

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
Board of Directors
& Carson River Watershed Committee Meeting

Apr. 15, 2026

Minutes

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

CWSD Directors / Committee Members Present:

Charlie Dobson	Jim Hindle
Myles Getto – Zoom (disconnected due to internet failure)	Ernie Schank
David Griffith	Lisa Schuette
Sharla Hales - Zoom	Lee Sterrett
Tammy Hendrix	Fred Stodieck - Zoom
	Mike Workman

CWSD Directors / Committee Members Absent:

Stacey Giomi	Doug Johnson
Nathan Tolbert	Cassi Koerner

CWSD Staff & Guests Present:

Reed Cozens, CWSD	Kelly Nicholas, CWSD
Brenda Hunt, CWSD	Michael G. – Zoom
Steve King, CWSD Attorney	Alison Kramer, RCI - Zoom
Lindsay Budija, CWSD	Christopher Eddy, US Forest Service
Debbie Neddenriep, CWSD	

Item #3 – Pledge of Allegiance

Director Hindle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #4 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment

None

Item #5 – For Possible Action: Approval of Agenda

Director Workman moved to approve the Agenda for Apr. 15, 2026. Committee Member Griffith seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved (motion carried).

Item #6 – For Possible Action: Approval of Mar. 18, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

Director Sterrett moved to approve the Mar. 18, 2026, minutes as presented. Director Griffith seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved (motion carried).

****CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #7 – For Possible Action: Approval of the Treasurer’s Report for March 2026

Item #8 – For Possible Action: Approval of Payment of Bills for March 2026

Item #9 – For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum to State Contract #2025-12 Lahontan Conservation District, Clearing & Snagging Carson River – Time Extension Only

Item #10 – For Possible Action: Approval of Addendum to State Contract #2025-6 Dayton Valley Conservation District, Clearing & Snagging Carson River – Time Extension Only

Director Schuette moved to approve the consent agenda. Committee Member Griffith seconded, and the motion carried.

****END CONSENT AGENDA****

Item #11 – For Discussion Only: East Fork Carson River Hot Springs Presentation

Chris Eddy, USFS Recreation Management Specialist with the Carson Ranger District, presented on a two-year effort to create a collaborative vision for improved conditions and natural resource protection for the East Fork Hot Springs. Twenty-three entities--including federal and state agency representatives, the WTNC, local governments, and nonprofit organizations, as well as CWSD--worked together in conjunction with the National Park Service’s [Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program](#). The site is divided into three planning zones, each managed by different land managers: U.S. Forest Service, BLM and the California Division of Fish and Wildlife. The team identified site issues such as sanitation concerns, user conflicts, impacts to vegetation, and lack of infrastructure. Guiding principles agreed upon included light-touch management; maintaining the area’s dispersed character; and education vs. infrastructure improvements. Several ideas considered and ultimately rejected will adversely increase impacts and won’t be feasible to maintain. The final proposal includes developing a site inventory and management framework; responsible-use and safety signage; river permitting on BLM land; portable toilet requirements for rafting companies; and collaborative monitoring. So far, a grant has been secured for signs, an initial site monitoring has been completed, and various agreements have been submitted for review. Next steps include finalizing the stakeholder agreement, installing funded signage, and establishing a monitoring and cleanup schedule. Christopher.Eddy@usda.gov; [Link to PDF of PowerPoint presentation](#).

Item #12 – For Possible Action: East Fork Carson River Hot Springs Planning Overview and Memorandum of Understanding

The request is for each entity to either aid ground monitoring or data review periodically over a four-year period. Legally observed, the MOU is a nonbinding cooperative agreement and there is no financial obligation beyond voluntary cleanups. Committee Member Griffith stated this is a 20-year-old problem; he moved to approve the MOU for the general manager’s signature. Director Hindle seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #13 – For Possible Action: Approval of Staff Request to Be Paid to Attend Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) 2026 Conference in Wisconsin

An ASFPM Arid Regions Committee meeting will constitute part of this year's [ASFPM conference](#); Debbie is co-chair of the committee, so she'd like to attend. Mr. Cozens noted that this was an opportunity to clarify the Board's perspective on professional development and what they view as aligning with CWSD's mission and vision. He observed that while ASFPM is a well-regarded organization the bulk of the program will have an indirect benefit and thus might impact staff time. However, he stated that if an event or class is worthwhile for attendance, it is also appropriate to compensate staff for that time, and understanding what staff are expected to report back will help in this decision. Chairperson Schank, Committee Member Griffith and several other Board members agreed contacts made in this way are valuable, and Debbie said this is a way to learn other states' approaches to similar problems while earning contact hours for her CFM. There was discussion of how to cover travel time while observing not all travel time will be idle and how to account for Debbie's part-time status. Director Workman suggested building known conference costs into future budgets. Director Hindle suggested reporting back significant findings and promoting CWSD while afield; CWSD's conference presence builds credibility. Director Schuette pointed out any indirect benefit may prove valuable over time versus immediately. Director Workman moved to pay for attendance, Director Schuette seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #14 – For Discussion Only: Staff Reports

General Manager: Catrina came back 1.5 weeks ago. The tentative budget was submitted to the NV Dept. of Taxation; he spent some time with Ed reviewing the tentative budget so he could get the appropriate schedules submitted in time. Workman's comp is also caught up. Debbie and Lindsay are working on grants; Brenda is working on programming. All are developing scoping documents to determine if a grant is worthwhile pursuing, thus creating a repository of ideas. Kelly assisted with office administration and worked on the Forum. CWSD is also in negotiation with the building landlord for the office lease, which ends in June.

Senior Watershed Clerk: Provided an overview of the Watershed Forum, themed Reaching Out, including finances, attendance numbers, increased registration costs, presenters, new venue, and the accompanying tech capabilities that allowed recording both days; Brenda complimented staff on their efforts. [Forum Day 1](#) [Forum Day 2](#) [Forum Program](#) [Speaker Bios](#)

Legal: Nevada Sen. Robin Titus is prepared to introduce a bill draft request to change the CWSD name to Carson River Conservancy District. A Legislative Council Bureau staff member had questions about the name change last summer, and he, Chairperson Schank and the GM have composed a reply that should go out tomorrow. The process got started last August when Chairperson Schank replied to the questions, but the reply was lost; regular follow-up is needed for this. Chairperson Schank thanked Sen. Titus as well as Rep. Ken Gray for their efforts. Clarification has been offered for Alpine County's role.

Water Resource Specialist 1: She has moved furniture, supplies & equipment and has created a new office space for herself; an updated and accurate office inventory will be forthcoming.

Water Resource Specialist 2: FEMA's [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) NOFO is out. Also, a significant amount of Congressionally approved funds for risk reduction has not yet been released; the hope is funds will be freed soon for emergency management and hazard mitigation.

Item #14 (continued)

Correspondence: [Dr. Parikshit Maini](#) of UNR, in conjunction with [Desert Research Institute](#), is working on a project that will introduce Nevada K-12 students to advances in farm automation, focusing on AI. They seek members for its stakeholder advisory board. The Board agreed Director Koerner would be the best fit for this opportunity, schedule notwithstanding (see email in board packet).

Item #15 – For Discussion Only: Directors & Committee Members Reports

Chairperson Schank asked about the progress of the oral history project and wants to collaborate with the Nevada State Museum in creating an archive.

An informal query was taken for who wants to continue to receive hard copies of full board packets; this will create significant cost savings. Chairperson Schank proposed a summary packet with the bulk of the documentation online as well as a full board packet online for the public. The directors and committee members who confirmed their opt-out of full packets included Chairperson Schank, Committee Member Griffith, Director Workman, Director Hales, Director Hindle, Director Hendrix, and Committee Member Dobson. Lindsay said that she used CoPilot to create a summary narrative of the staff report for this Board packet, implying a similar strategy can be used for the Board packet summary.

Director Hales – Tomorrow’s board meeting will hear the stormwater utility rate structure presentation. This issue has come up several times over the years, but this time the Douglas County BOS is seriously looking at moving forward. Written comments will be accepted, and CWSD should submit something. A final decision is anticipated by May 28.

Director Schuette – She had a great time on the float celebrating the grand opening of the Mexican Dam portage ramp.

Director Hinkle – No paper

Director Hendrix – No paper. Thanked Reed for his presentation of the 30-Year Plan.

Committee Member Dobson – No paper. There will be an Arbor Day tree planting at Indian Creek Apr. 24. BLM and the Sugar Pine Foundation will be out there, and it will be the first time for planting pinyon; the seedlings were grown by WEPD. Sugar pine will also be planted.

Committee Member Griffith – The invasive Golden mussel is not in Eastern Sierra yet, so Alpine Co. is not doing anything yet, but he wants to get the word out before boating season begins in earnest. It plugs up pipes, devours native species and at present there is no solution for it.

Director Sterrett – Impressed by the Forum meeting itself and the comments from the attendees and praised CWSD staff for their efforts.

Item #16 – For Discussion Only: Public Comment

None

Item #17 – Adjournment There being no further business before the Board, Chairperson Schank adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Nicholas
Senior Watershed Clerk