

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

January 15, 2025

Minutes

Chairperson Mike Workman called the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) Board of Directors Meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Carson City Community Center, Bonanza Room, 851 E. William Street, Carson City, NV 89701. A roll call of the CWSD Board of Directors was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Myles Getto	Ernie Schank
Stacey Giomi	Lisa Schuette
Sharla Hales	Lee Sterrett
Tammy Hendrix	Fred Stodieck
Jim Hindle	Nathan Tolbert
Cassi Koerner	Mike Workman
Dave Nelson	

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

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

John Brissenden, Public <i>(via Zoom)</i>	Kimra McAfee, Public
Patti Cooper-Smith, Public	Kelly Nicholas, CWSD
Kate Harvey, Public	Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD
Rich Harvey, Public	Peter Smith, Public
Ed James, CWSD	Robert Twiss, Public <i>(via Zoom)</i>
Steve King, CWSD Attorney	Zach Wood, Public
Lindsay Marsh, CWSD	

Chairperson Workman led the pledge of allegiance.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Mr. James reported Assemblymember Ken Gray was unable to attend the meeting due to legislative duties and that he would instead give his presentation at the February meeting. Also, due to the Douglas County CWSD appointment pending, the selection of officers will be moved to the February agenda.

Director Schank motioned to approve the Agenda as amended for January 15, 2025. Director Giomi seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2024

Director Stodieck motioned to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2024, as presented. Committee Member Griffith seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Item #7 – For Discussion Only: Presentation of 2025 Andy Aldax award to Rich Harvey

Chairperson Workman presented the 2025 Andy Aldax Award to Dr. Rich Harvey who has embraced both watershed health and the health of community members since his move to Markleeville, CA with his wife, Kate. After years as an ER doctor in Berkeley, CA, he became Alpine County’s Public Health Officer. In 1988, he was among the original members of [Friends of Hope Valley](#), a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to preserving Hope Valley and other areas within Alpine County’s eastern Sierra slope. At the time, there were proposals to construct a major power line through the valley and develop a large community with condominiums, according to Alpine County District 5 Supervisor David Griffith, who also serves on the CWSD Board.

“Friends of Hope Valley was instrumental in getting over \$20 million in funding to purchase the bulk of Hope Valley and transfer it to the State, which has assured that the West Fork of the Carson River would be preserved into the future,” said Griffith in his award support letter.

In 2005 Harvey joined the board of [Alpine Watershed Group \(AWG\)](#), a nonprofit that works to protect, conserve, and restore Alpine County’s watersheds; he served as its chairperson from 2017-2022.

“Rich leads by example, getting his hands dirty to keep our watershed clean,” said AWG Executive Director Kimra McAfee. His on-the-ground efforts have ranged from trash pickup during Alpine County’s annual Death Ride cycling race and for the Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway program to willow planting along the Carson River’s West Fork. Advocacy efforts include restoration of and erosion protection for Markleeville Creek; public access to Pleasant Valley for hiking and stream restoration; and instituting a monitoring program for sampling for Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) and Contaminants of Emergency Concern (CECs). McAfee also thanked Harvey for his leadership when she became executive director in 2018.

Fellow AWG board member Zach Wood lauded Harvey’s ability to rally support. “You make community happen through what you do, and that's an inspiration to us all,” said Wood. “The mountains, the watershed, give us so much, and we can do just a little bit of what we can to give back. Thank you because that is what keeps me going.”

“They say you protect what you love, and I love the mountains,” said Harvey upon accepting his award. He said his first exposure to the Sierra Nevada was as a nine-year-old during a cross-country move from Ontario, Canada to the Bay Area. “I remember my dad saying how frightened he was to drive over Donner Pass because we had heard all the way across the country that it was the most dangerous pass in the world, but I was struck by how beautiful it was,” he said. After subsequent summers fishing and hiking at an Alpine County Boy Scout camp and his family’s Donner Lake cabin, Harvey was hooked. Citing his volunteer work as “a passion and never a burden,” he thanked Kate for her support through many meetings and field work hours and read the following from U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón’s [“In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa,”](#) which he said moved him:

And it is not darkness that unites us,
not the cold distance of space, but
the offering of water, each drop of rain,
each rivulet, each pulse, each vein.
O second moon, we, too, are made
of water, of vast and beckoning seas.

