



## CRC Floodplain Management Working Group

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

1:30 -3:30pm

### Attendees:

First	Last	Title	Acronym	Organization
Taylor	<a href="#">Allison</a>	Emergency/Communications Manager	LYON	Lyon Co. Emergency Management
Jon	<a href="#">Bakkedahl</a>	Deputy Emergency Manager	CCFD	Carson City Fire Dept
Lyndsey	<a href="#">Boyer</a>	Open Space Manager	CCPROS	Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space
Daniel	<a href="#">Conley</a>	Risk Analyst	FEMA	FEMA Region IX Mitigation Division
Tom	<a href="#">Dallaire</a>	Director	DC	Douglas Co. Community Development
Kelsey	<a href="#">Denning</a>	Environmental Specialist, WQ on Tribal Lands	WEPD	Washoe Environmental Protection Dept.
Kara	<a href="#">Easton</a>	Emergency Management Director	DC	Douglas County Emergency Management
Sarah	<a href="#">Fichtner</a>	State Floodplain Manager and NFIP Coordinator	NDWR	NV Division of Water Resources
Brenda	<a href="#">Hunt</a>	Watershed Program Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Isabella	<a href="#">Kurtz</a>	Headwaters Coordinator	AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
Heather	<a href="#">Lafferty</a>	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	NVOEM	Nevada Office of Emergency Mgmt.
Lori	<a href="#">Leonard</a>	River Fork Ranch Preserve Manager	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
Debbie	<a href="#">Neddenriep</a>	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Kelly	<a href="#">Nicholas</a>	Senior Watershed Clerk	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Jonathan	<a href="#">Perez</a>	GIS Project Manager	MBI	Michael Baker International
Amanda	<a href="#">Singleton</a>	Stormwater Program Manager	CCPW	Carson City Public Works
Christy	<a href="#">Sullivan</a>	District Clerk	LCD	Lahontan Conservation District
Courtney	<a href="#">Walker</a>	Stormwater Program Manager	DC	Douglas County Public Works
Alexandra	<a href="#">Wasko</a>	GIS Software Developer	MBI	Michael Baker International
Jeff	<a href="#">Weagel</a>	Project Manager	JUB	J-U-B Engineers
Tom	<a href="#">Young</a>	Chief Hydraulic Engineer	NDOT	NV Department of Transportation

Click last name above to email contact

### Michael Baker Flood Hazard Viewer Demonstration

[Alexandra Wasko](#) and [Jonathan Perez](#) from Michael Baker International demonstrated the [Updated Flood Hazard Viewer](#) for the Carson River. Please see the [User Guide](#), which includes a video demonstration.

## **River Projects and Program Updates**

**Lori Leonard, TNC** – CVCD crew members have been planting willow cuttings along 1300' of the West Fork Carson River; funding comes from a combination of NRCS EQIP and CWSD. TNC will harvest cottonwood seedlings from McCarran Ranch preserve and transplant them at River Fork Ranch the second week of February. NRCS EQIP funds also were secured to install rocks for bank support in conjunction with irrigation return flows that discharge into the West Fork. She will be meeting with NRCS and the contractor to confirm specs.

**Isabella Kurtz, AWG** – AWG held a community meeting Jan. 20 on the West Fork Carson Prioritization Project; 35 people attended in person and online. Daniel Malman of Waterways Consulting Inc. presented his assessment results and briefly touched on the prioritized list of projects to improve river function that came out of his findings. Ideally the discussion and questions that came out of the meeting will inform his findings report draft, which AWG expects to share in their newsletter and directly with attendees mid-February. They have also hired a new part-time staff person, Kelci Brown. AWG also just secured the match for 319 funds for a geomorphological study on the Carson River East Fork.

**Christy Sullivan, LCD** – LCD / Churchill High School received a Nevada Division of Forestry grant for tree planting and supplies for the school. They are wrapping up their NDOR grant. They are continuing river clearing and snagging; their ditch excavator needs repair, which will cause some delays, but she expects it will still be completed before the height of the 2026 season. Later this spring they will hold their tree sale with Churchill High, but don't yet have a date.

