



EWG Meeting Notes
Wednesday, May 28, 2025
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](#), (775) 877-9005

Attendees:

Attendee Name	Title	Acronym	Organization
Julie Bless	State Wildlife Education/Volunteer Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
Kristina Burnette	Environmental Scientist	WEPD	Washoe Environmental Protection Dept.
Sean Casler	Environmental Project Coordinator, NPS Branch	NDEP	NV Div. of Environmental Protection
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.
Bella Kurtz	California Climate Action Corps Fellow	AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
Donna Inversin	President	V&T	Historic V&T Trail
Austin Lemons	Manager	DVCD	Dayton Valley Conservation District
Margaret Lord	Western Region Wildlife Education Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
Lindsay Marsh	Water Resource Specialist 1	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Debbie Neddenriep	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Kelli Nevills	Environmental Project Coordinator, NPS Branch	NDEP	NV Div. of Environmental Protection
Kelly Nicholas	Senior Watershed Clerk	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Andy Pavlu	Floodplain Mapping Coordinator	NDWR	Nevada Div. of Water Resources
Karin Peternel	Stormwater Program Manager	CCPW	Carson City Public Works
Amy Riddle	Science Teacher@EVMS/RW Board	RW	River Wranglers
Christy Sullivan	District Clerk	LVCD	Lahontan Valley Conservation District
Courtney Walker	Stormwater Program Manager	DC	Douglas County Public Works

Introductions (Round Robin for some):

Karin Peternel, CCPW – Public Works has cooperative planning and assistance needs with social media. They have done a lot of outreach lately. They will be working on their [MS4](#) permit renewal; their program is being audited. She went to ASFPM in New Orleans last week; several attendees are also going to FMA in September. They have also taken out the floodplain model Amanda put together. **A demo of it would be great for the next meeting.**

Courtney Walker, DC – Douglas Public Works has done several outreach events and is also revising its MS4 permit. She wants to coordinate more closely with this group to meet the additional outreach requirements. As far as she knows, the Douglas Co. MS4 isn't being audited. DC is hosting a public meeting 5/28 in Johnson Lane about constructing a detention basin; they need 65 signatures, and they're educating the community tonight to get everybody on board with the project.

Information about MS4: [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit \(NPDES\)](#)

Years ago, CWSD started to create a joint MS4. A lot of work was done but it did not move forward. CWSD should have all the files and will research and send DC and Carson City the information. **Editor's Note: CWSD has access to documentation and will set up a separate meeting with Courtney and Karin to discuss their needs.**

Programs and Grants

FEMA Outreach Discussion:

Floodplain Management Plan Update 2025

Debbie will start presenting the plan update to planning commissions in early July, with follow-up presentations to the county boards of commissioners.

Background: This is the plan's fourth iteration. The last version from 2018 was adopted by all six watershed counties. This plan is the floodplain management arm of the [Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan](#). Its purpose is to protect watershed health and to meet the Carson River Coalition's main goal of protecting the floodplain from development. FEMA requires that to receive its funding agencies must include a discovery document, which in this case is Appendix Three. It contains a list of projects to choose from identified by our Cooperating Technical Partners Charter group.

The plan has 49 suggested actions broken into eight categories. Additions to this version include an enhanced stormwater management section and a section on mitigation barriers. CWSD's board approved the plan at their May meeting; the next step is to get it approved by the counties.

Flood Awareness Week

Sarah Fichtner, DWR – Their first Flood Awareness Week meeting was 5/27, focusing on last year's metrics. This year, metrics will be tracked for the Flood Awareness Week hashtag instead of only posts from the Nevada Floods social media page. No events are scheduled yet, but there's a potential high watermark unveiling. One more sign was installed in Carson City that hasn't had a formal event yet; with the number of signs in Carson City that event could be a walking/biking tour of all the signs.

There is also a Carson City landing page that can be published concurrently with an unveiling, potentially in October as a pre-FAW event. It would be good to have a library of social media posts for different types of floods, working with NWS and DWR, to share information in concert and have consistent messaging. Everyone can prepare for the next FAW meeting by auditing their past posts; also, instead of developing a yearly FAW theme, theme ideas can be used for additional posts. This should start now rather than closer to FAW.

Flood Management Association Northern NV Luncheons

Debbie has hosted two Floodplain Management Association luncheons so far. The first one was held at the Washoe County EOC; Sarah Fichtner and George Robison of the Truckee River Flood Management Authority presented. The second luncheon was held at the Governor's Mansion, with Tom Dallaire, Mitch Blum and Ed James talking about the Carson River physical map revision. The next luncheon is scheduled for July 10 at the CDC Hall in Minden, with Tom Dallaire, Courtney and Jeremy Hutchings discussing the next steps for the Carson Valley physical map revision. The luncheons include a raffle to raise money for the Floodplain Management Foundation scholarship fund. It's a \$5,000 scholarship and \$250 has been raised at the two previous luncheons. The luncheons are looking for a sponsor for the next raffle, which will have a summer theme. Please contact Debbie Neddenriep, debbie@cwdsd.org if you or someone you know is interested. In October, Sarah Fichtner of NVDWR has offered to provide an overview of Silver Jackets projects or the DWR training and outreach materials.

[Sep. 2-6: Floodplain Management Association Conference, Sacramento.](#) Courtney, Lindsay and

Debbie have been accepted and will give a 90-minute presentation: Courtney will start with the Johnson Lane ADMP, Debbie will continue with mapping ADMPs in rural counties, and Lindsay will discuss the flood hazard viewer. Courtney and Karin will give a separate presentation on Douglas County's stormwater master planning and funding efforts.

Watershed Based Planning Update (QAPP and WQ Sampling) 319 grant

CWSD applied for a watershed-based planning grant for developing a regional Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for sampling and monitoring through NDEP 319 Clean Water Act funding; the intent was that any watershed project could use this QAPP as a template. CWSD got the grant, but a challenge has presented itself and they are working with NDEP as to how to proceed. CWSD is planning to add water-quality sampling sites to what NDEP already samples. CWSD will sample these extra areas quarterly over the next two years. CWSD will have to do a WQ sampling QAPP for EPA approval prior to additional sampling. The extra sampling will help update and support the upcoming Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan revision by helping gather additional data to determine critical NPSP areas.

River Wranglers/CWSD

Status update for physical and online watershed maps: Kelly has created new icons for the watershed challenges and condensed the language as per CWSD staff and EWG suggestions. The plan is to 1) Extend the river horizontally one more panel 2) condense the text and language to two left panels 3) incorporate a "fast facts" and glossary 4) Eliminate old logos and add new logos. The printing company, Dynagraphics in Reno, has a credit for the job, \$3000 of which came from River Wranglers, and they will provide art submission guidelines. Kelly will get assistance from Amy Riddle to develop lesson plans and make sure the map conforms to NV standards. A rough draft will be provided to the committee to review. Any content that does not make it to the map can be incorporated into the online version.

Snapshot Day (Oct. 10) planning discussion: Last year, school groups committed to and then dropped out from Snapshot Day at the last minute, resulting in resources being underutilized. Attending school board or school meetings is one way to engage teachers and administrators. It was suggested, acknowledging that situations vary from district to district, that the best bet is to get buy-in from the teachers, fueled by student demand and participation such as making videos that express student interest and taking the videos to school administrators. This will facilitate getting buses. It's important to also get buy-in from home schools. Also have materials prepped for the teachers, such as a packet of cohesive information or a practice lesson plan for the grades; the less work the teachers have to do, the better. Find who has access to send emails out to the entire district and create a brochure or visual that can be sent out to everybody. For safety and to mesh with when the concept of watersheds is introduced, the preferred audience is older-elementary and middle-school age. Amy is happy to help with materials, making contacts, and introducing the topic at a Green Schools meeting she's attending. It was pointed out that the earlier date works better and early interagency communication will reduce confusion about who needs buses. Early promotion will help bring different groups on board. Old slideshows and materials can be updated and included in the promotion and information efforts. **Brenda will search CWSD files, and hopefully NDEP should have access to MaryKay Wagner's old files.**

A Snapshot Day subcommittee will be formed. NDOW would like to take part this year. While they can't donate money, they can donate items such as nets, water quality kits, waders and provide AmeriCorps volunteers. Being able to provide transportation would alleviate a stressor for the schools; the work and money involved with getting buses may be a barrier to attendance.