Dr. Harvey left the audience with one final thought. “[Loren Eiseley](#) wrote, ‘If there's magic on the planet, it's contained in water.’ So, I guess that makes us all magicians.”

No action taken.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #8 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer’s Report for December 2024

Item #9 For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for December 2024

Item #10 For Possible Action: Resolution to Adopt Storey County Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

****END CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #11 For Discussion Only: Assemblymember Ken Gray will provide an Overview of the Upcoming 2025 Nevada Legislative Session

Tabled until February 19 meeting.

No action taken.

Item #12 For Discussion Only: Introduction of Board Members and CWSD Staff

Board members, staff and new Directors Myles Getto (Churchill County) and Nathan Tolbert (Douglas County) introduced themselves around the table. Ed James leads the board in introductions, allowing new members to share their backgrounds and experiences.

No action taken.

Item #13 For Possible Action: Selection of CWSD Officers for 2025 & 2026

Tabled until February 19 meeting.

No action taken.

Item #14 For Possible Action: Selection of CWSD Committee Members for 2025 & 2026

Ed James provides a historical context for the Board's composition and the rationale behind Douglas County's five representatives. He also gave a description and a brief history of the committees' focus. It is the goal to have at least one representative of each county on each committee and if a member is not available for a meeting the substitute director shall be from their county. After discussion, the following 2-year committee assignments were accepted.

1. Administration Committee - Directors Getto, Giomi, Koerner, Nelson, Workman & Committee Member Griffith
2. Finance Committee - Directors Hindle, Nelson, Schank, Schuette, Workman & Committee Member Griffith
3. Legislative Committee - Directors Giomi, Hales, Hendrix, Schank & Sterrett
4. Regional Water System & Flood Committee - Directors Getto, Hindle, Schuette, Stodieck, Tolbert, Workman & Committee Member Dobson

Committee assignments will be amended based on the pending Douglas County appointment.

Director Schank made a motion to approve the CWSD Committees as constituted above. Director Schuette seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Item #15 For Discussion Only: Staff Reports

Mr. James reported the following:

- Brenda's absence is due to family health issues and acknowledged Kelly's efforts in covering her responsibilities. He also reported that Catrina's mom had passed away during the Christmas holiday.

Ms. Neddenriep reported the following:

- There is a panel discussion of watershed Floodplain Managers will be held during the Emergency Managers Summit in February, discussing interactions and working together. She also reported on the success of the first Floodplain Managers Association luncheon.

Ms. Nicholas reported the following:

- She provided an update on the upcoming Carson River Watershed Forum, including the schedule and topics.

Legal – None

Correspondence – Information only – Request for public information.

Item #16 For Discussion Only: Directors & Committee Members Reports

- Director Giomi reported on Carson City's Master Plan update and the city's growth management ordinance, including the 3% annual growth cap and water usage limits.
- Director Tolbert reported he is happy to be on the Board and feels like a sponge trying to learn as much as he can. He is scheduling meetings with ditch riders to put boots on the ground around both East and West Fork ditches to learn all he can about them. He said he knows water is a big issue in Douglas County.
- Director Hales mentioned the ongoing Mueller Parkway expansion project in Douglas County. Two of the four lanes should be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- Director Hindle reported that the LA Fires have sparked conversations in the highlands regarding the availability of water.
- Director Schank reported he is researching the possibly of changing the name of CWSD to Carson River Conservancy to better reflect who we are and what we do. He will be talking to Ken Gray and Steve King to see if this is a possibility.
- Chairperson Workman mentioned that he sits on the Board of the State Revolving Fund Board. The staff produced a report including spreadsheets and maps of all the work that has been done during the past ten years with these funds. It is remarkable the number of projects that have been completed during this time! He will bring a copy to share at the next meeting.

Item #17 For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business before the Board, Chairperson Workman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catrina Schambra

Secretary to the Board