



Education Working Group Meeting Notes Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Attendee Name	Title	Acronym	Organization
Rebecca Feldermann	Executive Director	RW	River Wranglers
Chris Fritsen	Branch Supervisor, Bureau of WQ Planning	NDEP	NV Division of Env. Protection
Kaitlyn Garber	Climate Action Fellow	AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
Brenda Hunt	Watershed Program Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Ed James	General Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Erin Larsen	Volunteer Coordinator	CCPROS	Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space
Lindsay Marsh	Water Resource Specialist 1	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Debbie Neddenriep	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Kelly Nicholas	Watershed Tech, AmeriCorps	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Erin Smith	Carson City Outreach & Education partner	RCI	Resource Concepts Inc.
Christy Sullivan	District Clerk	LVCD	Lahontan Valley Conservation District
Courtney Walker	Stormwater Program Manager	DC	Douglas County Public Works
Sydney Wirkus	Program Coordinator	RW	River Wranglers

Agenda

Welcome, Introductions and Round Robin:

Rebecca Feldermann, RW – After 20 years, River Wranglers has new brochures designed by RW Program Coordinator Sydney Wirkus. Brenda asked that she bring some for the bus tour swag bags.

Sydney Wirkus, RW – Nothing to add.

Christy Sullivan, LVCD – Worked with River Wranglers the previous two days and praised the organization and Rebecca and Sydney.

- The district got budget approval for a new piece of equipment to deal with goatheads, a roller that can go behind your quad. The District also approved a smaller roller for yards that can be pushed. They can add the goatheads to a bucket for weed seed capture the weeds.

Erin Larsen, CCPROS – She had a couple volunteer events going on that month and next.

- CCPROS launched the Trails Challenge recently and reintroduced the Trails Ambassador program.
- One trail ambassador for Riverview Park wants to raise awareness about dog waste and have an information table there once a month. Brenda suggested that she use the iamcarsonriver video for Bag It. They are trying to determine the best day for tabling. Debbie suggested using QR codes for the videos and Erin suggested she could put together a big flyer with the codes on them.

Erin Smith asked if the city picks up horse manure also because it disappears so fast. Erin Larsen confirmed that in some horse-traffic-heavy locations they do.

Debbie asked what the ambassador program entailed, and Erin explained park ambassadors are “ears on

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the ground” and are typically folks who would be at a particular park anyway for at least one hour per week. They pick up trash and dog waste, report graffiti and trail/equipment conditions. Debbie also asked if CCPROS has a pet waste bag adoption program. Erin replied that they do not, but groups, businesses and larger entities can adopt a trail. They then come out 3-4 times a year to do maintenance and repairs, plantings, cleanups- whatever the trail needs. Adopters get a sign on the trail. Brenda said CWSD would follow up with materials.

Erin Smith, RCI – RCI got the contract for the Integrated Source Water Protection Program; they are the technical assistance for NDEP.

- On May 30, in Humboldt County, they are doing a big water quality summit, all about septic to sewer conversion for the Grass Valley area and increasing public awareness of the issue
- They are about to finish up the Storey County community Source Water Protection Plan toward the end of and fully adopted by the end of June.
- They will also have another event at Doral Academy in Washoe County, on May 29, for K-8 using their watershed and groundwater models.
- Attendees should also put the third annual Source Water Assessment Day in Carson City on their radars for September. Brenda and Kaitlyn pointed out that AWG Creek Day is on Sep. 21, Becca and Kelly mentioned Candy Dance is on the 28th and Debbie mentioned Public Lands Day was also that month. General agreement Sep 14 might be the best day.

Courtney Walker, Douglas – She and Brenda gave a good presentation yesterday to the Douglas Co. planning commission on low-impact development practices that went well. She and Brenda had encountered a person at the meeting who suggested social media isn't the best way to reach the target audience of older people.

[Brenda thought it would be worth talking to the person, but that any ideas tend to be expensive. Debbie suggested a radio ad on the same station that used for Flood Awareness Week. Brenda mentioned that one option used for the IAmCarsonRiver campaign was including information in people's water bills. More ideas included pet groomers and pet stores, post offices and libraries, and senior centers. Chris Fritsen liked the idea of putting something in water bills, particularly if the content was focused on lawn to other landscape conversions. He also emphasized the success of One Truckee River's signage. Debbie said in 2009 CWSD had a BoR grant to look at water conservation, and that they have money for lawn conversions. Chris pointed out the success of Las Vegas's water conservation program and that Douglas Co. is a good place for conversions. Erin Smith pointed out incentives for septic and certain brands provided significant cost and water savings. Brenda said she'd look into these grants again but because of CWSD's status it isn't eligible for a lot of them.].

