



## Education Working Group Agenda Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:30-11:30AM

### CRC Education Working Group Vision:

*A Carson River Watershed Community that believes their behavior impacts watershed wellness and applies their knowledge to act in ways that benefit the entire watershed.*

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**Contact:** [Brenda Hunt](#) and [Shane Fryer](#), Phone number for both 775.877.9005

**Location:** CWSD Conference Room, 777 E. William St., **Suite 209**, Carson City, NV 89701 or Zoom

**Zoom Link:** Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82857055227?pwd=V04vZ0ZBRi9tbk94Q3FSMkFizjV1dz09>

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## Agenda

### Attendees:

Brenda Hunt, CWSD

Courtney Walker, Douglas County

Shane Fryer, CWSD

Chelsea Kincheloe, Carson City

Christy Sullivan, Lahontan Conservation District

Rebecca Feldermann, River Wranglers,

Kelly Nicholas, CWSD AmeriCorps.

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD

Max Robinson, CWSD

Sarah Fichtner, NDWR

1. Welcome and Introductions and Round Robin: ***Note: Please take time to discuss your youth and adult outreach efforts and program outcomes, other school plans and ideas.*** (All) (50 mins)

Brenda called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Brenda provided updates for two who could not attend: Lori Leonard of The Nature Conservancy and Rachel Kieffer of Alpine Watershed Group.

**Lori Leonard, Manager for River Fork Ranch, The Nature Conservancy** – The [Science & Nature Speaker Series](#) continues, with landscape photographer Chip Caroon presenting “Capturing the Essence of a Landscape.” Chip is a trained geologist and an academic, and his expertise adds to his discussion of photography. The talk runs from 6-7; a \$10 donation is recommended. The talks will continue the last Thursday of each month through October.

**Rachel Kieffer, Headwaters Coordinator, Alpine Watershed Group** – She has been doing a lot of tabling and watershed demos, including the Teddy Bear Parade in Markleeville, Washoe Earth Day, and tree planting in the Tamarack Fire burn zone for Arbor Day. At AWG’s May meeting, Ryan Morgan of the Savory Institute (<https://savory.global/>) reported his soil-health findings at Alpine County’s Woollystar Ranch.

Upcoming events include bartending at a music festival there (<https://www.woollystar.com/>) on June 17 and 18, the next meeting of the Forest Health Community Work Group on June 27, tabling at [Death Ride](#) July 14 and 15, and Markleeville Creek Day Sep. 23, which coincides with Powwow Alpine County. Courtney brought up that Highway 88 is closed somewhere near Crystal Springs – it is open to one lane today.

**Courtney Walker, Stormwater Program Manager, Douglas Co.** – Will be covering the LID workshop in a separate agenda item, but she has the LID workshop on June 1 and is ready with that as a stop for the upcoming bus tour. She has a board meeting next Thursday to go over the stormwater master plan RFQ. She doesn't know if she's received any proposals yet (they are being submitted to Jeremy).

**Kelly Nicholas, AmeriCorps Watershed Tech, CWSD** – Have the last segment of seasonal changes at Seeliger Elementary with River Wranglers tomorrow, was at Rambling River Ranch with Max demonstrating the floodplain model, will be working on the LID workshop (both tabling and helping organize) next week, Ag in the Classroom will be next week.

**Shane Fryer, Watershed Program Coordinator, CWSD** – His Recreational Trails Program project is 50% funded, current signage project coincides with other interpretation signs Carson City would like to put up within the river corridor. We will be putting together graphics from floodplain protection and weeds for use along the Aquatic Trail. An RFQ will be released soon for design plans for a portage past Mexican Dam, which is the major barrier to accessing Douglas Co. Hopefully in the far future there can be a Douglas Co. aquatic trail.

**Chelsea Kincheloe, Volunteer Coordinator, Carson City Parks, Rec and Open Space** – Netted Bailey Pond with NDOW in April. Caught 61 sunfish, but no goldfish. There's a lot of outreach and education to be done as per desired species, because it's supposed to be a trout-only pond as per a deal with the Washoe tribe. She will be working on outreach to the public about invasive species and how goldfish when caught should be completely removed. They feel there's nothing to be done about the jellyfish in the pond.

Planning on holding a Rubbish Ride on the Carson River in the canyon next Wednesday, May 31, at 5:30 p.m. National Trails Day is June 3, and they will be brushing on Waterfall Trail and North Loop 9-noon. Worked on getting preliminary ideas for a dog-waste campaign which she's discussed with CWSD, which is an effort to quantify the amount of waste and illustrate its danger to stormwater and the river. Brenda – Can you expand on dog waste campaign in conjunction with the "other events" item?

**Christy Sullivan, Lahontan and Stillwater Conservation Districts** – Praised Rebecca for her extensive outreach efforts. She's conducting a 20-minute weed-spraying class for residents every Wednesday; this week it's 5/25. They teach about weeds, how to spray, safety, necessary PPE. They also fill jugs of chemical according to acreage and residents are taught how to dispose of the chemical and containers properly.

Kelly – Is this something that needs to be promoted?

Christy – There is a 40-person waiting list for the class.

She will be meeting with teachers at Carson River Workdays.

**Rebecca Feldermann, Executive Director, River Wranglers** – Trout releases scheduled for February were cancelled or postponed because of snow. She, Sydney and NDOW took trout from three classes to random spots and sent video back to classroom teachers; they were able to do some releases last-minute. Flood awareness at Carson Valley Middle School with the outdoor science classes at the end of March. April conducted workdays: a day with Hugh Gallagher Elementary in Storey Co., which was the first in a long time, and hopes that opens a relationship with that teacher. Other schools included a workday with Oasis Academy; wrap-ups with HG and Oasis; a workday with Pinon Hills fourth-graders; one of the coaches did a presentation during the docent training at River Fork Ranch; a field day, the largest with 45 students, with a homeschool group K-7<sup>th</sup>, which worked well that other homeschool groups contacted her so she'll schedule more for fall; one of the board members worked at Earth Day with Boys and Girls Club (40-50 students); Ag in the Classroom in Churchill with fourth-graders with Debbie and Kelly; Genoa Western Heritage Days, which included a scavenger hunt and had a good turnout (300) and she's excited to do that again; Silver Stage workday at Ft. Churchill, which turned out to be rough because of gnats; Washoe Earth Day on 5/6, which was great; as a result of Debbie's work communication has opened up with the tribe and she is working on a student event for July; a Numa Elementary workday with 10 classes of 5<sup>th</sup>-grade classes on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> as well as the corresponding wrap-ups; Farmer's Market out at Riverview Elementary in Dayton last Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> with Max for K-6, where they opened their property beyond the playground and had local community groups come out and as classes had lunch and recess they visited the booths. Was interesting but not very structured; first 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade field day (there are four scheduled) with 93 second-graders, where they saw a goldfish and conducted activities based off a Dream Tag grant – it was super successful with four stations; yesterday Sydney was at Mormon Station with Eagle Valley Middle School and Rebecca was at Numa wit wrap-ups.

Upcoming: Seasonal Changes with 1<sup>st</sup> graders at Seeliger Elementary. Hopes to expand to other schools and hold some on the colony using Washoe-language terms. See inserted for more events.

5/30/2023	Flood Awareness and Safety preparedness at Ag in the Classroom	Minden ES - Douglas	Minden ES -
5/31/2023	Field Day	Pinon Hills	River Fork Ranch Ranch (if it's not flooded)
6/1/2023	Field Day	Scarselli Elementary 2 <sup>nd</sup> graders	River Fork Ranch
6/1/2023	LID Workshop - Courtney		Ironwood Park
6/2/2023	Flood Awareness and Safety Preparedness at Field Day	Gardnerville Elementary (2nd grade)	River Fork Ranch
6/3/2023	Wilderness First Aid Training		Placerville

6/6/2023	Work Day	Minden ES - Douglas	River Fork Ranch
6/7/2023	Ag in the Classroom	Legacy Christian	
6/8/2023	Flood Awareness and Safety preparedness at Conserve the Carson River Workday	Scarselli ES-Douglas	River Fork Ranch
6/8/2023	Outreach	Dayton Farmer's Market	*Will be at four farmer's markets this summer
6/13/2023	Flood Awareness and Safety preparedness at Field Day	Camp Carson (5th graders, summer series)	Carson River Park

She's also looking at a 6/17 Nevada Outdoors outreach at Capitol City Gun Club, Junior Rangers in Dayton State Park 6/20-23, Camp Carson in July, Farmer's Market in July, possible Gardnerville Museum outreach 8/5, Cantaloupe Fest at the end of August, September Dayton Valley Days and a home school field op day, and Snapshot Day **Friday Oct 13**, one week earlier than last year because she may be attending a conference.

Brenda – Good to get out the word about Snapshot Day. Maybe expand upon that event in Item I to see what people need to do in terms of planning because the next meeting isn't until Aug. 23 and teachers will have already started classes.

**Debbie Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist II, CFM, CWSD**– Had outreach meetings for the Walker River flood hazard analysis project that's for Lyon and Douglas Counties. Last night had the North Silver Springs Area Drainage Master Plan kickoff meeting, and last week presented the East Carson City ADMP to Carson City and CWSD's board. Is working with Rebecca to stress flood safety with students. Eric Johnson will build a new box for the floodplain model, and she wants to talk to Rebecca about the box; she has some ideas. She's been emphasizing to students during outreach to be safe and that the water is dangerous and flowing fast. Rebecca will get back to her about the box.

Shane – The water level will be coming up this afternoon, and the second weir has been opened, doubling the capacity to dump off in the Carson Lake. CWSD will come down to shoot video this afternoon and then attend a press event tomorrow, where the governor is supposed to attend. Because of security tomorrow he figured today would be the better day to fly. Christy wants to join.

**Max Robinson, Water Resource Specialist I, CWSD** joined in person – Rebecca and Debbie covered what he's done as far as outreach. Most of his activities are with River Wranglers, and it's pretty rewarding, especially a couple of days ago with the second graders. He can engage really well with young kids via the

floodplain model because it's almost like a toy to them and they can get their hands dirty and wet and see what flooding looks like; they're creative and have fun questions.

He and Ed are working with USGS and a contractor creating a 30-year plan regionally throughout the watershed, working with the 13 different water purveyors, atypical because a lot of watersheds might have only one water purveyor. They're determining water sources; how much growth has occurred and what it looks like for the future in our watershed. We're putting together a document along with some modelling efforts both in the middle and upper Carson to see what's on the horizon for our communities. The big effort there is to get the document out there so we're all on the same page. If collective action needs to occur in the future, the water purveyors will have the information. I think it's fundamental to who we are as an organization, to bring these folks together and have these conversations to see that we're acting sustainably and managing the watershed as a whole, more holistically. We just finished up our last round of meeting with almost everybody; there's a few who we can't access really gain access to, but we have access to their data through the state. There will be a meeting in mid-to-late June for the big kick-off and everybody will be together and have a chat about where we are and what it's looking like going forward with that project.

Brenda – This is about groundwater, not surface water. We have a contractor (Lumos) to create this drought plan. Will there be an outreach aspect for residents through the water purveyors, or is there going to be a regional approach to drought management?

Debbie – I wrote the grant; there's not a lot of outreach in it. A follow-on to this grant would be to apply for additional funding to talk to people about strategically saving water. I don't know if that would look like the water audits I used to do...Would love to do some low-impact development. When I use the flood model, I also talk about how it recharges groundwater, and I always let whomever I'm presenting to know that the more water we catch here, the less goes out to the desert and evaporates. Ed had mentioned doing some outreach efforts in the future like this.

Courtney – Are you guys coordinating with Bunny's (Bishop) group at the state?

Debbie – I believe they're invited to these meetings. There's actually one coming up with all the water purveyors, right Max?

Max – There is.

Debbie – When is that going to be, sometime in June?

Max – That's who we just got off the phone about...I believe the tentative date is June 22, I think it's a Thursday. We will have at that meeting the water purveyors, USGS and their modelers discussing the various models we have going on in the watershed, so it won't just apply to our 30-year plan. Ed and I have been in contact with Bunny/NDWR, and Lauren (Bartels) and Nicole (Goehring) and what they've put together. They have put together a couple dashboards that you can access via public records that's been pretty helpful. All of those entities plus the water purveyors will be invited to this so we can have this conversation of purpose and we can kick these projects off.

## **2. Upcoming Events: cooperative planning, coordination and social media outreach.**

- a. Ag in the Classroom (May, June) – Brenda: CWSD will have two tables with the Enviroscope and floodplain model, and River Wranglers will be in Minden 5/30.
- b. Other FEMA outreach – Courtney: She is working on flood mitigation at Buckeye Creek, basically high-level design. There will be a public meeting on July 18 at the old courthouse, July 19 it will be presented to the CWSD Board, and on the 20<sup>th</sup> it will be presented to the Douglas Co. board.

Debbie: We're going to try to meet with TREGID and present to their board and do some outreach with that. The Ag in the Classroom event we're doing at Legacy Christian June 6 was at Heather Stodieck's request, and so I guess we need to chat with you and see if you want to participate and bring the Enviroscope.

- c. **Get on the Bus (June 13-14):** We're getting our speakers and stops together, have heard back from all but one. We have room for 40-45 people and nearly 30 seats have been filled. We may need to change one of our stops due to snow. Re: Dangberg Stop – Alicia Reban's presentation will be about conservation easements and other land-protection tools, specifically some of the SNPLMA money as well as potential projects that are coming up if we can get Conserve Nevada funding, so everybody knows, we did get some extra funding. There will be \$1 million available for the Carson and Truckee and \$2 million available for statewide projects. There's a number of projects that the Carson River Watershed groups submitted in the pre-application that are eligible to apply in the future. I close to 100 potential projects.

