

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY **DISTRICT**
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
January 19, 2022

Minutes

Chairman Giomi called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 pm 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:

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

Directors Absent: John Engels, Ernie Schank, 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
Kaylee Maples, AmeriCorps Watershed Technician
Holly Farnham, Senior Watershed Clerk
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Gray.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment - None

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Chairman Giomi asks that #9 be pulled for additional discussion and that Item 12 will be postponed until the February Board meeting.

Director Gray made the motion to approve the agenda as modified. 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 Dec.15, 2021

Director Gray made the motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the December 15, 2021. 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 December 2021

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

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of Amended Agreement #2020-11 with Neon to extend timeline and add \$13,800.

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

Item #11 - For Discussion Only: Presentation of 2021 Andy Aldax Award, presented to Bruce Scott & Alpine Watershed Group.

Comments were made regarding how Bruce Scott helped Carson City with its water supply and river rights. Director Giomi thanked Bruce and said that he has done more for open space, for not only the river, but also the entire Watershed.

Director Workman mentioned that Bruce has worked on various boards dealing with water rights and pipelines. He greatly enjoyed being able to collaborate with him.

Ms. Schuette spoke about what a privilege it is, to be able to give this award to Bruce.

Bruce spoke about his great appreciation of the kind words spoken about him; it really means a lot to him. Pictures were taken of Giomi presenting Bruce with the award.

Ed spoke about Alpine Watershed Group and the vision of the community coming together. Alpine County has the smallest population, but it does not keep them from caring and helping the various watersheds that originate in Alpine County.

Director Griffith spoke about the number of volunteers for the watershed group and what all they do, since they are very dedicated. For example, they went out to get grants etc., in order to accomplish work on the watershed. He thanked and congratulated them.

Kimra McAfee, Executive Director of Alpine Watershed Group thanked all the Board members and staff of CWSD.

Rich Harvey, Chair of Alpine Watershed Group spoke about owing so much to Kimra. She is building on their past successes.

Additionally, January Riddle spoke about a wonderful workday, led by Kimra. January was glad to know that she was in a great place, due to the amazing support of Kimra, Alpine Watershed Group, and volunteers.

Directors Giomi, Gray and Griffith presented the Andy Aldax award to the Alpine Watershed Group.

No action was taken.

Item #9 - For Possible Action: Modify the Andy Aldax criteria to establish who is eligible for the award.

Chairman Giomi stated that he thought the discussion at the last Board meeting was that CWSD was going to create two awards. One for individuals and one for organizations. It was recommended that staff rework the language and bring it back to the next Board meeting.

Director Gray made the motion for staff to rework the criteria required for the Andy Aldax award to include once for individuals and another for organizations. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #12 - For Discussion Only: Presentation by Geoff Brownell from Kimley-Horn, regarding the Smelter Creek Flood Study.

This item will be moved to next month meeting.

No action was taken.

Item #13 - For Possible Action: Update on the Watershed Literacy Campaign.

Kaylee spoke about our first Watershed Moment “Bag It,” which was released on 1/5/22. Press Coverage thus far includes:

- Traditional Media:
Carson Now Article: “Bag It” video addresses pet waste impact on Carson River’s water quality.
Record Courier article: “Carson River Watershed video offers scoop on poop”
KOLO 8 / ABC News Now “Effort to protect river watershed starts with targeting dog poop”
All Healthy News “‘Bag it’ video addresses pet waste impact on Carson River’s water quality / Carson City Nevada News”
- Interview with RGI on Wednesday
- Social Media:
Face book - Over 20,000 people reached and watched most of the video, 48 comments, 48 shares, 198 likes. Sharing: AWG, Carson Proud, Carson City Chamber of Commerce. Half of the 20,000 people watched the video.
Instagram – 245 people have watched the video, 6 comments, and 14 likes, as of Monday.
YouTube – 280 views, 11 likes, 3 comments on regular video, and Spanish has 34 views and 1 like.
- Comments - Negative:
Someone needs to figure out how to make fuel out of mammalian waste.
How about the mustangs?
Carson River Watershed needs to first clean up the mercury in the Carson River.
What about the billions of animals that roamed the plains? Herds of millions of buffalo did not spoil the world water.
Who cleans up after Tahoe bears?

The main goal was to spread awareness.

No action was taken.

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 mentioned that there will be a meeting on January 28 to discuss the development of a General Permit for the Carson River Watershed.

No action was taken.

Item #15 - For Possible Action: Review of draft comments to the Proposed Interim Plan by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Carson River Mercury Superfund Site (CRMSS).

Giomi gave kudos to Ms. Hunt for her work on the letter. Mr. James gave a general overview of his concerns with what the EPA is proposing. Ed spoke about federal disaster funding being denied counties due to the designated superfund site.

Ms. Hunt discussed the proposed interim plan. The interim plan focuses on human health but not much on the health of wildlife and broader environmental issues. It looks like the EPA wants

to exercise their authority so they can prohibit the selling of black fish, which are highly contaminated with mercury. Ms. Hunt asks in CWSD's comment letter whether the USEPA will ultimately have jurisdiction on this issue. She expressed concern about obtaining funding from not only FEMA, but any federal entity if they took the same stance as FEMA. This would be devastating to this portion of the watershed and limit critical bank stabilization and riparian restoration projects from moving forward. Some solutions she listed are to get the EPA to think bigger and to create an interagency solution. The letter is long, and details concerns per page of the report. It is a draft and she asked for any thoughts the board had and any concerns they think need to be addressed. She is hopeful the draft letter highlights potential issues with the interim plan. She expressed that ultimately, the CRMSS may need a political solution to get to an on the ground solution.

Ms. Hunt mentioned that the EPA will be holding a virtual/zoom public meeting 2/1/22, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. They extended the public comment period until 2/28/22. It will help the counties to have the extra time post the 2/1/2022 public meeting.

Giomi spoke about consolidating the key issues into 2 or 3 paragraphs, with details following. From a local government's perspective, he is concerned about the lack of funding from FEMA, etc.

Mr. James mentioned that FEMA states that "They are the agency of last resort for funding disasters. When there is a superfund site, you already have another fund source." He also mentioned that there are no responsible parties named for USEPA to seek funding from due to the historical nature of the mercury pollution. He ultimately said, "Why do we have a superfund site, if it's going to hurt us more."

Ms. Hunt suggested that delisting was brought up and as the CRMSS will unlikely ever be fully clean up. The site is unique in that it does not fit into the normal Superfund site clean-up box. It is unlikely that USEPA would be able to delist it under current CERCLA law but that has not been fully explored. CWSD is suggesting in the letter that an interagency approach may yield more benefits and share the burden of funding, monitoring, technology, and on-the-ground solutions. Perhaps through an MOU and a written plan, projects could be prioritized that benefit both human health risks, disaster funding, and environmental improvements. One of the Alternatives could be modified to consider this issue and a pilot such an agreement.

Jim Hindle spoke about the dynamics with FEMA. We want to collaborate with them to produce a remedy.

Mr. Workman spoke about asking the question regarding, if they cannot work out an MOU between agencies, then it is a problem. How do we help them meet their and our goals?

Lisa Schuette has quite a few notes and comments that she would like to suggest to Ms. Hunt for possible changes. Ms. Hunt was happy with accepting her suggestions and will incorporate them into the final letter.

Giomi complimented Ms. Hunt for her work and knowledge on the topic.

Griffith spoke about the USEPA moving slowly and that if Leviathan is an example, this project will take even longer without a responsible party to help fund the work.

Ms. Hunt will modify the letter based on comments presented and bring back a final copy to the February Board meeting.

No action was taken.

Item #16 For Discussion Only: Staff Reports-

Mr. James reported the following:

- Next week is a CWSD Regional Water Committee meeting.
- Mentioned his appreciation to Ms. Neddenriep, for stepping in to help with the Board Package, and he also thanked Ms. Farnham for staying in order take Minute/Notes for the board meeting.

Legal – None

Correspondence – None

No action was taken.

Item #17 For Discussion Only: Directors Reports

Director Gardner spoke of having a vacancy on the CWSD board from Douglas County and looking to fill that position. They need someone within the AG Community. They will go out actively seeking for this position to be filled.

No action was taken.

Item #18 For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County - None

Item #19 For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County - None

Item #20 For Discussion Only: Public Comment - None

Item #21 For Possible Action: Adjournment – Chairman Giomi adjourned the meeting at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Farnham
Senior Watershed Clerk