



Education Working Group Meeting Notes
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
9:30-11:30AM

CRC Education Working Group Vision:

A Carson River Watershed community that believes their behavior impacts watershed wellness and applies their knowledge to act in ways that benefit the entire watershed.

Contact: [Brenda Hunt](mailto:Brenda.Hunt@cwsc.org), (775) 877-9005

Location: CWSD Conference Room, 777 E. William St., Suite 209, Carson City, NV 89701 or Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89934409290?pwd=MzV9hqDwcbC2ZecaBacnkin70zn6BC.1>

Meeting ID: 899 3440 9290

Passcode: 832890

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ktelToMFe>

Attendee Name	Title	Acronym	Organization
Julie Bless	Wildlife Education/Volunteer Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
Rebecca Feldermann	Executive Director	RW	River Wranglers
Sarah Fichtner	State Floodplain Manager/NFIP Coordinator	NDWR	Nevada Div. of Water Resources
Katie Hay	Stormwater Engineering Technician	DC	Douglas County Public Works
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
Donna Inversin	President	V&T	Historic V&T Trail
Lindsay Marsh	Water Resource Specialist 1	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Rachel Maurer	Headwaters Coordinator	AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
Debbie Neddenriep	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Kelly Nicholas	Senior Watershed Clerk	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Erin Smith	Resource Specialist/Int. Source Water Protection	RCI	Resource Concepts Inc.
Christy Sullivan	District Clerk	LVCD	Lahontan Valley Conservation District
Courtney Walker	Stormwater Program Manager	DC	Douglas County Public Works
Melissa Wiggins	Administrative Assistant	DVCD	Dayton Valley Conservation District

Snapshot Day follow-up and discussion

Rebecca thanked everyone who participated, especially since school commitment wavered, making coverage for sites and coordination difficult. River Wranglers was supposed to have students in Fallon, Dayton, Carson City, Minden, and Ft. Churchill; Silver Springs dropped out at 6 a.m. that morning because an administrator decided the event conflicted with a short school day. In Carson City, Eagle Valley Middle School policy dictates students failing class can't go on field trips, reducing attendance to five. Carson Montessori parents cancelled because of a field trip the following week. Diamond Valley Middle School dropped out at the last minute because there were minimum days right before fall break, and also potentially getting a new principal up to speed. She never heard from Pau Wa Lu Middle despite several attempts except for a spring flood awareness day. The onus of the testing fell on Rebecca as a result.

She reported the teachers and students who participated had a wonderful time. She hopes moving the date to one week earlier, Oct. 10 will reduce scheduling conflicts; there are no conflicts as far as irrigation, and in Nevada it shouldn't interfere with a long holiday weekend. This winter after the holidays Rebecca wants to

brainstorm a letter with CWSD to send to both administrators and teachers underscoring the planning effort behind Snapshot Day and the resulting need to adhere to attendance commitments. Others' experiences and the other field trips that perpetuated being dropped should be explored. Elements of the letter should include detailing the time involved, pointing out it's free, and that participation and commitment are needed so the event can continue, potentially because meeting grant standards is needed. Presenting at school board meetings or at schools themselves may be another path to take, and that could be supported by the EWG/CWSD. Issuing a letter of commitment from the schools in addition to/as a part of the permission slip, while not legally binding, is another option; Julie(?) already does this for Trout in the Classroom.

Historically, Rebecca said the biggest admin issue has been with Silver Stage. It was pointed out that the teachers also have a good idea of the school year's flow; that input should be included in framing the letter and/or what direction to go with any presentation. (Julie was going to share the template for their LOC with Rebecca). Rebecca said she'd look at what Julie sends, will reach out to Rachel, and investigate where presentations can be done, starting the process earlier and getting it on participant calendars.

Flood Awareness Week outreach follow-up and discussion

FAW was 11/10 through 11/16, and Debbie gave props to Courtney for advertising DC's flood awareness event during a KTVN news story for the 11/13 DWR high-water mark unveiling at Washoe Lake. The HWM shows the 1983 landslide, demonstrating that even on a sunny day major events happen. There was great media turnout, and the parents from Pleasant Valley Elementary were thrilled there was an event near their school. Sixty-one students attended – 47 from PVE and 14 from a homeschool group divided between seven stations, keeping the homeschooled together. Stations included a nature walk by Jenny of State Parks; RW pelts (shifted from fish painting because of the weather); Danae Olsen and Jess Edwards from Army Corps started the Enviroscape; Jessica Adams from Washoe Co. Emergency Management did a go-bag activity and emergency prep; other participants included Daniel Henderson from Truckee River Flood Management (flood model), Rachel Micander from UNR (geology), and Carlos Rendo of FEMA with Sarah F (Wheel of Misfortune). Until the wind picked up everything worked well.