Re: Joe Curtis, Comstock Historian – Did not present. kn 6/30

Re: FPST presenter – Ileana Henry presented.

It's looking likely we will fill up the bus, and there are a few stops we've never been to, so we're excited. It's a good opportunity for new staff to be introduced to CWSD and the watershed, etc.

- d. **East Fork Float (June 20)** – The float is filling up fast. It starts in Markleeville at Hangman's Bridge and ends at Ruhestroth Dam. Everyone meets at 8:30 a.m. at the Ruhestroth take out, a tour bus will take people to the top or carpool up to Hangman's Bridge and float back down. 42 seats are available and this is the year to do it if you are interested. There will be a stop at Hot Springs, with the US Forest Service, USEPA, and Tribal presentations on issues there - travel management to the hot springs, advocating for its protection, recreational use, etc. The last float was 2018. E-mail Shane ASAP to be included. If you own a personal floatation device and/or paddles, bring them, but CWSD will have some on hand. This is a free event. CWSD may do more floats later this summer, but the river needs to calm down. Kelly and Sarah discussed procuring dry bags for the CWSD bus tour, and Debbie and Sarah will coordinate to get more flood materials for school outreach.

Sarah Fichtner: DWR has been pretty busy, so it would be difficult for us to offer any assistance, but we are signed up for Waterpallooza in June.

**TNC Events** – see round-robin

- e. Carson City Events – Chelsea: Nothing beyond standard ranger events and those listed in the round robin.
- f. **AWG events** – see round robin

- g. **Tribal Events** – Brenda didn't get any info about tribal events, but it sounded, from those who had tabled at the two tribal Earth Day events (Fallon Paiute-Shoshone in April and Washoe in May), that they were well attended.
- h. **Other events including trails, etc.** –  
Chelsea: Regarding the proposed dog waste program, they found a report from Kirkland, Wash., that outlined the city's targeted approach, using flags to mark dog waste in three parks; signs about dog waste were also in the parks. The flag sites were entered into GPS and mapped, and the dog waste was monitored for six months; at the same time, they conducted a large outreach campaign. After the monitoring period, there was a significant reduction. Brenda observed the project meshes with I Am Carson River Watershed/Bag It, and that Chelsea could potentially get nonpoint source funding. Girl Scouts are working with them on this for a project and as volunteers.

### 3. **Grant Updates:**

- a. **Funding for Outreach and Education** – Follow-up from Forum. What were your thoughts about it?  
While everyone agreed to keep the panels there was general agreement that 1) it would have been helpful to meet with other panel members pre-forum; 2) moderators should have been in control of the panels; 3) more internal discussion between panel members about each of their challenges and solutions would have been helpful; 4) keep it to a brief introduction and a single slide for panelists, with focus on discussion and audience questions; 5) submitted questions should be curated and this should be made clear to the moderator and 6) consider one fewer panel per day.  
For education and outreach in particular, Brenda wanted more of a funding focus. Kelly offered to put together a matrix of funding sources, typical grant amounts, preferred projects, and the application process, something along the lines of the Western SARE handout.  
Brenda suggested an additional meeting for the E&O working group pre-the forum next year. CRC will forward the survey results.
- b. **Westwood Neighborhood LID Update (Courtney)** – Last fall's LID project at the high school survived the winter, but some plants were lost due to high runoff. A workday with a couple classes cleaned out the rock, re-mulched the site, and replanted eight plants. They tried to build a better border with the cobble with the intent to better direct water into the grate. They are working with school maintenance staff to set up drip irrigation for the plants. Everything looks really good out there now and should for the bus tour. Monday they did water quality sampling with the geoscience class and will send the two years' worth of data so they can perform a trend analysis. The English class meanwhile will put together some posterboards with photos telling the story of the implementation project; these may be ready for the Westwood neighborhood workshop. If not, they can post them at the school. The neighborhood LID workshop is on June 1 from 5:30-7:30, with a native plant raffle, food, and TNC, Comstock Seed, the people in the room, River Wranglers, and landscape architecture firm Design Workshop will have booths. Last time it was pretty well attended...that mailer went out, and hopefully they RSVP. The project lasts until the end of

June. Because of the difficulty managing a LID and the DC Stormwater Program, it is unlikely Courtney will apply again next year. **Editors note: This might be something that others can pick up on and do the next phase.**

c. **CRC Coordination and Stewardship Plan Implementation-Education Outreach Aspects**