[Brenda and Kelly, along with more than 20 other representatives from counties, state and federal agencies, the WTNC, and conservation districts, attended a meeting at TNC in December for the upper watershed (California and Douglas Co.) Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). The CWMA is just getting started again, updating its strategic plan and an MOU. Because invasives funding is contingent upon having an active CWMA, there has been a lull since COVID, and there is significant overlap with conservation districts, Brenda would like to meet with Christy and the Churchill Co. Mosquito, Vector and Noxious Weed District to discuss. CWSD plans to host a CRC Invasive Species Working Group meeting soon and will keep everyone posted.]

## **Round Robin Updates**

**Daniel Conley, FEMA** – No word on the CTP NOFO for this year. Like last year it seems like a low priority. He is still working on packages – including Debbie's – of CTP programs, amendments and close outs; he will get back to Debbie with any changes. Debbie added she learned at an ASFPM committee meeting that more funds have been put in the President's budget for FEMA than last year and have been congressionally allocated but will not be sent out. Whether they will be rolled into FY2026 or replace FY2026 remains unclear. The ASFPM board will touch base with as many federal representatives as they can advocating for FEMA during their DC annual meeting.

**Kelsey Denning, WEPD** – She just started with the WEPD and focuses on water quality. She is funded through an EPA performance partnership grant; she works on the Tribe's CWA 106 and 319 grants. Current 319 funds are focused on reseeded pinyon pine in the Tamarack Fire burn scar; a future 319 funding request will focus on post-Connor Fire rehab.

**Amanda Singleton, CCPW** – They are in the planning stages of a flood preparedness workshop and will keep everyone posted. Debbie would like to coordinate for the next Silver Jackets high water mark event.

## Round Robin Updates (continued)

**Lyndsey Boyer, CCPROS** – They are in the middle of writing their Carson River Master Plan update and hope to have a final draft for board approval by midyear. Staff have been busy with revegetation projects and trail restoration using CWSD invasive species funds along Empire Ranch Trail. They employed various permutations of spraying, planting and other combinations to gauge treatment effectiveness. They also did 17 acres of mastication of flood-drowned sage in Riverview Park, reseeding the areas with riparian-compatible vegetation. They are in the design phase for a redux of the Riverview Park trailhead. She has also completed two of the three major water rights acquisitions she has been working on with Buzzy's Ranch, which translates to hundreds of acre feet and enduring floodplain protection. CCPROS has also completed its Mexican Dam portage project, which they worked with in conjunction with CWSD; a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a demonstration of the portage around Mexican Dam will happen this spring.

**Courtney Walker, DC** – They are developing processes within their stormwater utility rate study and working with ag producers to determine exemption criteria for those who contribute to the stormwater infrastructure. Courtney created the stormwater master plan, which was approved by the DC Board in December, and they hope to have the fee structure in place July 1. They are the first small county to have a funding structure in place to help reduce flood hazards.

**Kara Easton, DC** – Her department is supporting Courtney in any way they can. They have an evacuation drill in conjunction with Carson City planned for April.

[Brenda asked Tom Young for best NDOT contact for invasives management]

**Tom Dallaire, DC** – He commended Courtney, county management and county commissioners for their commitment to the stormwater utility project. He said there's a long way to go; he was on his way to a meeting to discuss the fee structure. Although Carson City has a stormwater utility fee structure to model, Douglas Co. has significantly more ag land that helps control flow, which must be taken into consideration. Brenda asked him about [transfer development rights \(TDRs\)](#) as a method for protecting floodplain lands; he is working with the Planning Commission and the BoCC and expects the Board to review the results of a study about this during their first March meeting.

**Taylor Allison, Lyon** – They have shifted from flood awareness in November and December to evacuations. They just did a tabletop exercise with the county and first-responder partners using the "Be Ready, Get Set, Go Now" protocol and campaign, using their perimeter mapping software to get evacuation messages out. The immediacy of the new inundation mapping tool will help in flood-related evacuations and she looks forward to using it for data-driven decisions in the field. She is also readying for the [Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association \(NEPA\)](#) summit down in Vegas in February.