11/14 Carson City held a HWM unveiling at Morgan Mill's aquatic trailhead; Mayor Bagwell, a member of the BoS, and OSAC attended. This project started and was continued through many stormwater managers; CCPROS got funding through waste management to create two signs that included flood awareness and the history of the mills and their operations. Next spring or summer CWSD will find out if a HWM at Carson River Park will be funded; the plan is to include Washoe tribal history.

Courtney/DC did a flood awareness event at the community center that was well attended at the beginning, and they gave out good information. The next day they went to Carson Middle School with the outdoor science class: ran the flood model, the Enviroscape and did a flood relay. They also issued a proclamation with the Douglas County Board.

Rebecca, Sydney, Sarah, Courtney and Katie will be at Carson Middle 11/20 for more flood awareness; they will be going out there again in February.

Between Nevada Floods and Kelly reposting there was a strong social media presence for FAW; later in the meeting Sarah said Nevada Floods social media picked up followers. Other media included Reno billboards; banner ads and daily e-mails for the Nevada Appeal, Record-Courier and Lahontan Valley News; radio ads on KUNR and Entravision (Spanish language); and local television. Sarah may also have done local radio but Debbie wasn't sure. It's encouraging that media is now picking up the ads; it's taken a long time (11+ years) to gain traction with them.

Messaging will repeat during an oncoming storm or flood event. Brenda asked attendees to amplify outgoing

messages or, in the case of agencies creating original content, letting us know so we in turn can share it.

Lindsay's appearance in the Record-Courier during the release of the DC Hazard Mitigation Plan 11/15 led to discussion. Janell Woodward from Nevada DEM has stated that if CWSD were added to one county's hazard mitigation plan as a jurisdiction then we could apply for grants through Nevada Emergency Management. CWSD has been added to Storey County's plan and Lyon County's plan, and to Douglas County's plan as a participant; a request has been put in to be listed in Carson City's. The cooperative technical partner grants are for planning and outreach; CWSD is the project manager and the county is then the technical lead; CWSD thus reduces the administrative burden. The first grant received through that channel was for the drought management plan; the CWSD board had already approved funds, but Janelle said that CWSD could apply. The most recent is a scoping project reviewing the North Dayton Valley ADMP, which was completed a few years ago; a contractor has been selected and is reviewing the scope of work to further refine the design, to rank the projects as to which ones can pass a benefit-cost analysis, to look at environmental requirements and to look at multi-beneficial designs such as LID. The area is in what is called a forest desert. Potentially the area could be evaluated as per a green infrastructure webinar CWSD staff attended, and that could be included in the environmental structure review for that project.

Debbie said that one discovery from including emergency managers in updating the floodplain management plan is that there are a lot of barriers to mitigation – such as counties needing to pay 25 percent match up front and then getting reimbursed – and that agencies need to work together to obtain funding. She submitted an abstract for February's Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association Summit. One of her goals is to get emergency funding for not only disaster response and preparedness but also for mitigation. CWSD is in talks with Lyon Co. and may put in for another scoping grant in the Stagecoach area. Since July Debbie and Lindsay have had more than 2K public contacts via the flood model and flood awareness presentations.

The Historic V&T Trail Association hopes to put in a stand bridge over the Carson River in north Douglas Co., but the area designation has been changed from floodplain to floodway. Debbie said that CWSD has led the flood map update effort; a letter of determination is expected spring 2025. Douglas Co. has attempted to remove the floodway label, but it needs to be done at the federal level; FEMA and the state association of floodplain managers are working on it. Despite rumors of a river-widening project by the ACE, this doesn't support beneficial, natural actions for the river and also the SHPO would object; the project is unlikely.

Grants:

CRC Coordination 319 grant

Watershed programs is wrapping up the deliverables for the CWA 319 grant that ends Dec. 31.

- 30-second PSAs for I Am Carson River Campaign (airing for 2025)
- Web viewer and web viewer trainings: some education projects that should be entered are those that involve on-the-ground work (tree planting, other BMPs that help the conservation districts). Rebecca will compile a list of projects that have happened since 2017/2018. Brenda said that when the partner portal becomes available Rebecca will be able to enter these.

