

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 15, 2022

Draft Minutes

Chairman Giomi called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30pm in the Churchill County Mosquito Vector & Noxious Weed Abatement District conference room at 7400 Reno Hwy, Fallon, NV 89406. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

**CWSD Directors present:**

Mark Gardner (via Zoom)	Ernie Schank
Stacey Giomi	Lisa Schuette
Ken Gray	Cassi Uhart (via Phone)
Pete Olsen (via Zoom)	Mike Workman

**Directors Absent:** John Engels, Jim Hindle, Dave Nelson, and Fred Stodieck

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

**CWSD Staff & Guests present:**

Brenda Hunt, CWSD	Catrina Schambra, CWSD
Edwin James, CWSD	Martina Schambra, AmeriCorps
Patrick King, Attorney (via Zoom)	Carmen Schank, Guest

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

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

Director Schank thanked Chuck Schembre and Joe Frey for their informative presentations.

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

*Director Schank made a motion to pull Item #13 (Agreement #2022-11 River Wranglers - Conserve Carson River Workdays) for further discussion and approve agenda with this change. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2022**

*Director Gray made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Schank and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

**Item #7 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer's Report for May 2022**

**Item #8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for May 2022**

**Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2022-7 Carson Valley**

**Conservation District – Genoa River Restoration & Flood Damage, not to exceed \$210,000**

**Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2022-8 Dayton Valley Conservation District – Stabilization/Dayton Bridge, not to exceed \$118,000**

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2022-9 Lahontan Conservation District – Clearing & Snagging, not to exceed \$27,000**

**Item #12- For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2022-10 Alpine County Watershed Group- Upper Carson River Watershed Programs, not to exceed \$30,000**

**Item #14 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2022-12 Churchill County – Dixie Valley Water Level Measurement & Precipitation Gauge Monitoring Program, not to exceed \$71,000**

**Item #15 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2022-13 The Nature Conservancy - Riparian Revegetation & Streambank Stabilization, not to exceed \$25,142**

**Item #16 - For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum to Lyon County Agreement #2020-10 HWY 50 Right of Way to extend termination date to June 30, 2025, due to project delays (time extension only)**

**Item #17 - For Possible Action: Approval of Lost Lakes Agreement with Carson City**

*Director Schank made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 9,10, 11,12,14, 15,16, and 17 as presented with Item # 13 pulled for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.*

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

**Item #13 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2022-11 River Wranglers- Conserve the Carson River Workdays, not to exceed \$30,000**

It was noted that Agreement #2022-13 had the wrong project name. The numbers, dates and description were correct, but it had the Flood Awareness Project title. This correction must be made before sending out for signatures.

*Director Schank made a motion to approve River Wranglers Agreement #2022-11: Conserve Carson River Workdays with edits as described. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #18 - For Discussion Only: Review Strategic Planning Session Survey Results**

Mr. James thanked all who participated in the Strategic Planning Session held in April. The survey results from that meeting were included in the Board package as well as written analysis by staff of how to address the priorities and direction given by the Board

members. Mr. James addressed each category of priorities, their priority order as ranked by the Board, and staff suggestions for moving towards those goals:

**1. Continue to develop a 30-year regional water resource plan for the entire Carson River Watershed.**

Question 1 has general high support. Staff proposes to continue to move forward on this program.

**2. Reestablish the list of water supply/facilities eligible for CWSD funding out of the Acquisition/Construction Fund.**

**3. Continue to transfer a minimum of \$75,000 each year from the General Account into the Acquisition/Construction Account.**

Questions 2 & 3 have mixed support. Staff proposes to meet with the Regional and Flood committee to discuss these questions in more detail and bring back a recommendation to the full board.

**4. Continue to pursue NDEP CWA Section 319(h) funding for the CRC/Watershed Coordination Program.**

Question 4 has general high support. Staff proposes to continue to move forward on this program.

**5. Pursue other funding sources to continue the CRC/Watershed Coordination Program.**

Question 5 has mixed support. Staff proposes to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss this item in more detail and bring back a recommendation to the full board.

