

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS &  
CARSON RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING

October 16, 2024

**Minutes**

Vice Chair Schank called the meeting of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to order at 6:30 pm in the Churchill County Commissioners Chambers, 155 North Taylor Street, Fallon, NV 89406. A 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 ( <i>via Zoom</i> )
Stacey Giomi	Ernie Schank
Sharla Hales	Lisa Schuette
Tammy Hendrix	Lee Sterrett
Jim Hindle ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Mike Workman ( <i>via Zoom</i> )
Cassi Koerner ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	

**Absent Directors:** Bus Scharmann and Fred Stodieck.

The roll call included CWSD Committee Member present, David Griffith. Committee Member Charlie Dobson was absent.

**CWSD Staff & Guests present:**

Alison Cramer, Guest ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Steve King, CWSD Attorney
Brenda Hunt, CWSD ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Lindsay Marsh, CWSD
Mike Kellogg, JE Fuller ( <i>via Zoom</i> )	Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD
Edw in James, CWSD	Catrina Schambra, CWSD ( <i>via Zoom</i> )

Vice Chairperson Schank led the pledge of allegiance.

**Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment –**

Vice Chair Schank Ernie Schank shares a personal anecdote that the Churchill County Commissioners Chambers used to be the Churchill Public Hospital and on August 31, 1950, baby Ernie was born in the same room where we are holding our meeting.

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

*Committee Member Griffith motioned to approve the Agenda for October 16, 2024, as presented. Director Giomi seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved it.*

**Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of Sept. 18, 2024**

*Director Giomi motioned to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2024, as presented. Director Schuette seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved it.*

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

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

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

**Item #9 For Possible Action: Approval of Additional Funding Addendum B to Resource Concepts, Inc. Agreement #2023-19 Mexican Dam Portage Project, in an amount not to exceed \$14,500**

*Director Workman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Committee Member Griffith seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved it.*

## **\*\*END CONSENT AGENDA\*\***

**Item #10 For Discussion Only: Presentation on the Stagecoach Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP)**

Mike Kellogg of JE Fuller gave a presentation on the Stagecoach ADMP, funded by a FEMA CTP grant. The plan aims to understand flood risk, develop regional and local flood mitigation alternatives, and conduct a benefit-cost analysis. Two public meetings were held to gather input and present findings. Technical elements include topographic mapping, landform assessment, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and flood risk classification. The study identified four regional basins and four local alternatives to mitigate flood risks. The Empey Channel is highlighted as a significant local alternative to protect homes from alluvial fan flooding. Animation of flood conditions with and without mitigation basins shows reduced flood depths and volumes. A flood risk quick reference guide was developed for Lyon County to aid in future development decisions. Mr. James and Chairperson Workman discuss the challenges and costs of retrofitting alluvial fans. Mr. Kellogg explains the importance of capturing flow at the apex of alluvial fans to mitigate flood risks. The need for consistent data for future development is emphasized. The benefit-cost analysis for the Empey Channel shows a ratio of 1.33, indicating a viable project for federal grant applications.

[View presentation slides here.](#)

*No action was taken.*

**Item #11 For Discussion Only: Strategic Planning Process**

Ms. Hunt gave a presentation on invasive species, regenerative agricultural practices, and recreation. Every month since July leading up to the Strategic Planning Session in November staff has reviewed CWSD information in preparation for the workshop. Key invasive species in the watershed include Yellow Star Thistle, Perennial Pepper Weed, Hoary Cress, and Medusa Head. CWSD provides funding for noxious weed abatement and supports various control methods. The importance of healthy soils for water quality was highlighted, with practices like crop residue retention and rotational grazing. She discussed CWSD's efforts to support public recreation and access to natural areas. CWSD coordinates river floats and other recreational activities to promote public awareness and engagement. Current river projects include a Portage Project with Carson City at the Mexican Dam, an East Fork Carson Hot Springs Recreation Plan, and a Carson River Master Plan update. The need for ongoing collaboration with various stakeholders was emphasized.

[View presentation slides here.](#)

No action was taken.

**Item #12 For Possible Action: Approval of Interlocal Agreement between CTWCD and CWSD for Funding River Projects**

The interlocal agreement between Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD) and CWSD aims to streamline funding for river projects and reduce administrative burdens. The CTWCD Board approved the draft agreement at the October 8, 2024, meeting and submitted it to CWSD for approval.