Status update for Physical and Online Watershed Maps

Kelly was in the middle of making changes when her contract ended. Rebecca had prepaid for a print round of maps; Kelly is finalizing content for review before placing it in the map. Hopes to have a draft by the end of the year but might be early January. Plan is for 10,000 maps, CWSD might contribute some money toward them. Usually funded by NDEP but did not get funded this time. Potential additions are DWR's HWM initiative and Douglas Co. proposals. She will also update the online map accordingly. Julie suggested including the fishable waters app Fish NV. This may not be compatible with the Superfund sites, but still a good connection to make with the visual map. Potentially pins for the fishable waters could be added to CWSD's interactive maps (particularly the interactive one).

- <https://www.fish.wildlifenv.com/>
- <https://www.cwsd.org/carson-timeline/>
- <https://www.cwsd.org/watershed/>

CR Stewardship Plan Web Viewer (Training Video and in person available) (*Brenda*)

The FishNV app is similar to the webviewer partner portal for entering projects. The training manual is being finalized. Partners who do on-the-ground projects will be able to enter them in the webviewer. A video for the webviewer is here: <https://youtu.be/RbAkQSYDTSY>.

- b. Forum committee (small group to help put together the 2025 Forum Speakers and Topics)
CWSD could use the EWG's help with Forum planning; the group can determine the date, the format, etc. **Courtney, Rebecca, Rachel, and Mareanna, in addition to CWSD staff, will comprise the committee.** Debbie suggested that because the floodplain management plan will be going before the CWSD board in February it should probably be included with the forum presentations. The committee should reinforce the forum through their respective channels, and nonprofits can be encouraged to participate. The location was going to be determined; Ruvo Hall is free but might be booked for the session; WNC has a great meeting space, but it is no longer free for government and nonprofit entities.
 - c. New funding opportunities for regional level grant?
How are partner organizations getting funding? The education grants through EPA are for the entire Region 9. Should CWSD be going for larger grants or pass-through grants with other agencies? This wasn't addressed.
2. CRC EWG vision, mission, goals and objectives (intro to potential update? Because we have new people, we may want to consider updating and realigning the EWG to ensure it is benefiting its members. See [Watershed-Literacy Plan](#), pages 5-6 of for vision, mission, 10-11 for Goals and Objectives). Since COVID it's been difficult getting people in a room for meetings and discussion. **Rebecca suggested a small group within EWG go through and modernize it to encourage participation.** Is CWSD, through meeting CRASP goals and objectives, helping EWG orgs meet theirs, therefore continuing a reason to collaborate? Rebecca says yes.

Erin Smith from RCI said that the collaboration provides an opportunity for them to find out about activities that work toward integrated source water protection. Ed said that in the CRC's infancy it took small groups more than a year to determine the CRC's focus; he thinks the commitment is still there but it's time to get member feedback about their priorities and an idea of the CRC's public effectiveness. Rebecca pointed out that since COVID education and communication methods and receptiveness; adapting, changing and updating might be part of that. That several children are failing at least one class and thus can't go on field trips underscores the difficulty. Perhaps a synopsis of the guiding principles as a reminder should be sent out to the CRC mailing list.

Should floodplain protection and keeping it free of development still be a main objective? Should they be updated to include climate change? This could take several meetings, but it's important to move into the next decade or two. How do the guiding principles get moved forward in CRC organizations? Is it, or should it be, included in people's job descriptions to come to these meetings? How do we regain traction?

Julie said that although she's no longer as boots on the ground as she used to be, by virtue of being part of NDOW everything affects wildlife, especially water. She doesn't envision NDOW playing a super-active role but serving as a resource when necessary and appropriate, and having the ability to learn what's going on and help connect everything.

A future standing agenda item may be to work on updating the guiding principles. This could also potentially be a topic at the forum, as a kickoff to the changes, with an invitation for people to participate. Brenda is also reaching out to NPS to see if a grant through the [RTCA program](#) (due March 1) could help with the CRC process and the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan update; they are currently working on the East Fork hot springs management plan and the Carson River Master Plan update. Donna said that they also helped with the Historic V&T until it became its own nonprofit.

What are your organization's Education and Outreach goals?

3. Upcoming Events/Round Robin (30 min)

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

a. River Wranglers

Rebecca: Trout in the Classroom end of February, all of March. Last year 12 or 13 schools took part, and it appears it will be the same this year if not more, from Carson City, Lyon and Douglas. High Sierra Fly Casters has committed funding for any Douglas Co. schools; Diamond Valley Elementary in Alpine Co. may also get involved. RW may need outreach assistance but dates haven't been firmed up yet; Rebecca gets information December or early January and then starts reaching out to teachers.

