

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 21, 2024

**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 of Directors was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

**CWSD Directors present:**

Mark Gardner ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Dave Nelson
Stacey Giomi	Ernie Schank ( <i>via Zoom</i> )
Tammy Hendrix	Lisa Schuette
Jim Hindle ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Lee Sterrett
Cassi Koerner	Mike Workman

**Absent Directors:** Sharla Hales, Bus Scharmann & Fred Stodieck

The roll call included CWSD Committee Members present: Charlie Dobson & David Griffith.

**CWSD Staff & Guests present:**

David Bruketta, Lyon County ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Lindsay Marsh, CWSD
Brenda Hunt, CWSD	Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD
Edwin James, CWSD	Kelly Nicholas, CWSD AmeriCorps
Scott Keller, Public ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Catrina Schambra, CWSD
Patrick King, CWSD Attorney	Rich Wilkinson, CVCD

Chairperson Workman led the pledge of allegiance.

**Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment** – Director Koerner was presented with a baby gift that Board members and staff contributed towards to celebrate the arrival of her daughter. The first CWSD Board baby!

**Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda**

*Director Giomi made a motion to approve the Agenda of Feb. 21, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of Jan.17, 2024**

*Director Giomi made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Sterrett and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**\*\*CONSENT AGENDA\*\***

**Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for January 2024**

**Item #8 – For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2024**

**Item #9 - For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum to NCE Agreement #2022-6 for Phase II of GIS Web Access System to add amount not to exceed \$20,000, Exhibit B: Scope of Work**

for Phase II and update contract language

**Item #10 - For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum to Casey Neilon Agreement #2021-19 to extend to March 30, 2025, for Professional Auditing Services for FY 2023-24, to add amount not to exceed \$22,000, and update contract language**

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

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

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of FY 2022-23 Single Audit**

*Casey Neilon representative not present. Item pushed to later in agenda. No action taken.*

**Item #12 - For Discussion Only: Presentation by Carson Valley Conservation District on the East Fork Levee Repair**

Rich Wilkinson, Grant Manager of the Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) gave a presentation on the East Fork Levee repairs and included a few other CVCD projects.

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

*No action taken.*

**Item #11 - For Possible Action: Approval of FY 2022-23 Single Audit**

Ollis Brown, CPA, Casey Neilon preformed the CWSD Single Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. He went over the draft report for the Board of Directors and declared he did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that would be considered material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls. He congratulated CWSD on a job well done.

*Director Schuette made a motion to approve the FY 2022-23 Single Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Sterrett and unanimously approved by the Board.*

**Item #13 - For Discussion Only: Update on the March 5-6 CRC Watershed Forum**

Kelly Nicholas, CWSD AmeriCorps Watershed Technician gave an update to the Board on the planning status for the March 5 & 6 CRC Watershed Forum. The 2-day forum will be held in the Ruvo Stateroom at the Governors Mansion in Carson City. Looking Ahead, the event includes 30+ speakers from 20+ different entities. The Keynote Speaker will be Adam Sullivan, State Engineer. There will also be an Emergency Management panel discussion with Carson City and Douglas, Alpine, Lyon, Storey counties represented. Ms. Nicholas gave a detailed report on the speakers participating and the focus of their presentations. CWSD is charging a registration fee this year to help offset the food & beverages cost of providing lunch and snacks each day. She urged Board members to attend. She also mentioned June 11 & 12 are set for the GET ON THE BUS! tour, so mark your calendars now!

[Click here to view preliminary Watershed Forum schedule.](#)

*No action taken.*

**Item #14 - For Discussion Only: Overview of 25 Years of CWSD Priorities & History**

Mr. James gave a verbal presentation of the history of CWSD going back even further than 25

years ago. It is important that the Board understands this history as they plan for the future.

### **Carson Truckee Water Conservation District (CTWCD)**

CTWCD was formed in 1958. The purpose of the CTWCD was to negotiate between the farmers and the federal government on the payback of the construction of upstream storage in the Carson and Truckee basins. Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) was formed in 1959 as a Subconservancy to CTWCD to deal with storage on the Carson River. CTWCD signed the agreement with the Department of Interior in 1964 for the storage projects on the Truckee and Carson, entered into an agreement with CWSD for the Carson.

All Directors of CTWCD and CWSD were appointed by the District Court and an Annual Report was submitted to the District Court until 1989 when NRS 541 was changed by the Nevada legislators. NRS 541 changed the appointment of the Conservancy Directors from the District Court to the Governor. CWSD act changed the appointments from the court to the counties. Both CTWCD and CWSD received funding from property tax. At some time CTWCD began receiving sales tax instead of property tax.

