

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 1, 2000 Meeting

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2000 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Thomas Hall
David Johnson
Paul Pettersen
Kevin Walsh
Barbara Wright

STAFF: Walter Sullivan, Community Development Director
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
John Warpeha, Carson River Intern
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(CRAC 11/01/00; Tape 1-0001)

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson Zimmerman. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

A. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 6, 2000 and October 4, 2000 (1-0004) - Member Johnson pointed out a correction to page three of the October 4th minutes. Member Pettersen moved to approve the minutes with the correction requested by Member Johnson. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0026) - None.

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0033) - None.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0035) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S DECEMBER 2000 AND JANUARY 2001 MEETING DATES (1-0037) - Mr. Sullivan advised that the December 6th meeting will be held at the City Hall Capitol Conference Room. He solicited input from the Committee with regard to rescheduling the January 3, 2001 meeting. Following discussion, consensus of the Committee was to leave the January 3, 2001 meeting as it is currently scheduled.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 1, 2000 Meeting

Page 2

Mr. Sullivan advised of several issues to be presented by staff at the two meetings. Mr. Krahn discussed necessary revisions to the bicycle plan and the regional transportation plan. He indicated that the meeting at which this issue is presented may be agendized as a joint meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee in order that staff can present the information at one time. Mr. Sullivan advised of two upcoming items, as follows: Title 18 is being completely updated, and the Committee's input will be requested with regard to zoning districts on the River. This item will most likely be presented at the December 6th meeting. The second issue deals with open space and public lands. The Division of State Lands has posed questions to the City regarding the vision for public lands. Staff intends to bring these questions to the Carson River Advisory Committee, the Open Space Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Planning Commission for input. Mr. Sullivan suggested that all four committees/commissions could meet at one time in order to come to a consensus which will then be passed on to the Division of State Lands and to the Board of Supervisors. This item will most likely be presented in January. A memo will be sent to the Committee members in the next two weeks in order to provide time for review and reflection on the questions. Discussion took place regarding the purpose of the Division of State Lands presentation.

F-2. UPDATE ON THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' APPROVAL OF RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX FUNDS ON THE REMAINING DEVELOPMENT FOR CARSON RIVER PARK PHASE I (1-0146) - Mr. Krahn referred to the Request for Board Action and the Application for Residential Construction Tax Funds distributed prior to the start of the meeting. He reviewed the cost breakdown, and advised that he has contacted Rich Shock of Stantech. He noted that Mr. Shock's A&E fees are almost half the estimated cost. With regard to the tree pruning/trimming project, Mr. Krahn advised that staff will work with the Streets Department to complete this project "in-house." He will enter into a contract with Mr. Shock in the next two weeks. Once the drawings are approximately 90% complete, Mr. Krahn will contact the volunteer subcommittee to discuss issues. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Krahn.

F-3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SUPPORT OF A STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND EROSION CONTROL ON ASH CANYON CREEK, A TRIBUTARY OF THE CARSON RIVER (1-0214) - Mr. Krahn advised that City Engineer Larry Werner will contact staff with regard to rescheduling this item.

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WORKING GROUP TO ASSIST THE CARSON RIVER INTERN AND CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF ON THE MORGAN MILL ROAD PORTAGE AREA, AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS ON CITY PROPERTY ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0220) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on the Morgan Mill Road portage area. He recently met with Chairperson Zimmerman, Member Johnson, and Mr. Warpeha at the site to discuss the project. Mr. Warpeha reviewed the plan drawing which was included in the agenda materials and also displayed. Discussion took place regarding the boat stake post, the 8' width of the portage, and the limited amount of parking.

Member Johnson commented on Tom Quigley's presentation approximately four years ago regarding the idea and design for this project. Member Pettersen inquired as to the reason for utilizing bark. Member Johnson indicated that the area is subject to periodic flooding. The bark is biodegradable if it should get

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 1, 2000 Meeting

Page 3

washed into the River, and the City has piles of bark stored at the City Landfill. In response to a question, Mr. Warpeha indicated that the water in the subject area is approximately knee-deep. He discussed the problem of vehicle access in the subject area and of seeing tire tracks in the river bed. He pointed out the boulders which would block access. Vice Chairperson Clift suggested placing a sign approximately 300' upriver to notify boaters of the egress area. Mr. Krahn indicated that signage would not be a problem as the Parks Department owns most of the property in the area. **Vice Chairperson Clift moved to accept the plan as presented with the minor modifications of widening the opening to 12' and the placement of signage.** In response to a question, Mr. Krahn assured the Committee that the City will maintain this facility. **Member Johnson seconded the motion.**

