



CRC Education Working Group Meeting Notes

November 29, 2023

In person & via Zoom Meeting

In Attendance

Becca Feldermann, RW

Brenda Hunt, CWSD

Ed James, CWSD

Rachel Kiefer, AWG

Chris LaCasse, NDEP

Mareena Lovejoy, CCPROS

Lindsay Marsh, CWSD

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD

Kelly Nicholas, CWSD AmeriCorps

Catrina Schambra, CWSD

Christy Sullivan, LCD

Erin Smith, RCI

Courtney Walker, Douglas County

1. Round Robin Updates

Erin Smith, RCI – Erin is the Carson City Outreach & Education partner and loves working with this group! The Community Source Water Protection Plan went to the CCBOS 2 weeks ago and the updated plan was adopted. It will be shared by Carson City via the website by the new year. She is working on the Source Water Protection projects, and reported they had great outreach events. She is happy that an appendix was added to the plan regarding Outreach and Education.

Courtney Walker, Douglas County – The FAW event on 11/14/23 was well attended and showed lots of interest from the community. The High-Water Mark Sign unveiling event at River Fork Ranch was well attended and received media attention. There will be High-Water Mark signs coming to Lampe Park and the Gardnerville Gold Course soon. She has an event scheduled with 7th graders next week demonstrating the Floodplain Model. She is working closely with CVCD on the needed East Fork levee repairs. This funding request will go to the DCBOC tomorrow. Douglas County submitted a Flood Awareness Proclamation, and the media is actively engaged in FAW events. The LID program is working on signage for the site, and planning for the next round of funding.

Christy Sullivan, LCD – The 2023 National Association of Conservation Districts Poster contest theme was “One Water”. Local students entered the contest with four going to State level and one going to Nationals! Next year’s contest theme (2024) will be “May the forest be with you always!!”

Mareena Lovejoy, CCPROS – This is her first EWG meeting. She is replacing Chelsea Kincheloe, who took another position with the State of Nevada. Erin Larson, CCPROS new Volunteer Coordinator, will start in January.

Rachel Kieffer, AWG – Participated in 10/13/23 Snapshot Day with one site in Hope Valley and one at Hangman’s Bridge. AWG submitted a funding application for classroom lessons at each Alpine Co. school and field trips for Diamond Valley and Bear Valley students through the [Whale Tail Program](#), a 2-year education program for 2025 and 2026. If awarded, the funds will go toward the Alpine Co. summer reading program. This is the project description: "Alpine Watershed Group and Alpine County Library will engage Alpine County students with meaningful environmental education lessons and learning opportunities. Students will learn about watersheds, ecosystems (including local, coastal, and marine ecosystems), climate change and wildfire, and environmental stewardship. This will be accomplished through school lessons, field trips, and enhanced summer reading programs."

Lindsay Marsh, CWSD – Introduced by Debbie Neddenriep as CWSD’s new Water Resource Specialist I who just started on Monday! Lindsay gave a brief introduction of herself. Happy to be here!

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD – Douglas County’s 2 High-Water Mark signs will be funded by CWSD. Other signs also are going up throughout the watershed. Funding from USACE and State Parks is also available. We are building momentum with media coverage!

Becca Feldermann, RW – Over September and October RW had FAW events in Dayton, Carson City, as well as Snapshot Day and Boonanza at Mills Park. She asks any volunteers to send her your mailing address if she does not already have it. Snapshot Day was bigger than last year! RW had stations at Carson River Park, Dresslerville and 2 stations at River Fork Ranch with students participating. Last year there were 151 students, this year we had 230 students! Coming up this year RW will have activities with the Carson City Boys & Girls Club including a Trail pick-up trash day and a day at the river. The kids are incredibly involved and excited! This year she also worked with two different home-schooled groups and its growing! The events this Fall included Boonanza; Snapshot Day; LID, AG in the Classroom (animals in the watershed/habitat); high school workdays; and Silver Sage Fall Fest (1,211 people attended!). River Wrangler’s outreach through all events in Fall was approximately 7,000! RW has applied for 2 new grants from the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation. RW was awarded one for \$16,000 and is awaiting confirmation of the other for \$25,000.

