



Education Working Group Meeting Notes Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Attendee Name	Title	Acronym	Organization
Lyndsey Boyer	Open Space Manager	CCPROS	Carson City
Rebecca Feldermann	Executive Director	RW	River Wranglers
Sarah Fichtner	Floodplain Mapping Coordinator	NDWR	NV Division of Water Resources
Chris Fritsen	Branch Supervisor, Bureau of WQ Planning	NDEP	NV Division of Env. Protection
Kaitlyn Garber	Climate Action Fellow	AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
Katie Hay	Stormwater Engineering Technician	DC	Douglas County Emergency Mgmt
Brenda Hunt	Watershed Program Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Ed James	General Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Bella Kurtz	Climate Action Fellow	AWG	Alpine County Watershed Group
Erin Larsen	Volunteer Coordinator	CCPROS	Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space
Margaret Lord	Wildlife Education Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
Lindsay Marsh	Water Resource Specialist 1	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Debbie Neddenriep	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Emma Olson		WEPD	Washoe Env. Protection Dept
Erin Smith	Carson City Outreach & Education partner	RCI	Resource Concepts Inc.
Christy Sullivan	District Clerk	LCD	Lahontan Valley Conservation District
Courtney Walker	Stormwater Program Manager	DC	Douglas County Public Works
Sydney Wirkus = not sure if present	Education and Outreach Coordinator	RW	River Wranglers

Welcome, Introductions, and Round Robin

Katie Hay, DC - Douglas County Flood Awareness Week event is November 13. They are getting ready to install a high watermark sign at the Carson Valley golf course.

Emma Olson, WEPD - New at the Washoe Environmental Protection Department. Working on greenhouse for out-planting native Pinyon pines, as well as aquatic invasive species.

Christie Sullivan, LCD - TCID is getting some grant money (exciting!). They were here in Fallon a couple days ago with the Secretary of State.

Rebecca Feldermann, RW – Most recently doing outreach at Fallon Cantaloupe Festival. Fewer numbers at the festival but greater numbers visiting the booth because of an Ag passport and a new Ag-related family play area. Outdoor patio was a great location. Been contacting regular fall classes out in Lyon for workdays. Has worked to schedule schools for Snapshot Day and Flood Awareness Week; two are already on the schedule for FAW. Basically gearing up for fall.

Erin Larsen, CCPROS – There are a couple of fall volunteer events coming up; cleanups at Sand Canyon (9/21) and annual “Move with the Mayor event at Lone Mountain Cemetery (9/28). Main focus is volunteer appreciation event on 10/12, hoping to have food, games and a couple of booths with different activities or

educational materials and music and awards and all the fun stuff. If anybody's interested in being there, or participating as a table let her know.

Sydney Wirkus, RW – Covered by Rebecca

Lyndsey Boyer, CCPROS – In addition to Erin's volunteer events, CCPROS will participate in Source Water Protection Day, Kings Canyon Trailhead 9/14. Mostly upcoming events are volunteer-related so it's exciting that Aaron's been able to hit the ground running. Will be updating/amending the Carson River Master Plan, which was completed in 1996; Brenda and CWSD have been major partners. Public and stakeholder engagement of the amendments has begun, so we'll be gathering feedback about the river. Launched a public survey for river use, perceptions, and desired improvements. Go to carson.org/river-survey for the landing page to learn more about the project; it will be open through 9/23. There have been ~ 200 respondents so far and they hope to get more in the next month. A stakeholder river tour for those who work on the river: a guided hike/discussion on Thurs. 9/26 from 10-noon, followed later by a separate stakeholder survey. Formal invites will be sent out later this week. Eventually there will be meetings for deep dives into topics. This is Carson City-specific, but input from neighboring counties and all the people who are involved in the river is encouraged.

Sarah Fichtner, NDWR - The final Nevada Watershed University webinar, CRS Tips and Tricks, will be tomorrow. Antoinette Stein (FEMA CRS specialist) will talk about program updates for CRS and the public comment period for the CRS redesign; Courtney Walker will be talking about challenges and wins for Douglas County and the CRS program, and others will describe what the CRS is. Flood side, it's a community rating system associated with the National Flood Insurance Program; basically, ways to get discounts for your community on their flood insurance policies.

This week there will be a planning meeting for the Washoe Lake High Water Mark unveiling event, slated to take place during Flood Awareness Week. The next FAW meeting will be 9/17, two weeks from now. Scrambling to get Flood Awareness Week ad stuff put together before FEMA (a conference?) next week. The Morgan Mill landing page is still in the works. Checking to see if CWSD would like to collaborate on putting that together more completely and include some material for the other high-water marks in Carson City as well; links to CWSD and CCPROS can be included.

Wanted to confirm Morgan Mill marker status. Lyndsey from CCPROS confirmed that it was installed; signs will be added so it can be noted from multiple vantage points. The date for unveiling will be 11/14 from 2-4; chose that day for city leadership to attend. At least the mayor and a couple of supervisors will be there.

Bella Kurtz, AWG – With funding from their Whale Tail grant, they have created climate action and environmental stewardship lessons. They are currently waiting for school board approval before implementing them. A favorite of hers is a lesson on tree cores or rings: the relationship between water and precipitation levels and tree growth, and then how to date trees from their rings. They are also supposed to implement a field trip under the grant. Teachers have expressed interest in restarting Trout in the Classroom and/or having a field trip to the Taylor Creek visitor center for the salmon run. So AWG has reached out to High Sierra Fly Casters to make connections to get Trout in the Classroom ready for them. They will also take part in Snapshot Day.

Chris Fritsen, NDEP - Nothing new to report unless you're doing watershed-based planning proposals. The current GFO is going to close soon. Something on the listserv last night was sent out last night for 9/11. That opportunity for FY 23 funding is ending, but NDEP is working really hard on finding ways in order to have our whole grant matched 319 grant here in DEP such that we can relieve the match requirements on this grant but I guess stand by for progress on that. Just want to listen today.

Lindsay Marsh, CWSD - As far as outreach and education, went to the Cantaloupe Festival on Friday, and saw quite a bit of people there, somewhere ~ 100 on just Friday. Will be helping with Snapshot Day as well.

Grant Funded Outreach Updates:

a. CRC Coordination 319 grant (ends Dec 31, 2024 - Brenda)

i. Status update for physical and online watershed maps

-Looking to have physical map of watershed completed upon Kelly's return in November; it hasn't been updated since 2015. It will only be the back portions, the timeline and the information that's on the back of the map. If anyone has specific things they want to see on that online map – can be cultural events, fire, flood, etc. – CWSD can include more on that than on the physical map in the timeline: <https://www.cwsd.org/carson-timeline/>. Note: this was not an official deliverable per se for this grant round.

Unrelated, is the Whale Tail curriculum something that can be shared with the group? Rebecca or other people might be interested in using that curriculum.

Becca: Lesson was adapted from National Park Service's lesson for that; AWG is refining that for all grades they'll be teaching: <https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/trerin.htm>

ii. CR Stewardship Plan (CRASP) Web Viewer update

The Carson River Stewardship Plan Web Viewer, a map that tracks stewardship plan projects, is in Phase Two; CWSD is making sure it functions well. They will get trained how to use it and how to do the quality control, then train partners. Currently the map contains legacy projects up to ~~2020~~ (amended to 2017); from ~~2020~~ 2017 on we'll work with partners to upload that data through the Survey123 app. Data entry will partially be from their phones and finished on the desktop version. I will be responsible for doing the QA/QC before information gets uploaded and published on the map itself on the Web Viewer. There are two views: one will be partners and that will be your access to make changes; the public web viewer will be more static, not have as many features and will be view-only. You can click on a project, some pop-up pages will appear, and information like soil type or wetland locations, identified floodway, etc. will be there. It is expected to be used as a planning tool for new projects or keep better abreast of current ones.

