

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

February 19, 2025

Minutes

Chairperson Mike Workman called the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) Board of Directors Meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the CWSD Conference Room 777 E. William Street, Suite 209, Carson City, NV 89701. A roll call from the CWSD Board of Directors was taken and a quorum was determined to be present.

CWSD Directors present:

Stacey Giomi	Cassi Koerner
Sharla Hales	Lisa Schuette
Tammy Hendrix (Zoom)	Lee Sterrett
Jim Hindle (Zoom)	Fred Stodieck
Doug Johnson	Mike Workman

The roll call included CWSD Committee Member present: David Griffith and Charlie Dobson

Absent Directors: Myles Getto, Ernie Schank and Nathan Tolbert

CWSD Staff & Guests present:

Alison Cramer, RCI (Zoom)	Lindsay Marsh, CWSD
Ken Gray, NV Assemblymember	Kelly Nicholas, CWSD
Ed James, CWSD	Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD
Steve King, CWSD Attorney	Catrina Schambra, CWSD (Zoom)

Director Koerner led the pledge of allegiance.

Item #4 – Discussion Only: Public Comment – Ms. Schuette congratulated Mr. James on his NWRA lifetime achievement award and how glad she was to be there to see him receive his award. Several members of the board echoed congratulations to Mr. James for his achievement. Mr. James welcomed Director Johnson back to the CWSD Board of Directors where he had previously served 12 years!

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Committee Member Griffith motioned to approve the Agenda as amended for February January 19, 2025. Director Giomi seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025

Director Giomi noted there were printing errors in the January 15 Board Meeting Minutes. Approval of the Minutes was deferred until the March Board Meeting.

No action taken.

Item #7 – For Possible Action: Selection of CWSD Officers for 2025 & 2026

Mr. James noted that since Douglas County appointed Doug Johnson, Dave Nelson's committee positions needed to be filled. Since Douglas County was next to be elected as Vice Chair, Director Koerner indicated that she would be interested in serving in that role.

Director Sterritt motioned to approve Director Schank as Chair, Director Koerner as Vice Chair, and Director Schuette as Treasurer. Director Hales seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Former Chairperson Workman handed the gavel to Vice Chair Koerner to lead the meeting from here on.

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #8 – For Possible Action: Approval of Treasurer's Report for January 2025

Item #9 For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for January 2025

Item #10 For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2025-1 with JE Fuller for Gold Canyon Area Drainage Master Plan in the amount of \$126,966 and authorize General Manager to execute change orders up to 10% of agreement amount

Item #11 For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement #2025-2 with Wood Rodgers, Inc. for Silver Springs Area Drainage Master Plan in the amount of \$216,490 and authorize General Manager to execute change orders up to 10% of agreement amount

Item #12 For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum to Alpine Watershed Group Agreement #2023-9 West Fork Carson River Prioritization Project extension to March 31, 2026

Item #13 For Possible Action: Approval of staff to apply for National Parks Service RTCA Grant

Item #14 For Possible Action: Approval of staff to apply for NDEP 319 Planning Grant

Item #15 For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum C to Michael Baker Agreement #2023-1 Walker River Flood Risk Assessment extension to June 30, 2025

Director Workman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Giomi seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

****END CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #16 For Discussion Only: Assemblymember Ken Gray will provide an Overview of the Upcoming 2025 Nevada Legislative Session

Ken Gray provided an overview of the 2025 Nevada legislative session, discussing various water-related bills and their implications. Assemblymember Gray noted he represents District 39, which covers all of Douglas County and Central Lyon County. He discussed the following bills:

- AB 89 would extend the duration for temporary conversion of agricultural water rights in Nevada from three to 10 years.
- AB 102, revises Nevada's dam regulations, exempting the state engineer from liability, altering permit requirements and enhancing enforcement measures, while exempting federal projects and mandating Wildlife Department notifications.
- AB 104: This legislation has to do with Nevada's water management. It would retire water rights, revise permit processes and promote conservation with specific programs, funding

and deadlines to ensure sustainable water in compliance with federal standards.

- AB, 109, the legislation revises water appropriation laws for geothermal and mineral resource development, requiring permits for water use, clarifying public ownership of underground waters and setting timelines for permit approvals.
- AB 132 The key takeaway of this bill is that it increases the capacity for guzzlers used to collect water for wildlife, exempting them from certain water appropriation requirements in Nevada,
- AB 134 - this is a committee bill which provides new provisions to enhance water conservation efforts in the state. The elements include water conservation plans. Plan Implementation, no fees that can be charged by the state engineer for plan submission and may require periodic statements of conservative water use.
- AB 190 has a huge fiscal note on this one. This bill creates funds to support hydrological studies in smaller Nevada counties, which incidentally need them, sharing costs between the applicants in the state with appropriations of \$ 3 million and \$2 million for the next two fiscal years, and modifies existing laws to reflect these changes house studies can cost \$5 million. Assemblymember Gray was not sure about this one but will keep an eye on it.

Financial Concerns and Legislative Committee Recommendations

- Assemblymember Gray discussed the financial challenges faced by the state, including a \$300 million budget error and the impact of rising fuel prices. Nevada is subject to California fuel prices, so he suggests building local refineries to reduce reliance on California fuel.

Assemblymember Gray thanked the board for being able to present and urged all in attendance to contact him at any time. He passed out business card.

No action taken.

Item #17 For Possible Action: Review of Nevada 2025 Legislative Action

Mr. James noted that in addition to supporting the Bills mentioned by Assemblymember Gray, he is keeping an eye on:

- AB 104 with its revisions regarding water rights. A lot of this bill is retiring some of the water rights by the state.
- SB 36 is another buyback initiative. Both are a little different, but they are moving forward again.
- SB 108 is another bill CWSD supports; this is to enhance the clearing and snagging account. This is to put more funds right now it is limited to 250,000 in the account the conservation districts use this for a lot of rivers clearing projects; there are two additional elements to this bill:
 1. Increase the amount to \$500,000; and
 2. Add language to ensure the Interim committee does not include funding committed in new funding allocations.

Director Schuette made a motion to direct staff to continue monitoring these bills and other legislative developments. Director Stodieck seconded the

motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Item #18A For Possible Action: Approval of Revision to Regional Water System Policy and Procedure

Mr. James explained that when the Douglas/Carson City intertie pipeline was created, there was concern that if CWSD contributed funds to the project, a for-profit entity might use the additional capacity. As a result, the Regional Water System Policy and Procedure was amended to state that CWSD would have extra capacity. If a for-profit entity wanted to use this capacity, they would need to reimburse CWSD for the funds spent to expand the pipeline's capacity. This policy was intended to protect CWSD's investment in case private companies used the pipeline for water transportation. However, this concern has not materialized, and the policy is now hindering water purveyors from applying for funding for similar regional water system projects. Mr. James recommended the language stating CWSD would have the additional capacity be removed.

*Director Hales made a motion to remove the language as presented.
Committee Member Griffith seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.*

Item #18B For Possible Action: Selection of CWSD Committee Positions for 2025 & 2026

Mr. James explained Douglas County appointed Doug Johnson to take Dave Nelson's place. Therefore, he suggested the board appoint Doug Johnson to fill the committee position of Director Nelson. Director Johnson also said he would prefer to be on the Finance and Legislative committees. 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. Therefore, Director Nelson was replaced by Doug Johnson on the Finance Committee and added to the Legislative Committee. After discussion, the following 2-year committee assignments were accepted.

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

Director Hales made a motion to approve the CWSD Committees as constituted above. Committee Member Griffith seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Item #19 For Discussion Only: Update on the 2025 Runoff Prediction on the Carson River

Mr. James reviewed the 2025 Water Year. The 2025 runoff prediction for the Carson River, noting a roller coaster year with fluctuating snow levels. The current snow water equivalent is above the median, but there is a warming and drying trend forecast for the next 14 days.

No action taken.

Item # 20 For Discussion Only: Staff Reports

Mr. James reported the following:

- Ed James reports on the finance committee's efforts to cut the budget by \$300,000 to \$350,000.

Ms. Marsh reported the following:

- In January, she attended the NWRA conference. She was a judge, a moderator, a planner and a board member, and she also got reelected back to NWRA Board.
- Ms. Neddenriep reported the following that Ms. Marsh planned the surprise for Mr. James NWRA Lifetime Achievement. He was completely surprised.

Ms. Nicholas reported the following:

- The upcoming watershed forum is scheduled for March 3 and 4, 2025. All directors are invited to attend.

Legal – Mr. King noted he was also at the conference, and it was a pleasure to see Mr. James receive the NWRA lifetime achievement award. It was well deserved. Ms. Marsh noted that Mr. King was also reelected to NWRA board as a representative of District 3.

Correspondence – Information only – Request for public information.

Item #21 For Discussion Only: Directors & Committee Members Reports

- Director Sterritt shared the NWRA conference was a great education experience. He also enjoyed being able to see Mr. James receive his NWRA lifetime achievement award.
- Director Hendrix congratulated Mr. James on his NWRA lifetime achievement award.
- Director Johnson stated he is looking forward to getting to know everybody and that it is a pleasure to be back on this board.
- Director Hales stated Douglas County is pleased to have Doug Johnson here representing us. Thank you, Mr. James, for attending our last board meeting. We also had two presentations from USGS.
- Committee Member Griffith noted that Alpine County has instituted a hiring freeze. Those in the interview process will be hired. If a critical position becomes vacant, they will also be replaced.
- Committee Member Dobson noted that a back country skier died the other day in an avalanche. The snow is unstable and comes down in big slabs.
- Director Stodieck noted that he noticed garlic farmers checking soil moisture. This usually does not happen until March, but the shoots are at a critical stage – about an inch and a half. As this time of year, there is usually 2-3 inches now on the ground.

Item #22 For Discussion Only: Public Comment – None

There being no further business before the Board, Vice Chair Koerner adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Neddenriep

Water Resources Specialist 2