

Contact: Brenda Hunt, (775) 877-9005, brenda@cwsd.org

Hybrid Location: CWSD Offices, 777 E William St. Suite 209 (upstairs), Carson City, NV 89701 or

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 814 1793 5956

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Meeting Attendees			
Name	Title	Org	Email
Rachel Kieffer	Headwaters Coordinator	Alpine Watershed Group	awg.rachel@gmail.com
Christian Fritsen	Branch Supervisor, Nonpoint Source	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	cfritsen@ndep.nv.gov
Jessica Gwerder	District Conservationist	NRCS (Minden)	jessica.gwerder@usda.gov
Rich Wilkinson	District Manager	Carson Valley Conservation District	richard.wilkinson@nv.nacdnet.net
Valerie Gordon	Owner	Ace Hereford Ranch	va.gordon@yahoo.com
Marena Lovejoy	Senior Natural Resource Specialist	Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space	mlovejoy@carson.org
Jared Whitaker	Open Space Maintenance Coordinator	Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space	jwhitaker@carson.org
Cale Pete	Environmental Manager	Washoe Environmental Protection Department	Cale.Pete@washoetribe.us
Bella Kurtz	CA Climate Action Fellow	Alpine Watershed Group	awg.bella@gmail.com
Kaitlyn Garber	CA Climate Action Fellow	Alpine Watershed Group	awg.kaitlyn@gmail.com
Cami Hodges	Owner	Break-A-Heart Ranch	chodges@natc-ht.com
Brenda Hunt	Watershed Program Manager	CWSD	brenda@cwsd.org
Kelly Nicholas	Watershed Tech	CWSD	watershedtech@cwsd.org
Ryan Morgan	Ecological Outcomes Verifier	Savory Institute	ryanmorganlivestock@gmail.com
Christy Sullivan	District Clerk	Lahontan Valley Conservation District	christy.sullivan@nv.nacdnet.net

Agenda Items

1. (1:30pm-2:15pm) Welcome, Introductions and Round Robin

Rich Wilkinson, CVCD: Rich Wilkinson of Carson Valley Conservation District is working with local producers to address grasshopper infestation issues in Carson Valley. The conservation district has a discounted rental no-till drill program for agricultural producers, and they can provide trainings on how to use it if that's needed. Drill options include a 10-footer or through NDOW (thanks to Tori Cernoff) shared use of a dew-drop, a 4- to 5-foot-wide unit that can be towed with an ATV. It's used for smaller projects and is easier to transport. Both are limited to a 15-20% slope. Brenda asked if the equipment can be used by other places in the watershed; Rich said he needs to check with their board before making drills available to other locations. Another limitation is not having a trailer big enough or heavy enough to haul the larger one. Dayton Valley Conservation District has a tractor and a 6 foot no-till drill as well

Rachel Kieffer, AWG: Updates include their January newsletter featuring an article on ranching with Valerie Gordon of Ace Hereford. Kimra McAfee also presented during the Society for Range Management tour the previous week. AWG is also exploring food waste diversion and composting with Diamond Valley School and are in the process of hiring a Forest Health Coordinator.

Marena Lovejoy, CCPROS has no updates but is excited about the dew-drop no-till drill and is looking into it after hearing Rich talk about it. <http://www.dewdropdrill.com/>

Cami Hodges, Break-a-Heart Ranch: She shared updates on the ranch's regenerative agriculture practices, including renting a no-till drill last year and ultimately purchasing it through the equipment company's program. Soil samples were taken by Chuck Schembre of Understanding Ag and Brenda last fall, and the sample results are going to be reviewed with CWSD the following week.

Jessica Gwerder, NRCS: Working her way through applications. She'll have more to say later in the meeting.

Christian Fritsen, NDEP: NDEP has a grant funding announcement out that's for water-quality improvement projects or watershed-based planning. Due date is February 14. In addition to that, NDEP is focusing on a five-year planning process that has the next five-year plan in place by the end of the year. They will be drafting some targeted milestones and goals here in the next couple of months, and there will be a process for input on the draft and plan. As part of the process, EPA will reach out to tribes to make sure that they can comment and provide feedback. As that plan moves forward, it's going to be a revision from the state management plan that's been posted in the past. Future 319 grant applications will be based on these plans.

Cale Pete, WEPD: The Department conducted a willow pile burn at Dressler Ranch, which was more successful than last winter's. Last week staff conducted aerial seeding at the Numbers Fire burn scar. Upcoming events include Earth Day on May 4 at the Carson Colony gym and a youth outreach event tentatively scheduled for June 13, where all four colonies will conduct benthic macro invertebrates (BMI – bugs!) sampling on the East Fork. He hopes this will lead to a possible career path for tribal youth. Earth Day is open to all; contact WEPD (Tonya Quiner, WEPD.FrontDesk@washoetribe.us or (775) 265-8680) if you'd like to table on that day.

Ryan Morgan, Savory Institute: Listening

Valerie Gordon, Ace Hereford: Their ranch is on the West Fork. Concerned about the dry winter and stresses the importance of water infiltration for banking water during drier years and for general health; a watershed perspective is important to attain this goal. She's grateful to AWG and NRCS for their programs and the projects they've worked on together. She also works with Ryan Morgan of the Savory Institute and will continue efforts to increase climate resiliency on her property and in the watershed. She feels responsible for this because the river runs through her property.

Christy Sullivan, LVCD: Listening

Brenda presented updates from Adrienne Snow, UNCE, and Ed Kleiner, Comstock Farm: November 30, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension hosted an all-day regenerative agriculture and gardening workshop in Douglas Co. that provided information on soil health and microbiology. It was great; they did a slake test (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBjel_tCvAg), which demonstrates how different cultural practices affect water infiltration. Other presenters spoke about the importance of cover cropping. Approximately 45 people attended. UNCE will continue to offer these workshops around the state, with speakers discussing pollinators, urban gardening, and water efficiency in an arid climate. March 13 UNCE will host a small-scale ag producers conference in Fallon.

Kelly Nicholas, CWSD: The CRC Watershed Forum is coming up March 5 and 6; there have been some save-the-date announcements in our e-blasts. Look for a registration form soon.

Ed runs a native seed business in the Carson Valley and is also on a regenerative ag journey on his property. He's agreed to present at the CRC Watershed Forum, which is March 5 and 6.

(2:15pm -2:35pm) Finalization of the [CRC Agricultural Producers Working Group Foundational Document](#)

- a. Final Document see link (Any concerns, revisions?) It is a working document we'll continue to refine and use to create our upcoming agendas, etc.

Brenda seeks feedback on this foundational document for agricultural producers. The Carson River Coalition's purpose is to assist in guiding and improving the implementation of watershed-wide solutions to achieve a healthy, sustainable watershed. The coalition's vision of a healthy, vibrant Carson River Watershed with thriving agricultural lands, water residents who are dedicated land stewards, and a connection between land, water, food, health, and the watershed's health needs all partners' expertise and sharing information to make that reality. Part of this is increasing education and creating measurable components as part of the document.

Valerie – We need to address the watershed as a whole. That being said, there is an opportunity in Alpine Co. for like-minded to work closely together. It's important to share data and a need for clear communication to span a workable area.

Brenda – Maybe that's something we can work on together. Where are these enclaves of participation and how can we build on them?

Valerie – Ryan (Morgan) has gotten a grant for three landowners for healthy soils. Why don't we consider adding in a water element? Taking advantage of this unique partnership potential in land ownership might be a pilot project that could be seen as part of the solution and the model could be used elsewhere.

- b. Plans for other property tours?

Ed Kleiner, Cami Hodges, and Joe Frey are potential sites for APWG tours. Can do site tours two out of four meetings; not being far along in the process is okay. **Please give Brenda ideas for site tours.**

Cami: Might be able to figure out a small, small group.

Brenda will reach out to Joe Frey and see if that's possible for the next meeting.

- c. Brainstorm speakers to attend our meetings

Maybe a speaker could attend a future meeting, even virtually. **Please give Brenda ideas for speakers.**

2. (2:35 – 2:50pm) Clean Water Section 208 NDEP Planning Grant – Soil Health and Regenerative Ag Update (Brenda/Joe/ Cami/Lori)

Soil samples were collected last fall from Joe Frey's, Break-a-Heart and The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch. Chuck Schembre from Understanding Ag is finalizing the results and these, along with recommendations, will be presented to the property owners in mid-February. Property owners need to grant permission to share the results because of some privacy concerns outside the property owner's control, but at least one is

enthusiastic about the white paper and sharing knowledge. Brenda hopes to write a 319 grant targeting the implementation of the recommendations. The 208 grant wraps up in December, and will be getting back with the white paper within the next six months.

3. (2:50 – 3:05) Upcoming events/Opportunities for outreach

- a. PFC and Riparian Grazing Mgmt. Workshop at TNC’s River Fork Ranch (Sherm/Lori)
See attached document for registration details

- b. UNCE events list: <https://extension.unr.edu/publication.aspx?PubID=5166>

- c. Earth Day events

Cale mentioned Earth Day for Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe will be hosting theirs on April 20 in Fallon’s Oats Park. **See attached documents.**

Alpine Co. will be hosting its annual Teddy Bear Parade at Diamond Valley School on Apr. 27. Anyone who wants a table and has a kid-friendly activity is most welcome. [Click here for contact.](#)
[Click here for last year’s description.](#)

- d. Other local events

Eagles and Ag starts Feb. 8. connecting eagles and cattle operations

4. ((3:05 -3:25) Specific funding opportunities

- a. NRCS funding – Conservation Stewardship Program and more (Jessica Gwerder, NRCS.). There is no required match for these funds. Payment is by unit of mitigation practice, which is reviewed before a contract is signed. Not intended to pay full cost of project. Nevada shares a cost list with three other states for items such as materials, equipment, or other labor. Adjusted gross income must be an average of < \$900K for the previous three tax years unless at least 66 percent of the figure is generated from agriculture/farm income. Water projects (irrigation) must have proof of irrigation for at least two of the last five years.

EQIP –

Helps producers apply conservation practices on their land. Provides financial assistance to address natural resource concerns. Must be a landowner or operator. Can do cooperative contracts between two or more participants for cross-boundary issues.

Fund pools:

- Batch 1 = Classic and EQIP-IRA (Inflation Reduction Act)
- EQIP Organic Transition Initiative (Transitioning to organic) DUE 2/29/24
- **Batch 2 = Classic, EQIP-IRA and Cheatgrass Challenge DUE 3/29/24**

Conservation Stewardship Plan (CSP) –

- Nation’s largest conservation program in terms of acres
- Rewards good land stewardship
- Accepts applications year-round

IRA Programs

- Specifically for climate change mitigation – reduce greenhouse gas emissions + improve carbon storage

- List of NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities: <https://nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf>
- NRCS continually evaluates and updates activities and approaches
- Can be used to *facilitate* a mitigation practice

Are there reports for body condition score on the different practices applicants can refer to for reference to see the benefit? For example, inputs and then the final condition of the cow. Jessica has not seen NRCS-generated studies on this in Nevada. There has to be something at the national level in order to put a given option before clients.

Other programs? The deadline for Agricultural Land Easements has passed, but now is a good time to start talking to NRCS and preparing an application for next round (last deadline was Nov. 2023). You need to find a third-party non-government organization to apply for funding for you, and that entity will be with you the whole time monitoring the easement. Wetland Reserve Easements are more wildlife-focused; can be in perpetuity or 30-year leases.

Getting Started:

- Contact local office; they will help you work up a conservation plan and navigate your application
- Jessica Gwerder
District Conservationist
NRCS Minden Field Office
775-782-3661
Jessica.Gwerder@usda.gov

b. NDEP 319 GFO (Chris Fritzen, NDEP)

NDEP is interested in planning proposals for targeted implementation activities on a smaller scale, like tributaries versus the main river stem. Match is required. In the future, state revolving fund partners might think of municipalities. 319 is a partner in the NWQI; hope to have more water quality monitoring associated with NWQI projects. In terms of agriculturally related implementation projects, anything that reduces sediments and nutrients into the water body would be a possible project. Regenerative ag and riparian health are candidates. Demonstration of a pollutant-load reduction is needed for implementing BMPs, and tomorrow at 9 a.m. there will be a demonstration of P-LET, the Pollution Load Estimation Tool that does this calculation.

Brenda asked if there are plans to expansion of the NWQI to other parts of the watershed. Jessica said policy changes will need to be revisited on the NRCS side to see if they can apply or the process will need to start from scratch; the service areas would expand to the Yerington and Fallon field offices.

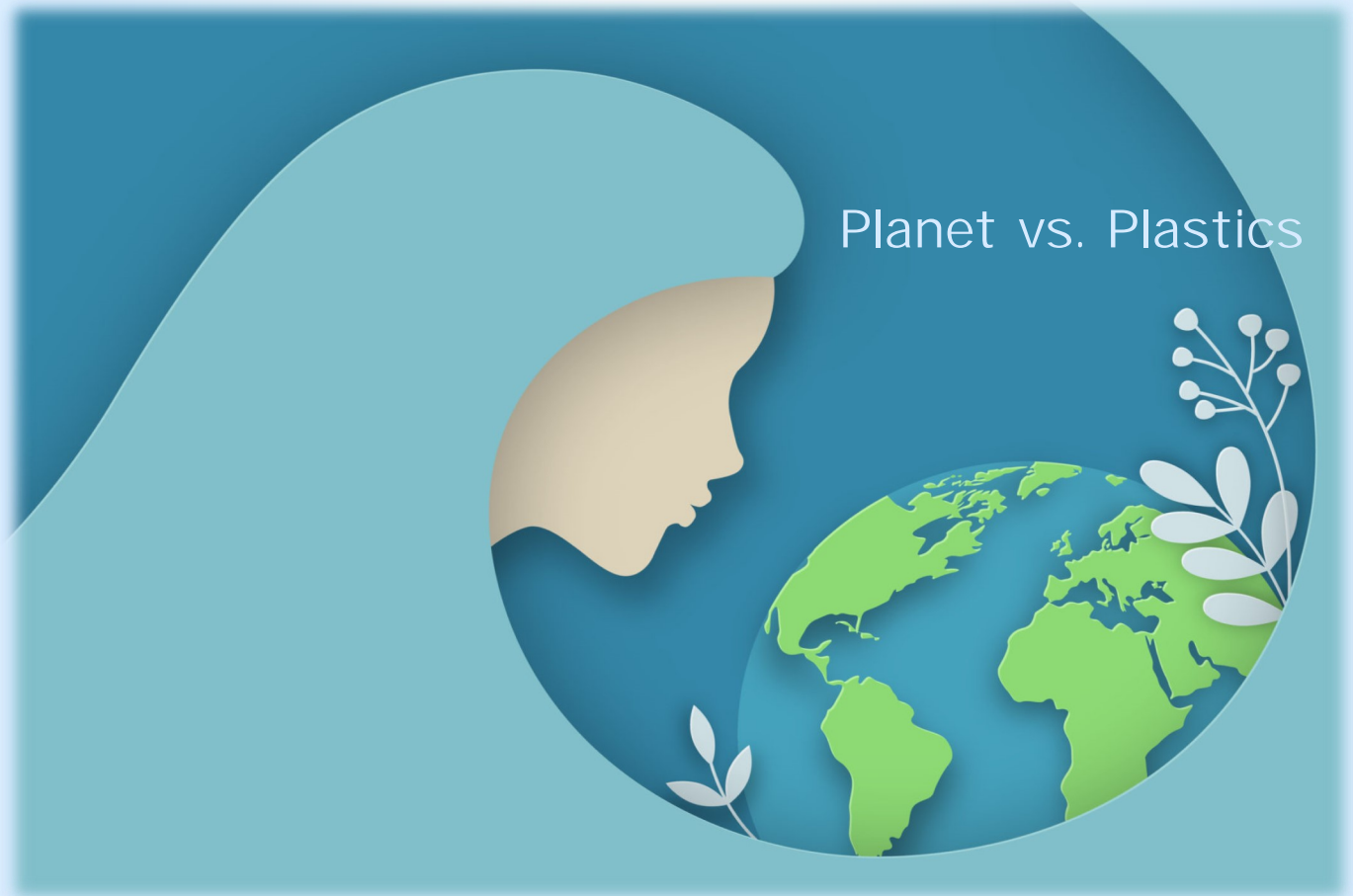
c. Others?

CWSD applied for a weed management grant. It specifies for reseeding and will complement existing CWSD weed grants for conservation districts.

CWSD is applying for a 319 grant involving regenerative ag with two partners and also applying for a 319 planning grant.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Fallon PaiuteShoshone Tribe
25th Annual Earth Day Celebration



Saturday, April 20, 2024

Volunteers * Educators * Arts/Crafts * Food * Ven





FALLON PAIUTE-SHOSHONE TRIBE

EARTH DAY BOOTH REGISTRATION FORM

Location: Centennial Stage at Oats Park
199-101 W Park St.
Fallon, NV 89406

Event Contact: Ileana Henry
1011 Rio Vista Drive
Fallon, NV 89406

Time: Set up time: 8am
Event time 10am-2pm

(775) 423-0590
ileanaenviro@fpst.org

Name of Responsible Party: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Business/Booth Name: _____

Booth or Activity Description:

Type of Booth:

_____ Vendor (for profit)

_____ Educational (no sales)

What type of item will your booth be donating for the raffle on the day of the event? (There is no fee to set up at this event. In lieu of a fee we are asking that an item be donated (valued at \$25) from each booth that will be making money from sales at the booth.)

Will you be providing food or beverages for public consumption? (You are required to have a temporary food permit issued in advance of the start of the event from the State of Nevada Department of Human Resources Health Division.)

_____ Yes _____ No

What size space would you like for your booth? (Booths will be spaced with plenty of walking space around the booth for access. Be sure to bring your own shade tent if you would like one.)

_____ 10x10 _____ 20x20 _____ Other (specify) _____

Do you require an electrical outlet? _____ Yes _____ No

How will your trash be handled? _____

Do you have a facebook page we can use to promote your attendance at this event? Please provide url:

Do you have a website we can use to promote your attendance at this event? Please provide url:

If you have a logo or image we can use to promote your attendance at this event, please email to ileanaenviro@fpst.org

All booths are responsible for bringing your own tent, table, chair, shade tent, and electrical cords. Please be aware of the waste generated by your booth and do your best to limit the waste generated by your booth where possible. We advocate for educational activities that are interactive with a minimum of paper or non-recyclable wastes. If you need ideas for lowering the environmental impact of your booth, give us a call.

By signing this form, the attendee agrees to perform cleanup necessary to return the space to as good a condition the space was in at the commencement of the event. The attendee shall comply with all laws of the United States and the State of Nevada, all ordinances of the County of Churchill and the City of Fallon, and all rules and requirements of the City of Fallon Police Department and the City of Fallon Fire Department and will obtain and pay for all necessary permits and licenses.

Signature of Responsible Party: _____



Creeks and Communities:

A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Stewardship

2024 Trainings

Riparian proper functioning condition (PFC) assessment uses common terms, definitions, and methods to identify opportunities for positive change from reasonable investments, enhance local management, and solve problems by people most affected. Integrated Riparian Management uses PFC assessment to prioritize needs for adaptive management with monitoring for riparian objectives and strategies. Trainings are available to landowners, Federal, State, and local agency personnel, tribes, industry, conservation interests, and others. Instructors are from Nevada Creeks and Communities Team. There is no cost for classes.

Please share this announcement within your networks.

CLASSES

PFC Assessment for Integrated Riparian Management – February 26-29 by Zoom - The Zoom class will feature an optional day of participant-provided practice or problem solving about class concepts.

PFC Assessment for Integrated Riparian and Grazing Management – May 20-24, River Fork Ranch, 381 Genoa Lane, Minden, NV 89423.

PFC Assessment for Integrated Riparian and Grazing Management – June 3-7, Eureka Opera House, NV

PFC Assessment for Integrated Riparian and Grazing Management – July 15-19, Humboldt County Cooperative Extension, Fairgrounds Winnemucca, NV.

PFC Assessment for Integrated Riparian and Grazing Management – July 22-26, Great Basin College, Elko, NV.

For PFC class reservations or questions: Sherman Swanson (775-233-6221 swanson@unr.edu) with name, affiliation, address, phone, e-mail, and interest, discipline, role or area of expertise.

You are welcome for the parts of the class you need or want (1-5 days). After requesting a reservation, an agenda will provide a timeline. All classes begin with learning about and participating in PFC assessment, step 1 in the integrated riparian management process (IRMP). Presentations on steps 2-7 of IRMP - riparian values, riparian area/reach prioritization, goals and objectives, management and/or restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management. PFC-IRMP and Grazing management classes include more about grazing management concepts and engagement with a case study for application of IRMP concepts.

PFC Assessment and/or Integrated Riparian Management -- Coaching field sessions are available for small groups such as interdisciplinary or collaborative teams beginning in May.

For reference materials go to <https://nevada.box.com/s/3yI93wvg9pakyyndy4c7izxoi4bowtqg> AND <https://www.blm.gov/learn/blm-library/agency-publications/technical-references> Be sure to scroll down the page and expand the riparian area management section.