Use by this group is unlikely unless you're doing an on-the-ground project, then you would be uploading information. For this group capturing field activities like tree plantings or actual physical on-the-ground activities for the web viewer will be helpful; please let Brenda know and reach out to her if you are doing those types of things. This group's inclusion helps better track the stewardship plan. This tool is an improvement on the paper method, it's more immediate and more capable of identifying and showing projects in real time. Space limitations dictate uploading a max of three photos – before, during, after – but if needed more can be associated with the project but not uploaded to the web viewer itself. At the next meeting, we'll run through the map and show how the web viewer functions. In the meantime, CWSD will request time with those doing on-the-ground projects to show you how to upload information; training will probably begin in the next few months. Brenda and Shane will get trained by Jeremy Hall at NCE by hopefully mid- to late September and then training for partners will be by the end of September to the month of October. Hopefully a functioning published web viewer will be out by the end of November well before

grant's end Dec 31. For the training, existing projects will be the information uploaded. There will be video training for an introduction and future reference as well as in-person sessions. Trainings need to be coordinated so that they don't conflict/overlap with ADMP-specific web access training.

iii. I am Carson River Watershed Survey discussion and Post-grant outreach (Brenda)

I sent the group some of the original survey from 2015 and actual phone scripts. Both landlines and cell phones were used in 2015. It was a statistically relevant and reliable survey per county based on population. The results were the basis for the five-year-old "I Am Carson River Watershed" campaign. A follow-up is important but will be expensive and funding-dependent; the last was ~ \$50K. While expensive, it provided valuable insight into what people knew about the watershed. We're hoping a redux, while not containing exactly the same questions, will compare apples to apples. Sometimes people were on the phone for up to 30 minutes, and they actually stayed on the phone, and we still got a reliable sample size. It's important to wait until after the political season, and we need to work out funding. CWSD can pay for some but not all of it. If you haven't, please look through the survey, its analysis and the results; they play a role in everything you do, and it's played a role in how we've targeted messaging for the IACR campaign. Have people had a chance to look at the survey? Are there things you see or would like to see asked that are relevant to your programs? CWSD hired Responsive Management, who helped us create and conducted the phone survey.

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD - The survey is what led to the watershed literacy action plan and subsequent programming; people didn't understand what a watershed was. Many didn't think they lived in a watershed. When the survey explained what a watershed was, people were then asked if they cared about the health of the watershed, and they did. But there was a disconnect that singular actions can improve water quality and watershed health. Since that time Brenda's program has been working to overcome those barriers: to start, watershed signs were put up as a passive reminder. From there, the watershed campaign is built on getting people to understand that everyone's collective actions improve water quality. With that background in mind, a follow-up will see if those steps have shifted people's attitudes and their physical actions.

Brenda Hunt

On page 101 of the [Marketing and Communications Plan for the CRW](#), there is an evaluation with metrics; this can be referenced when the survey is conducted and results analyzed. This will guide future outreach decisions and help determine the project's worth. In the meantime, the CWSD board has approved \$20K for television airing the IACR videos with Spectrum. There will also be radio ads, Carson local as well as talk radio with five different stations. The campaign will be out there. She encourages everyone to look over the survey and the metrics to help develop new questions, including about the campaign and the actions CWSD asked people to take to improve water quality. Lyndsey's CCPROS survey utilized some of the questions that were in here, as well. Many people like the videos and she thinks the assets have a shelf life of at least 3-5 years.

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD

Maybe pull in some more questions about the floodplain, understanding the interaction between the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains, how floods impact water quality as well as put communities at risk. I think that would be handy to have in there.

