

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 4, 2003 Meeting

Page 1

A Carson River Advisory Committee field trip was scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2003 at the Silver Saddle Ranch Wetlands. The purpose of the field trip was to tour the wetlands created as part of the Carson City freeway bypass wetlands mitigation plan. The entire Committee was present. The following City staff members were present: Parks and Recreation Director Steve Kastens, Parks Planner Vern Krahn, Open Space Manager Juan Guzman, City Engineer Larry Werner, Recording Secretary Kathleen King. Several citizens were present, as well as Dan Jacquet of the Bureau of Land Management, JoAnn Skelly of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and Jane Schmidt of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:15 p.m. in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
Thomas Hall
Everett Hill
David Johnson

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A tape recording of the proceedings which took place in the Community Center Sierra Room is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0007) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0031) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 7, 2003 (1-0013) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to accept the minutes, as written. Member Greytak seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0037) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING CARSON CITY'S DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PLAN FOR THE CARSON CITY FREEWAY WETLAND MITIGATION AT THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH (1-0039) - Mr. Krahn discussed the tour of the Silver Saddle Ranch wetlands which took place prior to the meeting. Member Hall commented that the wetlands appears to be a good thing; if it stays the way it has been presented, it should benefit the wildlife. Member Greytak inquired as to why the Committee was not apprised that creation of the wetlands was going forward until after the fact. Mr.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 4, 2003 Meeting

Page 2

Krahn referred to the Committee's involvement in development of the Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan which provides for a wetlands on the north side of Carson River Road. Once the Committee provided its input, the Bureau of Land Management implemented the processes mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"). Mr. Krahn assured the Committee that the planning process was moving forward in relationship to the freeway as well as the Silver Saddle Ranch Master Plan. Member Johnson recalled discussion regarding the potential for creation of a wetlands at the Silver Saddle Ranch during a meeting held in the red house. Mr. Krahn advised that staff would keep in mind providing an update to the Committee regarding larger scale projects at the Silver Saddle Ranch.

In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that once reclaimed water is available at the site, the wetlands may be kept full year round. Member Farrer referred to comments made during the field trip by City Engineer Larry Werner regarding management as "a Nevada wetlands." He inquired as to whether there is an ecological reason for allowing the wetlands to evaporate. Mr. Kastens suggested that Mr. Werner may be better able to answer the question because of having access to pertinent information. Member Johnson advised that there are native species in the area which require a period of flooding and drying. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that the wetlands is a good project. He expressed support for the concept of keeping the mitigation wetlands within Carson City and the River corridor area. He commended the Bureau of Land Management and the City on the project.

3-B. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED MAP DEVELOPED BY THE CARSON RIVER COALITION EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (1-0143) - JoAnn Skelly, Chairperson of the Cooperative Extension Education Committee, presented the Watershed Map, a copy of which was included in the agenda materials and also displayed. She offered to make the map available to anyone and provided her telephone number. She provided an overview of the map, and discussed the goal of a user-friendly product to share with children and adults which would raise awareness of and benefit the River. In response to a question, she advised of the agency representatives involved in creating the map, including from the Carson Water Subconservancy District ("CWSD"), the Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Cooperative Extension offices of Carson City and Douglas County, and from the Dayton area. Ms. Skelly advised that the map is not to scale. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Skelly for her presentation and expressed appreciation for the effort of those involved in creating the map.

3-C. ACTION ON STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1 CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS (1-0199) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and referred to the draft administrative regulations included in the agenda materials. Member Greytak referred to page 12, the Ineligible Matches list, and noted that the administrative regulations do not recognize operational and maintenance or project monitoring costs. He expressed the opinion that these should be valid matches which could be quantified over a period of time, particularly for river restoration projects. He suggested that project monitoring costs would be easy to establish, and that maintenance costs could be established at a percentage similar to grants which do accept maintenance costs for the first 1-3 years. In response to a question, Member Greytak advised that projects funded through the Carson Tahoe Conservancy, in the Tahoe Basin, commonly include costs for monitoring and maintenance.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 4, 2003 Meeting

Page 3

Vice Chairperson Pugsley suggested that the Committee consider the designation of the 100-year flood plain as the “river corridor.” In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the Board of Supervisors recently approved the CWSD as administrator of the \$10 million allocation for Carson River projects. He indicated there had not been any official division of the \$10 million between the four counties; it has only been proposed to ensure each county receives a portion. On the other hand, if the \$10 million is equally divided, the counties will not be allowed to just hold the money; the funds will have to be expended. Vice Chairperson Pugsley agreed that Mr. Kastens’ comments accurately represented the direction being pursued. He pointed out that there was no indication of the same incorporated in the draft regulations, however. He suggested that it may be included in some sort of operational perspective with the CWSD. He advised of the concern that the entire \$10 million be expended on the River. He expressed an additional concern that the river corridor not be so broadly defined that a large portion of the \$10 million is allowed to be spent on projects which are not necessarily integral to the River. In response to a comment, Vice Chairperson Pugsley indicated that the 100-year flood plain probably works reasonably well in Carson City. He advised that the 100-year flood plain is “all of Carson Valley ... literally including portions of the east side of [U.S. Highway] 395.” If the \$10 million is evenly divided among the four counties, it may not be a concern as long as the definition is adequate for Carson City. If the allocation is based more on some concept of the resource or the amount of ground within the flood plain in the given counties, Churchill County has virtually no flood plain, Carson Valley has a huge flood plain, and the two counties in between have very narrow corridors of flood plain. Vice Chairperson Pugsley reiterated the opinion that the definition works well for the Carson River in Carson City. “If the administrative regulations indicated that it is the intent to [provide] Carson City the opportunity to allocate \$2.5 million as it sees fit and not in competition with the other four counties until the last three years, ... that works real well.” He reiterated that the concept was not included in the draft regulations. Mr. Kastens commented that the Division of State Lands will most likely “stay global” and allow the CWSD to administer the funds. Vice Chairperson Pugsley noted that CWSD representatives have indicated a clear intent to divide the \$10 million evenly between the four counties. Six years from now, if it appears one of the counties cannot spend its share, the CWSD will either help them spend it or reallocate the funding to a county which can spend it. Member Farrer agreed that the proposal to divide the \$10 million equally between the four counties should be in writing. Member Greytak agreed with Vice Chairperson Pugsley’s comments.

Member Hall reiterated concerns expressed at previous meetings regarding the economic condition of the State and the likelihood of acquiring matching funds. He suggested that Carson City may have a better chance of acquiring matching funds than the other counties. Vice Chairperson Pugsley referred to the “Eligible Matches” paragraph on page 12 of the regulations and the July 1, 2000 time frame for initiated projects. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised of discussions regarding definition of the term “initiated.” He agreed that the July 1, 2000 date is fairly well established; how the term “initiated” will be defined is another matter. He advised that phase 2 of Carson River Park will most likely be considered within the specified time frame. Member Johnson commented that it would be ironic to be penalized for advanced planning and initiation of projects done prior to passage of Question #1. Discussion took place regarding the Carson River Park phases, and Mr. Krahn acknowledged he would like to use the phase 1B costs to match phase 2. **Vice Chairperson Pugsley moved to compile those items discussed into one communication with State Lands as suggested considerations in their further development of these regulations, including allocations, operating/maintenance and monitoring costs. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 4, 2003 Meeting

Page 4

3-D. ACTION ON SELECTING TWO COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON A SUBCOMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A PROJECT LIST AND PRIORITY RANKING MATRIX FOR CARSON CITY'S STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION #1 PROJECTS (1-0539) - Mr. Kastens referred to the May 28, 2003 memo included in the agenda materials and provided an overview of the same. Chairperson Zimmerman referred to the project priorities already established by the Committee and, in response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that Mr. Krahn and Mr. Guzman will be developing a matrix of the priorities already indicated by the pertinent advisory committees. He described the information to be included in the matrix, including potential funding sources. He advised that approximately two hours will be designated for the subcommittee meeting on July 23rd. Chairperson Zimmerman requested volunteers; Vice Chairperson Pugsley volunteered. Chairperson Zimmerman volunteered and indicated he would defer to any other Committee member who would like to volunteer. Mr. Kastens acknowledged that possible match funding sources will be included in the matrix.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-0679) - Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Member Hall for his service to the Committee. (1-0723) Member Hill discussed the reasons for his resignation and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Member Hill for his service to the Committee. Member Hall advised that he would provide a copy of the advertisement to the president of the homeowners association. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that since Member Greytak is a River property owner, perhaps he could change his designation in order that the "wildlife interests" position could be advertised. Mr. Kastens advised that staff would check into this possibility. Discussion took place regarding other potential Committee members. Member Greytak advised of the Clear Creek Cleanup Day scheduled for Saturday, June 14th at Fuji Park. (1-0847) In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Pugsley discussed the status of a project at the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area following a peak flow of approximately 3,000 cfs.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-0692) - Mr. Krahn advised that Member Hill would not be reapplying which will leave two vacancies on the Committee. He discussed Committee representation of River property owners, and displayed the announcement which will be published in the paper advertising the vacancies. (1-0813) Mr. Krahn advised that the July 2nd meeting would be canceled. He reviewed the remaining FYI items included in the agenda materials. (1-0904) Mr. Krahn provided Member Farrer copies of the revised Carson River Master Plan and Open Space Master Plan elements.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-0832) - Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the results of the subcommittee meeting will be included on the August agenda.

ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-0928) - Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the June 4, 2003 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 3rd day of September, 2003.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair