

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
February 15, 2023

Draft Minutes

Chairperson Workman called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30pm in the CWSD Conference Room, 777 E. William Street, Suite 209, Carson City, NV 89701. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Stacey Giomi
Ken Gray (*via Zoom*)
Sharla Hales
Jim Hindle

Cassi Koerner
Ernie Schank (*via Zoom*)
Lisa Schuette
Mike Workman

Directors Absent: Mark Gardner, Dave Nelson, Bus Scharmann and Fred Stodieck

Roll call included CWSD Committee Members present – Charlie Dobson (*via Zoom*) and David Griffith (*via Zoom*)

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Shane Fryer, CWSD
Brenda Hunt, CWSD
Andrea Jacobsma, Stantec
Edwin James, CWSD
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD
Kelly Nicholas, CWSD AmeriCorps
Max Robinson, CWSD
Catrina Schambra, CWSD

Mr. Fryer led the pledge of allegiance.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment –

Mr. Fryer announced he will be retiring effective June 30, 2023.

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

With no objections Chairperson Workman accepted the agenda.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of Jan. 18, 2023

Committee Member Griffith made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2023, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Hindle and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #7 - For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for January 2023

Item #8 - For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2023

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

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

Item #9 - For Discussion Only: Cardno Presentation on Clear Creek LOMR

Cardno has been acquired by Stantec. Andrea Jacobsma, PE, CFM gave a presentation on the Clear Creek Restudy and Remap Project that remapped flood hazards along Clear Creek and Prison Hill drainage to reflect its change physical conditions. Stantec surveyed hydraulic structures and performed hydrologic analyses and developed a hydraulic model. The updated floodplain and floodway mapping was submitted to FEMA in November and their response is due in late March. Ms. Jacobsma showed the current maps and the proposed changes.

No action taken.

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Discussion on EPA Mercury Superfund Site

Ms. Hunt reported on two Channel 2 Arianna Bennet Investigative Reporting pieces on the Carson River Mercury Site (CRMS) that were aired and then posted on YouTube in January 2023. Staff became aware of the pieces after they were posted on YouTube and are concerned that the issue was not addressed in a complete report that would include input from more than one source. There are several inaccuracies in the reporting and areas that need to be addressed to fully inform the public. Due to the window closing on the final decision by the USEPA, she feels it is important to correct this misinformation to the public.

CWSD sent a detailed letter of concerns to the USEPA during the comment period for the Interim Record of Decision (ROD). Staff has spoken with and received an email update from Andrew Bain, USEPA CRMS Project Lead. His team at USEPA has conducted a meeting with FEMA to discuss the concerns addressed in our comment letter on the interim ROD. They are organizing a follow-up meeting with FEMA/Region 9 program and legal staff to discuss specific concerns heard from CWSD and other stakeholders during the public comment period. They plan to share outcomes once they've met. Additionally, Mr. Bain stated the USEPA's timeline for adoption of the Interim ROD, including the response to comments, is to have management and legal reviews completed by the end of February, and to sign/issue the final by March 31, 2023.

Committee Member Griffith stated that CWSD should send a letter to the station/reporter to clarify the issues. Director Schuette thinks it is appropriate to call the reporter to get a meeting and discuss a follow up report being aired as soon as possible. Directors Giomi and Hindle agree. There will be no federal disaster funding, no funder for area. It appears the EPA is pushing only one option when there is other, more community beneficial options to consider. Director Giomi suggests calling the reporter directly and Director Hales thinks that we should be very aggressive on this as it is our obligation to the public. Consensus of the Board is the letter of concerns should be shared with the reporter and she should be given a list of people for her to contact for the follow up reporting. Director Gray suggests we ask the reporter since she focused on the federal side, that she now cover the state and local area too.

No action taken.

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Item #11 - For Discussion Only: Watershed Moments Report

Ms. Hunt presented a detailed analysis on the very successful “I Am Carson River Watershed Campaign,” reflecting the social media outreach by the number of views and engagement. CWSD is still waiting to hear from NDEP for funding this year. Next steps in campaign will be working with Neon for targeted media outreach and using 30 second clips from videos for TV PSA spots.

No action taken.

Item #12 - For Discussion Only: Overview of the Water Picture for the Carson River Watershed

Mr. James presented slides of the water picture for the Carson River watershed to date. Good news: In January we were at 338% of average. The snow water equivalent is a new record. We are still ahead of 2017 and have less soil saturation, which is great. We will have a nice long runoff or be filling sandbags. We shall see what happens. CWSD will be organizing an East Fork river float for Board members and community leaders in early June this year.

No action taken.

Item #13 - For Discussion Only: Staff Reports

Mr. James reported the following:

- CWSD finally received the NDEM grant. Lumos was hired as consultant. We have met with Lumos and USGS to put together the scope of the project. Hoping to bring it to the March Board meeting. We have noticed an increase in ground water pumping. Max will be looking into this trend and it will be part of data as the grant moves forward. The grant has been extended to give us the full 3 years for the study.

Mrs. Hunt reported the following:

- The Watershed Forum is scheduled for April 18-19 in Ruvo Hall at the Governors Mansion. We are planning schedule now.

Mrs. Neddenriep reported the following:

- She is working on Water Rate Report for the March meeting.

Mr. Robinson reported on the following:

- Kudos to Kelly Nicolas, CWSD AmeriCorps for a great job at the Pau Wa Lu Middle School event! It was 8 hours with 7 sessions of 7-12 students each. She smiled the whole time!
- He was elected to a 1-year term on the Board of NWRA at the conference.

Legal – No report.

Correspondence –

Correspondence (1) Retired Carson City engineer Robb Fellows recognized for watershed work

Correspondence (2) Western Nevada Snowpack Puts Dent in Drought

No action was taken.

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Item #14 – For Discussion Only: Directors Reports –

- Director Gray reported BDR for Alpine County Directors did not get approved by the legislative legal department. It will have to be addressed in the next session and he will use the time in between to address every issue so it is ready to go.
- Director Schank would like to arrange for the newly appointed Nevada Conservation Director Settlemeyer to speak to the Board.
- Director Hindle announced Marlette Systems are in the Capital Improvement Plan.

No action was taken.

Item #15 - For Discussion Only: Update on activities in Alpine County –

- Committee Member Griffith reports this is the first international Board meeting as he is zooming in from Mexico! He and Committee Member Dobson have some ideas of how CWSD can apply for CA funding for projects in Alpine County. They are working on proposal for the March meeting.

No action was taken.

Item #21 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairperson Workman adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catrina Schambra
Secretary to the Board