

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

Draft Minutes

Director Gray called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:34pm in the Lyon County Utilities Conference Room, 34 Lakes Blvd., Suite 103, Dayton, Nevada. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Ken Gray	Fred Stodieck
Dave Nelson (via phone)	Cassi Uhart
Ernie Schank	Mike Workman
Lisa Schuette	

Directors Absent: John Engels, Mark Gardner, Stacey Giomi, Jim Hindle, and Pete Olsen.

Roll call included CWSD Committee Members present - David Griffith and January Riddle, both via Zoom.

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Kranti Bandi, Michael Baker	Edwin James, CWSD
Polly Boardman, Michael Baker	Patrick King, CWSD Attorney
Kathy Canfield, Storey County	Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD
Angelique DePauw, UNR Student	Max Robinson, CWSD
Shane Fryer, CWSD	Catrina Schambra, CWSD (via Zoom)
Brenda Hunt, CWSD	Alex Waskas, Michael Baker

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Stodieck.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment –

Ed James introduced Max Robinson, newly hired CWSD Water Resource Specialist 1 and University of Nevada Reno (UNR) Student, Angelique DePauw who is job shadowing Mr. James through a program set up through Nevada Water Resources Association (NWRA).

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Director Schank made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2022

Director Schuette made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2022, with a correction to the meeting location. The motion was seconded by Director Workman and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #7 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer's Report for Aug. 2022 & Sept. 2022

Item #8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for Aug. 2022 & Sept. 2022

Item #9 - For Possible Action: Request for additional funds for the Smelter Creek LOMR in the amount of \$4,000

Director Schank made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Item #10 - For Discussion Only: Presentation by Michael Baker on Web Access System

Polly Boardman introduced Alex Waskas to demonstrate the new Carson River map viewer they created for CWSD. Ms. Waskas gave the Board a guided tour of the Web Access System and demonstrated all areas and widgets. The [Carson Water Subconservancy District Web Access System](#) is a web mapping application that allows CWSD staff, developers, engineering firms, and the public to view hydrology and hydraulics (H&H) models that have been developed for the Carson River Watershed. The system currently includes 18 H&H studies along with reference data such as rain gauges, flood hazard areas, watershed boundaries, soil types, dams, and levees. This application was developed with input from the CWSD and the six counties in the watershed: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties in Nevada and Alpine County in California.

Ms. Neddenriep commented that the information for the project was developed from staff at each county to make sure the information would be both useful data to share, and that it would be accessible to all-in-one place, to refer those in need of the data. Mr. James commented that it was a project the counties had been asking for and it will be a useful tool for developers and engineers in evaluating an area for potential development.

Director Workman asked about the changes to the model after a project was completed. Ms. Boardman responded that the data would need to be updated as changes are made. This is a standardized starting model for all to use. Mr. Kranti commented that there is a need to process models and get them updated as timely as possible. Even FEMA must update data continually he said. Michael Baker connects to the FEMA Map Service Center nightly for updates. The process of updating data is a constant effort that must be done to keep data as accurate as possible. Mr. James said CWSD will follow up with counties regarding how they plan to use the Web Access System.

It was noted that Alpine County would need a flood map for the Markleeville area to have data entered in the database for post fire flooding issues. Committee Member Riddle and Committee Member Griffith asked if debris flow study could be added to the web access system. Mr. James mentioned that is could in the future but first a flood map for Markleeville area needs to be developed.

The CWSD Web Access System is still in development and will roll out when complete. Links will be on websites of all six watershed counties, Conservation Districts and the [FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#).

No action was taken.

Item #11 - For Discussion Only: FEMA Risk Communication & Outreach Presentation

Ms. Neddenriep talked about the Ag in the Classroom event she participated in the previous day, while demonstrating a small makeshift flood model to the Board. She explained that using a visual tool is a great ice breaker that grabs attention at outreach events. She then gave a presentation update on FEMA outreach at various events in the watershed regarding flooding in Nevada with information tables for both homeowners and the community in general. When space allows, she likes to use one of two large interactive models to demonstrate the danger and adverse consequences of flooding in our area. It is an engaging educational tool.

CWSD has received 13 funding awards since 2011 through FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Grants which provided for over 50 projects. CWSD uses its FEMA funding for 3 types of outreaches: Public Outreach; Project Outreach; and School Outreach. Ms. Neddenriep gave an overview of the importance and goal of each.

She explained how CWSD outreach helps the counties by gaining points towards Flood Insurance discounts which is based on community mitigation efforts. CWSD works in cooperation with numerous partners in community events and educational outreach opportunities. Ms. Neddenriep also showed the video from the High-Water Mark Mural Project unveiling event.

No action was taken.

Item #12 - For Discussion Only: 208 Grant Regenerative Ag Update

Ms. Hunt and Mr. Fryer gave an update on 208 Grant and the Soil Health & Regenerative Ag Workshop held on September 30 in Fallon. It was a successful event with 70 people in attendance from the Ag community! Pictures were shown as Ms. Hunt described the all-day event that included low-till, no-till, regenerative Ag demonstration stations and viewing of cover crops. The event included a meal, and the attendees were engaged and most had interest in joining our new CRC Ag Working group.

Director Schank thinks the idea is great, but is it realistic for a large-scale farming operation? Ms. Hunt explained that this is a pilot program, and we will learn how this may work for all varied sizes of farming operations. Water quality enhancement, soil health, and water use is the focus. This will be a baseline study.

Director Uhart mentioned the prohibitive cost of switching to new equipment. Would there be an incentive program? Mr. Fryer said this is a concern and is being investigated. Ms. Hunt says Minor Ranch is starting small with cover crops to see how it works. Small steps can make an impact. There was discussion of sharing equipment and working with the conservation districts. Director Schank and Director Uhart discussed soil health and soil diversity in the area.

Committee Member Riddle wanted to share a book and video called Kiss the Ground by Josh Tickell. It is excellent she said, and it covers all the regenerative ag ideas discussed at the workshop. Ms. Hunt said that it was that video which piqued her interest in exploring regenerative ag!

Committee Member Griffith mentioned [Biochar](#) is great for water retention in soil for high value crops such as walnuts and almonds. Farmers in the central valley are getting impressive results. Its expensive, but it works.

No action was taken.

Item #13 - For Discussion Only: Watershed Moment

Ms. Hunt showed the Watershed Moment: "[Pitch In](#)" video, which was launched today, and a draft of Engage Your Watershed the November Watershed Moment.

After viewing Pitch In, Director Schuette stated this is a call to action! We need to normalize recycling. Ms. Hunt says a real problem is there are no recycling programs. There was discussion of this lack of awareness because there are no effortless ways to recycle in our area. Director Schank thinks we need to promote the needed facilities to process recycling through legislative action.

After viewing Engage Your Watershed, Director Uhart suggested putting links to volunteer opportunities out with the video.

No action was taken.

Item #14 - For Discussion Only: Update on Water Releases from Lost Lakes and the Faith Valley Beaver Analog Dams Project

Mr. James explained the history and use of Lost Lakes, which is used for recreation in summer and releasing the water in the fall to enhance instream flows. Mr. Fryer showed pictures of a recent maintenance and water release day at Lost Lakes, and a video of the Beaver Analog Dams in Faith Valley taken on Markleeville Creek Day.

No action was taken.

Item #15 - For Discussion Only: Staff Reports

Mr. James reported the following:

- Yesterday a group from the EPA Mercury Superfund stopped by the office for an impromptu meeting. The EPA staff was looking into renewable energy alternatives. They mentioned that the comment letter CWSD sent to EPA in February 2022 should be responded to by March 2023.
- CWSD was awarded funding from FEMA this year but have been warned that due to staff shortage funding may be cut next year. They simply do not have the staff to process and grant requests.
- The Alpine County BDR will be sponsored by PK O'Neill this coming Legislative Session.

Ms. Hunt reported the following:

- CWSD made its presentation to NDEP this morning for a Watershed Coordination Grant asking for \$360,000 over 2 years. NDEP has only \$900,000 available and \$1.3 million in grant applications.
- CWSD will have an article in the [NWRA Newsletter: waterSPOT](#) in the Winter issue. The article *Watershed Moments: Promoting Watershed Literacy in the Carson River Watershed*, by *Catrina Schambra* will also be submitted to American Planning Association Magazine, a national publication.

Mr. Fryer reported the following:

- Annual Snapshot Day is this Friday with 250 kids across 4 sites at the river.

Legal –

- Mr. King shared a Supreme Court decision from last week, which is an important decision regarding water rights in Nevada. This does not affect our area, but concern of precedent for future decisions.

Correspondence –

- 1) Conserve Nevada Grant Program – Carson Now
- 2) UNR AG Curriculum – Carson Now
- 3) UNR Study – Carson Now
- 4) Leviathan Super fund Sit Milestone – The Record Courier
- 5) BLM approves Johnson Lane ADMP – The Record Courier
- 6) MEMO: FEMA approved Revised Carson River PMR

No action was taken.

Item #16 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports – None

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

- Committee Member Riddle reported the Highway 89 bridge has been repaired and access is back. Great news for Alpine County!
- Committee Member Griffith thanked Mr. James for moderating the Biomass meeting in Alpine County. There is an initiative that would ban biomass facilities and is a very divisive issue. Director Schank asked if Markleeville downed trees are going to the new South Carson City Mill. Committee Member Griffith responded they are being sent to Sonora and another northern sawmill. Most of the trees going to South Carson are from the Tahoe Basin. The new mill should be operating in the first quarter of 2023 and will be the only mill in the East Sierra area.

No action was taken.

Item #18– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County –

Ms. Canfield reported the following:

- Storey County is trying to do some work on a park but due to the Superfund site they are having problems passing the environment assessment.
- Still looking for candidate for the 2nd Storey County Director. It is an issue finding candidates who live in Storey County and have all the qualifications.
- Jim Hindle is now also the County Clerk. He is at elections training tonight.

No action was taken.

Item #19 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Schank adjourned the meeting at 9:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra
Secretary to the Board