[Debbie was enthusiastic about the potential for an emergency management for floodplain managers class, and Sarah Fichtner from DWR offered to help coordinate that effort on the state side]

## Round Robin Updates (continued)

**Jon Bakkedahl, CCFD** – The uncertainty of FEMA’s status and stripping of certain language has hampered class delivery; he is waiting to see if FEMA changes will affect the evacuation exercise Kara previously mentioned, which will be held concurrently with wildland fire training in Clear Creek. The exercise might be something CWSD wants to take part in on the EOC side by monitoring debris flow and delivery. The regularity of flood events is translating to fewer flood exercises because the flood events themselves provide lessons learned; they have turned to other focus areas, such as earthquake, and annual wildfire, which also spurs evacuations. He stressed the need in the absence of FEMA for looking beyond incident management and more toward long-term recovery, the burden of which will fall locally. He, Taylor and Kara have been working a lot on a new incident database, [D4H](#), which hopefully will capture trends. FEMA also has a free public dashboard called [Community Lifeline Status System](#) that can be used internally for sit reps or externally for public notifications. Amanda Singleton from CCPW is the lead on the CC flood plan and she has the Public Works crew and his support.

Debbie mentioned in conjunction with [ASFPM](#) that for half the states in the [Arid Regions Committee](#) their floodplain managers fall under emergency management. A group of them are headed to Florida to meet with the head of the FEMA review council to discuss funding alternatives and approaches; EMs, please let her know if you hear anything coming out of this. Jon said there is extreme uncertainty associated with the review council.

## Continuation of EM Conversation

**Heather Lafferty, NVOEM** – Answering how ground response may change in the face of funding shortages, she replied that under new trends Nevada won’t receive the FEMA support it usually receives and may not even reach the threshold for what qualifies as a presidential disaster. In the face of this, senior OEM leadership, local EM managers and the governor are discussing what can be accomplished legislatively. They are also looking at building some of these capabilities within the state; through March OEM chiefs will be meeting with vendors to establish pre-position contracts.

**Taylor Allison, Lyon** – NEPA has a BDR in that needs a sponsor for baseline EM funding that would match counties’ efforts; unspent funds would go into an interest-bearing account designed for mitigation or recovery projects. The incoming CWSD GM, Reed Cozens, should be able to lobby on its behalf.

**Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD** – Arid Regions is creating a legal guide and webinar on how communities can decrease their legal financial burden by establishing flood mitigation.

[Brenda attended a webinar outlining recipients of the [EPA Stormwater Centers of Excellence Grant](#). DRI was one, and it has formed the [Southwest Stormwater Center](#).]

## DWR Update

**Sarah Fichtner, DWR** – Bunny Bishop is resuming as Section Chief. FAW was a huge success; a bunch of messaging went out on radio, billboards and newspapers. The social media campaign received nearly 2.5M impressions in November. For Silver Jackets, they are planning the next Watershed University Forum for April. Brenda and Debbie mentioned several other April events to watch for, and Debbie wants to get the proposed high water mark bike tour on their radar.

## OEM Update

**Heather Lafferty, NVOEM** – OEM’s mitigation nation team went to Oakland to meet with FEMA Region IX partners for information exchange and training. They met with FEMA’s floodplain coordinator, who was very nice. She reported that the NOFO for FEMA has been done for quite a while but has been sitting on DHS’s desk and will indefinitely. OEM has ~ 100 grant applications pending DHS final review that have also stalled. Ten are from FY24. Last year they received four [FMAGs \(Fire Management Assistance Grants\)](#) but received only one award letter; it is likely they will not get the funding for the other three awards. A recommended strategy for future large mitigation projects was to do planning, studies and design under [Advance Assistance](#) and then coming back with a separate grant for the construction.

- For [Hazus](#) users, a new version (7) has come out, but it doesn’t have all the features of Hazus 6 and won’t for about a year.
- They have hired or are in the process of hiring a new state training officer, and will next hire for a state exercise officer.
- They will host a [Basic Academy](#) in March.

## Watershed Programming

- Brenda just received the [report on the Watershed Resurvey](#) from Responsive Management.
- The Watershed Forum will be held two days between Mar. 31 – Apr. 2 in Carson City; we are waiting to hear back from venues.

## COMS

As previously mentioned, congressionally approved funds have not been released and therefore NOFOs have not been announced, awards have stalled at DHS, and it’s uncertain once they begin again if and how they will be allocated. This affects COMS 3, a study in Voltaire Canyon, a study for Courtney, and outreach.

If interested in adding a study to the web hazard viewer, the working group can form a side group or Debbie can get the information from Michael Baker on how to format it so it can be added at the least expensive cost. The contract runs through June 2028.

The 30-Year Water Plan has been completed, and Lindsay has been presenting it

**Next Quarterly Meeting (Save the Date): April 29, 2026, 8:30am-10:30am**