

## CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the May 3, 2006 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley  
Dan Greytak  
Mark McCubbin  
Randy Pahl  
Ernie Rink

**STAFF:** Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the committee's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available for review during regular business hours.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (5:32:07)** - Vice Chairperson Pugsley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman and Member Farrer were absent.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:32:27)** - None.

**1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 1, 2006 (5:32:47)** - Member Pahl moved to approve the minutes. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:34:10)** - At Mr. Krahn's request, Vice Chairperson Pugsley modified the agenda to address items B and C prior to item A.

**3. DISCLOSURES** - None.

**4. AGENDA ITEMS:**

**4-A. ACTION TO DEVELOP A QUESTION #1 CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION STATE GRANT PROGRAM PRIORITY WORK GROUP MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE, THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, AND CITY STAFF FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE CARSON CITY QUESTION #1 OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT LIST (7:25:27)** - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report, and Vice Chairperson Pugsley requested volunteers. Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the anticipated time commitment. In response to a further question, he advised that new projects may be proposed as a result of the recently-approved master plan elements. He provided a brief overview of the status of Question #1 projects. Members Pahl and Greytak and Vice Chairperson Pugsley volunteered. Vice Chairperson Pugsley entertained a motion. **Member Pahl moved**

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**to appoint himself, Member Greytak, and Vice Chairperson Pugsley to serve on the work group. Member McCubbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

**4-B. ACTION REGARDING STARTING THE ADOPTION PROCESS, AND INCORPORATION OF THE CARSON RIVER AQUATIC TRAIL MASTER PLAN INTO THE UNIFIED PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN (5:34:56) - [Member Greytak arrived at 5:35 p.m.]** Mr. Krahn provided background information and reviewed the purpose of this agenda item.

(5:39:29) Resource Concepts, Inc. Hydrologist / Fluvial Geomorphologist Lynn Zonge reviewed the agenda materials, including conceptual drawings and maps. In response to a question, she recommended that language regarding plans for the Mexican Dam remain in the plan. She read into the record revised language defining dams on the draft Carson River Aquatic Trail Map for Carson City, which she distributed to the committee members and staff. Member Pahl noted the potential conflict between respecting private property and the need to scout dams and portage from time to time. Ms. Zonge acknowledged the conflict will have to be worked through. Discussion took place regarding the mean high water mark of the River, and Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the structures referred to as dams in the Aquatic Trail Master Plan are defined as low head diversions by the State. As such, they are not controlled by the State from the perspective of safety. Discussion followed with regard to access, the importance of a River guide / map, and proper signage. Member Greytak discussed the importance of not indicating access across private property until permission has been secured.

In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the Mexican Dam Users Association owns the Mexican Dam. He responded to additional questions regarding improvements to diversions in Lyon County as well as in Carson City. Discussion followed, and Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested providing “reference to where people can get flows.” He further suggested indicating the locations of loose rock diversions, conveying some of the associated dangers and the importance of navigating them with caution. He discussed liability issues from the perspective of ranchers and private property owners.

Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed support for the revised map, and commented that it clearly indicates public and private property. He suggested indicating private land by a color other than green. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge explained that rivers typically start at a specific geographic location. The starting point indicated on the map was the confluence of the east and west forks. In response to her offer to revise the map, Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested indicating Mexican Dam as the specific geographic location. Member Pahl agreed.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn explained the City’s contract with RCI to develop the trail plan from Mexican Dam to Dayton State Park. He further explained that only the portion of the trail located in Carson City will be included in the Unified Pathways Master Plan element. Regional connectivity will be indicated by graphics and text. In response to a question, Ms. Zonge advised that because of the funding sources, two plans and two maps will be developed as part of the project. She noted that Carson City has fewer issues to address than Lyon County. The entire River plan will address maintenance and safety policies. Mr. Krahn advised that the City will maintain its property and amenities. He noted that acquisition of the Andersen / Jarrard properties will simplify issues associated with diversions. Member

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Pahl suggested that until some of the issues are resolved, the plan should not be actively promoted. In response to a question, he expressed concern over addressing the private property issues. Ms. Zonge acknowledged opposition to the plan from Lyon County residents. She advised of a housing development planned for Lyon County property adjacent to the River, and discussed the importance of Lyon County addressing safety issues on the River. She expressed the hope that Lyon County will be more proactive.

Mr. Krahn advised that implementation strategies will be developed as part of the project. He discussed partnership and funding opportunities. He described a priority matrix which has been developed as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan element, and suggested the possibility of developing a similar matrix for the River. Member Pahl expressed support for including implementation strategies in the plan.

