

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 1, 2004 Meeting

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, 2004 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Randy Pahl

STAFF: Scott Fahrenbruch, Acting Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
John Flansberg, Deputy City Engineer
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0007) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Members Farrer and Wills were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0015) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 2, 2004 (1-0020) - Member Greytak moved to approve the minutes. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Vice Chairperson Pugsley referred to item 3-E, and advised that the Nevada Department of Transportation intends to begin construction on the Deer Run Road bridge project in the late summer of 2004. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 5-0.**

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0055) - Mr. Krahn requested Chairperson Zimmerman to delay item 3-A until the arrival of the presenters.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE UPCOMING CARSON CITY KIWANIS CLUB'S CARSON RIVER CLEANUP DAY TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2004 (1-1741) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that the presenters had not arrived, and provided an overview of plans for this event. He encouraged everyone's participation.

3-B. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT (1-0061) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, and introduced Mr. Flansberg. Mr. Flansberg advised that the subject project has been on NDOT's project list for 4-5 years, changing in scope from an earthquake resistant project to the full reconstruction project depicted on the preliminary erosion control plan distributed to the Committee members and staff prior to the start of the meeting. He explained that the bridge will be moved downstream of its current location and the roadway realigned on either side accordingly. He reviewed NDOT's limitation of operations which the contractor will have to follow, including that no work shall

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 1, 2004 Meeting

Page 2

occur within the normal high water marks of the Carson River between April 1st and July 31st; that traffic can be held for no more than a 20-minute duration and no more than 30 minutes through the entire project; that no active swallow nests can be destroyed during removal of the old bridge structure, which will be ensured by removing said structure between August 1st and April 1st; that any necessary road closures must occur between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and that two weeks' notice with a follow up two days' notice must first be provided to the City; and that any grading or improvements in the river channel shall not occur between April 1st and July 31st.

In response to a question, Mr. Flansberg advised that the bridge width will be 36 feet with 18-foot "edge-to-edge across the bridge." In response to a further question, Mr. Flansberg advised that bicycle lanes on Deer Run Road narrow to shared lanes at the bridge. In response to a question regarding the possibility of a weight restriction, Mr. Flansberg anticipates the new bridge will have a higher weight capacity and that there will be no restrictions. He explained that the sediment basins depicted on the preliminary erosion control plan are temporary and will remain throughout construction. He acknowledged that the sediment basins are for site erosion. In response to a comment, Mr. Flansberg advised that NDOT will be required to comply with all Army Corps of Engineers permit specifications for erosion control, including precautions to protect the channel during construction. Mr. Flansberg acknowledged that the bridge is three-span construction.

In response to a question regarding the point at which the City became involved in design of the bridge, Mr. Flansberg advised that he did not receive the plans until after review by the City's Engineering Department and was, therefore, unable to provide comments prior to 90% design. He has since provided input which will be included in the final design. Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed the importance of community involvement at a much earlier stage in design of a project such as this. Mr. Flansberg acknowledged that it was unusual for the City not to be involved earlier in the process, and advised that discussions have taken place with NDOT representatives. In response to a question, he advised that the contract has not yet been let. Specifications are in the process of being finalized, and NDOT representatives are shooting for an early October advertise date. In response to a further question, Mr. Flansberg advised that the old approaches will be incorporated into the edge of the new bridge. The old structure will be removed, and the old abutments incorporated into the new design. Mr. Flansberg indicated that utilizing the old approaches for parking spots at the crossing is not completely impossible. He advised that parking currently takes place "right off of the edge" near the BLM property.

3-C. BRIEFING ONLY ON THE WATERFALL FIRE'S DAMAGE TO THE CARSON CITY SIERRA FRONT WATERSHED AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE WATER QUALITY OF THE CARSON RIVER (1-0271) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item, and Mr. Flansberg narrated a PowerPoint presentation of the BAER Plan. Vice Chairperson Pugsley commended the BAER Team on the outstanding effort. Mr. Flansberg acknowledged that one contractor has been retained for the aerial seeding and mulching operation on all properties in the higher elevations. The lower elevations will be drill seeded in October or November with a slightly different seed mix. The Nevada Division of Forestry will provide the drills and the City will provide tractors and manpower. At Mr. Krahn's request, Mr. Flansberg reviewed plans for future reforestation and for timber salvage in the burned area. Chairperson Zimmerman commended City staff on their efforts.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 1, 2004 Meeting

