

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 2, 1998 Meeting**  
Page 1 DRAFR

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, September 2, 1998 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 E. William St., Carson City, NV at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairperson Claire Clift  
David Johnson  
Mark Kimbrough  
Paul Pettersen  
Bill Piccolo  
Barbara Wright

**STAFF:** Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director  
Juan Guzman, Senior Planner

Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
Katherine McLaughlin, Recording Secretary  
(CRA 9/2/98 1-0000.5)

**NOTE** - Unless otherwise indicated each item was introduced by Vice Chairperson Clift. Individuals speaking are identified following the heading of each item. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

**A. CALL TO ORDER** - Vice Chairperson Clift called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present although Chairperson Zimmerman was absent and Member Piccolo did not arrive until 6:02 p.m.

**B. COMMITTEE ACTION**

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes** - Member Kimbrough moved to approve the Minutes of the July 1, 1998 meeting as presented. Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS** - None.

**D. DISCLOSURES** - None.

Member Piccolo arrived at this point.

**E. MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA** - None.

**F. PUBLIC HEARING**

**F-1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) ALTERNATIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SILVER SADDLE RANCH** - (1-0031.5) Mark Brethauer of the Utility Department - Chris Miller, BLM - Jane Schmitt, National Resource Conservation Service - Tom Quigley - Member Kimbrough commented that the audience who were present for other items might not want to sit through this presentation. Vice Chairperson Clift said this had to do with the water for the ranch and noted that Chairperson Zimmerman had questions relating to availability. Mr. Brethauer said Chairperson Zimmerman had asked them to come and sit through the discussion and prepare information for presentation to the Committee at their next meeting regarding specific direction. He added they had not come prepared to respond to questions relating to leasing the water. He said the irrigating season closes October 1 and there had not yet been any discussions on it from that point forward. He added that they would stay at the meeting to get direction from the Committee on what information they would like from Utilities.

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 2, 1998 Meeting**  
Page 2 DRAFR

(1-0075.5) Ms. Miller said a question resulting from meetings and the task force was that the Utilities people would be asked if it a viable concept for open space funding to use water rights for providing a green belt on the ranch. She added that would be brought out in her presentation. She said she had a draft of the three alternatives and invited the Committee to pick up copies at her office. She noted they were currently asking for public comment and input from the Committee. She added they would take questions and comments and write up the preferred alternative.

(1-0119.5) Ms. Miller then visually pointed out on a map that the ranch is off the Carson River Road and east of Prison Hill, and is 703 acres all of which can be used for recreation. She noted the acquisition of the ranch was to protect the riparian corridor and open space. She added from those two concepts they must develop alternatives and then the plan. She said the first was Alternative A - Lease Use - which was the lowest in cost for BLM. She added that currently BLM would be doing most of the funding because the City has not committed to funding the program. She next pointed out a green belt which had been requested by the public. She explained it would be from 0 to 25 to 80 feet or just along the corridor of the highway. She said the rest of the pasture could go to a natural habitat. She then said there could possibly continue to be a paid contractor to keep the area green and also mentioned the trail plan which would include that along the Mexican Ditch and that from Prison Hill to the west which could connect with some of the old roads. She said there would be a river trail noting there is currently a lot of use on the east side adjacent to the Carson River Park. She also emphasized there would be minimum development with no picnic areas or campgrounds although there would be a day use park.

(1-0191.5) Alternative B shows more access to the Silver Saddle where there would be more recreation development. She said currently 80 acres are being irrigated and this plan would probably continue that. She noted that people would be able to drive in and park either at the white or red house complex and then take off to the trails, whether by foot, bicycle or horse. She also said school groups could come in and park and use the facilities.

(1-0211.5) Alternative C is a combination. She noted that a group is interested in turning it into an attraction showing the public what an agricultural environment Silver Saddle has been. She added it would have to be able to support itself because BLM could not be a partner. She explained it would have to be a not for profit group or foundation or possibly leased to a concessionaire. She described some of the points of interest that could be included such as livestock and their care, a gift shop and possibly something about the haying operation.

(1-0289.5) An extensive discussion ensued on how much the water needs are and what it would cost to irrigate. They also talked about the costs to implement each of the alternatives and Ms. Miller provided details on costs relating to maintenance of individual components. She also responded to a question on how much of the costs BLM could pick up by providing several sources which included partnerships with citizen groups, volunteer time, fund raising, grants, etc.