**6. Develop an annual amount to be transferred from the General Account into the Floodplain Management Account.**

Question 6 has general high support. Some additional details need to be developed. Staff proposes to meet with the Regional and Flood committee to discuss this question in more detail and bring back a recommendation to the full board.

**7. Pursue funding to implement regional flood projects throughout the watershed.**

**8. Participate with Counties in their Hazardous Mitigation Plan (HMP) updates.**

Questions 7 & 8 have mixed support. Staff proposes to meet with the Regional and Flood committee to discuss these questions in more detail and bring back a recommendation to the full board. There is some misunderstanding regarding who is responsible for developing Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP). HMP are developed and updated by each county (and now CWSD) every five years.

**9. Host CRC Weed Summit.**

**10. Continue to coordinate Weed Management Areas to support weed management throughout the watershed.**

**11. Work with our CRC partners to develop a volunteer post weed removal reseeding/replanting program.**

Questions 9, 10, & 11 staff needs some clarification. There seems to be some mixed support toward these questions, but CWSD has been a consistent funder for noxious weeds control and help coordinating weed programs for 20 years. Direction from the board would be useful

related to these three questions.

**12. Complete River Rehabilitation Structure Inventory and Mapping Database.**

**13. Continue to fund and coordinate with partners to complete projects outlines in the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan (CRASP) and the Regional Floodplain Management Plan (RFMP).**

Questions 12 & 13 have general high support. Staff proposes to continue to move forward with these programs.

**14. Pursue funding for Geomorphology and Sediment Transport Plan for the Carson River to help identify and prioritize project implementation.**

Question 14 has mixed support. I assume there is support for this study if CWSD can find funding. Staff needs some clarification on this question.

**15. Continue to promote the “I Am Carson River Watershed” Healthy Watershed Campaign.**

**16. Fund the resurvey of watershed residents regarding watershed-literacy and watershed health to learn how we’ve moved the bar from our baseline survey in 2015 and how we should move forward.**

**17. Update and reformat CWSD’s website.**

Questions 15, 16, & 17 have general high support. Staff needs some clarification regarding these questions. Does the comment from question 15 “While nice PR these are not fundamental to the mission and they require considerable time and production. As resources and grants simultaneously allow for pursuit.” cover the general direction how CWSD should proceed with our outreach programs?

**18. Create bi-weekly watershed articles for local papers.**

Question 18 has mixed support and would take a lot of staff time. Staff proposes to meet with the Administration Committee to discuss this question in more detail and bring back a recommendation to the full board.

**19. Promote expansion of Carson River Aquatic Trail.**

**20. Work with recreational partners to promote watershed health.**

Questions 19 & 20 have general low support. Staff needs some clarification regarding these questions. Can it be said that this is a low priority for CWSD, but we would continue to support our partners.

**21. Present the Guiding Principles, Stewardship Plan, and the Regional Floodplain Management plan to all County’s Boards and Planning Commissions.**

Question 21 has general high support. Staff will move forward and start scheduling times to give presentation to the county’s boards.

**22. Pursue legislation to amend our authorization into Chapter 621 to include doing business as (DBA) to change CWSD’s name.**

Question 22 has mixed support. Staff proposes to meet with the Administration Committee to discuss this question in more detail and bring back a recommendation to the full board.

**23. Investigate the possibility of purchasing some of Bently’s water rights.**

Question 23 has general support but is a very expensive endeavor. This proposal will need to be to be discussed at both the Regional and Flood Committee and Finance Committee.

Directors Workman and Schuette started discussion stating that staff input is valued and wanted included in all discussion of programs and priorities. Mr. James says staff has input at committee level for detailed discussions.

Chairman Giomi described the Carson City Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and how it helps to get grant funding. If a Federal Emergency is declared in a disaster, you cannot get funding if there is no HMP in place. Committee Member Griffith also states Alpine County must have HMP in place for natural hazards emergency funding.

Director Uhart asked about the Weed Summit and if local ranchers attend. Ms. Hunt explains that they are held once a year and are mostly attended by Conservation Districts. Ms. Hunt would like to see more participation by ranchers.

Director Schuette thinks it is imperative that we educate the public to get anything done. Director Schank agrees and suggest that the re-survey is very important too but keep it to a few questions only to get the best response.

Chairman Giomi states there seems to be consensus with staff analysis and Mr. James can arrange for committees to address issues needing further discussion and their recommendations will be brought back to the Board.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #19 - For Possible Action: Approve General Manager Annual Review**

Chairman Giomi commended Mr. James on his job performance and assumes his goals in the coming year will be in accordance with the priorities set by the Strategic Planning Session that was just discussed.

*Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve the General Manager, Ed James Annual Review, and approval of the corresponding merit increase. The motion was seconded by Director Gray and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #20 - For Possible Action: CWSD Staffing Requirements**

Mr. James discussed the need for a new staff position given the resignation of the part-time Senior Watershed Clerk. Staff learned that a part-time position and its limitations did not work for the CWSD staffing needs. It is proposed that we offer a regular full-time position of 30-40 hours per week, Monday – Friday, with benefits and a title of Water Resources Specialist I. The salary range would be \$30-\$42.31 per hour based on a 10-step salary range and Employee/Employer PERS. This person would be trained to fill in areas of staffing needs throughout the office and be supervised by the General Manager. The Administrative Committee reviewed this request and recommended CWSD hire a Water Resources Specialist I.

*Director Gray made a motion to approve moving forward with the hiring process for the Water Resources Specialist I position. The motion was seconded by Director Workman and unanimously approved by the Board.*

### **Item #21 - For Discussion Only: Staff Reports**

- Mr. James recognized staff for their hard work getting ready for the office move.
- Ms. Hunt reported she went on a tour with the new EPA representative yesterday touring Carson Valley Conservation District sites, River Fork Ranch, 319 Project Tour and a tour of the Minor Ranch.
- Ms. Neddenriep reported a contractor is painting a High-Water Mark mural off the 1580 that will be unveiled in August.

**Legal** – None

**Correspondence** – None

*No action was taken.*

### **Item #22 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –**

- Director Schuette stated she would be at Tail & Trails Event on Sunday, June 19 and invited everyone to attend. She also would like to have CWSD handout materials to distribute at her event table.
- Chairman Giomi reported the Quill Treatment Plant project is moving forward. They are at the bid on design process now. This is a big project for Carson City!
- Director Schank reported on a Truckee Canal issue:  
In 2008 the Truckee Canal breached. Since 2008, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has been evaluating ways to make the canal more reliable. BOR is proposing lining a 3.7-mile reach. This will cost around \$37million. There is a vote among the water users if they cut off any water deliveries and get the project done in one year; start and stop the project during the non-irrigation season and this will take 3 years and the costs will be more; do nothing and limit flows in the canal to 140 cfs.
- Director Gardner wanted to recognize Director Gray’s accomplishment of election to Nevada Assembly! Also, Director Engels is not running again and Sharla Hales will be taking his seat. She wants to start joining meetings soon.
- Director Gray stated CWSD will have a huge supporter in the Assembly and he will miss serving on this Board!
- Director Olsen (*via Zoom*) announced he has COVID.
- Director Schank added that our outreach is so important to remind people how important agriculture is to the watershed.

*No action was taken.*

### **Item #23– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –**

- Committee Member Riddle reported Markleeville Water Company has started water restrictions. Watering only allowed 3 days per week. More restrictions are coming. Alpine County is trying to conserve.
- Committee Member Griffith congratulated Director Gray. He also reported Alpine County can become a full-fledged member of CWSD Board, there is a way around California legislation but Nevada legislation must be put in place. Mr. King confirmed it’s in the works. His legal partner is licensed in California and helping with the process. Chairman Giomi says adding a county from across state lines proves the success of our body.

*No action was taken.*

**Item #24– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County – None**

**Item #25 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Giomi adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board