### **Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)**

On September 18, 1959, the District Court created the CWSD. Prior to 1959, for nearly three years an informal organized group met on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss the need for storage in the upper Carson River Watershed. CWSD contracted with CTWCD to purchase supplies and most meetings were held with the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

From Fiscal Year 1960-61 Report: The first Fiscal annual report was sent to the District Court in June of 1961. CWSD had representatives from Carson City, Douglas County and Lyon County. They were proud that most Board members had not missed any meetings and served with no pay. CWSD created its first budget and property tax rate. The revenue from the property tax was \$11,200.10 and was based on ten cents for every \$100 in valuation.

According to USBR, in calculating the benefit/cost analysis for the Watasheamu dam, the largest repayment source for the Watasheamu project would come from the sale of electrical energy. A total of 44,000 acre-feet of new water would be developed from this project.

From Fiscal Year 1961-62 Report: In May 1962 CWSD hired Terry Katzer as Manager.

From Fiscal Year 1962-63 Report: The total budget was \$18,590.

From Fiscal Year 1963 64 Report: There was a concern in the lower Carson River Watershed that if the Watasheamu Project was built, it would dry up the Stillwater project. CWSD pushed for a public relations program to support the construction of the Watasheamu Project.

From Fiscal Year 1964-65 Report: In February of 1965, CTWCD signed a contract with USBR for repayment of Watasheamu and Stampede projects. The vote for the Washoe Project was approved by all counties except for Churchill County. A major flood in December 1964 resulted in a big push for the benefits of Watasheamu Dam. Projections were made that by the year 2000 approximately 60,000 people would be living in Eagle Valley needing 29,000-acre feet of water. There was a concern that Carson City would run out of water by 1977. The Watasheamu Project could help meet this future demand. Water users for the Watasheamu project were expanded to include municipal and irrigation needs.

From Fiscal Year 1964-65 Report: Garry Stone took over as CWSD Manager. A repayment contract between CWSD and CTWCD for the Watasheamu Project was established. CWSD needs

\$50,000 in contracts to move forward. The contracts in hand totaled \$18,550. CWSD works with the Federal Water Master to help fund stream gauging stations in the Carson River Watershed. Carson City and Douglas County requested 12,000-acre feet to meet their future municipal demands.

From Fiscal Year 1966-67 Report: Secretary of Interior published rules and regulations for Washoe Project. Included in the rules was "...make available as much water to Pyramid Lake," and the Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID) would maximize the water from Carson River. There were concerns among upper Carson River users that these rules would impact their water supply. There was a push for CWSD to actively work on the Carson River decree with USBR. USBR asked CWSD to help with channel maintenance.

From Fiscal Year 1967-68 Report: Conclusion – "A decade of frustration." Little had been accomplished in getting the Watasheamu project built. The total budget was \$18,400.

From Fiscal Year 1968-69 Report: Tax levy was four cents per \$100. A letter was sent to Senator Bible regarding the frustration on why the Watasheamu project had not moved forward and the importance of the Project. The various reasons why the project was not moving forward were due to: local opposition, absence of a decree on the Carson river, conflict with the Pyramid Lake Tribe, and the discussions related to the Carson Tiver compact.

From Fiscal Year 1971-72 Report: The Carson and Truckee Rivers compact were approved by Nevada and California. The Pyramid Tribe filed a lawsuit against the Watasheamu project. The Carson River Basin Council of Government was formed. To cut costs CWSD released their staff (Attorney, Bookkeeper, and Manager) and hired them on a part-time basis. Part of the manager's pay came from the Federal Water Master. CWSD focus was on river management and measurements. The Pyramid Tribe legal battle stopped the Watasheamu Project.

From Fiscal Year 1974-75 Report: CWSD has had a representative on the CTWCD since 1959. Mr. Stone works part-time for CWSD and part-time for the Federal Water Master. CWSD hired legal representation on behalf of farmers for the Alpine Decree litigation. Carson City is facing a serious water shortage and pushing for upstream storage. The energy crisis creates push for power generation.

From Fiscal Year 1975-76 Report: CWSD levied three cents per \$100. Court cases on both Carson and Truckee limited operations. USBR agrees to conduct a complete reevaluation of the Watasheamu project. Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) starts to deal with erosion problems along the river. CTWCD continues to provide financial and legislative support.

Fiscal Year 1977-78: No Annual Report. Garry Stone represented CWSD at CTWCD meetings.

In 1983, USBR completed their reevaluation of the Watasheamu Project and concluded that the benefit/costs analysis was less than one and withdrew their support.

In June 1987, the Nevada Legislature passed a Joint Resolution for CWSD to study upstream storage on the Carson River. In 1989, the Nevada Legislature restructured CWSD and included urban portions of Carson City. The three counties had been working together for three years to set up an organization for water planning on the upper Carson River.

#### **From CWSD Meeting Minutes:**

A summary of the Minutes for the 1990s was they were the years of studies, disagreements, and funding issues.

In February 1997 meeting CWSD Board said it was time to focus its attention on the Carson River projects. It was mentioned that CTWCD's focus was on the Truckee River and below the Lahontan Reservoir. A comment was made asking, "What has CWSD accomplished over the past few years?" CWSD Board stated that they wanted to get actively involved with flood damage repairs along the river.

In April 1997, the Board mentioned that their focus should be specifically on FEMA repairs, local stormwater projects, and stream bank repairs.

In October 1997, CWSD Board reviewed the results of their strategic planning session. There was discussion that maybe CWSD should be the flood district for the upper Carson River. The Board discussed that if CWSD is going to be a leader in the watershed it needs to take the step to hire its own staff.

In May 1998, a presentation was given to CWSD regarding the outcome of the Carson River Conference. One of the outcomes was a request that CWSD be the lead agency in developing a watershed plan. The Board agreed to be the lead agency but to proceed slowly and with caution. There was concern with some of the federal agency's involvement. It was proposed that a steering committee would be formed to work through the issues.

In August 1998, Ed James was hired as the General Manager. The direction provided to Mr. James from the Board was for CWSD to spend less money on studies and more on projects. The Board wants CWSD to take a leadership role in the future development of the watershed plan for the Carson River, but to proceed slowly over concerns dealing with Federal agencies. This would also include taking a leadership role on the Steering Committee. They shared concerns not to repeat earlier studies and pursue having Churchill County and Alpine County become members of CWSD. Also, any regional water plan developed must follow the Alpine Decree.

#### **CWSD Activities and Accomplishments:**

In 1999, Churchill County became a member of the CWSD through Nevada Legislature. CWSD also administered the AB380 \$16 million project. In 2001, Alpine County joined CWSD through a Joint Powers Agreement. In 2003, CWSD was appointed the 208 Water Quality Planning entity for the Carson River under the Clean Water Act. Over the years, CWSD overseen a \$640,000 ARRA Program, received one million dollars to help fund upgrades to the Marlette Water System, and began receiving FEMA funding. CWSD also funded several regional water projects, flood projects, river restoration projects, etc.

After several Steering Committee meetings, CWSD hired the first Watershed Coordinator in July 2000 for the Carson River Coalition (CRC) process and the working groups. Since 2000, CWSD has supported the CRC process. The CRC process has grown over the years. Through the CRC process we have developed the Stewardship Plan, the Regional Floodplain Plan, the Watershed Literacy Plan, etc. The CRC process has been recognized throughout the state. Many of the studies pursued by the CRC came from grants. CWSD provided most of the match through funding and in-kind. Almost half of the funding for Brenda Hunt and Shane Fryer's salaries, and the various studies came from NDEP grants. This funding may not be available in the future.

Considering the coming funding challenges, Mr. James suggests the Board have a Strategic Planning Session. He would like to arrange a day-long retreat to plan and determine the CWSD focus moving forward. Consensus of the Board agreed this should be done before the end of the year.

*No action taken.*

**Item #15 - For Discussion Only: Report on 2024 Water Year**

Mr. James reported there was a big change in the snowpack from January to February. In January, the snowpack was 57% of average. In February, the snowpack was 86 % of average. With the next couple of storms coming in we should be close to the average snowpack by April 1.

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

*No action taken.*

**Item #16 - For Discussion Only: Staff Reports**

Mr. James reported the following:

- The Water Right decision by the Supreme Court was the talk of the NDWR Conference. The Nevada Supreme Court confirmed the State Engineer’s ruling to combine seven groundwater basins into one super basin for administrative purposes. The issue had to do with the groundwater pumping near Coyote Springs Golf Course in White Pine County and its impact on the surrounding basins. The District Court ruled against the State Engineer claiming he does not have the authority to combine various groundwater basins. The Supreme Court overruled the District Court.
- CWSD is asking for a 1-year extension and additional funding on the NDEM 30-Year Regional Water Plan grant due to USGS partners in the project loss of two of their modeling staff.

**Legal** – Mr. Patrick reminded the Board that cyber security threats are at an all-time high, and the thieves’ skillsets are strong. He cautioned all to be hyper vigilant with online security.

**Correspondence** –

Correspondence (1) Nevada Appeal - Muscle Powered National Award

Correspondence (2) Carson Now - 2024 Andy Aldax Awards

*No action was taken.*

**Item #18 – For Discussion Only: Director & Committee Member Reports** –

- Director Koerner reported she will have Ag in the Classroom events at both Scarselli Elementary School in Gardnerville and Pioneer High School in Carson City and will be participating in Genoa Western Heritage Days April 26-28.
- Director Nelson lives near the Golf Course in Gardnerville and appreciates the work done to repair the levee on the East Fork.
- Director Giomi reported that Carson City secured a Bond for recreation at a 3.3% rate.
- Committee Member Dobson reported he saw the CWSD Ad during either the Super Bowl or the Grammys!

*No action was taken.*

**Item #19 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment** – Director Koerner thanked everyone again for their kindness. Her due date is March 19. She may or may not be at the next meeting but will keep us posted.

There being no: further business to come before the Board, Chairperson Workman adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board