(1-0519.5) Ms. Schmidt referred to Alternative C said there is a lot of concern on what could happen if the land is left in a fallow condition. She added that some of the range conservationists and wildlife biologists would like to re-seed it into natural vegetation and that they would also like to see the river expand with cottonwoods. She emphasized that abandoned agricultural land is a major environmental concern. She explained when it has been irrigated and producing and then goes back to its previous status it creates problems such as noxious weeds, etc. Ms. Miller completed her presentation at this point.

(1-0535.5) Vice Chairperson Clift then solicited public comment or action from the Committee on which of the alternatives they preferred. No public comment was given. Member Johnson moved that the Committee recommend to BLM that Alternative B was its choice. Member Kimbrough seconded the motion. He also wondered if the Committee could tie in to the alternative some of the things they felt strongest about or possibly remove some things. He felt that this could help Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller clarified it did not have to be A, B or C but possibly a combination. Member Johnson suggested the Committee could consider B so that they could pass a milestone and then come back in a subsequent motion that could suggest additions or deletions. Vice Chairperson Clift said at the August 22 workshop there had been a feeling that the Committee was leaning toward B. Tom

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 2, 1998 Meeting**  
Page 3 DRAFR

Quigley felt a good idea would be to wait until the public had an opportunity to digest the information presented. Vice Chairperson Clift said the public comment timetable to BLM ends September 11. Mr. Quigley reiterated he did not feel it was practical to pass out copies of the material until the public looked at it. Member Johnson said the comment period had been open for a fairly long time and did not feel it was as though this was something that had just come up. However, he felt there is still opportunity to provide input to BLM. He added his belief that the Committee was not speaking for everybody but rather they would only be giving their recommendation and Member Wright agreed. At this point the secretary asked for clarification as to whether they were approving Alternative B and would then come back with another motion to modify it. Member Johnson said the intent was that there are three alternatives and the Committee could first select that which they supported. He added there are some options in B so it would not be contrary to the original motion but a clarification. Motion carried 6-0-1-0. At this point Mr. Kastens suggested that Vice Chairperson Clift announce that the chair reserves the right to come back to this item after hearing F-2 which she did.

**F-2 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE MASTER PLAN ALTERNATIVES FOR THE CARSON RIVER PARK, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO** - (1-0705.5) Rich Schock of Stantech - Jean Bondiott - Mr. Schock said they had contracted with Parks and Recreation to prepare the Master Plan for the park. He noted this had started in 1997 and they had prepared Alternatives A, B and C for the plan. He added at the time BLM acquired Silver Saddle Stantech had stepped back to see how the plan for Silver Saddle would go. He then said they restarted the Master Plan process at the direction of the Committee and have prepared Alternative D. Vice Chairperson Clift asked him to review each of the alternatives, not only for Member Pettersen because he was new, but to refresh these in the minds of the Committee.

At this point the secretary advised there was a technical problem with the recording equipment and Vice Chairperson Clift declared a technical recess so that the problem could be rectified. (Tape 1-0743.5 to 1-0823.5)

(1-0829.5) Mr. Schock said they had prepared four alternates for the park. He had a drawing of the park and visually pointed out several areas in Alternate A and described their uses. He added that Alternate B is on the west side. He said it is similar and, as previously, described the area and uses. He then reviewed Alternate C and said in 1997 it was a no development plan. He visually pointed out the area and reiterated the no development option. He then said subsequent to the preparation of A, B and C the Silver Saddle Master Plan process came about. He added they had recently met with the Committee and discussed how the park would integrate into the Silver Saddle plans. He said those discussions have brought about the preparation of Alternate D. He noted in D they had designated a winter snow play area on the west side, an equestrian trailhead, parking and trails for mountain bike and pedestrian hiking. He also talked about day use areas on the east side extending into the land owned by BLM which would be a cooperative development by Parks and Recreation for access to the river. He then said on the east side they had left the natural habitat area undeveloped as opposed to A and B where they had developed picnic areas. He noted the difference is they had concentrated on development of a day use area and public access to the river adjacent to the entrance and, in a cooperative development with Silver Saddle, a day use area on the ranch land. He commented they are also connecting to proposed trails going back to the use areas at Silver Saddle.

(1-0979.5) Vice Chairperson Clift referred to Alternate D and asked if the ADA access points for fisherman would be gated off where the pavement ends. She said a hard surface trail needs to be provided so that people in wheelchairs would have access to those points. Mr. Schock said asphalt and DG would meet ADA requirements. Mr. Kastens said the material he uses under playground equipment at parks is called fibar which is rated as an acceptable surface for wheelchair access. Vice Chairperson Clift said she has seen surfaces that have proved to be difficult for wheelchair bound people to traverse and wanted to be sure whatever is used would be relatively easy for them.

(1-1057.5) Member Piccolo asked if there would be any playground equipment. Mr. Kastens said that had not been contemplated but did not see where that could not be accomplished. He noted that would be the pervue of the Committee to request that equipment and Member Piccolo said he would like to ask for it. Mr. Schock said he would add this to his list of requisites.

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 2, 1998 Meeting**  
Page 4 DRAFR

(1-1095.5) The subject returned to ADA accessibility and Mr. Kastens explained that the requirements are for reasonable accommodation. However, he said not all park facilities in the community are ADA compliant at this point. Ms. Bondiott said she had discussed availability of access for handicapped people with a fishing shop proprietor who had said they get several requests each week for handicap fishing access. She said it is her understanding that there is no accessibility in the City and emphasized her desire that this be considered. Member Kimbrough moved that the Committee support Alternative D and that the ADA design needs to be incorporated with fisherman access for handicapped so that the Committee can go into the next phase of the design. Member Pettersen seconded the motion. Member Piccolo asked that the motion be amended to add the playground equipment. Member Kimbrough amended his motion to reflect that. Member Pettersen accepted the amendment. Member Wright asked if the next step for this would be to go to the various committees. Mr. Kastens said he would like to take this to the Parks and Recreation Commission next and make sure they do not have any problems with it and then direct Mr. Schock to put cost estimates together. Member Wright asked about public input and Mr. Kastens said that opportunity had been presented at this meeting and would be available when this goes to the Parks and Recreation Commission and then at a Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried 6-0-1-0. Member Kimbrough asked about a timetable on this and Mr. Kastens said it would probably go to Parks and Recreation October 6 and should be able to go to the Board October 15 for approval. He asked Mr. Schock how soon after that could he have plans and cost estimates. Mr. Schock said it would probably be a three to five week turnaround and should be available by the first of the year.

**F-1 CONT'D** - (1-1299.) Vice Chairperson Clift went back to this for additional input. Member Kimbrough noted there had been a verbal commitment of support from BLM and asked if something written is needed. Ms. Miller felt that written documentation is important and said it should be sent to Field Manager John Singlaub and Mr. Kastens said he would handle it.

(1-1351.5) At this point Member Kimbrough commented that "green areas" had been emphasized at a public workshop and asked for discussion on that and perhaps a couple of other desires. Vice Chairperson Clift felt this is important as it relates to wildlife habitat and riparian areas. Member Piccolo supported bringing cattle on to the property if necessary to maintain the irrigation, to enhance revenue, etc. Member Wright said she accepted Alternative B because she felt it was the best plan the task force had developed. Member Kimbrough then emphasized the need for school children to have an opportunity to go to the river and get some education. He also felt the idea of wildlife habitat and green space being high priorities is important. Mr. Guzman commented that the alternative has the ability of creating a balance between the environmental concerns and enjoyment for the public. Vice Chairperson Clift felt the Committee would like to see these options implemented with Alternative B and Silver Saddle Ranch proposals. Member Kimbrough talked about fees and Ms. Miller said at this point BLM is concentrating its fees on campgrounds and mentioned Walker Lake and Indian Creek as examples and said fees relating to this facility have not been brought up. Member Kimbrough moved that the Committee supports Alternative B as the first motion but also highlights these areas for BLM on their plan to show more support from the Committee and its alternatives, one of those is that Alternative B seems to be more open to the public, the next is the fee charged for use will be minimal, third is that they support B because the trails are what is in the plan, fourth is protection of the critical areas for the wildlife needs of the area, fifth is that the green space is maintained at the highest level, meaning the most number of acres, six is that the Committee supports cattle being on the property if that is what it takes to maintain the greenery, seven is that they also support education being a function of those properties so that the school children of Carson City and the surrounding area have an opportunity for education on that site, and eight is that they would like BLM to support B but with Alternative D as recommended from this Committee for development that goes outside the boundaries of Carson City's RP&P properties on to BLM properties. Member Piccolo seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1-0.