In response to a question, Ms. Zonge provided background information on the Truckee River Aquatic Trail project. She advised that 1/3 of the available funding was allocated toward economic analysis of the project. She further advised that the analyses were “blown out of the water” in that the degree of positive economic impact from the aquatic trail has been on the “orders of magnitude” level. She explained there is no economic analysis component to the subject project, but advised that information could be included in the plan. Discussion followed, and Mr. Krahn requested the committee members to review and consider the plan and provide input over the next couple weeks. Vice Chairperson Pugsley opened this item to public comment.

(6:41:50) Sandy Gregory, owner of property at Mexican Dam, referred to her comments provided at the March committee meeting. She reiterated opposition to the plan and advised of having recently met with her family’s attorney. She read into the record a letter, from her attorney, which she advised had been sent to Open Space Manager Juan Guzman. She advised of having reviewed the liability provisions included in the plan language, and that “after reading it, ... doesn’t make me feel any better.” She advised that access across her family’s property will never be granted. She expressed concern over a point of diversion of the Mexican Dam water rights. She advised of having contacted an Army Corps of Engineers representative to discuss water rights. She expressed support for designating Mexican Dam as an unnavigable, level six water. She advised of having been a long-time Carson City resident. She referred to overflow issues associated with the Leviathan Mine, an article about which was published in the *Minden Record-Courier* on April 16<sup>th</sup>. She read a portion of the article into the record, and provided historic information on the mine and Mexican Dam. She expressed concern over sediments which have collected over many years behind the dam, and that changing the dam’s footprint will uncover sediments which could prove to be hazardous. She requested the committee to carefully consider the proposal. She reiterated her extreme opposition to the plan, particularly with regard to incorporating Mexican Dam.

Member Pahl expressed support for starting the trail below Mexican Dam. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that no action was necessary at this time. In response to a further question, he advised that the put in at Silver Saddle Ranch is proposed on the east side of the River below Mexican Dam. He responded to additional questions regarding the purpose for including Mexican Dam as part of the plan. Vice Chairperson Pugsley listed various accesses to the River. He anticipates NDOT will eventually close Cradlebaugh Bridge if use increases. He responded to questions regarding the possibility of establishing a River access, in Douglas County, at Heybourne Road.

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Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed possible action, and entertained a motion. Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding trail access along the River. He acknowledged this would be located downstream of Mexican Dam. **Member McCubbin moved to start the trail below Mexican Dam, thus removing consideration of access across private properties. Member Rink seconded the motion.** Member Pahl expressed support for the motion, but concern over excluding consideration of Mexican Dam improvements in the future. Member McCubbin acknowledged the intent of his motion was to begin the trail at the southernmost trailhead on the BLM trail site, and that the location would be marked as "mile zero." Member Greytak concurred with Member Pahl's comments in consideration of including Mexican Dam in the conceptual portion of the plan. Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 4-1.**

**4-C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2006 RIVER FLOAT TRIP FROM SILVER SADDLE RANCH BELOW MEXICAN DAM TO DAYTON STATE PARK (7:06:11)** - At Ms. Zonge's request, the committee members indicated their interest in participating. She invited the committee members to participate in a June 2<sup>nd</sup> trip with Nevada Commission on Tourism representatives.

**4-D. ACTION TO APPROVE A REQUEST BY JULIE KOOP, CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, REGARDING A PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE TRAIL AND ITS ALIGNMENT AT THE AMBROSE-CARSON RIVER NATURAL AREA (7:09:50)** - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. (7:11:27) Julie Koop introduced Chantelle Dupuis, one of her students, and provided background information on the original interpretive trail. Ms. Koop reviewed the proposed trail alignment using a displayed map. Ms. Dupuis described the proposed interpretive signage. Ms. Koop advised that more research will be conducted into the interpretive signage topics. Discussion took place with regard to the bridges. Mr. Krahn provided a recommendation with regard to possible action. Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed support for the project, and entertained a motion. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn pointed out the proposed location for a bridge crossing. **Member Pahl moved to approve the request to work with the City doing the interpretive trail. Member Greytak commended the proposal, and seconded the motion.** Ms. Koop advised the community was supportive of the original interpretive trail, and anticipates similar support for the proposed trail. She thanked the committee members for their support. Vice Chairperson Pugsley called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.**

#### 5. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM STAFF (7:36:42)** - Mr. Krahn reviewed the tentative agenda for the June committee meeting.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (7:37:12)** - Member McCubbin requested to have a presentation on the Brunswick Reservoir. Member Greytak requested to agendaize discussion of the work day, the master plan revision, and a status report on consolidation of committees.

**STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF (7:40:39)** - None.

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

(7:40:48) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the Clear Creek Watershed Coalition has scheduled a clean up day on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. He invited the committee members and the public to participate.

**6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (7:41:45) - Member Greytak moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the May 3, 2006 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006.

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CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair