

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING
October 18, 2023

Minutes

Chairperson Workman called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30pm in the Fishbowl Conference Room at Fernley City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd., Fernley, NV 89408. Roll call of the CWSD Board was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Mark Gardner (<i>via Zoom</i>)	Bus Scharmann,
Sharla Hales	Lisa Schuette
Tammy Hendrix	Fred Stodieck
Jim Hindle	Mike Workman
Cassi Koerner (<i>via Zoom</i>)	

Directors Stacey Giomi, Dave Nelson, and Ernie Schank were absent.

The roll call included CWSD Committee Members, Charlie Dobson (*via Zoom*) and David Griffith (*via Zoom*).

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Kathy Canfield, Storey County (<i>via Zoom</i>)	Brian Rasmussen, NDWR
Edwin James, CWSD	Max Robinson, CWSD
Scott Keller, Public	Lee Sterrett, Public
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney	Adam, Sullivan, NDWR
Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD	Jason Villarreal, USBR

Chairperson Workman led the pledge of allegiance.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None.

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Director Schuette made a motion to approve the October 18 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 Sept. 20, 2023

Director Stodieck made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2023, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Scharmann and unanimously approved by the Board.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for September 2023

Item #8 – For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for September 2023

Item #9 – For Possible Action: Approval of update to CWSD Personnel Policy Manual to add Voting Leave

Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2023-20 EcoSoil Solutions, LLC – Soil Health Consulting Services, not to exceed \$2,000

Item #11 – For Possible Action: Approval to Donate Surplus Conference Chairs

Item #12 – For Possible Action: Authorize CWSD Staff to pursue 2023 Invasive Species Non-Federal Lands Western Regional Priority Projects Grant

Item #13 – For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum to Agreement #2023-17 – J-U-B Engineers – Fish Springs & Pinenut Creek Study to update Exhibit A – Business Plan

Item #14 – For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Contract #2023-21 – Douglas County – High Water Mark Project not to exceed \$2,000

Director Stodieck made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 7-14 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Schuette and unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Item #15 - For Discussion Only: Approval of CWSD Nevada Flood Awareness Week Proclamation

CWSD joins communities and local and state agencies across Nevada in recognizing and proclaiming November 12-18, 2023, as Nevada Flood Awareness Week. CWSD honors the significance of this week and the importance of flood preparedness. Chairperson Workman read the proclamation into the record:

Carson Water Subconservancy District Proclamation
WHEREAS, Carson Water Subconservancy District recognizes the significant threat that flooding poses to our residents, our businesses, the community, the region and our local economy; and
WHEREAS, communities of the Carson River Watershed flood when rain, snowmelt and thunderstorms inundate the Carson River and its tributaries, alluvial fans, stormwater systems and,
WHEREAS, risks can be reduced and communities can be prepared to be more aware and resilient by educating residents and businesses on actions they can take to prepare for flood events; and
WHEREAS, during Flood Awareness Week, Carson Water Subconservancy District works with local, state, and federal agencies who are working together across Nevada to inform the public about the dangers of flooding, how to protect their homes and families, and businesses from a flood event and plan for recovery.
NOW THEREFORE, the Carson Water Subconservancy District Board of Directors does hereby proclaim November 12th through November 18th, 2023, as
Nevada Flood Awareness Week
And urges all citizens to increase their awareness of the risks of floods by visiting www.nevadafloods.org and learn how you can be prepared.
Dated this this 18th day of October 2023. Signed, Mike Workman, Chairperson, CWSD.

Director Gardner made a motion to approve the CWSD proclamation of Nevada Flood Awareness Week as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stodieck and unanimously approved by the Board.

Item #16 - For Discussion Only: Presentation by Jack Worsley, US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding the Lining of the Truckee Canal

Jason Villarreal, USBR (reporting for Jack Worsley) is the Manager on the Truckee Canal lining project. He described the project which started in August 2022 with the goal of finishing by

October 2023. Currently the water is scheduled to be turned on October 31, 2023. Chairperson Workman asked for clarification regarding what are check dams. Mr. Villarreal explained that check dams are placed in the canal to raise the water level so water can flow out of the various diversions along the canal. Director Scharmann asked if the lining included the area where the break occurred, to which the response was yes. This section of the canal was prioritized by the risk analysis.

No action taken.

Item #17 - For Discussion Only: Discussion with Adam Sullivan, State Engineer regarding Nevada Water Right Issues

Mr. James introduced Adam Sullivan, Nevada State Engineer who stated it is always good to hear CWSD's perspective as we are working on common goals of good data and consistency. Mr. Sullivan discussed water right issues and addressed the following questions from the Board. Note Mr. Sullivan's answers are ***bold & italicized***.

1. Discuss over-appropriated groundwater basins and how this occurred.
Groundwater is administered by basin perennial yield, which is a budget of water. Basins are over-appropriated due to:
 - a. ***water rights issued before perennial yield was determined***
 - b. ***goal to maximum water use, assumption not all water rights will be developed and used***
 - c. ***groundwater rights were issued without considering impacts on surface water rights***

Director Scharmann asked how will over appropriation be dealt with? It depends on the location of the well and when it is being pumped. The State is evaluating the impacts of groundwater pumping on surface rights.