**F-3 PRESENTATION BY JANE SCHMITT OF THE NRCS ON THE RIPARIAN HABITAT ALONG THE CARSON RIVER ON NEVADA STATE PRISON PROPERTY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO** - (1-1587.5) Ms. Schmitt explained that NRCS is a Federal agency of the Department of Agriculture and said she wanted to clarify information on the subject. She added their mission is working with private owners and in this case includes the State. She noted this is a voluntary program where the public is interested in improving natural resources or have some concerns. She then said the prison is a cooperator and is

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 2, 1998 Meeting**  
Page 5 DRAFR

listed with Carson Valley Conservation District. She said at this point they do not have a conservation plan and NRCS is available to do more with them.

(1-1637.5) She then said in 1996 an effluvial study was done on the river and was published just before the flood of January 1997 hit. She explained the study related to the hydrology of the system, existing conditions, stability of various stretches of the river, management, and gives recommendations on how the river can be improved. She noted that just above the State Prison land there is a mile of channel on private land that had been straightened. However, she said this situation could create problems downstream and provided details on how the energy is affected and how it, in turn, affects the river. She also said the assessment includes information on an excessive sediment supply on the stretch of the river where the State lands are, unstable banks, inability to establish vegetation on stream banks, and that it was significantly affected by grazing. She commented that it showed between 30 and 60 percent of the land was bare ground and said that is pretty high. She added that the vegetation is what would ultimately hold things in place. She then said the management recommendations were to establish a grazing exclusion to allow a riparian corridor to develop. She had provided before and after photos and commented that the after photos showed a dramatic recovery in the riparian corridors saying that happened with livestock use still incorporated. She then said cattle in themselves are not bad and, in many cases, management of livestock can be improved. She added that the biggest problem is people and cited some examples. She also talked about water quality and said people are critical of livestock where it is concerned. However, she added that cattle recycle nutrients and provided information on their movements and what they eat in each location. She also explained how their management can help the riparian areas.

(1-1845.5) Ms. Schmitt then talked about a noxious weed invasion saying it has become an issue and a widely discussed problem. She explained how they take over and there is no wildlife as a result. She then talked about local areas where there is an infestation and the procedure used to get rid of it. Member Kimbrough referred to the use of effluent on the prison property and asked if there is any change in the character of the pasture or the river when it is used. Ms. Schmitt said they have monthly soil testing and closely monitor the saturation rate to make sure none discharges into the river. However, she noted that there is a large buffer zone between where the effluent is being used and the river. Member Piccolo asked if the quality of water in the river is monitored. Ms. Schmitt reiterated what she had said that sampling is done because of the effluent. She also commented that some of the chemicals used to eliminate the weed in riparian areas are listed as safe but are not usually as effective as others. Member Wright said she and Mr. Wright own the McTarnahan site and asked if they need to notify anyone if they notice any infestation there. Ms. Schmitt said she did not know what is there and has only had reports of problems showing up at the river. She added that there is nobody in Carson City to call but Douglas County has a weed district that is funded by a general fund or tax. Member Pettersen asked if solutions other than chemicals are being studied. Ms. Schmitt said there are many trials going on at the present time. She added that bugs are something that could be considered but a drawback is that they eat other things such as corn and alfalfa.

(1-2051.5) Vice Chairperson Clift asked Ms. Schmitt if her discussions with prison officials had resulted in their being amenable to talking with her further about repairing some of their river banks. Ms. Schmitt said they are looking at the issues and have some plans. She added she had given them some information on soils, etc. which they were looking for and it is now their decision if they are interested in having a formal conservation plan developed. At this point she said she would come back if the Committee wanted to discuss some of these issues again. Member Kimbrough said the Committee is trying to put together a resource plan for the river. He added they had used a plan for the Humboldt as a sample but felt they really would like to do their own for the Carson River. He asked if she saw any possibility of helping them do that and she felt NRCS would be interested in working with them.

**F-4 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO** - (1-2119.5) Member Kimbrough had no new information and Vice Chairperson Clift said this was probably something left from the previous agenda.