Brenda – The Floodplains As Community Assets videos are good but can also be updated and Debbie may seek funding for those:

[Public Service Announcement \(PSA\) – Conserving the Carson River Floodplain as a Community Asset](#) (:30)

[Agriculture’s a Good Fit for Conserving the Carson River Floodplain as a Community Asset](#) (4:31)

[A Case for Developers to Conserve the Carson River Floodplain as a Community Asset](#) (3:13)

[Our Officials in Conserving the Carson River Floodplain as a Community Asset](#) (4:19)

The previous format, a phone survey, was considered by RM to be the least biased at the time because it created a random sample, but Lindsay Marsh pointed out an online version or using social media may be more in step with the times, especially for the younger demographic groups; Brenda is open to this but not sure how it would fit in; for 2015 it was a random sample but the median age group was 55. When asked, Lyndsey Boyer hasn’t looked at the backend data and is unsure what the demographics have been for the Carson River Master Plan survey.

Brenda can answer any questions about the survey or the campaign. Please contact her if you are interested.

Erin Smith, RCI – Interested in keeping source of drinking water question and expanding upon it, but not wanting the survey to be longer than 15 minutes. **Brenda:** Time and finances will both be limiters, but some of the questions should remain as is for comparison. That being said, partners’ subject knowledge will be considered for the questions. I want to talk to Jill and Allie a little bit more about it but seeing if they know what their community or county is doing to protect their sources of drinking water. When Debbie was talking about the disconnect, 63% of the population didn't think or didn't know, they lived in a watershed.

Unknown: That’s hopeful for the next generation because I think a lot of those kids out there know that they're in a watershed. **Brenda:** All the efforts work in concert.

Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD wanted to know if NDEP still monitored the river as in years past; **Chris Fritsen** said standards, assessment and monitoring branch has water quality stations throughout the river and tests often. He worked with Randy Pahl years ago, and they did special studies of oxygen and algae levels at certain times. We're not underway, as far as I know from NDEP, but there is and has been for years water quality monitoring on the Carson River, which informs the integrated report, which in turn determines what goes on the CWA 303(d) list of impaired waters. The last report came out in 2022; the next should be out this year.

Brenda – Hopefully in the future we can look at and analyze where projects are going, what they're doing, and see how the water quality has changed from the sampling over time and over multiple projects.

b. FEMA COMS 2 (Awarded in Oct. 2024) – includes strategic planning with community members, public outreach and flood awareness

Debbie Neddერიep, CWSD – Currently still on COMS 1 through the end of the year, not much but enough to cover outreach, possibly including newspaper and radio ads. There will be a few events for COMS 2. It doesn't include strategic planning with community partners, but FEMA asked CWSD to put a list of projects together for FY 26; [that task?] won't start until 9/25. She hopes to add strategic planning because COVID and staff changes negatively impacted strategic partnerships with entities like USGS, USBLM and USBR. More possible partner opportunities for that grant include outreach to business groups such as realtors and developers, and community groups, using them to amplify messages like what's the watershed, what's a floodplain, Nevada floods, etc.

Next year's flood outreach is funded. Several projects include continued work with Storey and Lyon Counties: the south Virginia City area, Gold Hill, and Silver City down into Gold Canyon. Phase Two of the Silver Springs Area Drainage Master Plan is in talks and there's outreach money. Douglas County is in the next steps for public outreach regarding designs for a couple specific detention basins.

Unrelated to the cooperating technical grants (CTP), CWSD became a jurisdiction within the hazard mitigation plan, making it possible to receive funding (two grants) from emergency management. Under that, Ed's been working on the 30-year drought management plan, and under the second grant received there's an RFQ out to do further design and a benefit-cost analysis for building detention basins or some drainage structures in north Dayton Valley. This is our first construction attempt or moving toward construction. Ideally something will pass the benefit cost analysis and then we'll try to construct something in Dayton, opening the door for replicating that knowledge and process in other areas of the watershed. Ed and Debbie are reaching out to local jurisdictions for additional projects for the next FEMA grant. CWSD is working with Karin (Peternel) at Carson City on projects that did not get funded: Voltaire Canyon, the proposal for which needs more robust language, and a Phase Two drainage study of southeast Carson City. For a flood project perspective, perhaps chat with her to see if there's funding. At one point funding a high-water mark at Carson River Park was discussed to bring continuity along the river, so that's another talking point with her to see if the city is interested.

Margaret Lord, the Wildlife Education Coordinator for the western region of NDOW introduced herself.

Currently they are doing bat walks along the (Truckee?) river and getting into their fall programming such as "Know Your Nevada," their biggest program. It teaches students about the four main Nevada habitats, one of those being our aquatic habitats. She and Julie Bless are also preparing for the National Association of Interpreters regional workshop, an all-day workshop for educators, at Rosewood Nature Study Area (TMPF) Friday 9/20. She can send the official invite when Julie Bless gets back from vacation. She is also involved with Trout in the Classroom; there is an angler education coordinator in this region whom she assists. She also

supervises the AmeriCorps service member who helps tank setups and trainings, etc. They both cover the webinar series that we do in the spring once the program gets going. Usually we do those on watersheds - drought lifecycle, water quality, etc. And she helps with live releases. She also manages Oxbow Nature Study Area in downtown Reno, which hosts most of the trout release field trips. **Brenda** wanted to know if the NDOW Nevada curriculum could be shared or if there are educator trainings. "Know Your Nevada" is NDOW's fourth-grade specific program. Aside from Trout in the Classroom it's probably their biggest one because it's made using fourth-grade standards. They learn about the nine living state symbols and then the four major habitats, make a map of where those are and what they look like, and then learn what state symbols live in those habitats. Lessons build from there, ending in usually a conservation lesson. It's popular with teachers around this time of year because it meshes with the fourth-grade standard for state symbols. It's been around for six or seven years. Julie is more qualified to talk about involving other agencies could look like. NDOW could use people to volunteer or help out with those lessons. NDOW hopes to hire new AmeriCorps to help. She is also preparing for a KTMB Truckee River Cleanup in September. The "Know Your Nevada" program is from Winnemucca down to Douglas Co., incorporating the Carson River as well as the Truckee, Pyramid Lake, and Lake Tahoe. **Brenda** would like to incorporate the [online watershed map](#) and can send some current physical maps to increase usage. **Margaret** is interested.

3. Upcoming Events

a. Snapshot Day (Fri Oct. 18)

Rebecca - Snapshot Day is a day where we take a simultaneous "snapshot" of the entire river. There are 12 sites along the Carson River that we test and then obviously as many schools or classrooms that can get out to those sites. I have volunteers from partner organizations come out. At each site that has students we run four to five stations that the students will cycle through, and they'll do water testing. They'll do a mock stream assessment and then they'll have three, two or three other activities depending on the professionals and what their expertise is.

Volunteers will be done by noon-12:30. Arrival time depends on the site and travel time/distance. Last year, students at River Fork Ranch were stationed at the confluence side and then the Bronco flip side. We had students at Carson River Park, in Dresslerville and Alpine had their own at Hangman's Bridge and Diamond Valley students at Hope Valley. Volunteers took samples at Fallon and Dayton, and basically locations where we didn't have students. A 90-minute training will be held Tuesday Oct 15, probably at Carson River Park and in the afternoon after school so teachers can be involved. Training will be on the water testing itself, the stream walk assessment, and the organization of the day, with training for other activities as needed.

Rebecca has sent messages out to the schools that have participated in the past as well as a couple of new schools with contacts I've made; post-COVID there are many new teachers unfamiliar with the program. I'm hoping to hear back from these schools. Soon. My goal is to have six total sites for students, but this is volunteer-dependent. Frey Ranch is a possibility in Fallon and in Dayton there are multiple areas that we could have sites. Gallagher Elementary School's fourth-grade class has shown interest; perhaps the sixth-grade class at Riverview Elementary.

Dayton Valley Conservation District has a new conservation tech, Rachel Schmidt. She will join RW for Dayton Valley Days. DVCD is interested in helping out with Snapshot Day and possibly fall workdays. She needs more

volunteers to make that happen. Contact Rebecca directly: rebecca@riverwranglers.org. It's a great day and a wonderful, unique event that we can provide for the students of our watershed, going on its 18th or 19th year (disrupted by COVID).

There are opportunities that intersect with NDOW and DWR. Longtime volunteers at RFR have done an area birds focus. There are plenty of activities with varying levels of intricacy, with plenty of materials to train on.

There is a contact for benthic macro invertebrates from NDEP. Rebecca has the supplies for that too, with a lesson plan, so even if somebody didn't know she'd be happy to show them and provide the lesson plan for that station. **Brenda** - CWSD staff will be there, she'll check with past employees. We also have calibration day that week. I think we've got that covered between Rebecca, Lindsey and me. But if anybody was interested in learning how to calibrate any of the equipment for water quality sampling, we're happy to have you. We're going to do that Mon Oct 14 at 3 in the office. Usually, you do calibration of the equipment closer to the date; calibration of your equipment should probably be done like the day before.

Rebecca has made a Fallon contact who wanted to know when Snapshot Day came around. She's always constantly trying to find volunteers at outreach events; there is also another teacher at Churchill High who might be able to help.

b. State/ Silver Jackets

Sarah – Silver Jackets webinar happening tomorrow; the unveiling event for Flood Awareness Week, which is a spin off from the Silver Jackets project, which closes everything out. Then preparing to start the next cycle's projects. There will be a Silver Jackets meeting at FEMA at the end of the week, next week; the next one won't be until next year.

c. TNC Events

Lori/TNC absent but look up River Fork Ranch for events; there's a fourth Thursday speaker series. Next one is 9/26. <https://www.facebook.com/NatureNevada>

d. Carson City Events

Brenda – Carson City is in the middle of a County Master Plan update; there's a workshop this afternoon with the Planning Commission and at 5pm tomorrow a community meeting for the Carson City Master Plan update. **Unknown:** On 9/5, there's another community meeting (virtual) regarding the Master Plan.

Erin Larsen - The trails challenge is ongoing until December 1, when everyone turns in their trail logs. There are ~ 250 people signed up. There will be a raffle in December, with hundreds of dollars in prizes. We've got a lot of donations from Patagonia, local businesses donated gift cards and gift certificates to restaurants, breweries and golf. "Recreating Responsibly" would be an interesting component to bring in next year about and maybe adding that into the guidebook.

f. Tribal Events

Emma – Just started so not sure about upcoming events, but the tribe may be doing cultural fires in different meadows in Tahoe, but we haven't gotten enough people certified for fire quite yet to do that this year.

e. AWG events

Bella: Creek Day, part of the great Sierra river cleanup on 9/21; a flyer and link were sent for the e-blast. Six project sites are confirmed, with more in the works. There will be three different sections of the Adopt a Highway cleanup in our area: Desolation, AWG and California out cycling (?); a river cleanup in Woodfords Canyon; and a cleanup in the Faith Valley dispersed camping area. Possibly some type of project site in Faith Valley; that work might be building BDAs (beaver dam analogs) or planting willow, whatever is needed by 9/21.

Brenda - Alpine Watershed Group is working with American Rivers to wrap up meadow restoration in Faith Valley and stop channel incision. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBGmJRCqopQ>.

g. CWSD Newsletter needs

Brenda welcomes input for the newsletter like Creek Day, project updates, events with great photos, any science the group would like to share; ideally there are contributions from every watershed county. Digital newsletter will be going out mid-December, before Christmas.

The next meeting was set tentatively for 11/13, to shift in case of a timing conflict with HWM unveilings and FAW events. when hopefully the survey can be examined more. The CRC Education Working Group was deeply involved in the survey's creation, which is why Brenda wants its input for the second round.