

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
August 17, 2022

Minutes

Chairman Giomi called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:33pm at the Turtle Rock Park Community Center, 17300 State Route 89/4, in Markleeville, CA 96120. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Mark Gardner	Lisa Schuette
Stacey Giomi	Fred Stodieck
Jim Hindle	Cassi Uhart
Dave Nelson	Mike Workman

Directors Absent: John Engels, Ken Gray, Pete Olsen, and Ernie Schank.

Roll call of the Carson River Watershed Committee included CWSD Directors and Committee Member present - David Griffith. Committee Member January Riddle was absent.

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Shane Fryer, CWSD	Kimra McAfee, AWG
Edwin James, CWSD	Catrina Schambra, CWSD (via Zoom)
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney	

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Giomi.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

There being no objection, Chairman Giomi declared the Agenda adopted as presented.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2022

Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

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

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

Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval to pursue the Nevada Division of Environmental

Protection 319 Grant

Director Gardner 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 on Alpine County Watershed Projects

Kimra McAfee, Executive Director of Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) introduced herself and her staff, and then gave a slide presentation on AWG projects. Although Alpine County is the smallest county in California, we get volunteers to help with their projects from all over the area. Alpine county is the headwaters of five rivers – the Carson, Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Truckee and American– which provide water to Western Nevada and California’s Central Valley. The Tamarack Fire restoration project was a focus of effort last fall. AWG worked with USFS planting saplings during spring 2023. Post fire work included monitoring Grover Hot Springs State Park and tree planting and seeding, as well as the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program of expanding capacity and collaboration. Other ongoing programs include Upper Carson River Monitoring; Harmful Algae Bloom Monitoring, West Fork Carson Vision Project, Faith Valley Meadow Restoration (w/American Rivers); Hope Valley Restoration; Markleeville Creek Restoration; and the West Fork Carson Project (w/National Forest Foundation). CWSD projects this past year have included 10 volunteer events, with 181 volunteers totaling 609 hours served! Markleeville Creek Day is an annual community event of weed removal and highway cleanup. Please join on Saturday, September 17 starting at 9am at the Markleeville Library!

No action was taken.

Item #11 - For Possible Action: Update on the Watershed-Literacy Program

Mr. Fryer showed the latest Watershed Moment video: “Stop Weeds in Your Tracks.” We will be attempting to cut videos down to 30-second clips/sound bites to possibly get on-air TV spots. The next video is “Make Your Yard a Sponge” and will start filming next week.

No action was taken.

Item #12 - For Discussion Only: Authorizing Board Members to attend the Nevada Water Resources Association (NWRA) 2022 Fall Symposium, September 19-20 in Reno

Mr. James announced the upcoming NWRA 2022 Fall Symposium in Reno September 19-20. CWSD has paid entry for Board Members who would like to attend in the past. Because Mr. James and Ms. Hunt are making presentations during the event, they have free entry.

Director Schuette made a motion to approve CWSD sponsoring the attendance of up to four attendees to the NWRA 2022 Fall Symposium. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #13 - For Possible Action: Request Legislation to include Alpine County as a Member of CWSD

In the ongoing effort to have Alpine County become an official member of CWSD, on August 16, 2022, Alpine County Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution to officially request joining Carson Water Subconservancy District via the Nevada Legislative process. Mr. James and Chairman Giomi attended this meeting. Committee Member Griffith, who is also the Chairperson of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors gave a brief history on the progress of this process. The next step will be for CWSD to seek a Representative sponsor for a BDR (bill draft request) to be heard during the next Legislative Session that begins February 6, 2023. Staff will begin crafting language for proposed bill to give to sponsor.

Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve CWSD moving forward to seek a BDR sponsor for the State of Nevada to recognize Alpine County as full official member of Carson Water Subconservancy District via Nevada Statute. The motion was seconded by Director Schuette and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #14 - For Discussion Only: Staff Reports

Mr. James reported the following:

- FEMA will be cutting their funding due to their lack of capacity to administer grants. However, CWSD may continue to get full funding due to our process being so efficient and not requiring any additional intervention by FEMA staff. CWSD received the largest award in the region!
- Mr. James mentioned that there are several articles regarding the 1851 flood event having an enormous impact to California and to this side of the Sierras. A similar or worse Mega Flood in California is predicted due to climate change in the future. Mr. James will be giving a presentation to the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council (SLUPAC) on how climate change will impact agriculture.

Mr. Fryer reported the following:

- CWSD has finished the Weed Abatement Program for FY 21-22. The requirements to get applicators are making it harder for the counties to get contractors for the weed spraying. Chairman Giomi commented that cost and availability is having a negative effect on most all areas.
- On September 30 there will be a Regenerative Ag Workshop. We have lots of participation and interest!
- Two grants have been submitted through the Conserve Nevada Program. One for a geomorphological assessment of the Carson River and another for a large regional weed treatment and reseeding program.

Ms. Neddenriep reported on the following:

- The unveiling Event for the High-Water Mark Mural was a good networking opportunity but was not well attend by the public.
- The Silver Springs meeting last night had only a handful of residents attending after having mailed 350 postcard invitations.
- There are other funding opportunities that she found out about via a class she attended at the Conference in Florida. She is looking into if they would work for CWSD.

Legal –

Mr. King discussed the legal notice regarding Walker Lake:

- Judge Jones considered the issue and granted a dismissal of the case. The decision was reversed by the 9th Circuit that wanted to know Nevada's position on this issue and sent questions to the Nevada Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said Public Trust doctrine could not be used to reallocate water. The case then went to the court of appeals where again a dismissal was requested. It was denied for a second time. The judge called it a 100-year-old case. You cannot re-allocate water, but maybe another remedy is available under the Public Trust Doctrine. The judge wants the possibility explored. All water in Nevada is allocated and you cannot take water away. Mr. King explained the reason for the newspaper publication of the summons shared in correspondence to the Board.

Correspondence –

- Walker River Summons Publication in the Nevada Appeal and the Record Courier on August 13, 2022

No action was taken.

Item #15 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –

- Chairman Giomi suggested Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for low-income community projects are a possible source of funding to be explored.
- Director Uhart announced she is getting married on September 17 so will miss the September meeting!
- Director Gardner mentioned there is public concern over the Johnson Lane gravel pit which will need 25,000 gallons of water a day to operate.

No action was taken.

Item #16– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –

- Committee Member Griffith suggested Nevada Congressional Reps can earmark funds for watershed needs.

No action was taken.

Item #17– For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Storey County – None

Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Giomi adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board