**F-5 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PLAN OF ACTION FOR A**

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 2, 1998 Meeting**  
Page 6 DRAFR

**VIDEO AND BROCHURE FOR THE COMMITTEE WITH FUNDS FROM THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP GRANT** - (1-2135.5) Member Kimbrough said he has the paperwork on the video project and needs to get three bids. He explained he is trying to develop a scope of work to present to the vendors. He added that film maker Dave Morgan is familiar with the project and has offered to help but he needs to get the information to the others. He then said he had run the brochure past the stewardship program and it failed because it was not felt it was a stewardship project. He commented he would agendized this for the next meeting to discuss other possible funding. He then explained what he and Mr. Morgan would include in the video. At this point Mr. Morgan explained he already has film of several activities at the river and all four seasons so he did not believe it would be a difficult project. No formal action was taken.

**F-6 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CARSON RIVER CELEBRATION WEEK ACTIVITIES** - (1-2209.5) Member Kimbrough said he had been discussing the activities on September 26 with Arthur Callan and Chris Miller of BLM. He expressed the hope that all the Members would be present. He added that the Rotary and Kiwanis would also help. Ms. Miller then provided details on some of the things that are planned. She then noted that Douglas County would be involved and that Dan Kaffer was the contact. No formal action was taken.

**G. Internal Communications and Administrative Matters (Non-Action)**

**G-1 Committee Member Comments**

**A. Update from Carson City Utilities Department Regarding Water Rights for Use on the Silver Saddle Ranch** - (1-2291.5) Vice Chairperson Clift noted this had already been discussed with Utilities and would be agendized for the next meeting. She added in the meantime they would be contacting Chairperson Zimmerman to see what information he would like to see them discuss.

**B. Update Regarding the Symms Trails Grant for Sedge Road** - (1-2309.5) Member Kimbrough said this should not have been on the agenda at this point but felt that the Committee could seek funding the at the next cycle. Mr. Krahn said the new applications would be sent out in October and would be due in February. Member Kimbrough said BLM would be doing the requesting but the Committee should encourage them.

**C. Discussion on Completing the Plans for Carson River Access Off of Deer Run Road** - (1-2339.5) Member Kimbrough said some grading and other work had been done on BLM property since the last Symms Trail Grant. He added that Mr. Callan was attempting to get the work done by September 26 so that there could be a ribbon cutting celebration. However, he did not feel it would be done because there is something of a problem with road widths. He felt it would be mid October before the work is completed. Discussion ensued on naming the site. Ms. Miller said there is a sign and that it would show a name change. She added that the statewide BLM map would reflect that in the future. She then noted a kiosk would be installed which would include safety and rules for boating access and historical information.

**F-2 Staff Comments**

**A. Invitation to Attend Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on September 1, 1998 Regarding the Carson City Bicycle System Plan and Nevada Department of Transportation Presentation on Alternatives for Bike Path Along the Southern Leg of the U.S. Highway 395 Bypass** - (1-2415.5) Mr. Krahn thanked Vice Chairperson Clift and Member Wright for having attended the meeting.

(1-2419.5) He then said the Symms Grant Committee had recommended to Federal Highways that the City receive \$25,000 to extend the Mexican Ditch trail north of Fifth Street and also \$69,000 to extend the linear park from Saliman to Fifth Street. He added that at the next meeting staff hoped to officially tell the Committee that the grant had been approved.

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the September 2, 1998 Meeting**  
Page 7 DRAFR

**F-3 Agenda Items for the Next CRAC meeting on October 7, 1998** (1-2451.5) Vice Chairperson Clift said naming of the BLM area off Deer Run Road and the discussion with Utilities would be agendized. Mr. Krahn then said Mr. Schock would bring the finalized plan with cost estimates and phasing for approval by the Committee. However, Mr. Kastens said this should probably wait until the Parks and Recreation Commission approves it because they may want to make changes. Mr. Krahn said this would actually be preliminary costs.

**H. ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business Member Piccolo moved to adjourn. Member Pettersen seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1-0. Vice Chairperson Clift adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The Minutes of the September 2, 1998 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee

ARE SO APPROVED \_\_10/7\_\_\_\_\_, 1998

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Zimmerman, Chairperson