Mr. Warpeha pointed out the benefits of the gravel road, and Member Johnson indicated that the road surface will be similar to that which is at the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area. Member Walsh suggested placement of picnic tables as use of the area develops, and Member Hall suggested consideration of restroom facilities. Mr. Krahn discussed the special use permit requirement and indicated that these items will be included in the application. Mr. Sullivan advised that Carson City will be receiving grindings from NDOT's Highway 50 East resurfacing project. Some of the grindings will be used at the rifle range, and he will request Streets Operations Manager John Flansberg to allocate some of the grindings for this project. Mr. Sullivan is researching whether or not the area is within the flood plain. If so, the asphalt grindings will be not be used. Discussion took place regarding the benefits of utilizing grindings. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Krahn advised that he and Mr. Warpeha have been working on identifying other potential projects such as bank stabilization and erosion control willow plantings. He referred to Mr. Warpeha's draft report included in the agenda materials, and Mr. Warpeha briefly reviewed the same. Discussion took place regarding alternatives to relocating benches and exercise equipment, and Mr. Krahn clarified that the purpose of the evaluations was simply to identify problems and potential projects. Solutions will be worked out with the cooperation of Parks and Recreation Director Steve Kastens, Parks Superintendent Scott Fahrenbruch, and the volunteer working group. Part of the evaluation includes identification of costs for the upcoming budget cycle. Vice Chairperson Clift discussed the heavy use this park receives and the importance of ensuring public participation in the discussions regarding problem/project identification. Mr. Warpeha continued reviewing his report. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Warpeha for his report.

F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE VOLUNTEER INVENTORY WORKING GROUP TO ASSIST THE CARSON RIVER INTERN AND CARSON CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF ON DEVELOPMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR REVISIONS TO THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN, CHAPTER 3, RESOURCE INVENTORY SECTION (1-0973) - Mr. Krahn referred to the resource management meeting notes included in the agenda materials, and provided background information on the existing resource inventory section of the Carson River Master Plan.

Gary Juenger, Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the Dayton Valley Conservation District, referred to previous direction by the Committee to seek funding for a wildlife study. He advised that he has not received a positive response regarding cash funding for the study. He indicated that Mr. Warpeha may be able to spend a considerable amount of time on the study, and proposed three goals, as follows: to develop

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 1, 2000 Meeting

Page 4

a foundation-type document to support other activities such as wildlife habitat improvements within the area of concern; to identify opportunities and focus existing programs to target efforts more efficiently; and to record data at certain fixed monitoring stations and then take similar readings in subsequent years to evaluate the progress. He referred to the photograph distributed prior to the start of the meeting, and advised that it represents a type of photo imagery which can be utilized at almost no cost through the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") to map habitat. He reviewed the capabilities of the photo imagery system, and discussed the prohibitive cost of GIS services.

Member Pettersen expressed appreciation for the efforts to get this project started. He volunteered his time and professional assistance. Mr. Krahn indicated that he would like to have a draft inventory completed within the next 6-7 months. Mr. Juenger commended Mr. Warpeha on the resource management meeting notes. He advised of a Conservation Corps Handbook provided to staff by Jane Schmidt of the NRCS, which can be utilized to develop habitat inventory data forms. He indicated that Mr. Warpeha has a good start on some of the critically eroding bank areas within the subject area. He anticipated that of the time spent on this project, 60% would be spent on the immediate River corridor area as this is one of the most important wildlife areas. The remainder of the time would be spent in the flood plain areas away from the River and to the edge of the upland area.

Discussion took place regarding Mr. Warpeha's availability to work on this project. Mr. Krahn discussed Mr. Warpeha's responsibilities to Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development Director Dan Kaffer. He solicited the Committee's input regarding their priorities. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that the identification of critically eroded areas is part of the inventory. He expressed a preference for prioritizing the inventory. Member Pettersen concurred. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn requested action by the Committee regarding "general, overall goals," specifically the concept of the conservation corridor approach. Member Johnson expressed support for establishing the inventory, and discussed the importance of being able to understand the impacts of various recreational uses to the entire system. **Member Johnson moved that the Committee direct staff to proceed as outlined, using the conservation corridor approach to begin to develop a baseline inventory and assessment. Member Pettersen seconded the motion.** Mr. Warpeha advised that wildlife improvement was indicated to be an important goal by the resource management committee. He inquired as to whether the Committee would agree. Member Johnson clarified that his motion to direct staff to proceed includes the wildlife issues mentioned in paragraph 6 of the resources management meeting notes. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion. **Motion carried 7-0.** Mr. Warpeha discussed information available to him from the Reno chapter of the Audobon Society and the Northern Native Plant Society. Discussion took place regarding the willow planting goal requested by Dan Kaffer, and wild horse issues.

F-6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A NEVADA CONSERVATION CORPS AND CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKDAY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, JANUARY 15, 2001 (1-1498) - Mr. Krahn advised of a contact by Jerry Kier, of the Nevada Conservation Corps, who indicated that a group of 20-25 people is available to do a project on Martin Luther King Day. At the request of Mr. Krahn, Mr. Warpeha relayed the information received from Mr. Kier. Consensus of the Committee was to organize a project for the portage site. In response to a question regarding the possibility of inclement weather, Mr. Krahn requested Mr. Warpeha to inquire as to whether the work day could be postponed if necessary. No formal action was taken.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 1, 2000 Meeting

Page 5

F-7. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN (1-1595) - Mr. Krahn explained the reason for this agenda item. Paul Pugsley, Coordinator of the Upper Carson River Management Plan, discussed information regarding establishment of “grazing approaches that might bear against the River.” He indicated that this is specifically the approach of the NRCS, and that the NRCS has programs to support keeping livestock out of the River. He discussed funding sources for the same. He advised of being approached for a permit to upgrade the Lloyd’s diversion which is the rock structure just below Lloyd’s Bridge. The intent is to raise the rock level. The gap which accommodates canoeing and rafting will remain open. The purpose is to improve the pumping which takes place there. He advised of a scheduled meeting with the Mexican Dam users next week. Concerns over the water which is currently going through the dam will be discussed, as well as the viability of the structure.

Mr. Pugsley advised that the Prison Program is proceeding well. Fencing material has been purchased for Clear Creek. The diversion design, which will provide water to an established wetlands area, is complete. Vice Chairperson Clift requested pictures or slides of the project at the prison property. Mr. Pugsley explained the reason why obtaining photographs may be difficult. He will find out the extent to which the information can be provided. Mr. Juenger discussed a recent presentation to the Northern Nevada Chapter of the Wildlife Federation wherein he utilized photographs similar to the one he distributed for item F-5.

Mr. Pugsley advised of speaking with City Engineer Larry Werner who informed him of the City’s obligation to locate 11 acres of wetland for mitigation purposes. Mr. Werner has suggested the Silver Saddle Ranch, and Mr. Pugsley has been informed of a forty-acre parcel on the Andersen Ranch side of the road which may be a reasonable location for a wetlands mitigation effort. Mr. Pugsley suggested to Mr. Werner that he talk with Prison officials regarding expansion of existing wetlands. He expressed a concern relative to the watershed, and advised that the City is proceeding to develop a solution. Mr. Werner has discussed the possibility of piping effluent water to the Andersen parcel which would be advantageous for irrigating the Silver Saddle Ranch.

The Carson Water Subconservancy District, in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (“NDEP”), has entered into contract with the U.S. Geological Survey (“USGS”) to conduct a phosphorous study on the River. This is preliminary to a future NDEP requirement to establish total maximum daily loads on the River. Primary degradation to the River is caused by phosphorous. The other cause is total suspended solids or turbidity which may be a carrier of the phosphorous. The intent of the study is to begin to identify general sources of the phosphorous. Point sources on the River have been eliminated. The study will consider City, golf course, and range lands run off; and the combination use of ditches for City and field run off in Douglas County. Mr. Pugsley has been asked to identify potential locations for taking samples, 200 of which will be taken over the next year. A follow-up of approximately 70 samples will be used to further identify point specific sources.

On November 14th, the Alpine County Resource Conservation District is hosting a community meeting to determine an interest in establishing an Alpine County watershed group. The purpose of the meeting is that the State of California, through Proposition 13, has funded in excess of \$4 billion for environmental/watershed purposes. In order to access those funds, a watershed group must be established. The group may be incorporated into the Upper Carson River Coordinated Resources Management Plan depending upon the funding requirements. Mr. Pugsley commented on the uniqueness of Alpine County, including that for

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 1, 2000 Meeting

Page 6

a rather large area of land its population is only 1400, it is 96% owned by the California Department of Fish and Game, and the headwaters of five watersheds are located there.

Mr. Pugsley reported on two fairly significant across-the-River beaver dams. Dave Kaiser, who is currently farming/ranching the Silver Saddle Ranch and is the ranch manager on the Raptor PM off of Hells Bells Road, has raised a concern and has agreed to fund the State trapper to try to remove the dams. Mr. Pugsley requested direction from the Committee with regard to whether or not he should assist with this project. Member Johnson inquired as to whether the dam structures will also be removed, and Mr. Pugsley discussed the challenges of removing the dam materials. He suggested that the spring runoff may be most effective in removing the structures. Member Johnson advised of a third across-the-River dam along the golf course property downstream from the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area parking lot. Member Pettersen suggested consulting with the Nevada Division of Wildlife ("NDOW"), and Mr. Pugsley indicated that the trapper retained by Mr. Kaiser will be a NDOW staff member. Vice Chairperson Clift recommended removing the dams as well as the beavers, and discussion took place with regard to the same. In response to a question, Mr. Pugsley indicated that permits will be needed to remove the dams, and commented that the State Lands Division may present a problem because they own the riverbed.

Mr. Pugsley advised of a River workday scheduled for November 4th in Douglas County. Six thousand willows will be planted. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Pugsley for his report.

F-8. REPORT ON THE CARSON RIVER COALITION MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 24TH AND OCTOBER 30TH, 2000 (1-2098) - Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Warpeha is attending these meetings. Mr. Warpeha indicated that the phosphorous study was discussed at the October 24th meeting. A USGS representative was present at the meeting and discussion took place regarding sampling locations. One goal of the study is to establish concentration standards before imposing mandates. Discussion at the October 30th meeting included the guiding principles and goals of the integrated watershed plan.

F-9. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-2234) - Member Walsh reported on the abandoned cars removed from the area of Deer Run Road Bridge by the National Guard. He advised that BLM staff is working on finding transportation for the cars to an auto wrecking yard. He will provide a status report at the next meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT (1-2285) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the November 1, 2000 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of December, 2000.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson