

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Randy Pahl
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Member Dan Greytak
Member Bradley Kosch
Member Mark McCubbin
Member Ernie Rink
Member Lacy Sheck

STAFF: Vern Krahn, Park Planner
Ken Arnold, Deputy Public Works Manager
Genie Azad, Watershed Coordinator
Robb Fellows, Senior Projects Manager
Jano Barnhurst, 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 is a public record, on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office. These materials are available during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER (5:31:30) - Chairperson Pahl called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:31:35) - Roll was called; a quorum was present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENIZED ITEMS (5:31:51) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:32:18) - **Member McCubbin moved to accept the minutes of the July 27, 2009 meeting. Member Rink seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:32:00) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING CARSON CITY'S LONG-RANGE WATER PLAN. (5:32:36) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item. Mr. Arnold introduced Ira Rackley and reported that the City has retained Black & Veatch to conduct a study on future water needs. Mr. Rackley advised that the plan was started two years ago and needed because of requests from the State Engineer for increasing the reserves of the water supply. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled *2010 Carson City Water Plan, Source to Tap* which is incorporated into the record.

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He discussed the water supply, climate change, new water supplies and water quality as part of his presentation.

In response to a question, Mr. Rackley replied that domestic wells are part of the restriction in the number that the State Engineer allows the City to pump, which gains an additional water right. The existing pumping the City is doing is causing the ground water table to drop and many of the wells that were 600-700 GPM are down to 300-400 GPM. There is an abundance of water rights and this is about getting wet water in the system. It helps to manage the water better by reducing the influence of domestic wells but it's more of an issue to reduce the influence of septic tanks. Mr. Arnold added that the greater issues of lowering the water table is primarily on the west side because the three years without Marlette-Hobart have been a huge factor in water management. As the pipeline systems from Marlette-Hobart improve, it will get better but will also cost a lot of money. They obtained \$3.4 million through the stimulus package to facilitate Phase 1 of the East-West transmission main, re-drilling of a well for an increased amount and better quality of water, and to replace a pump and motor on another well. They will also be pursuing additional funding from the Revolving Loan Fund. In response to a question, Mr. Rackley replied that seepage from Brunswick Canyon is a projection of how much, but they're not going to have a place to use it to max it out. There will be seepage plus whatever is obtained from a certain amount of future growth. Mr. Arnold added that it's being studied now as it has value to the community. In response to a question regarding reuse, Mr. Rackley replied that it's taking the water the City owns, and using it through an induction well, and whatever effluent goes into the river is pumped or pulled out. It's a projection of what will be in the future, and is done in other systems in the State. In response to another question, Mr. Arnold replied that Clear Creek is in the southern zone but in the Carson Valley water basin. Mr. Rackley added that the wells in the southern zone are part of Eagle Valley. Mr. Arnold added that the well soon to be drilled has Carson Valley water rights and is located on the Bigelow alignment. In response to another question, he replied that the well fields in Minden will have Carson Valley water rights that can't be fully accessed because of hydro-geologic conditions. They will be pumped from well fields in Minden and will go into a pipeline through Douglas County and into Carson City.

3-B. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE USE OF AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 FUNDS (ALSO KNOWN AS "FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS") FOR THE CARSON RIVER STREAM BANK RESTORATION AND STABILIZATION PROJECT. (6:00:05) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item. Genie Azad of the Carson Water Subconservancy District and Robb Fellows, Storm Water Manager for Public Works introduced themselves. Ms. Azad narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled *ARRA Carson River Project* which is incorporated into the record. She advised that the goal of this project is to put people to work. The Carson River, Clark County and Washoe County were recipients of this funding. She finished by advising that noxious weed abatement is a large problem throughout the river system and they will also be doing restoration along the river.

In response to a question, Ms. Azad replied that crews are mapping the infestations anywhere they are working and it is a goal to eventually map all of the areas. They are doing a lot of documenting but it also helps monitor the reaction of the infestations. In response to a question, Ms. Azad replied that county GIS

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departments will be utilized so maps will be created county by county. They will be mapping under the direction of area coordinators from conservation districts and local weed groups. Margie Evans of the Carson City Weed Coalition is the area coordinator and she has been actively mapping weed infestations and doesn't treat anything not properly mapped. Chairperson Pahl mentioned that CRAC is hoping to get Ms. Evans to give a presentation about noxious weeds.

3-C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING CARSON CITY'S HOMEOWNER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PILOT PROGRAM. (6:12:04) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and Mr. Fellows advised that the City has tried to help citizens recognize what they can do to help with water quality. Ms. Azad complimented Mr. Fellows for bringing the program to them and reported they are having fun with it. She reviewed the staff report and narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Reducing Our Impact Through Community Education and Best Management Practices*, both of which are incorporated into the record. She added that the program was designed to make it interesting for homeowners so they will want to participate. In response to a question, Mr. Fellows replied that City code authorizes them to take action in certain conditions and it takes a proactive approach to teach people what they can do to take action. In response to another question, he replied that people get used to doing things a certain way and it's going to take time and effort to educate and work with people. This is just one of many programs they have implemented but over time, it will make a difference.

Dan Jacquet with the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC), commented that water can't be produced for the water supply without affecting habitat issues in the river and recommended that the City undertake a compatibility study to look at the effects of wheeling water, pumping ground water at different times and optimizing surface water rights. Geomorphology of the river and the quantity of water affects the aquatic and riparian habitats. Open Space has spent millions of public dollars buying land on the river and the City needs to get more integrated in how it looks at water and how it affects the river. Chairperson Pahl thanked Mr. Jacquet for his comments and mentioned that CRAC has discussed trying to get the City to be more integrated in how it looks at wastewater, water and habitat. Mr. Jacquet commended CRAC for doing a great job in looking out for the City's interests. He is unsure if the City plans to look at how the water supply impacts other resources. Chairperson Pahl opined that it may be worth discussing in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Ms. Azad announced that an upcoming watershed tour is scheduled for October 10 and is open to the public. It ranges from habitat to water supply. Call the Subconservancy at 887-7450 for reservations.

3-D. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD AND CARSON RIVER REGIONAL RECREATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE'S ABANDONED CAR REMOVAL PROJECT CONDUCTED ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 IN THE CARSON RIVER CANYON. (6:28:53) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and Rick Murray with the Nevada Division of State Lands advised that twenty cars were pulled out of the canyon. Mr. Krahn showed slides of cars being removed. Chris Chrystal, Media Relations Manager for the Nevada Commission on Tourism presented background information and advised that the Carson River Regional Recreation Steering Committee was formed to work on improving the river for

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recreational boating, making it safe and more accessible, and providing public access. They had been working for some time trying to get the National Guard to conduct a training exercise at the river. She commended all of the committee members, especially Mr. Krahn and Mr. Murray for their tireless work in a successful project. Tourism is very interested in the river and the V&T Railroad will raise river awareness and it will become more sought after for recreation. There is a concern as to how to prevent dumping more cars into the river. News coverage was great and Brian Krolicki wrote a letter thanking the National Guard.

Mr. Murray advised that he spent nearly two years working to gain clearance from the Department of the Military to accomplish this project. He commended the National Guard and their crew for being the “real heavy lifters” of the project. People somehow found ways to dump car bodies down the hillside and they were lodged in all parts of the river causing obstructions to recreational rafters. Everyone was surprised at how many cars were pulled out. They worked frantically trying to ensure all the necessary resources were available and he thanked the Fire Department, Sheriff’s Department and Pick N Pull for their assistance. It was a precision operation which took a lot of coordination.

Mr. Krahn commented that the Guard was excited to help Carson City and spent most of the day pulling the cars out of a three mile section of the canyon which was also a great training opportunity for them. He expressed pride in their effort and thought they were an amazing group to work with. He complimented Ken Furlong for providing deputies to keep people out of the canyon and staging areas. He thanked Stacy Giomi and the Fire Department for providing quick response emergency personnel. Of the twenty cars, only seven had VIN numbers. He also thanked Pick N Pull who helped with the necessary paperwork in declaring the vehicles junk.

In response to a question, Mr. Murray replied that there was one car left in the canyon that couldn’t be removed. They only took the cars they could reach with a crew and most were pulled off the banks. Member McCubbin stated that he has seen quite a few cars dumped and has reported them. He would like to see a cooperative effort between Douglas County, Carson City and BLM to remove the vehicles as soon as possible. A motorcycle club pulled out a couple and dragged them to the end of the road so Douglas County could get them. Douglas County will not go onto BLM land to pick them up. He has personally reported dumpings at least four times and it’s taken weeks and months before they were pulled out by private citizens.

Member Rink commented that he is elated and that this is a neat thing for the aquatic trail and will make a big difference in the perception of the river. He expressed thanks to everyone involved. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn replied that the Carson River Regional Recreation Steering Committee should be responsible for coming up with ideas as to how to get the cars out without having them pile up. He added that the original plan was to take the cars to the dump and was told they could not unless they had clear title to the vehicles. There are numerous agency and NRS issues that have to be met before they can be disposed. Ms. Chrystal opined it may require a change in the state law. Mr. McCubbin commented that the last vehicle dumped was stolen but because it was on BLM land, the Sheriff wouldn’t take care of it. It ends up being something no one can deal with because of broken glass and leaking vehicle fluids

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contaminating ground water. Ms. Chrystal suggested inviting a BLM representative to one of their meetings to discuss an inter-government agreement. She added that her committee has no power but was assembled to work through issues and get things moving. Mr. Murray added there's a lot of landowners in the canyon and they try to make contact with them. It's a big issue to try to close portions of the road and will take a lot of different agencies to resolve it.

3-E. ACTION REGARDING THE JOINT EFFORT OF THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CARSON CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PLAN, ORGANIZE AND SPONSOR THE CARSON RIVER WORK AND EDUCATION DAY (ALSO KNOWN AS "RIVERFEST 2009") ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009 INCLUDING CHOOSING A LOCATION FOR THE EVENT ALONG THE RIVER. (6:52:02) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and Mr. Krahn advised that the area being considered is BLM property north of Riverview Park. He referred to the exhibit in the agenda materials and explained the location. The land is part of the Ambrose natural area and will soon become City property through the Federal Lands Bill. He indicated that the site could be staged out of the Korean War Memorial Park at Riverview because it has many amenities available and is not far from the site location. No tree wrapping has been done and there is a lot of trash and debris. By having City property adjacent to it they will have access without having to cross private land. Chairperson Pahl commented that a lot of the easy places have already been done so they need to focus on the hard to reach areas.

Member Sheck expressed approval of the staging site because of its amenities and it's more inviting for volunteers. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn replied it would be easy to bring in portable toilets to the site and the Memorial Park has potable water and flush toilets. Chairperson Pahl suggested painting and wrapping trees and planting willows. Mr. Krahn mentioned the possibility of 65 ROTC members volunteering for the event but expressed concern about having too many volunteers. Chairperson Pahl opined that would be too many for this site and expressed concern about having enough work for everyone. In response to a question, he replied that he would call regarding the bird boxes which could be a fourth activity. Vice Chairperson Pugsley opined that they could find enough work for everyone but the real issue is having enough implements. There's a lot of opportunity for a multitude of projects because that area hasn't been touched. Landscaping needs to be done around the trees to be wrapped and he will ensure there are enough tools to keep everyone busy. Chairperson Pahl suggesting addressing the details at a later time. Member Greytak recommended assigning group leaders because hands-on training is necessary to get them started. In response to a comment, Mr. Krahn replied if the CRAC is comfortable with this site, they can schedule it and finalize the details at a later time. The focus may need to be on obtaining implements and training leaders. T-shirts are a good way to thank people and the Chamber of Commerce (COC) may be able to get prepackaged food items. He will continue conversations with Steve Hartman and Vidler Water Company as it would be easier to get City vehicles through his property for trash removal. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested starting with Dan Jacquet of BLM. Mr. Krahn believed there was a consensus to the site.