- She'll be working at Ag in the Classroom at Scarcelli Elementary in a week or two. She is wrapping things up with her grant. There is now a sign by the high school LID garden project. She hopes to continue building upon it in the future as well as bolster relationships with school district employees. The DC board of commissioners recently adopted a stormwater master plan that now needs the funding to fully implement it. Currently they have a working group with the agricultural community that is going well and that she hopes will offer support. She's hopeful that because of the department's visibility this will increase the likelihood of funds for it, but she emphasized they must be thoughtful in their approach.

[Debbie said that the National Association of Wetland Managers/Association of State Floodplain Managers once a year have a workshop that's centered around a pilot project. It's a competitive application process through the EPA (for us Region 9, which makes it more competitive), but it would be a good opportunity

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for Douglas County to have those federal partners' support.]

- LID Ordinance: Current DC design criteria states LID practices may be allowed case by case by the county engineer. Courtney's team has revised the language to provide implementation incentives. Examples: Ag BMPs such as fence exclusion may offer ranchers an additional heritage parcel if available, if they prove they've been incorporated; LID practices in parking lots may reduce the number of required parking spaces. This is to provide both the community and the planning commission with options and show them the long-term maintenance benefits from installing these types of practices. This goes before the board next month.

Chris Fritsen, NDEP – There is a job opening at NDEP; it will either be underfill to an environmental scientist three or be hired at the environmental scientists three level.

- Currently he is seeking out projects funded by the State Revolving Fund that have a water quality benefit; if so NDEP can capture some costs by using them as match toward their federal award and thus in turn lower the match requirement for 319 grant awardees.
- They are also looking at SRF language within the Nevada statutes to expand the entities who could be doing nonpoint-source pollution work but can't because of funding ineligibility. He thinks there's precedent in other states for this: through a cascade of loan interest reductions through the SRF and sponsorship through a municipality total cost to taxpayers for loan repayment remains the same but two projects (the initial capital project coupled with a NPS project) are funded.
- For any projects with surface water quality benefits e-mail Chris directly.
- [Brenda pointed out that in 2014/2015 CWSD did an LID white paper with RCI that included ordinance language as part of a 208 grant and brought it to all the boards except Douglas Co., who at the time wasn't ready for it but they are now. Carson City also has LID requirements for its drainage plan for future drainage. Lyon Co. is at a staffing point where maybe this could be approached with them.]

Ed James, CWSD – Here to listen.

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD – Further down on the agenda

Kaitlin Garber, AWG – Updates are related to the Whale Tail grant AWG received.

- There will be a tree planting field trip to Curtz Lake with Diamond Valley School.
- She and Bella will be doing classroom lessons at Bear Valley School on June 4 and 6, and are working on scheduling lessons at Diamond Valley before the school year ends. Over the summer they will be preparing fall lessons and field trips.

Will host Snapshot Day at the Hope Valley site this year.

- The annual Creek Day, AWG's largest event, will be held Sep 21. Volunteers go to different sites and participate in various restoration/water quality activities. The Washoe Mountain Gathering may happen at the same time; her co-fellow, Bella, is going to bi-weekly planning meetings for that.
- There will be a water quality monitoring training this weekend on the 18th. Volunteer water quality monitorings will be held in June, August and September. Rachel Kieffer is POC.

Updates: Grants

a. CRC Coordination grants/ Watershed Maps:

Brenda Hunt, CWSD – Need events from the group to include for the map update timeline. Contributions:

- March 2023 floods in Douglas County – look for stormwater master plan for timeline
- 2023 Fandango mudslide

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- 2015 flash flooding in Lyon and Storey County
- Washington Fire
- 20th CRC celebration
- 2016 debris flow in Alpine Co. as a result of Washington Fire
- 2017 debris flow across 395
- Tamarack Fire
- Record of decision for OU1
- Put a Snapshot Day on there (10th or 15th)
- LID Project with high school
- Aquatic Trail
- Mention general low elevation flooding
- The Big Dig and the second weir
- Get on the Bus
- River Fork Ranch's acquirement by TNC

b. Recent grant applications with educational components

(1) NV 319 grants status

As per Chris Fritsen, all grants for the last NDEP GFO are still under consideration. An announcement should be in the next week or two.

(2) AWG West and East Fork CA 319 Projects

AWG put in for a geomorphology sediment transport study and prioritization plan for the West Fork and it was awarded. As per Rachel Kieffer, the RFQ for the WF geomorphology project will probably be out by the end of the week. AWG also has a request in for the East Fork and is waiting to hear if they've received the award.

(3) FEMA COMS 2

Debbie: FEMA has told us which projects they are going to fund and so that does include strategic planning with community members and then public outreach and flood awareness and so we'll be continuing on with our outreach. Because the foundation of the CRC is to protect floodplains, promoting water quality, BMPs, and LID is always incorporated into the floodplain model demonstrations.