Two potential spring events, which Rebecca has e-mailed several EWG members about, include a flood awareness day at Pau Li Lu Middle School and a three-day event with Eagle Valley Middle. For the latter Rebecca will need partner commitment to run stations; it will involve around 900 students and so there will need to be a lot of stations to keep the groups small. **The three sets of dates were April 29, 30 and May 1 or May 6, 7, and 8.** If she can't get the commitment she'll look at doing something smaller, similar to last year. Debbie would like to mention that event to the Floodplain Mgmt Working Group and the National Weather Service, and potentially the Army Corps. Rebecca said anything that touches upon sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade science standards is fair game, and she can find out from the organizing teacher, Amy Riddle, the focus of each grade. Brenda suggested labeling it the Carson River Spring Festival and including CCPROS for an invasive species or nature walk. Maybe including Friends of Silver Saddle. The area will need to accommodate a large number of students, but it would be great if they could walk down to the river. Rebecca will need to coordinate with CCPROS to see where construction will be at the Korean Memorial and the 5th Street Trailhead. First step: committed partners for booths, 2) finding the location 3) determining funds needs for bussing students if that's needed

b. State/ Silver Jackets

Sarah: Funding is slow right now with turnover from the election, so they're waiting for funding to be approved. The timeline is thus pushed back for projects selected next year: another flood risk education for floodplain administrators like last year's with Watershed University, and then a Carson River flood response plan. Silver Jackets hopes to replicate these events for other rivers. This part of the state has a strong participation rate for these types of activities, in large part because of the CRC and all the partners invested here. She's also happy to help with the forum but can't make any hard commitments; she'll be freer after staff positions are filled.

Floodplain Management Association

Debbie – Local lunches will be starting Jan 9 at the Washoe Co. Emergency Operations Center with a tale of two watersheds with George Robison. He'll discuss the Truckee River physical map revision. On April 10 the topic will be the Carson Valley map revision. Talks are open to the public, \$25 for FMA members, \$30 for non, \$105 annually to join.

c. TNC Events

The docents from year two of the docent program took a field trip out to Independence Lake; many of them hadn't been out there before. The Christmas Bird Count is coming up, then in February, the 6-9, they have some part in Eagles and Ag.

d. Carson City Events

In December Erin Larsen will hold the trails challenge raffle Dec 14; 300 people signed up for the trails challenge, 30 people so far have turned in their logs but more come in every day. Immediately following that is the ranger-led annual holiday hike. Fall was busy, winter dies down for events. She can help promote the watershed forum through their social media and newsletter.

e. AWG events

Upcoming: Eagles and Ag, some classroom lessons and field trips in the spring, Trout in the Classroom. October tree planting in conjunction with the [Sugar Pine Foundation](#) and the [Forest Health Community Working Group](#) went well, 30-40 members of the public showed up and a little under 300 trees were planted. The two AmeriCorps service members, Kaitlyn and Bella, are serving another term, and the tree planting was organized by Kaitlyn. There will be another tree planting for Arbor Day in April. Along with the plantings Bella and Kaitlyn are conducting season survivability surveys. They've tagged 28 trees and AWG will go out and see how they're

doing. So far they've tagged trees from Arbor Day 2024, October 2023, and this October event. All the plantings occurred in fire sites. Debbie would like to assist with a tree sponsoring campaign. Rachel isn't sure how that would work in terms of tree care (AWG lacks that capacity), but maybe "purchasing a tree" for the planting might work – funds would be donations toward seedlings, not actual tree purchases.

f. Tribal Events (Cale: TREX event update, or the Mountain Gathering?)

No tribal members present; both the FPST and WTNC hold spring Earth Day celebrations.

Courtney said that Minden High is putting together an employability unit for their senior English classes, with presentations by folks with different career and education experiences. The dates in mind are Dec. 5 & 6. Time slots are set up, one doesn't have to go all day. They have questions in terms of a summary of your background and career journey:

- What have you seen in the job market in the last 10 years?
- What do you believe all graduating seniors should know?
- What are the most fulfilling experiences you've had in the job?
- If you could give a piece of advice to your younger self, what would it be?
- And what do you look for when you're hiring or supervising someone?

Courtney will forward the e-mail from the teacher who organized it; there may be another event in February. This is for all sorts of careers, not only ones requiring a college degree. Debbie suggested getting Rich Wilkinson/the conservation district come out. Potentially Jeff Begovich from Douglas Co.; Debbie wondered if this would be an opportunity for young people getting involved in emergency management.

Kelly solicited article ideas for newsletter including a focus on new folks, Creek Day, and Flood Awareness Week.

Next Meeting is February 26, 2025, Save the Date sent out. Potential speaker? Other agenda topics? New Funding Opportunities? Regional grants?