3-F. ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLYING FOR A QUESTION 1 GRANT TO DEVELOP A HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

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FOR CARSON CITY PROPERTIES ALONG THE CARSON RIVER. (7:10:17) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and discussed the checklist included in the agenda materials. A sub-group has been working on it and they hope to get an application to State Lands for Round 11. A scope of work is needed in order to determine how much funding to request. They want to meet with State Lands to see how much they would be willing to fund. In response to a comment, Mr. Krahn added that \$150,000 is not an unreasonable amount of money and wants everyone to feel comfortable with the application. He said it may take some marketing time from a local consulting firm regarding the numbers and a public process approach. The goal is to create a document to help manage the river properties. The Bently, Serpa and Jarrard properties may all bring in new components. He mentioned the Charrette, Carson River Master Plan and Aquatic Trail as solid planning documentation to back up what they are trying to accomplish. Chairperson Pahl mentioned that other areas would be identifying potential Committee projects or pursuing restoration activity when funding is available. In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley replied that they have agreed to bond for Round 10, but haven't awarded it. There are still bonding issues regarding ones already awarded and things were on hold because of the economy. He anticipates a request for Round 11 in January. Mr. Krahn opined that it is a great use of that category in the Q-1 bond program and there are sizeable chunks of river habitat that need to be managed. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that LiDAR could be used as a match. Chairperson Pahl mentioned that there was concern that it had been used previously. Vice Chairperson Pugsley replied that Carson City's has not and the issue is how much of it applies to the City. Chairperson Pahl mentioned that waste water affects the river habitat but it hasn't been worked into the application. It is much more difficult to determine how water operations can be changed to be more responsive to habitat needs. Mr. Krahn replied that the Committee needs to work with Ira Rackley and Public Works to make sure nothing is being recommended that is at odds with them. Chairperson Pahl added it would be missing a key part of the whole conservation plan to leave it out. He opined that no formal action is needed on this item as they will continue to work on it.

3-G. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE CONCEPTUAL MULTI-USE TRAIL ALIGNMENT ON VIDLER WATER COMPANY PROPERTY WHICH WILL CONNECT THE RIVERVIEW PARK TRAIL SYSTEM TO THE EMPIRE RANCH TRAIL. (7:23:39) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and Mr. Krahn advised that this is an opportunity for continued development of Carson City's trail system. He gave a history of the Vidler Water Company and discussed the proposed alignment both of which are incorporated into the record. He added that Vidler will build the trail and the City will seek grants to provide the crossing. It's a generous donation of nice riparian areas and will allow a larger flood plain for the river and minimize its development impact. The alignment gets close to the river so it may be pulled back on the property's northeast corner and there may be other minor alignment changes. It will be a 10-12 foot wide trail and there are social trails which can be enhanced. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn replied that the Corps of Engineers and Robb Fellows met to discuss a bridge. Mr. Fellows felt comfortable and the Corps of Engineers felt it was out of the flood plain issue. It will look similar to the other bridges. As they move forward, they will proceed with preliminary concepts in order to start applying for grants. Member Greytak opined that it's an excellent asset that will link trails at Riverview to Morgan Mill and is glad to hear that it will be pulled away from the river corridor.

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3-H. ACTION TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (7:32:34) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and Mr. Krahn reported that there have been discussions about changing the date of the meetings and an idea came about to switch with OSAC. He spoke with Mr. Guzman who suggested that the two Committees alternate months. The next CRAC meeting will be November 16; the following meeting January 11; and the next meeting March 15. He stated that it's critical to stay in the Sierra Room as public access is an important aspect. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn replied that formal action isn't necessary. Member Greytak is pleased that this will allow him to attend the meetings.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS REPORTS ONLY:

STATUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF

4-A. STATUS OF MORGAN MILL ROAD RIVER ACCESS AREA PROJECT. (7:36:48) - Chairperson Pahl introduced the item and Mr. Krahn reported that they are in the process of starting construction. Horizon Construction is clearing and grubbing the site, cut the access area into the river for the ramp and are in the process of putting in the diversion. It will be 13 sandbags high along with the concrete barriers. They have to be out of the river by October 31. He commented that it was a very good opportunity with the project schedule and thinks the time line can be met fairly comfortably.

Mr. Krahn reported on the Carson River Watershed Tour to be held October 10. He gave kudos to the Kiwanis for their efforts with BLM to clean up the river and it's been exciting to see it getting a lot of attention from different sources. Member Sheck suggested walking the neighborhood around the park inviting residents to attend the work day.

MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (7:41:17) - None.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:41:20) - Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Guzman will discuss the Federal Lands Bill and the purchase of the Serpa and Bently properties. There will be a recap of Riverfest activities.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:43:58) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Member Sheck seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the September 21, 2009 Carson River Advisory Committee meeting are so approved this 16th day of November, 2009.

RANDY PAHL, Chairperson