Outreach includes:

- Kelly at Riverview Elementary School in Dayton for Farmer's Market
- Ag in the Classroom May 30
- There will be a HWM unveiling at Fisherman's Point @ Lahontan Dam State Recreation Area with the state Silver Jackets program. River Wranglers got NDOR funding to pay for buses and so 100 students from Silver Stage Middle School will be coming to the event. All elected officials were invited to attend the high watermark unveiling and then we'll have a festival with 10 stations. We've got folks from the US Army Corps, NDOW, Parks and Recreation and the Bureau of Mines.
- Flood model demonstration at Nevada Outdoor Experience.

(4) Others

Brenda is working with Alicia Reban of Nevada Land Trust on an NRCS-based [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) grant for conservation easements and on-the-ground restoration. Property owners include the Freys of Fallon, the Richies of Dayton, and one or two in Carson Valley. She has also looked at [Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grants](#), but CWSD's government status without government authority or land ownership renders it ineligible for what would otherwise be a good fit.

2. Recent and Upcoming Events (30 min)

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Discuss cooperative planning and assistance needs, coordination and social media outreach needs.

- a. CWSD Outreach (I am Carson River Watershed and Flood) – I Am Carson River 30-second spots on radio and television have been getting good response. Contractor NEON gave us a good radio contact, KNVC Carson City Community Radio, and we may have an opportunity to create a radio program. Will find out about funds available for next year after board finance meeting, but it may be ~ \$20K.
- b. State/ Silver Jackets – See above
- c. TNC Events – RFR is hosting a Proper Functioning Condition Riparian Workshop all week next week. Their Science and Nature Speaker Series starts next week and runs every 4th Thursday through October. There will be nature walks, and every 4th Saturday they will have yoga.
- d. Carson City Events – Covered above, except for National Trails Day June 1.
- e. AWG events – Forest Health Community Working Group will host a Forest Service presentation on Tamarack Fire monitoring data at Turtle Rock June 5. They will also be at the summer Saturday Markleeville Farmer’s Markets once a month from 10-2: June 26, July 27, August 24 And September 21 And they go from 10am to 2pm. Other than that Creek Day, September 21.
- f. Tribal Events – CWSD demonstrated the floodplain model at FPST Earth Day in Fallon Apr 20. CWSD and DWR demonstrated the floodplain model at Washoe Earth Day May 4. Washoe Mountain Gathering is Sep 14 and 15. First [Washoe Fire Intentional Fire TREX](#) is Sep 30-Oct 10.
- g. RW Events other public outreach –
 - Numa last Monday and Tuesday (May 6 & 7?) for our big work days with Numa and Churchill High School. Those went great, and we have our wrap up tomorrow with all the Numa students that will be the end of Fallon outreach from spring.
 - Farmers Market at Riverview on Friday (May 17).
 - Saturday (May 18) we have we're going to be Kids to Parks Day in Carson City’s Mills Park. And we're running a guess the pelts, scat schools and track station.
 - Eagle Valley Middle School, sixth, seventh and eighth grade field days from the 20th to the 22nd. I think it's something like over 750 kids.
 - Wednesday the 29th field day with Pinion Hills @ RFR.
 - Scarcelli Ag in the Classroom on the 30th
 - May 31, Conserve the Carson River workday with Scarcelli Elementary @ RFR.
 - June 4, we have a Conserve Carson River with Minden Elementary @ RFR
 - Lahontan High Watermark unveiling on June 5
 - June 6 working in conjunction with Lori at The Nature Conservancy doing an outdoor education with a special needs group.
 - Field day with Gardnerville Elementary School June 7 @ RFR.
 - June 12, Sydney will be doing bus tour and presenting an activity; I will be having surgery that day and will be out a couple weeks.
 - June 13 the Washoe Tribe will be doing a youth activity on benthics and asked River Wranglers to come join them
 - June (22) Nevada Outdoor Experience
 - June/July - Camp Carson, Carson Valley Youth Day
 - August and beyond - Cantaloupe Festival, Dayton Valley Days, Source Water Assessment Day. Some presentations at fly-casting clubs since they were so heavily involved this year with trout in the classroom and RW has been asked to present at their board meetings.
- h. Get on the Bus Tour – June 11-12, 2024 Upper/Lower Watersheds: Have changed the original route due to NDOT construction on 50. Gave a run-down of the proposed route and speakers.
- i. East Fork Float, May 28 – This is in conjunction with a multi-agency effort to clean up the East Fork Hot Springs; float and site assessments.
- j. Newsletter needs – Please everyone contribute articles or come up with a story idea
- k. SnapShot Day: Calibration Oct. 14, Training Oct. 15, Snapshot Day Oct 18

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