*Director Hales made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between CTWCD and CWSD for Funding River Projects as presented. Chairperson Workman seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved it.*

**Item #13 For Possible Action: Approval of CWSD Nevada Flood Awareness Week Proclamation**

The 2024 Nevada Flood Awareness Week Proclamation is approved setting the dates from November 10-16, 2024.

*Director Gardner made a motion to approve the 2024 CWSD Nevada Flood Awareness Week Proclamation as presented. Director Koerner seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved it.*

**Item #14 For Discussion Only: Staff Reports**

Mr. James reported the following:

- Earlier in the month, Mr. James was asked to present to the Humboldt working group on how CWSD functions. The state is looking into developing a Conservancy District in the Humboldt watershed.
- CWSD was awarded the NDEM grant for the North Dayton Valley ADMP. Staff is working on the RFQ and hopes to have that out later this week.

Ms. Neddenriep reported on the following:

- Flood Awareness Week events coming up:

11/1	Ag in the Classroom, Empire Elementary School
11/4	Ag in the Classroom, St. Teresa Elementary School
11/13	Douglas County Community Center FAW Outreach Event
11/14	Unveiling Ceremony, Morgan Mill High Water Mark Sign
- She also mentioned on October 30, 9-noon, CWSD will host a Floodplain Management Plan Workshop in the Ormsby Room at the Sherrif’s Office. We are asking county planners, floodplain managers, and emergency managers for their input as we update this document.

**Legal – None**

**Correspondence –**

- 1) Record Courier - Bigger culverts part of Pine Nut Creek solution
- 2) Letter to Governor Lombardo regarding the Conserve Nevada Grant Program
- 3) Carson Now - Nominations Open for CWSD 2025 Andy Aldax Award

### **Item #15 For Discussion Only: Directors & Committee Members Reports**

- Committee Member Griffith reported people are getting sick in Lost Lakes. After an investigation by the California Department of Public Health, it was determined that the ticks in the eastern Sierra are the cause, not a disease. He also wanted to update on the rumors of wolves in Alpine County. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has trackers out. They are looking for scat and tracks. They have microphones out listening for howls, but they have also got loudspeakers, which will mimic a wolf howl with the idea of getting a response. So, you may hear a wolf howl out there, but it does not mean it is a real wolf. In places with wolves, they are not a hazard to humans, but for ranchers and farmers, it is a different story. For people out hiking and letting their dog run, a wolf might attack it.

On October 26, from 10 am to noon, the Alpine Watershed Group and The Forest Health Working Committee Group are hosting another tree planning for the Tamarack restoration. If you go to the Alpine Watershed Group website, you can register for it. Tree seedlings were provided by the Sugar Pine Foundation.

The Towns to Trails Program is sponsored by the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership. There is now a trail mapped out for non-motorized use, from the Tahoe Basin down to southern Inyo County. There are still some right-away concerns to work out and permissions to get but it was finally proofed a couple of weeks ago. A guy went through on a mountain bike, and they called it Bike Packing and found that the trail does work.

Committee Member Griffith reported the Park Ranch near Markleeville, is being sold. It is on the market for \$10 million. It is being considered for a conservancy, and its funding requires a letter of support from the county. In California, if it goes into a land conservancy, there is no property tax. There are other areas of Alpine County concern. If it goes into a conservancy, it will be managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Conservancy in Hope Valley has received zero maintenance over the years. It has been maintained by the county and the community. Alpine County is concerned that if that ranch goes into public land ownership, the same might happen to it. The meadow is important to the county and the community of Markleeville, which is sustained by irrigation. So, if there is no maintenance, that meadow will dry up and no longer serve as a fire break. Alpine County has made suggestions to the organization representing Park Ranch on how they can mitigate these areas of concern and is awaiting their response.

- Director Koerner reported that the ranchers in Douglas County went up to upper and lower Kinney Lakes, which is actually in Alpine County, and they have drained the upper lake and cleaned out the dam and the discharge pipe. They also cleared out the grate. This water irrigates lots of the farmers' and ranchers' irrigation systems in Douglas County. Now that the dam and discharge pipe have been cleaned out, operation at Kinney Lakes should go smoothly.

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

There being no further business before the Board, Vice Chair Schank adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catrina Schambra*

Secretary to the Board