

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 27, 2023, 8:30am – 12:30pm  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:**

David Griffith, Alpine County  
Dave Nelson, Douglas County (via Zoom)  
Ernie Schank, Churchill County  
Lisa Schuette, Carson City  
Mike Workman, Lyon County

**Absent Committee Members:**

Jim Hindle, Storey County

**Staff Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Audrey Bergmann, SNJ (via Zoom)  
Rebecca Feldermann, RW  
Rob Holley, DVCD  
Jena Huntington, USGS  
Kimra McAfee, AWG  
Megan Poff, USGS  
Ben Shawcroft, TCID (via Zoom)  
Christy Sullivan, LCD (via Zoom)  
Jason Welz, USGS  
Rich Wilkinson, CVCD (via Zoom)

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The meeting was called to order at 8:31 am by Committee Member Nelson. The meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Carson Water Subconservancy District, 777 E. William St., #209, Carson City, Nevada with a Zoom option available. Roll call determined a quorum of the committee present.

**Item #3 - Public comment:** None

**Item #4 – For Possible Action: Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2022**

*Committee Member Schank made the motion to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on September 2, 2022. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Schuette and unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.*

**Item #5 - For Discussion Only - Review the Tentative General Fund FY 2023-24 Budget and hear presentations for proposed projects; review the Tentative Acquisition/Construction Fund FY 2023-24 Budget; and review the Tentative Floodplain Management Fund FY 2023-24 Budget**

Mr. James explained that the committee will need to reach consensus on budget recommendations to be brought to full Board for action at the meeting on March 15, 2023. He presented his proposed budgets and announced we will need to cut \$188,300 today to balance the budget. He noted CWSD is still awaiting funding status from NDEP. Since the funding award has not been announced, the 319 grant is at zero for the proposed budget. The committee may want to consider prioritizing funding cuts to be added back if CWSD receives this additional funding. The cost of PERS has increased significantly this year, from 29.75% to 33.5% or a 3.75% net increase. Carson City protocol is to absorb the cost of increase up to 1.5% and after that the cost is split between Carson City and employees. This would be a 1.125% split. The COLA is at 8% this year. A 1% cut to COLA equals a savings of \$6500. The amount budgeted for wages/salaries does not include Shane Fryer who has announced his retirement, but there is an expense added to Outside Professional Services to provide for a \$45,000 contract for him to complete projects and provide drone training. His position will not be filled during FY 23-24.

Mr. James explained Ad Valorem Taxes increased by 7-8% last year, but the proposed increase is a conservative 4.5% - 6%. The official numbers from the state will not be available

until March 25, which is after the tentative budget deadline. This item is always based on best guess due to the conflicting deadlines.

Mr. James reviewed the continuing, multi-year projects and grants, as well as all the grant expenses that are offset by the grant income. He also noted that it is required by law that there be a minimum 4% of expenses in our ending balance.

There was discussion of suggested cuts which included funding the TCID project from the Flood account (\$50,000) and not transferring money from the General fund to the Flood fund. If Ad Valorem Taxes are higher than projected, those extra funds could go to the Flood fund.

## Presentations of Proposed Projects

### Carson River Projects:

#### Carson Valley Conservation District – Carson Valley River Projects Maintenance & Repairs

Rich Wilkinson, Manager/ Coordinator

CVCD requests funding to repair or modify existing structures which include the Running River Ranch, Cradlebaugh, downstream of the Riverview Bridge and the channel clearing snagging work near the Highway 88 bridge. These projects need additional bioengineering treatments, sediment removal, shaping, and additional rock rip-rap barbs and bank protection. The objectives include utilizing instream materials to replace eroded bank, protecting it with rock riprap and bioengineering techniques. Stabilizing eroding banks and removing excess sand and gravel deposits and minimizing channel migration near the HWY 88 bridge. Adding additional rock riprap stream barbs to ensure bank slope protection and push the thalweg to the center of the river channel near the running river ranch project.

Replace and add additional willow poles, container plants, and reseeding of the Cradlebaugh project. Install and maintain a temporary irrigation system to help germination of container plants and seeding. Purchase temporary water rights from CWSD to allow for legal irrigation for two consecutive seasons for the Cradlebaugh project. **Funding request: \$215,000**

#### Dayton Valley Conservation District – Pradere & Ricci Stabilization/Channel Maint/Bridge Protection

Rob Holley, District Manager

DVCD requests funding to continue project to (1) Increase the capacity of the river channel in the area adjacent to and upstream from frequently flooded areas and eroding stream banks; (2) Stabilize and protect private property, restore actively eroding banks, sequester mercury and minimize its introduction into stream flows, and protect the mature cottonwood gallery in that area from continued loss; (3) Restore the location and function of the US Army Corp's levee in order to protect the Baroni diversion from continued obstruction, to reduce active sediment deposition in the river, and to prevent uncontrolled river flow from entering the Baroni ditch and adjacent private lands; and (4) Restore and protect the capacity of the Dayton Bridge and remove willows, cottonwood trees and sediment at the bridge, below the confluence with Eldorado Canyon, and to a point near and below the bridge. Stabilize eroded banks at the terminus of Eldorado Canyon, left eroded by the 2017 floods. **Funding request: \$100,000**

***Note: Committee Member Schank suggested staff meet with NDOT to discuss bridge issues and the CWSD historical view of problems to see if there could be a coordinated effort in bridge design and construction. All conservation districts have problems with bridges and should request funding from NDOT.***

**Lahontan Conservation District –Clearing & Snagging Carson River**

Christy Sullivan, District Clerk

The project is an ongoing effort to create a river channel that is clear of obstructions/abstraction and provides a free flow at natural choke points. For example, the Highway 50, Highway 95, and Bafford Bridges has historically been clogged by debris during high water flooding events. Obstructions in these locations causes back up and overflow that moves into residential housing areas in both the county and city of Fallon. Locations where sediment caused islands changed the flow, eroded banks, or blocked flows under bridge. Removal of sediment will provide debris/obstructions to flow downstream more freely. This project will prevent and minimize property loss and other damage during flood conditions. Riverbank stabilization after sediment removal will minimize erosion, improve water quality and re-establish native vegetation. Maintaining a clear channel will enable the citizens to utilize the river for recreation. Maintaining an adequate velocity of the river flow prevents stagnant pools from developing where mosquitoes can propagate and create health issues for residents along the course of the Carson River. **Funding request: \$29,500**

**River Wranglers- Conserve the Carson River Workdays**

Rebecca Feldermann, Executive Director

River Wranglers continues to host Conserve the Carson River Workdays (CCRWD) throughout the Carson River watershed and are thrilled to have begun the process of getting back in the classroom and at the river with students. As we continue to navigate the post-pandemic world with the schools, our workday model primarily remains the same but due to new guidelines and restrictions we have been required to sometimes adjust to continue this vital program. As allowed, we continue to go into high school FFA and science classrooms to teach high school students the necessary information and skills so that they in turn can teach elementary students at the river in a combined workday. The high school students are trained in activities that teach children about our watershed, the importance of clean water, the water cycle, and nonpoint source pollution. At the river, they become “mentors” to the younger students, spending the day with them, leading them through the activities. If high school students are unable to participate, we still provide an enriching workday with the assistance of professional volunteers from many of our partners including CWSD, NDEP, CCP&ROS, NDOW, The Nature Conservancy, RCI, and others. In addition to the educational stations, we partner with conservation districts to include river work projects that the students complete together. After workdays, elementary students are visited by River Wranglers staff to do a “wrap-up,” which reinforces the messages they learned at the river. We once again discuss nonpoint source pollution, the geography and features of the watershed, and the importance of the river and watershed to their own lives. We do a pre- and post-test with all involved students to track their increase in knowledge about the watershed and nonpoint source pollution to gauge the effectiveness of our programs. **Funding request: \$30,000**

**Alpine County Watershed Group- Upper Carson River Watershed Programs**

Kimra McAfee, Executive Director

Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) seeks funding for the fiscal year 2023-24 from the Carson Water Subconservancy District for the coordination of its Upper Carson River watershed programs. AWG’s mission is to protect, conserve, and restore the watersheds of Alpine County by promoting sustainable community and science-based collaborative solutions. For 22 years,

AWG has organized volunteers and inspired widespread participation to address water quality monitoring and restoration needs in Alpine County. To further the stewardship of our county's natural resources, our organization has developed diverse partnerships around watershed issues. As the nonprofit environmental organization for the Carson River headwaters our positive impacts extend downstream, where the Carson River flows into Northern Nevada. Through this project, AWG staff will: 1) involve local citizens in watershed stewardship; 2) plan and implement priority watershed monitoring and restoration activities; 3) recruit diverse stakeholders and strengthen community partnerships; and 4) support local watershed education and community outreach. **Funding request: \$30,000**

## **New Projects:**

### **Alpine County Watershed Group- West Fork Carson Prioritization Project (2 Years)**

Kimra McAfee, Executive Director

Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) seeks funding for the fiscal year 2023-24 from Carson Water Subconservancy District to support completion of a geomorphological assessment and sediment transport planning model and development of a project prioritization plan for the West Fork Carson River watershed. The purpose of this project is to identify sediment inputs and prioritize future projects to address such impairments. Addressing sediment concerns will also address other nonpoint source pollutants as other pollutants often travel through watersheds along with sediment. Prioritized projects will restore aquatic ecosystems of the Carson River and its tributaries, starting with the West Fork Carson. These projects have the potential to reduce sediment and other nonpoint source pollutants; have positive impacts on water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen; and reduce flood risk. The river carries a lot of sediment and is extremely incised in areas, limiting its access to the floodplain. Vegetation on the banks has been denuded due to erosion and incision causing water quality concerns, habitat and property loss, and risks to infrastructure. Further incision increases the velocity during high-flow and flooding events causing even more erosion and cyclical damages. This planning project will provide baseline data, looking at this section of the upper watershed as a whole. The analysis will help us make informed decisions with the understanding of how our actions will impact upstream and downstream areas in relation to ecosystem impacts as well as how to reduce nonpoint source pollutants.

This funding request would provide required 25% match should AWG receive requested 319 funding from the State Water Resources Control Board. If AWG is not awarded the 319 grant, they will not need this funding from CWSD. **Funding request: \$83,350 over 2 Years**

### **Truckee-Carson Irrigation District – Carson River Diversion Dam**

Ben Shawcroft, General Manager

This project consists of the application of a product, Aqualastic™ to the concrete surfaces of the Carson River Diversion Dam (Dam). The Dam is located approximately five (5) miles downstream of Lahontan Dam in Churchill County, Nevada. Aqualastic™ is a polyurea elastomeric coating that when applied to concrete serves to seal cracks preventing damage to facilities, check undesired flows, and prevent water loss. We have used this product extensively in the Newlands Project and with success on the Truckee Canal. The Dam is a United States Bureau of Reclamation facility constructed in 1906. It serves to divert water released from Lahontan Dam, flowing in the Carson River channel, in one of three (3) ways: 1. Through a series of gates directing continuing flow in the Carson River Channel; 2. Through the headworks

of the V-Line Canal; and 3. Through the headworks of the T-Line Canal. The Dam is a 225-foot long, 31-foot-high concrete control section. In flood operations conducted in 2017, we diverted approximately 3,320 cfs of flow from Lahontan Dam. Then, at the Carson Diversion Dam, we diverted as much as 1,700 cfs. into the V-Line Canal, 1,200 cfs. into the Carson River Channel and approximately 200 cfs into the T-Line Canal. Pivotal to continuing water management of water on the Carson River, is our ability to make diversions through the Diversion Dam. In this application we seek to apply Aqualastic™ to cracks in the concrete of the dam thus encapsulating degraded sections of concrete. As stated previously, the Diversion Dam is very old; and the useful life of its concrete was exceeded long-long ago. While our hope is to replace the Diversion Dam in the future, its use in both regular operations and in flood operation remains absolutely essential. Application of Aqualastic™ will serve to prolong the life of the Diversion Dam -protecting it against potential failure particularly amidst flood operations. Protecting the dam from failure serves, ultimately, to protect all property owners on the Carson River below it from flood waters that could not be controlled. **Funding request: \$50,000**

**Sierra Nevada Journeys – Family Watershed Nights for Carson River WS Communities**

Audrey Bergmann, Advancement Manager

Funding from CWSD will serve over 500 children and their parents in communities within the Carson River Watershed with four community-building and educational events called Family Watershed Nights (FWN). FWNs invite K-8 students, their parents and siblings to attend a fun, family-friendly evening, which provides watershed education at the family level and reinforces STEM concepts in the classroom. Through hands-on activities, participants will gain a sense of ownership and stewardship for the health of their community watershed. Proposed activities include group demonstration with watershed model and various watershed STEM exploration stations. **Funding request: \$3,279.40**

**USGS:**

**USGS Surface Water Monitoring Program in West Central Nevada (2 Years)**

Megan Poff, Data Chief

This funding request is for the continuation of the cooperative monitoring surface-water monitoring program between Carson Water Subconservancy District and the U.S. Geological Survey. Goals and benefits include streamflow information and flow measurements provided at real-time and non-real-time gages in the Carson River Basin define hydrologic conditions throughout the basin, such as sources, sinks, and fluxes of water. Accurate flow data from stream gages provide critical information for water accounting for legal agreements, river and project operations, hazard forecasts, water-quality assessments, and research (such as interaction of water systems; groundwater/surface-water interactions). Surface-water O&M costs include maintaining the stream gaging equipment at 10 gaging stations, real-time monitoring and display of water information, making streamflow measurements, computing streamflow, quality assurance, and data publication and archive in the USGS NWIS (National Water Information System) database. **Funding request: FY 23-24: \$89,603; FY 24-25 \$91,395**

**USGS Carson River Basin Groundwater Levels & Water Quality Monitoring (2 Years)**

Jason Welz, Hydrologist

This request seeks to combine the existing agreements between the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD), and Churchill County for the following

groundwater monitoring projects: Douglas and Lyons Counties, Middle Carson, and Newlands. This collective Carson River basin project is requested to be funded July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025. While each individual project has unique considerations given the different development and management of groundwater resources of the counties and municipalities in which they lie, the three projects also have the hydrologic relationship of being within the Carson River watershed. The objectives of each project will still be maintained, but the combination will also promote having a watershed perspective on groundwater trends. The goals of this combined agreement would be to: (1) streamline USGS groundwater-level and water-quality data collection efforts in the Carson River basin, (2) provide a single USGS point of contact for the CWSD and Churchill County to more efficiently receive communication on data trends, (3) bring the currently offset timing of three agreements onto the same schedule, and (4) simplify the management of Carson River basin agreements for the CWSD and Churchill County. Collective Project

Overview:

1. Groundwater-level observations in 269 wells. Sites will be monitored quarterly (91 wells), biannually (19 wells) and annually (159 wells). The network will be dynamic and adjust to best monitor issues reported to the USGS during the project timeline.
2. The collection of water quality biannually (5 wells) and annually (17 wells).
3. Publish and maintain data online for public use in the USGS National Water Information System database.

**Funding request: FY 23-24: \$44,200; FY 24-25 \$65,000**

**Item #6 - For Possible Action – Make recommendations for the Tentative General Fund, Tentative Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Tentative Floodplain Management Fund FY 2023-24 Budgets**

During a working lunch, Mr. James reviewed the Acquisition/Construction and Floodplain Management Funds with the committee. He reminded the committee there needs to be a cut of \$188,300 from the General Fund. Based on further discussion, the committee proposed the following adjustments to reach that goal:

- Keep COLA at 8%
- Reduce cost of PERS increase using Carson City cost share plan (\$6,100)
- Correct the Churchill County Dixie Valley Monitoring request (-\$2,000)
- Reduce Travel by \$5,000 by suspending the General Manager Car Allowance FY 23-24
- Fund \$50,000 TCID project with Flood Management Fund
- Fund AWG \$83,350 project over 2 years (\$41,695 /year) with Flood Management Fund
- Defer Flood Management Fund building (\$50,000) pending available funds

*Committee Member Schank made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend that the tentative budgets for the FY 23-24 General Fund, Flood Management Fund and the Acquisition/Construction Fund be approved as adjusted above. Committee Member Schuette seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.*

**Item #7 - Public comment:** None

The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board