Kelly Nicholas, CWSD AmeriCorps – Kelly started a new 1-year contract with CWSD in October. She has been busy with outreach, social media, Douglas County FAW events, etc. She is working on the newsletter now. Deadline for the Winter newsletter is December 17.

Chris LaCasse, NDEP – 319 GFO awards should be out in a couple of weeks, but no later than January. There are changes at NDEP with a new EPA rep and a new NDEP Director, Chris Fritzen. Changes to grant awards: in the past 50% went to general education funding. Now all Education and Outreach must be tied into implementation of nonpoint source on ground projects. The State is understaffed. In the next few cycles, it is suggested working groups be created, for example CVCD get RW involved in levee repairs as a possibility. He is happy to help in any way he can to help with new funding guidelines. Preproposals will probably not be available, but he will try to help. Contact him with questions. Courtney suggests a brainstorming session with the group to look at the new funding guidelines. Education and learning by doing is a good thing and will help students’ academic growth!

2. Updates: Events and Grants-

- a. **RW – Snapshot Day:** See Becca Feldermann’s Round Robin description above.
- b. **Flood Awareness Week:** To be discussed at next meeting.
- c. **CRC Coordination and Stewardship Plan Implementation:**
 - i. **Your Actions Matter 30 sec PSAs:** Brenda showed the 30 second PSA spots that will be on TV and radio. Channel 8 and possibly Channel 4 and Channel 2. She discussed the campaign and PSA schedule. Information will be sent to county PIOs each month and the DCNR Media Division. If you have a contact we should be sending this information too, please let us know.
 - ii. **Physical Watershed Map Use needs, updates, funding:** CWSD is starting to update the Carson River online map and printed brochure. We are only

updating the back of the map/timeline. Please review and send any requested changes by **January 12, 2024**. The cost is approximately \$3000/per 10,000 copies and the group discussed options for funding this. Courtney suggested she may be able to tie this map revision into the LID grant extension as she uses it extensively for her outreach.

- iii. During the next three months there will be training on the CRASP Web Viewer portal use, and phone app. **Editors Note:** This will be completed Spring of 2024.
- d. **208 Water Quality Planning Grant:** Brenda reported the soil sampling under the NDEP 208 Water Quality Planning grant included the Break A Heart Ranch and TNC's River Fork Ranch. They are awaiting test results from Regen Labs now.
- e. **CWSD Weed Grants: Update on CRC Invasive Species Working Group Meeting:** CWSD will be meeting with the Invasive Species Weed Working Group regarding the Weed Abatement Program that funds each county with \$15,000 per year. The program is being assessed by the group before the contracts go out this year to see if it needs to be updated. It was noted that Christy Sullivan and Nancy Upham in Churchill County have classes for residents that is a great program to educate the community on weed training.

3. Upcoming Events:

- Brenda and Kelly attending 11/30/23 UNR Ext. Regen Ag Workshop (Cost \$20)
- The **Watershed Forum will be March 5 & 6, 2024 at the Governor's Mansion**. To help plan or be a speaker on Education and Outreach topics please email Brenda. (Courtney volunteers to present on the Stormwater Master Plan!)

Chat Notes:

10:10:54 From Erin Smith To Everyone:

I must step away for 2 min but will be right back!

11:16:23 From Christy Sullivan - LCD To Everyone:

I pass out maps also. I got to go. Thank you!

11:32:11 From Marena Lovejoy (Carson City) To Everyone:

Upcoming Carson City Park Ranger interp events: December 8 Galaxy Talk at Silver Saddle Ranch; December 16 Holiday Hike at Riverview Park

Next Meeting: February 21, 2024, 9:30-11:30am