

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021, 10am

Committee Members Present:

David Griffith, Alpine County
Jack Jacobs, Douglas County
Ernie Schank, Churchill County
Lisa Schuette, Carson City
Mike Workman, Lyon County

Staff Present:

Edwin James, General Manager
Catrina Schambra, Secretary to the Board

Others Present:

Patrick King, CWSD Legal Counsel
Darcy Phillips, River Wranglers

This meeting of the CWSD Finance Committee was held via Zoom and was called to order at 10am by Committee Member Schank. Roll call was taken and a quorum of the Finance Committee members were present.

Item #3 - Public comment: None

Item #4 - For Possible Action: Approve Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of Mar. 1, 2021

Director Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of March 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and approved unanimously.

Item #5 - For Possible Action: Review funding additional projects for FY 2021-22

Mr. James explained that an additional \$40,000 is available in the FY 21-22 Budget that can go to funding additional projects. Based on comments he received by Board members he suggested the following allocations:

- \$25,000 to Acquisition/Construction Fund (for BOR grant match)
- \$10,000 to River Wranglers for increased educational programs
- \$5,000 towards Ash Canyon Trail maintenance project

Director Schank comments that he thinks the RW project is a great idea. He has spoken to his wife about it, who is a retired teacher, and she agrees.

Committee Member Griffith opposes considering granting more funding without putting it out to all who requested funds originally. He fully supports River Wranglers and their educational projects – and does not oppose the project per se but thinks it is unfair to other groups to not allow them to request these funds.

Mr. James agrees that Committee Member Griffith is right that this is unusual, but the issue is the time restraint. Any leftover funds usually get rolled over into preliminary planning for next year or capital projects. We have never done this before, and this is only being brought forward because of the requests from Board members at the April Board meeting. Because CWSD must finalize the FY 2021-22 Budget at the May Board meeting, Mr. James is looking for direction from the committee.

There is discussion regarding the proposal from River Wranglers (RW) led by Director Jacobs. He asked if the proposal by RW will be simply a study or will there be action in this project. Darcy Phillips (RW Executive Director) stated that developing the curriculum is straight forward. What will take most of the time is coordinating this with teachers and schools. Ernie suggests that the curriculum gained from the Watershed Wednesdays Forum could be used and with one teacher at each school as a contact, it should not cost very much or take very long to get started quickly. He is very excited about this idea and thinks it could develop into a nationwide educational model! Director Jacobs supports the idea. He says the focus is on the children, but it will have a community impact. Director Schank believes this is a natural progression on the Watershed Wednesdays outreach. This is just building on that idea.

Director Workman has a few reservations and suggests we call it a Pilot Program for the first year. He fully supports River Wranglers programs in general and thinks this project has great potential. Director Schank agrees the Pilot Program designation is a good idea. Director Schuette 100% supports the RW project. An educational component is a key to the future of the watershed, and she thinks this will be an exceptional program! As a former teacher she sees the target age group is 6th & 7th Grade students but sees value in a short unit geared to 2nd Graders as an opportunity to plant the proper seed of watershed education.

Mr. James reminded the committee that there is \$40,000 available to allocate. He confessed his bias is to grow the capital funds and his suggestions are based on that. Director Schuette had asked about the possibility of funding trails projects since none were approved so far. Director Schank had requested the possibility of further educational outreach funding resulting from Watershed Wednesdays and growing on that success.

Director Schank asked how he had arrived at the Ash Canyon Trail Project out of the 3 that were presented. Mr. James explained that it was the only project that included water quality in proposal. There was discussion on how trail projects align with our mission. Should that be our focus? Director Workman wonders why these types of projects are not more suited for city funding and their responsibility. Committee Member Griffith states trails do not really affect water quality and CWSD should stick to their wheelhouse for funding projects. Director Jacobs agrees, we should discuss what best affects our mission in all trail's requests. Mr. James says that informational signs and the Aquatic Trail are grant funded projects. We can be promoting these types of projects by finding grants to fund them.

Director Schuette appreciates the candor of this committee and agrees our Mission Statement needs to be our guide in our projects. She believes signage ties into our educational outreach. Mr. James states the purpose of the CRC (Caron River Coalition) is to coordinate with other groups. A lot of our watershed projects come from the CRC and we look for grant funding to do these projects (i.e. the Aquatic Trail project).

Director Jacobs made a motion to adjust the FY 21-22 Final Budget to add \$10,000 funding for the River Wranglers "School/Student Interconnectedness in the Carson River Watershed" Project and \$30,000 going to the Acquisition/Construction Fund. This will be the single recommended adjustment to the FY 21-22 Budget as presented in Item #6. The motion was seconded by Director Workman and approved 4/1/0 with Committee Member Griffith opposed.

Item #6 - For Possible Action: Approval of the General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund FY 2021-22 *DRAFT* Final Budgets

Director Schank asked Mr. James if there were as other considerations to be reviewed in the Final FY 21-22 Budget to be recommended to the Board for approval at the May 19, 2021 meeting. Mr. James explained that the changes approved in Item 5 will be the only changes recommended to the Board for approval. He noted that FEMA MAS 12 funds have not been included as they have not been awarded yet. The funds will be added to the budget when received. FEMA MAS grant expenses are 100% covered by the grant so it does not affect our net budget.

No action taken.

Item #6 - Public comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 10:36am.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board