(Brenda/Shane)

i. **“I Am Carson River Watershed” Traditional and Social Media** – CWSD is not under contract for their NDEP 319 award yet. A meeting with Jason Kuchnicki tomorrow will focus on the scope of work and figure out how to get under contract in a very short time; the program management has been operating under match for that grant since January. NDEP staffing shortages, desired changes to our SOW, a late contract award from USEPA, and EPA changes in NDEP requirements are factors in the delay. Bag It, Recycle Your Motor Oil, Use a Car Wash, Recreate Responsibly, Make Your Yard a Sponge, Pitch In, and potentially Curb Your Chemical Use, the ones most targeted toward nonpoint-source pollution, will be cut down to shorter films (29sec) suitable for TV and radio. We’ll be meeting with Jolene to discuss the social media aspects of the campaign shortly and also with Steve to edit the films. The sooner they’re released the more likely they will be on TV over the next year, because getting the traditional media and the social media on the campaign prior to the residential survey in 2024 is really critical. Hopefully CWSD can ask the same questions as in 2015 but also some campaign-related questions.

ii. **2024 Watershed Resident Survey, Watershed-Literacy Action Plan Update, etc.**

The Watershed-Literacy Action Plan will need to be updated based on 2024 survey results. In addition, Brenda would like to incorporate all E&O youth outreach efforts into the Watershed-Literacy Action Plan. Some responses from the last survey indicated respondents had heard things as kids from River Wranglers. CWSD plans to do that survey regardless of NDEP funding. It would be match potentially if we get a 319-project next year. If there are specific questions you would like to ask respondents that could shed light on your outreach, it would be great to know.

d. **FEMA – Flood Awareness Outreach:**

Sarah: Meetings are more floodplain-manager focused right now. There is a July 13 Nevada local floodplain managers virtual meeting at 10:00 a.m. Dates for Flood Awareness Week will be coming out in the upcoming newsletter, which hopefully will be coming out this week. She’ll check to see if Courtney is on the e-mail list. NDWR wants floodplain managers to be more involved in flood meetings so it’s a unified statewide effort. Debbie will contact Sarah and Erin (Warnock) offline about the Walker River project.

e. **208 Water Quality Planning Grant:**

CWSD is still doing a pilot regen ag/soils health project under 208 funds that will hopefully be extended for an additional year past the original June 30 grant end. An extension was approved but has not yet been executed by NDEP. Brenda hopes to include more ranches. One of them would be River Fork Ranch, but collection will need to wait until the water recedes. The other site may be Wild Harmony Ranch, which will be a stop on the bus tour. Brenda just got approval for a California ranch in the watershed, Woollystar Ranch, as



another site. They are doing some cool soil initiatives and already have soil samples. The rationale for this project is to collect the different practices people are using in order to produce a white paper that illustrates agricultural best management practices for soil health/and water quality improvements.

f. **CWSD Weed Grants:**

Coming to the year's end and spending must be completed by June 30. The new contracts will start July 1. Everything is normal, but now Storey County is a full member of CWSD, so they are getting the full \$15K for weed grants. Lyon, Carson City and Storey County have had difficulty hiring spring seasonal weed abatement staff. New licensing requirements have been hard to meet, and there wasn't an available workforce. Only a handful of private weed sprayers out there, and they're competing for the same contracts and firms. So, rather than granting those three counties the \$15K those funds may go into a single pot and CWSD may pursue a single contract for a weed sprayer. The counties will manage the contractor, but CWSD will manage the contract itself. The counties involved didn't want any monies held over but instead directed to the contractor. Carson City has already sent back a draft contract that Shane is going to try and get approved so that by July 1 the contractor is ready to go.

It's going to be a horrible year for weeds; in many places the river probably won't be assessable until August. Cheatgrass and thistle are all over the place. Carson City Weed Coalition, a weed stakeholder group in the Carson and Lyon area, is completely defunct, and something needs to replace it. Christy Sullivan is doing great outreach to the Fallon area residents. Carson City is covered by the Carson Valley Conservation District, but CWSD and the Outreach Working Group may need to fill the gap. Rob Holley (DVCD) and Lyndsey Boyer/Gregg Berggren (Carson City), and CWSD recently met to discuss the contract idea, which will be great, but it doesn't help with outreach portion of weed work. There is a Carson CityC noxious weed enforcement person, but no source for education. Thoughts and ideas are welcome; this issue is watershed-wide. Christy's program may be the source for a model. Cooperative Extension may be another education and volunteer source.

**Next Meeting: August 23, 2023, 9:30-11:30AM**