2. Discuss "paper water" how it came to be and how the State has dealt with it in the past when there is not real water available to meet the demands if the "paper water" is called for. Mr. Sullivan introduced Jason Rasmussen, Churchill Valley Engineer to address this topic. "Paper Water"—existing water right not being used; the water right is in good standing but has not developed. If the Water Right is not being used, the State has the authority to take away the water right.
3. In over-appropriated groundwater basins, there are permitted water rights that have not been used that are senior to certificated water rights that are currently being used. How does NDWR protect existing users from senior permitted water users? If there is a change in use or location the State Engineer will evaluate if the change negatively affects a current water user. Black and white letter of the law says State Engineer must curtail by seniority.
4. Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction – How does the state plan to administer this concern? Is the state leaning toward using the Capture Model concept? NRS 534 is specific to groundwater but both surface and groundwater are in chapter 533; so NDWR views them as more interactive with entire chapter, but their processes in managing groundwater is different than surface water. The Carson River Watershed is in a good position because CWSD is discussing groundwater and surface water issues before there is a major conflict. Humboldt Senior water right holders are being affected by upstream pumping. We need a definitive study. Model reports are just now being published. We are not sure of Engineer authority. What are defensible solutions? What is the best solution? Think collectively; problem solve; talk and consider solutions as a water users' group.

Director Scharmann said Churchill County is in a similar position to Pershing County. At the end of watershed and concerned about upstream growth and effects on downstream water users. Is the State Engineer going to protect senior water rights? The short answer is yes.

Director Gardner would like to chat further with Mr. Sullivan. There were questions about proposed mines: Painted Rock Mine in Douglas and Copper Mine in Lyon and the water rights used for mining that affect water quantity and quality. TREGID, Storey, and Lyon Counties are concerned about water quality. Mr. Sullivan stated if water rights are needed they will have to purchase existing water rights to go with application whether on tribal land or not.

5. NDWR has been discussing the use of conjunctive use and augmentation plans. How does NDWR see implementing these concepts? If groundwater pumping is impacting a surface water right the groundwater user will need to mitigate the impact. This can be done through an augmentation plan. Colorado has been doing augmentation plans since 1969. Oregon has something similar.

Mr. James mentioned some possible augmentation programs: rapid infiltration – Brunswick, Lost Lakes, Mud Lake – these are all possible sources of water that can mitigate groundwater pumping. Director Stodieck asks if there will need to be legislative action soon to address some of these problems. Legislation can cut off litigation. Chairperson Workman stated Lyon County worked really hard to develop conjunctive use program, every customer is metered. In Dayton, the water district only used about half of what was allocated. Induction/groundwater/storage were allocated and planned for the future.

Chairperson Workman thanked Mr. Sullivan for taking the time to come to the CWSD Board meeting. Mr. Sullivan appreciated being asked to the meeting and wanted to commend CWSD for taking the lead in discussing these issues and the planning effort.

No action taken.

Item #18 - For Discussion Only: Presentation regarding an Overview of the 2023 Water Year

Mr. James gave a presentation of the 2023 Water Year comparing it to 2017. 2017 was a wetter year and had more runoff than 2023. The late season snowpack was greater in 2023 than in 2017.

[Click here to review presentation slides.](#)

No action taken.

Item #19 - For Discussion Only: Staff Reports

Mr. James reported the following:

- This is Max Robinson's last Board meeting.

Ms. Neddenriep reported the following:

- There were two upcoming Alpine County outreach events, including Oct. 21-28 which is the Alpine County/California Flood Awareness Week. Nov. 12-18 is Flood Awareness Week in Nevada.

Legal – None

Correspondence – None.

No action was taken.

Item #20 – For Discussion Only: Director & Committee Member Reports –

- Director Koerner reported she will be participating in Ag Day at Al Seeliger Elementary School on October 24, 8am-12:30 that will include 360 kids.
- Committee Member Griffith reported Ms. Neddenriep stole his thunder on Alpine County events, but he will be at the 9am Tree Planting event at Turtle Rock Park this Saturday, Oct. 21.
- Ms. Canfield thanked Debbie Neddenriep and Max Robinson for their help with the Virginia City/6 Mile Canyon ADMP project. Storey County will be taking the report to the Board at their second meeting in November.
- Director Scharmann reported the Lahontan Reservoir is at 215,000 AF. Churchill County is working closely with TCID to make sure no homes are flooded in the coming water year.
- Chairperson Workman reported Lyon County has started a Fire Safe Council to protect community with the NV Division of Forestry.
- Director Hindle introduced Lee Sterrett. He came to see what this Board is all about.
- Director Hendrix thanked all the speakers who gave presentations tonight.

No action was taken.

Item #16 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairperson Workman adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board