Page 3

3-D. ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF POSSIBLE CHANGES IN STRATEGIES OR PRIORITIES IN THE BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE (“BAER”) TEAM’S PLAN OF ACTION REGARDING WATERSHED PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY ISSUES (1-0601) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report. Chairperson Zimmerman referred to the *Capital City Focus* publication which was included in a recent edition of the *Nevada Appeal*. The publication included a table that ranked potential damage to the surface water treatment plant. Chairperson Zimmerman noted the large dollar figures associated with restoring water service if an event of the various magnitudes listed in the table were to occur. Mr. Flansberg explained that the first priority would be to close the treatment facility intakes to limit damage. He assured the Committee members that the water which comes through the plant is treated and therefore safe. Diversions will be placed to keep out water which should not go through the treatment plant. Chairperson Zimmerman inquired as to a part of the planning process that would address a “worst case scenario” storm event. Mr. Krahn advised of having worked with the BAER Team hydrologists, who ran a series of scenarios based on typical weather patterns and storms. Senior Project Manager Robb Fellows worked with the BAER Team hydrology and geomorphology professionals to create berms and large soil structures which will help to divert storm water flows. In addition, the City is consistently working to deflect storm water flows in Kings and Ash Canyons. Mr. Krahn commented that the City has been very fortunate the storms have been minimal for this time of year.

Member Greytak referred to the public safety and information position recommended in the BAER Plan to monitor and coordinate rehabilitation efforts, and inquired as to what has been done to fill this position. Mr. Krahn was uncertain that the position will be officially filled, but advised that rehabilitation efforts are being coordinated among City staff and the various involved agencies. (1-0742) Extension Director JoAnn Skelly advised that University of Nevada Cooperative Extension staff are working with the City to coordinate volunteers. Member Greytak agreed that the cooperative effort in responding to emergencies has been well done and is covered by a multitude of agreements. He expressed concern that as the various agencies begin to diverge back into their own territories there will be a way to ensure that everyone continues to work in harmony; “that the message we’re sending out is the message we want received.” Mr. Flansberg advised that the City will continue to work closely with the Nevada Division of Forestry. He advised that there has been no individual designated to fill the role of agency coordinator as long-term rehabilitation progresses. Long-term monitoring with regard to implementation will be done both by the USFS and the NDF.

Mr. Fahrenbruch commented that one beneficial outcome of the Waterfall Fire was that the USFS, the NDF, and the City were forced to work together as a team. He advised that all agency representatives have agreed the forest could have been better managed in certain areas, and will be working together to develop a more proactive approach to forest management. Mr. Krahn advised that the USFS has withdrawn the Clear Creek / Kings Canyon Landscape Analysis and will be reviewing it as a result of the fire. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Flansberg, Mr. Fahrenbruch, and Mr. Krahn for their presentation and for their efforts following the Waterfall Fire.

3-E. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE DROUGHT’S IMPACT ON THE CARSON RIVER ECOSYSTEM’S HABITAT, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, WATER FLOW, AND WATER QUALITY (1-0940) - Carson Water Subconservancy District General Manager Ed James narrated a PowerPoint presentation. In response to a question, he explained that since most of the water in the Carson River is allocated to agriculture, many of the ranchers are out of priority when the water level

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 1, 2004 Meeting

Page 4

begins dropping. Many Lyon County ranches are out of priority this year; very few of the ditches are running and are so dry, they are actually cracking. Junior water rights went out very early this year and Mr. James advised that dry spots can be seen throughout the Carson Valley.

(1-1200) Jon Nowlin referred to a hydrograph included in Mr. James' PowerPoint presentation and advised that the shape depicted therein, which indicated that the runoff this year was earlier than the long-term mean, is a pattern predicted in drought scenarios. He discussed modeling done in the mid-1990s which considered the Carson River and the American River and possible responses to climate change. The modeling predicted, as a possible consequence of climate change, earlier and perhaps greater runoff in the spring which would tail off more rapidly with a result of less water release in the early summer and less water overall for the entire year. Mr. Nowlin noted the dramatic implications in terms of ranching operations and water supply. He discussed a recent article in *Science* magazine on climate change, which indicates that the "very different" various models have been coming out with "very similar worst case scenarios." The models are predicting a 3° centigrade increase in temperature by the year 2050 at the current rate of increase in carbon dioxide. Mr. Nowlin suggested that the probability of further droughts can be anticipated, and that they may last longer and have a greater impact than in the past 80 years of record.

Mr. James referred to the hydrograph and advised that agriculture will be more impacted because there is no upstream storage. As the population grows and consideration is given to utilizing the Carson River for domestic water supplies, things will "get tricky." Mr. James advised that the CWSD is considering these issues and possible impacts in terms of planning. He explained that constructing upstream storage is not possible at this time. Underground storage and other opportunities are possibilities for domestic use, but will not benefit agricultural use.

Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that reclaimed effluent could be used for agriculture as communities grow. In reference to Mr. Nowlin's comments, he advised that the current issue of *National Geographic* has some of the same data as the *Science* magazine with regard to climate change. The *National Geographic* articles are accompanied by time sequenced photographs of glaciers and sea ice over the last 50-70 years which show significant change. Chairperson Zimmerman agreed that this period of drought appears to be related to global changes and climatic conditions. Mr. James suggested that the same periodicals will be discussing the next flood in ten years. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. James for his presentation.

3-F. ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CARSON RIVER AWARDS FOR BUSINESSES, AGENCIES, OR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE RECREATIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-1297) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item and reviewed the pertinent agenda materials. He advised of having received nominations by phone from Phyllis Atkinson for Mary Kay Riedl and for Linda Conlan, of the River Wranglers. Vice Chairperson Pugsley expressed the opinion that adding Mary Kay Riedl to the list of nominees would be appropriate. He expressed support for the River Wranglers but advised that the program is "outside the reach of Carson City." He suggested that it may be inappropriate, within the scope of this award program, to include Linda Conlan. Member Greytak suggested including Mary Kay Riedl as part of a nomination for the Carson River Coalition. Chairperson Zimmerman expressed the opinion that Vice Chairperson

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 1, 2004 Meeting

Page 5

Pugsley and Member Greytak should be recognized for their restoration and habitat working group activities. He commented that Vice Chairperson Pugsley's and Member Greytak's jobs and service outside their jobs bring them to the forefront of stewardship and education. Vice Chairperson Pugsley thanked Chairperson Zimmerman and advised that he was presented an award just previous to being appointed to the Committee. Discussion took place regarding the nominations, and **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to consider Steve Kastens and the Carson River Coalition for this year's awards. Member Pahl seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

3-G. UPDATE ONLY ON THE SELECTION OF THE NEW PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR (1-0863) - Mr. Fahrenbruch reviewed the staff report. Vice Chairperson Pugsley, who participated in the interview panel, advised that each of the five candidates had outstanding qualifications. He discussed the applicants' favorable impressions of the properties and facilities over which the Parks and Recreation Department has purview.

3-H. UPDATE ONLY ON THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN AND THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN (1-1521) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the agenda materials pertinent to this item. He provided contact information for himself and Principal Planner Lee Plemel, and reviewed the public meeting schedule which begins Monday, October 18th. He invited the Committee members to attend the public meetings. He responded to questions regarding the format for the Trails Plan Public Workshop scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd. In response to a question regarding whether the urban interface plan will be included, Mr. Krahn advised that BLM representatives were in the process of developing a cost estimate for involving their staff in the master planning process. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that staff hopes some of the work to be done by the consultants as part of the master planning process can be used to blend with the urban interface plan. Part of the master plan scope of work is to consider federal land and how it interfaces with Carson City. Vice Chairperson Pugsley recommended that staff not actually draw lines on a map for the trails meeting. Chairperson Zimmerman called for additional questions and comments; however, none were forthcoming. Mr. Krahn reiterated the invitation to the Committee members to attend the public meetings.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1781) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the Carson Valley Conservation District has scheduled its river work day for Saturday, October 23rd. He invited anyone interested to contact the CVCD. Member Greytak discussed the recent activities of the riparian habitat group, and advised of recently developed habitat identification tools. He discussed the riparian habitat group's interest in scheduling a work day which focuses more on conservation.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-1857) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the "FYI" items included the agenda materials, with particular attention to the Carson River Conference information. He thanked Member Greytak, the riparian habitat group, and the education work group for their patience in getting additional meetings scheduled.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 1, 2004 Meeting

Page 6

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1902) - Member Greytak requested staff to agendaize discussion regarding a river work day. Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested agendaizing a CWSD representative to provide background on the Carson River Conference. Mr. Krahn reviewed tentative agenda items from staff.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-1945) - Member Pahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the September 1, 2004 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 6th day of October, 2004.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair