,560. The FY 21/22 Salary budget is \$422,280. The 5% increase would increase the salary budget by 2.5%. Approximately 50% of the salaries will be reimbursed via grants.

Director Gray reported that the actual COLA has been 6.1% since January 2021. He believes its good for CWSD to take care of its employees.

*Director Gray made a motion to approve the one-time 5% salary adjustment effective January 1, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #15– 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 the December 8, 2021 Permit Workshop was well attended with 44 participants. The next step is to engage the water purveyors to determine the required routine ongoing maintenance. The goal is to write an over arching 5-year general permit that will cover all the use of which we are aware. Staff will begin work on the language now. The group will meet again in January.

There was discussion including canal maintenance, clearing, and snagging and being specific regarding the methods used for these activities. Mr. James will visit all users to get a complete list of the activities that must be included in detail in the general permit language. Director Giomi suggested we not be specific, but general to not limit our activities. Ideas to include protecting property, livestock, and maintenance. Mr. James is hoping to have a list together by the end of the year.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #16 – For Possible Action: Update on the Proposed Interim Plan by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Carson River Mercury Super Fund Site**

Brenda Hunt reported the deadline for Public Comments has been extended by 90 days to February 14, 2022. The plan is to have a draft letter to present to the Board by the

January Board meeting. Then it will be shared with counties for their use as a template. Ms. Hunt reported the EPA has set the Public Meeting for January 31, 2022. Once the comment period closes on February 14, 2022 the EPA will have until December 2022 to respond to public comments and then the final decision should be out in March 2023. Director Giomi suggests we reach out to elected leaders for letters of support.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #17 – For Possible Action: 2022 Annual NWRA Convention**

Mr. James said that he will be attending as well as serving as a panelist at the annual convention. The info was included in the Board package and up to three Board members may attend if they would like. He asked them to contact Catrina Schambra for further information if they wanted to attend.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports –**

Mr. James reported the following:

- The 30-Year Drought grant (DEM/HMP) is looking promising. NDEM is using our application as a template for others in the state. There will also be another grant opportunity in February.
- Churchill County comments on the Water Marketing Plan are to be incorporated into the Regional Water Plan.

Mr. Fryer reported the following:

- The 2022 Watershed Forum will be a 2-day event and possibly virtual. It is still in the planning stages.

Ms. Hunt reported the following:

- The Bag It! video will launch in January and there will be one film per month premiering throughout 2022 for the I AM CARSON RIVER WATERSHED PSA campaign!

Ms. Neddenriep reported the following:

- The RFPs for FEMA MAS 12 projects resulted in contracts awarded to Kimley-Horn (SE Carson City project); Michael Baker, Inc. (East Carson City ADMP); and Lumos & Associates (Virginia City Six Mile ADMP). Selection for the Buckeye Basin Study is scheduled for tomorrow.

**Legal – None**

**Correspondence –** The Fallon Post article on the Churchill Flood Study presentation.

**Item #19 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –**

Director Schank reported on the snowfall levels from the last storm. Lake Tahoe got 7.3 feet of snow!

**Item #20– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –**

- Committee Member Riddle reported the Markleeville Water Company donated \$5,000 for waddles and seeds to prevent slides in endangered creeks. The workday before Thanksgiving was well attended. The community really came together on short notice.

Saturday there were 30 volunteers and Sunday 15 on Sunday. Five acres were covered. It was a great community event. Three supervisors showed up to help!

- Committee Member Griffith reported that no seasonal storage is the problem. They need to determine how to drill more wells. The Tamarack Fire 2-year NEEPA process before restoration has been shortened to having a plan by June 2022.

**Item #21– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County – None**

**Item #22 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board

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