



**Education Working Group Notes**  
**Monday, December 8, 2025**  
**12:30-2:30PM**

**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
<a href="#">Julie Bless</a>	State Wildlife Edu/Volunteer Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
<a href="#">Sarah Fichtner</a>	State Floodplain Manager/NFIP Coordinator	NDWR	Nevada Div. of Water Resources
<a href="#">Rob Fuller</a>	Environmental Technician 2	RCI	Resource Concepts Inc.
<a href="#">Katie Hay</a>	Stormwater Engineering Technician	DC	Douglas County Public Works
<a href="#">Brenda Hunt</a>	Watershed Program Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
<a href="#">Ed James</a>	General Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
<a href="#">Bella Kurtz</a>	Headwaters Coordinator	AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
<a href="#">Donna Inversin</a>	President	V&T	Historic V&T Trail
<a href="#">Lori Leonard</a>	Preserve Manager, River Fork Ranch	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
<a href="#">Margaret Lord</a>	Western Region Wildlife Edu Coordinator	NDOW	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
<a href="#">Lindsay Marsh</a>	Water Resource Specialist 1	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
<a href="#">Debbie Neddenriep</a>	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
<a href="#">Kelly Nicholas</a>	Senior Watershed Clerk	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
<a href="#">Amanda Singleton</a>	Stormwater Program Manager	CCPW	Carson City Public Works
<a href="#">Erin Smith</a>	Resource Specialist/Source Water Protection	RCI	Resource Concepts Inc.
<a href="#">Christy Sullivan</a>	District Clerk	LVCD/SCD	Lahontan Valley Conservation Dist.
<a href="#">Sydney Wirkus</a>	Education & Outreach Coordinator	RW	River Wranglers

**Round Robin**

**Bella Kurtz, AWG** – Jan. 20 AWG will host a West Fork Carson prioritization project community meeting at Turtle Rock Park Community Center from 5:30-7. Dan Malmon of Waterways Consulting Inc will share results of the West Fork Carson River assessment and the prioritization plan. Our discussion at this meeting will inform the draft findings report for the project. There will also be a virtual option, but we do encourage in person attendance, if weather allows.

**Christy Sullivan, LVCD/SCD** – The conservation district board will announce the Churchill County winners of the NACD annual poster contest, themed “Home Is Where the Habitat Is.”

**Lori Leonard, TNC** – Dec. 18 there will be a fly-tying workshop from 6-8; they will make them look like Christmas ornaments. Dec. 28 River Fork Ranch will host the Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count.

**Sydney Wirkus, RW** – Nothing immediately coming up, but it looks like it will be an extremely busy Trout in the Classroom season.

**Amanda Singleton, CCPW** – Nothing planned right now, potentially planning a flood preparedness workshop similar to the one Lyon County just held. As per a suggestion from another speaker, this may be piggybacked with a Silver Jackets

spring bike tour featuring high water marks.

**Katie Hay, DC** – No outreach updates; they had a flood outreach Nov. 13 with a small turnout. They have an outreach event at Pau Wa Lu Middle School with River Wranglers Jan. 28 & 29. In September Stormwater had a main meeting with the DC board, then several smaller community meetings after that, then last week the board voted to create a stormwater utility. The next step is a study to determine equitable rates. Hopefully this will be in place before the next fiscal year starts (July 1).

**Margaret Lord, NDOW** – Big Trout in the Classroom year. They lost their AmeriCorps staff this year, and hoping to get staff through Nevada Outdoor School. They will have to adjust the program for this, and hope to develop options for teachers and kids to release trout on their own. CWSD has offered to fill gaps. She will meet with the angler coordinator to finalize the release plan. Any extra hands are welcome.

**Julie Bless, NDOW** – NDOW has a show on Animal Planet called [Nevada Wild](#). Most of the current (first) season in 2019 and 2020, but they are also filming new episodes. It also airs on the [Game Warden Channel](#). To incorporate fish release information into the Carson River Master Plan, Julie will send Brenda contact information to one of the fisheries biologists.

**Sarah Fichtner, DWR** – She'll be at Pau Wa Lu with Katie in January and also was invited to a career fair at East Valley Elementary on Mar. 13. CTP funding has gone away again, and so she is the sole outreach person. She put a lot of effort into the Flood Awareness Week campaign – billboards, newspaper ads, and radio. One more radio ad through Lotus Radio comes out this month. The government shutdown created a lot of chaos. Her current focus is closing out the CTP grant. She will probably do a Flood Awareness Communications Team (FACT) debrief in January and schedule a floodplain managers meeting for the first quarter.

**Lindsay Marsh, CWSD** – Enjoyed the recent outreach at St. Teresa's in Carson City. The students had memorized a routine/performance about the water cycle and watersheds. Lots of interested kids throughout fall outreach events, including Boonanza.

**Erin Smith, RCI** – RCI has the technical assistance contract for the integrated source water protection program, but there is not too much currently going on with outreach. Rob Fuller has been with RCI for a few months and will be coordinating outreach moving forward. He has a background with kids and events, and so he's a great resource. Carson City Extension Coordinator Adam Carpenter may revitalize the Kings Canyon fall event. RCI has been working with Carson City Library on maps and stickers. He will be working with their Saturday STEM programming four times per year; the next planned event is the second or third week of February, focusing on how snow affects aquifers, and then move on to other seasons.

**Rob Fuller, RCI** – He has done a lot of outdoor education and leadership development with underserved communities. Recently finished a master's degree at UNR in geophysics, which is also his undergrad degree.

**Donna Inversin, V&T** – Getting ready to present for the RTP grant in January. The award will cover wayfinding signs, map kiosks and interpretive panels. They currently have \$20K for signs for the section shared with the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail and will be working closely with that association's designers; that section will also have trail improvements from Lake Street to just past Broadhead Park. Reno Parks & Rec has not signed off on the wayfinding sign (NDOT, CCPROS and DC have), and the hope is that they will for consistency. They have also started working on their Conserve Nevada application to collect floodplain data in preparations for a bridge connecting Carson City with Douglas County. The state is expected to authorize the bond sale by January, making \$10 million available.

**Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD** – The best way to think of CWSD outreach is a series of concentric circles: first to our staff then board, then to county staff and boards, then our partners, then the general public. Classroom/public outreach this quarter included Boonanza, a day at Dayton State Park and Snapshot Day at Dayton State Park and East Silver Saddle

Ranch. She spoke to news media in conjunction with a Lyon County event for the Silver Springs area drainage master plan. She and Sarah spoke on [Capital Chatter](#) about Flood Awareness Week. As a result, host Garrett Lepire wants to plan a workshop for realtors on how the NFIP and insurance affects the industry: during the shutdown buyers in floodplain hazard areas who needed a loan were unable to close on their sales. This prompted a letter to Congress from the Association of State Floodplain Managers, mortgage bankers, and realtors emphasizing the need for continual NFIP funding. With data from area drainage master plans, another outreach tool designed for counties to use is a flood hazard web viewer, a non-regulatory tool for counties to work with their residents for planning. It is expected to go on ArcGIS Online in January.

**Kelly Nicholas, CWSD** – Have been working on fixing broken links via a tool provided by the state technology office. National Seed Swap Day is Jan. 31, and both Douglas Co. and for the first time Carson City Master Gardeners will take part. The correct term to use for Extension is now UNR Extension, no “cooperative.”

**Watershed Resurvey Overview** – A follow-up survey to one conducted in 2015 has been tested by our contractor, Responsive Management, who also created the original. As per their feedback, it takes 25 minutes to administer, so with internal and EWG feedback we’d like to cut at least 10 minutes. Brenda ran briefly through the script, some people asked questions about terminology, whether it would be administered in Spanish (yes) and if we should correlate education level with income (not necessarily, but it’s the method the company uses) Survey will be administered via land line and cell, with texts sent to cell nonrespondents. Concerns were expressed about residency tenure, ability to reach residents with non-Nevada area codes, and how potential respondents will verify survey’s authenticity.

**Watershed-literacy action plan update** – Survey data and analysis will inform a redux of CWSD’s Watershed Literacy Action Plan, which in turn is part of the current Adaptive Stewardship Plan.

**Watershed Forum 2026** – CWSD’s annual Watershed Forum takes place in the spring and covers aspects of integrated watershed management. Brenda thinks this edition should focus on outreach & education. Suggested topics included PFAS from a source water perspective; Debbie’s idea that CWSD outreach is a series of concentric circles radiating from CWSD staff; how property owners can use the water on their own property; Responsive Management findings and subsequent actions. A venue is still needed; CWSD is looking at the end of March/early April.

**FEMA outreach Discussion** – The FEMA review council is happening this Thursday, which hopefully will clarify floodplain management without CTP.

**Flood Awareness wrap up** – Sarah covered it during the round robin; DWR will host a debrief in January, date TBD.

**Flood Management Association Northern NV Luncheons** – Debbie introduced these in January 2025 covering a variety of topics. 2026 dates will be the second Thursday of each quarter’s first month. Jan. 8 – Danielle Henderson: Vista Narrows project. Apr. 9 – City of Roseville: In-city Waterway Survey. July 9 – Emergency Managers. Oct. 8 – UNR academics (Baker Perry, State Climatologist; Christina Albano, DRI). She hopes to start an FMA Emerging Professionals Northern Nevada chapter for people in the first five years of their career.

**319 Grant Updates** – No one except CWSD and CVCD has open 319 grants, and no one applied for this last round.

**Watershed Planning** – As part of the Quality Assurance Project Plan, Brenda, Kelly, Karin and Amanda went out with NDEP on a November sampling run from state line to Carson City. Anticipate forwarding it to EPA in month.

**Regenerative Ag and Workshops** – Last month Break a Heart signed its contract, and in September Joe Frey

of Rambling River Ranches and UNR Extension hosted a virtual fencing workshop, presenting on its effectiveness to improve water quality and stock management, and following with a collar fitting demonstration. We also released an RFQ for an irrigation outfall on RRR and have selected an applicant. This may open the door for future field trips to see it in action. River Fork Ranch is currently doing a similar project that will be implemented in the next two years.

**CWSD Newsletter article requests** – Anyone has anything they want to see in the newsletter, including already published articles, please submit to Kelly.

### **River Wranglers/CWSD**

**Physical map status update** – Map is being updated for recent events, approachable graphics, definition of terms, and to ensure introduced topics or questions are answered somewhere on the map. Kelly welcomes feedback for questions, items needing to be added to timeline, etc. For a specific question (where does your water come from), the original question was intended to illustrate the water cycle, not water purveyors/sources, so this will be retained and expanded upon. Spacing of information has changed to allow for a larger river for more events.

**Snapshot Day Overview and follow up** – The meeting had run out of time, but volunteers from River Wranglers, CWSD, USACE, UNR Extension and RCI had gone to two river sites and Amy Riddle, RW Board member and middle school science teacher at Eagle Valley Middle School, took a group of students – “Hot Shots” – to multiple sites in a passenger van.

**Next Meeting: Feb 25, 2026**