At the time of the meeting, AB 165, a bill for outdoor education, was still active. It would help

connect teachers to outdoor education providers and tech support, with an emphasis on the green and living schoolyards. NDOW recently conducted a survey and focus groups to determine educators', teachers', students' and parents' perspective on outdoor education. CWSD will ask its general manager to see if there's an opportunity to testify in favor of the bill. NDOR's Kendall Scott was spearheading the effort. The Children in Nature Network also supports the bill.

AB 108, which make new appropriations to the outdoor education grant program for the next two years, is also still working. **Editor's Note: AB165 was approved by the Governor on May 30, 2025. It becomes effective on July 1, 2025. AB108 passed the legislature and was approved by the Governor on June 10.**

NDOW will send us a copy of the survey. CWSD would like to be included in the tech support component.

The NDWR flood program has two sets of curricula free for anyone to use:

<https://nevadafloods.org/outreach/flood-fighter-nevada-classroom-curriculum>

<https://nevadafloods.org/outreach/nevada-rivers-classroom-curricula>

Someone with Pay It Forward gave AWG a business card during South Lake Tahoe Earth Day and said that they help provide things like food/water and other things that are considered "volunteer needs." Maybe they could help with Snapshot Day: <https://payitforwardproject.net/>

AB 165: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/83rd2025/Bill/12115/Overview>

2025 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Ornaments

The Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest was chosen to supply the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree. This is the first time Nevada has been chosen. River Wranglers was approached to provide 250 ornaments for the tree. They will be selecting classrooms and specific students to go out and make these beautiful Christmas tree Nevada-themed ornaments. They're going to try to incorporate the Carson River—Home Means the Carson River Watershed. Contact Sydney Wirkus with ideas and suggestions. The CRC/CWSD staff will hopefully be able to make some ornaments too.

<https://www.ktnv.com/news/calling-on-crafty-nevadans-thousands-of-ornaments-needed-for-the-capitol-christmas-tree>

Watershed Literacy Resurvey Request for Proposal, Consultant Evaluation and Survey Committee

In 2015 CWSD conducted a watershed literacy survey to determine watershed residents' knowledge of watershed concepts and watershed impacts. The Education Working Group was deeply involved in the original survey that was conducted. The resulting analysis led to a watershed literacy survey and a marketing & communications plan which are the basis for the "I Am Carson River" campaign. CWSD has secured funding to conduct a resurvey and has released an RFP, due June 9. The budget is \$50K for the resurvey and corresponding analysis; please pass this along to any firms or people who do related work. The contract will go to the lowest qualified bid. [This link to the RFP](#) contains links to the original survey and marketing plan mentioned above.

Once a consultant is hired a subcommittee will be needed to determine what questions should remain and what new questions should be developed; questions that will help partner programs will be considered. Current messaging includes elements from integrated watershed planning with a water-quality/nonpoint-source pollution focus, although floodplain management and

basic watershed health are included. The last survey took 40 minutes to complete, and although it resulted in a statistically relevant survey, that is too long. The last version included a grading rubric to see how effective the messaging is in increasing residents' understanding of watersheds and changing behaviors. The resurvey will use that rubric to determine how we are doing and whether there are gaps or changes we need to make in our outreach efforts. **Editor's Note:** **CWSD has a meeting with Responsive Management June 20.**

Upcoming Events/Programs/Round Robin

Amy Riddle, RW – River Wranglers is doing a lot of outreach and will be working with the Boys and Girls Club and with Camp Carson. There is a memorial service and potluck for Bill Conlin (husband of River Wranglers founder Linda Conlin) at Dayton State Park on June 14 at 11 a.m. [The Fallon Post covered River Wrangler outreach at Rambling River Ranches](#). **Editor's Note: See Bill Conlin Obit and information on Celebration of Life:** <https://www.rgj.com/obituaries/pnvs1195993>

Sarah Fichtner, DWR – Silver Jackets has a meeting June 17. Contact her if you'd like to be added to the meeting list. Silver Jackets work with non-structural projects and community outreach and high-level training for club administrators.

Bella Kurtz, AWG – Trout in the Classroom was completed at Diamond Valley Elementary School and Bear Valley School. Rachel and Bella completed a [virtual phenology](#) lesson for Bear Valley students. Rachel and Neil will travel to Bear Valley on May 30 for the teddy bear parade; they will bring a tree-ring activity and their new Enviroscope. AWG hopes to get into the classroom at Diamond Valley for more lessons and to host field trips for both schools. Last Friday Bella conducted a BioBlitz at Turtle Rock Park, completing her stewardship project requirement for the California Naturalist Course through American River Conservancy. Five people came out: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/turtle-rock-park-bioblitz>

May 31 from 12 to 2:00 p.m. the Forest Health Community Working Group will host a workshop with tips for landowners to reduce fire fuels on their properties. It's part of Alpine Sierra Speaker Series; Alpine Trails Association will demonstrate how to remove brush. June 20 we will be holding a bumblebee training in Hope Valley with CD FW and CCAC fellows; a river monitor training and skill refresher will be held on Saturday, June 28 that was just recently rescheduled. Death Ride is coming up soon, on July 11 and 12; the Market at Markleeville will be held May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30 and September 20. Creek Day will be on September 20 as well. AWG is interested in participating in Snapshot Day but must confirm the school is available and has transportation.

UNCE Events – Master Gardeners of Carson City is having a plant sale 5/31 at the CC Community Garden next to Lone Mtn. Cemetery on Beverly Drive. June 7, in collaboration with Carson City, The Greenhouse Project, Bee City USA and Muscle Powered, there will be a weed & walk cleanup in the morning from 8-10 a.m. at The Greenhouse Project's Foothill Garden at Carson Tahoe Hospital. Weed for an hour, then walk the Foothill Trail and look for pollinator plants.

Christy Sullivan, LVCD – A shout out to Rebecca and Sydney with River Wranglers for great Carson River Work Days. Once again, they knocked it out of the park. They are great, the kids were engaged...it was a great experience. A thank you to CWSD for advertising the Lahontan /Churchill High tree and plant sale. We had the best time and a great sale this year at Churchill County High School. The LVCD weed spray class is continuing. Christy asked CWSD to confirm her entries are correct in the CRASP project web viewer. Lastly, NVACD, the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, hired her to work with NRCS as an administrative assistant.

Donna Inversin, V&T – The historic Virginia Truckee trail has started a petition for a multi-use path through Pleasant and Steamboat Valleys. Currently they're counting bicyclists there, but the count does not reflect cyclists who refrain from riding there because they're afraid to be on that road. They want to get a study out to the latter group to find out why. This will require funding. V&T did not get the \$950K

federal grant they had applied for.

Margaret Lord, NDOW – NDOW wrapped up their Trout in the Classroom, and it was a super successful year. Could not have done it without River Wranglers' help with live trout releases down in Gardnerville and Carson; numbers in Reno were great as well. Getting prepped for summer fishing events: Kids' Carp Derby will be at Lahontan Reservoir June 7, there will be free fishing days, and they'll have a big event in Reno at the Marina. There will be a handful of other fishing events throughout the season. Classroom programs are starting to slow down, with one more in-classroom program next week.

CWSD Newsletter – Articles are due June 20. Douglas Co. has agreed to provide an overview of the Carson Valley physical map revision, and DWR has agreed to provide a bio of its two new employees. Any other articles or suggestions welcome.

Other – A Carson River coloring book would be a good idea.

Next meeting: August 27, 2025 @ 9:30-11:30 a.m. Please provide agenda items, speaker ideas, etc.