

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

777 E. William St., #209, Carson City, Nevada and Zoom option
February 9, 2026, 8:30 am – 2 pm

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

David Griffith, Alpine County
Doug Johnson, Douglas County
Ernie Schank, Churchill County
Lisa Schuette, Carson City
Lee Sterritt, Storey County
Mike Workman, Lyon County

Jena Huntington, USGS
Austin Lemons, Dayton Valley Conservation District
Marena Lovejoy, Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space
Chris Mahannah, Churchill County
Kimra McAfee, Alpine Watershed Group
Rishi Parashar, Desert Research Institute
Daniel Saftner, Desert Research Institute
Rachel Schmidt, Dayton Valley Conservation District
Ben Shawcroft, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
Amanda Singleton, Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space
Christy Sullivan, Lahontan Conservation District
Rich Wilkinson, Carson Valley Conservation District

Staff Present:

Edwin James, General Manager
Reed Cozens, General Manager (incoming)
Deborah Neddenriep, Water Resource Specialist 2

Guests:

Brook Adie, Douglas County Community Services
Kip Allender, Nevada Division of Water Resources
Rebecca Feldermann, River Wranglers

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Committee Member Schuette. Roll call determined the quorum of the committee present.

Item #3 Public Comment - None

Item #4 For Possible Action: Approval of the Finance Committee Minutes of February 27, 2025 meeting

Committee Member Schank moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on February 27, 2025. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Griffith and unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.

Item #5 For Discussion Only Review the Tentative General Fund FY 2026-27 Budget and Hear Presentations for Proposed Projects; Review the Tentative Acquisition/Construction Fund FY 2026-27 Budget; and Review the Tentative Floodplain Management Fund FY 2026-27 Budget

Budget & Staffing Overview

General Manager Edwin James provided an overview of the tentative FY 2026–27 budgets, including the General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund.

To promote cooperative actions with communities to protect the Carson River Watershed.

Mr. James discussed revenue and expense categories, the importance of maintaining a balanced budget, and potential variability in ad valorem and sales tax revenues. Final ad valorem projections were noted as unavailable until March. Mr. James reported that approximately \$278,752 would need to be reduced from the proposed budgets in order to achieve the required 4% ending fund balance. Incoming General Manager Reed A. Cozens observed and provided comments as appropriate

Presentations of Proposed Projects

Proposal #9 (requested to be heard out of order)

Douglas County River Bend Floodway Revitalization Recreation Project

Brook Adie described a concept to develop a multi-purpose riverfront park with river access, floodplain management, and education/outreach components. Seed funding was requested to develop a detailed plan and to support future grant applications.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- Committee members asked why Douglas County was not providing matching funds.
- Committee members expressed a preference to consider funding after a site plan is developed.
- Presenter emphasized that planning funds are needed to compete for future grant funding.

Proposal #1

Alpine Watershed Group (AWG)

Kimra McAfee presented a \$40,000 request supporting river monitoring, seedling survivability surveys, and aspen monitoring, with planned cleanup and monitoring activities in the East Fork Carson Hot Springs area. AWG reported a new part-time watershed projects coordinator (Kelsey Brown).

Proposals #2-3

Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD)

At the committee's request, CVCD combined two proposals into a single presentation. Rich Wilkinson described: (1) a \$60,000 request for administrative and project management support for tasks not covered by grants; and (2) a \$175,000 request toward a larger river restoration effort (noted as part of a \$1.36 million project supported by multiple funding sources). CVCD has two full-time employees and an intent to hire a part-time office position.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- CVCD described coordination and matching support from other entities (including Douglas County and NDWR).

Proposals #4-5

Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD)

To promote cooperative actions with communities to protect the Carson River Watershed.

Austin Lemons was unable to attend; Mr. James summarized DVCD's two proposals requesting \$100,000 and \$60,000, characterized as similar in purpose to CVCD's requests (administrative/project support and implementation activities).

Proposal #6

Lahontan Conservation District

Christy Sullivan requested \$25,000 for channel maintenance to reduce snagging and for beaver management. Ms. Sullivan discussed challenges in obtaining new project funding and emphasized maintaining existing projects. Coordination with NDOT regarding bridge clearing and infrastructure needs was noted.

Proposal #7

River Wranglers (RW) Program Update and Request

Rebecca Feldermann requested \$40,000 and provided an update on River Wranglers' education and outreach activities, including school programs and community events. The request was described as an increase relative to prior levels due to reduced DNOR funding amid high statewide demand.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- Committee members discussed the long-term value of youth education and stewardship.
- A suggestion was made to consider a survey to better quantify student outcomes over time.
- A mobile museum concept was suggested as a potential future enhancement, subject to funding.

Proposal #8

Carson City Bowers Lane Storm Drain Phase 1 Project

Amanda Singleton requested \$50,000 to support preliminary modeling and design for Phase 1 of the Bowers Lane storm drain project, intended to improve drainage and reduce flood risk (including potential FEMA flood zone benefits). Carson City noted an allocation of approximately \$700,000 for construction in 2029.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- Committee members noted the importance of Carson City participation and discussed preferences for construction-focused funding, while recognizing the planning need and potential water quality benefits.

Proposal #10

Desert Research Institute (DRI) Supporting Conjunctive Management in the Carson Valley through Canal-Groundwater Connectivity Mapping

Rishi Parashar and Daniel Saftner requested \$199,989 (of a \$202,829 project) to evaluate canal/ditch and groundwater connectivity and develop data/tools to support conjunctive

management decisions. DRI described the importance of measurement and data quality for reducing potential conflicts and informing management decisions.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- Committee members asked how the project aligns with CWSD’s strategic plan; staff noted the project would improve understanding of surface water–groundwater interactions.
- DRI noted it is soft-funded and does not receive direct Board of Regents funding.
- DRI stated the project could proceed with an approximate 40% reduction, with efforts to pursue additional funds.

Proposal #11

Desert Research Institute (DRI) Pilot Program for Domestic Well Water Quality Sampling in the Carson River Basin (Douglas County)

DRI requested \$99,752 for a pilot project to expand domestic well water quality sampling in the Johnson Lane and Ruhestroth areas. DRI cited existing datasets indicating elevated arsenic and nitrate concerns linked to land use, development, and groundwater dynamics, and proposed providing homeowners with sampling supplies and support.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- Committee members emphasized aligning project funding with CWSD’s strategic plan and broader watershed water quality priorities.

Proposal #12

Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) Carson Desert Water Resource Availability Study

Kip Allender requested \$200,000 and reported NDWR has secured additional funding to complete the study. NDWR described the study’s intent to update allocation status and incorporate new metrics (including groundwater rights and water level trends), revisit the Carson Desert water budget, and develop a management tool within NDWR’s Nevada Water Initiative. Stakeholder outreach was identified as a key component.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- Committee discussion noted interest in improved information for management and development planning, alongside concerns about potential downstream implications.

Proposal #13

Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID)

Ben Shawcroft requested \$50,000 to install a log boom upstream of the Carson River Diversion Dam (approximately five miles downstream of Lahontan Dam) to protect infrastructure and reduce debris impacts during flood events. TCID noted it would cover additional project costs.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

- A question was raised regarding design and maintenance accessibility.

Proposal #14

Groundwater Monitoring and Data Collection

USGS requested \$160,300 for FY 2026 and FY 2027 to continue long-term monitoring, including bulk precipitation and groundwater levels (reported as approximately 206 wells) throughout the watershed. USGS described the value of long-term datasets for understanding groundwater conditions and related water quality considerations.

Committee Discussion / Comments:

USGS described CWSD’s longstanding partnership supporting continuous data collection.

Item #6 For Possible Action: Recommend projects to fund for the Tentative General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund FY 2026-27 Budgets

The committee discussed proposed funding levels and formulated recommended allocations for the tentative General Fund, Acquisition/Construction Fund, and Floodplain Management Fund budgets (refer to Attachment A - Table 1).

Committee Member Schank made a motion to recommend funding for projects. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Workman and unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.

Item #7 Public Comment – None

Deborah Neddenriep,

Date & Time of Posting

Water Resource Specialist 2, CWSD

Attachment A

Table 1: Recommended Project Funding

Proposal #	Proposed Project	Proposed Funding	Approved Funding	Fiscal Year(s)
1	Alpine Watershed Group Upper Carson River Watershed Programs	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	26/27
2	Carson Valley Conservation District Administration & Vegetation Management	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	26/27
3	Carson Valley Conservation District Flood Damage Repairs & Restoration	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	26/27
4	Dayton Valley Conservation District Administration / Management	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	26/27 & 27/28
5	Dayton Valley Conservation District Weed Crew	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	26/27 & 27/28
6	Lahontan Conservation District Clearing & Snagging	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	26/27
7	River Wranglers – Conserve the Carson River Workdays/Field Days	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	26/27
8	Carson City Bowers Lane Project	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	26/27
9	Douglas County River Bend Floodplain Revitalization and Recreation Project	\$ 100,000	0	26/27
10	DRI – Supporting Conjunctive Management in Carson Valley	\$ 199,000	\$ 120,000	26/27 & 27/28
11	DRI – Pilot Program for Domestic Well Water Quality Sampling in Douglas County	\$ 99,752	0	26/27
12	NDWR Carson Desert Water Availability Study	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	26/27 & 27/28
13	TCID Carson River Diversion Dam Log Boom Installation	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	26/27
14	USGS Carson River Watershed Groundwater Monitoring Program	\$ 160,300	\$ 160,300	26/27 & 27/28
	Total	\$1,359,052	\$1,080,300	