

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 7, 2002 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2002 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Charles Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Claire Clift
Dan Greytak
Tom Hall

STAFF: Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Laura Lueders, Carson River Intern
Craig Bird, Open Space Volunteer
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 and inspection during regular business hours.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Member Johnson was absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 1, 2002 (1-0002) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to approve the minutes. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0004) - None.

D. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA (1-0010) - Chairperson Zimmerman modified the agenda to address item F-8 following item F-3.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0019) - None.

F. PUBLIC MEETING

F-1. ACTION REGARDING NOXIOUS WEEDS WITHIN THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED AND THE STATE OF NEVADA (1-0021) - Mr. Krahn introduced Dawn Rafferty, Noxious Weed Program Coordinator, from the Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Industry. He referred to an article published in the *Nevada Appeal* regarding Ms. Rafferty's presentation. Ms. Rafferty discussed Jane Schmidt's efforts in developing the Alpine County and Carson Watershed Weed District. She discussed her efforts to form a weed group in each county and the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes regarding weed control. She commended Transportation Manager John Flansberg on his weed abatement efforts in Carson City. She discussed the status of noxious weeds in the Carson watershed, and advised that there are still many land owners who don't know how and/or don't have the resources to address the problem. Department of Agriculture staff, together with other agencies and groups, is trying to find ways to provide assistance to both private citizens and government agencies.

Ms. Rafferty acknowledged the many weed problems in Carson City, and discussed the need for manpower,

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equipment, and proper timing. She advised there is a great deal of coordination to be done, and that the issue needs to be more seriously considered. Nevada is unique in that it is not yet overrun with noxious weeds. There is still opportunity to be proactive and “nip it in the bud” before it costs “billions of dollars.” Ms. Rafferty requested the assistance of the Committee in making the issue of noxious weeds more of a priority in Carson City.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the Streets Department has taken an aggressive approach to tall white top. He suggested agendaizing a status report by Streets Department staff for a future meeting. Ms. Rafferty advised that a weed plan was developed in 2000 and that it is annually reviewed. It includes a five-year action plan and a weed map, which is constantly updated and will be presented to the State Legislature during the next session. In answer to a previous question, Ms. Rafferty advised that the weed problem is “gaining on us.” She indicated that part of the problem is a lack of education on the part of many private landowners. A concerted effort is being made on government roadways and “we may be gaining in those areas but we’re losing in a lot of other areas that we don’t even know about.” At the request of Mr. Kastens, Ms. Rafferty provided information on how to obtain the Invasive Plants Identification Handbook which was distributed to the Committee members and staff prior to the start of the meeting. She provided an overview of the Handbook, explained how to report noxious weeds, and provided her telephone number (688-1180, ext. 269).

In response to a question, Ms. Rafferty advised that, with the exception of Douglas and Churchill Counties, there is no funding available for weed abatement. Counties can create weed districts, as provided for in the statutes, which can serve as a funding source. Department of Agriculture staff will submit a bill to the next legislature requesting funding for a weed control staff person in every county. Ms. Rafferty discussed the revenue-generating weed program developed in Montana, and advised that a county commissioner from Montana will be presenting at the Annual Weed Meeting in October.

Mr. Kastens advised that the weed abatement program in Carson City is currently funded through discretionary monies from the general fund. Mr. Flansberg is spearheading the program and Mr. Kastens provided his telephone number for the benefit of the viewing public. Ms. Rafferty and Mr. Kastens responded to questions regarding thistle birdseed, the possibility of yellowstar thistle in Blackwells Pond Park, and the growth rate of yellowstar thistle. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Rafferty for her presentation.

F-2. PRESENTATION BY CHAD GOURLEY, MANAGER OF OTIS BAY, L.L.C. RIVERINE CONSULTANTS, REGARDING GEOMORPHOLOGY STUDIES OF RIVERINE ENVIRONMENTS (1-0250) - [Chairperson Zimmerman recessed the meeting at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:24 p.m.] Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report and introduced Mr. Gourley, who provided background information on Otis Bay, L.L.C. and the geomorphology study being considered for the Carson River. Mr. Gourley narrated a slide presentation on work he has done on the Truckee River and the Provo River. He discussed the importance of river systems in the western United States, Otis Bay’s definition of river restoration, requirements for restoration and maintenance of a healthy river system, and studies associated with river restoration.

Mr. Gourley reviewed the restoration project for the portion of the Truckee River which runs along the McCarran Ranch. He discussed the negative effects of the flood control (straightening) project done by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s. He advised that The Nature Conservancy, working with local governments, purchased the bottom land within the 100-year flood plain with the intent of restoring the river.

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Otis Bay, L.L.C. was hired to design the project. Mr. Gourley reviewed objectives for riparian vegetation, public benefits of the restoration project, and elements of the restoration project, including re-establishing the natural meanders in the channel, re-creation of the former wetlands, and filling the old channel, as water is available, into the new channel. He displayed before and after slides of a restoration project which was done on the east fork of the Sevier River in Utah. He responded to questions regarding costs associated with restoration projects, and discussed passive restoration. He displayed before and after slides of another restoration project on the portion of the Provo River which runs through the Heber Valley. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Gourley for his presentation.

In response to a question, Mr. Gourley advised that Otis Bay Consultants will be continuing a previously-started geomorphology study on the Carson River. He explained that his presentation was at the request of Mr. Guzman, who has seen previous presentations of restoration projects done by Otis Bay, L.L.C. He advised that the Carson River geomorphology study is being funded by the Bureau of Land Management. Vice Chairperson Clift commended Mr. Gourley on his work.

F-3. ACTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT REGARDING GEOMORPHOLOGY STUDIES OF THE CARSON RIVER (1-0965) - Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report and the attached letter. Member Greytak requested staff to add a line asking the BLM to keep the Committee informed as to the progress of the project. **Member Greytak moved to authorize the chairperson to sign the letter, and add a line requesting staff to keep the Committee informed of the progress. Vice Chairperson Clift seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

F-4. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPERTIES LOCATED ALONG THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION FOR PURCHASE AS PART OF ROUND 4 OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT; and F-5. ACTION TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE ADOPTION OF THE PRIORITY LIST OF PROPERTIES AS ESTABLISHED BY THE TRI-COUNTY GROUP (CARSON, DOUGLAS AND WASHOE COUNTIES) FOR POTENTIAL ACQUISITION AS PART OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT, ROUND IV (1-1455) - [Chairperson Zimmerman recessed the meeting at 7:33 p.m. and reconvened at 7:39 p.m.] Mr. Guzman reviewed the staff report and pointed out properties owned by Mr. Erickson, Mr. Bently and Mr. Serpa as depicted on a displayed map. He advised that Mr. Bently is not in favor of outright purchase as is done under the provisions of the SNPLMA; however, discussions will continue. Mr. Guzman advised that Mr. Erickson has decided to keep his property due to his interest in development of the V&T Railroad. The other property owners have not objected to having their properties nominated.

In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that the BLM has been informed of the City's intent to reserve the right to proceed with the railroad project. He further advised that mercury contamination is the main concern regarding lands on the north side of the river. The BLM does not wish to have title fee ownership of lands which are the subject of the Superfund study. City staff has entered into preliminary discussions with Division of State Lands staff, who have expressed an interest in taking ownership of the contaminated lands because of the long term plan for access to Churchill County and other recreational areas along the River. Mr. Guzman described the characteristics and values of the Serpa and Bently properties, and advised that the Open Space Advisory Committee reviewed the nominated properties at their July 15th meeting.

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In response to a question, Mr. Guzman advised that the property from Silver Saddle down to the dam has been approved for purchase and staff is beginning to implement the purchase and study processes. He advised that BLM staff is searching for a firm to conduct the environmental reviews and an appraiser to appraise the land. There are nine properties from the end of Silver Saddle Ranch to "Tortilla Flats" which will become public land if the appraisals meet with the owners' approval. In response to a further question, Mr. Guzman advised of preliminary conversations with the City Engineer, who has indicated there is not much interest in maintaining the private road which serves Chuck and Barbara Wright's property. Mr. Guzman has discussed the same issue with Chuck Pope, of the BLM, who has indicated that if it becomes necessary to support public access and the road is no longer being used privately, the BLM will reconsider the issue. Mr. Guzman clarified that there are two additional property owners in the vicinity who use the road.

Mr. Guzman introduced Craig Bird, Open Space Volunteer, and thanked him for his assistance in preparing the documentation and presentation for these agenda items. Mr. Guzman narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the Tri-County Group, the SNPLMA Nomination and Acquisition Process, and the nominated properties. He responded to questions regarding disposition of water rights, the possibility of reprioritizing the Bowers Mansion property, and the developability of the nominated lands. **Vice Chairperson Clift moved to accept the list, as presented. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

F-6. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE UPCOMING FIELD TRIP ON MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2002 TO THE NORTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER TO VISIT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF AND REVIEW HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS ON PRISON PROPERTY (1-2158) - Mr. Krahn commended Office Support Technician Stella Hyatt for organizing and scheduling the meeting. He reviewed the staff report and, in response to a question, advised that it is not yet known whether the new warden will be present at the meeting.

F-7. ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CARSON RIVER AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR BUSINESSES, AGENCIES, OR INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE RECREATION, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-2190) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the staff report and the five nominations included in the agenda materials. Member Greytak provided background information on the educational nomination for "NDOW/BLM/Carson Fly Fishing Club," and recommended that the Carson Fly Fishing Club receive the award because its members are the volunteers who have sponsored and presented the Trout in the Classroom program. He suggested sending letters of appreciation to the agencies that support the Trout in the Classroom program. Vice Chairperson Clift nominated Kevin Walsh as a stewardship award recipient for his work on the river, in connection with the Committee over the last three years, and with the Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association.

Discussion took place regarding the cost of the plaques and, in response to a question, Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the Carson City Kiwanis Club was previously awarded a plaque. He described the design of the plaques and the Certificates of Acknowledgment, and advised that letters of appreciation have also been sent. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that funding is available to purchase up to five plaques. **Vice Chairperson Clift moved to issue plaques to Laura Lueders, Carson Fly Fishing Club, Nancy Bish, Kevin Walsh, and Paul Pugsley, and to provide a letter similar to that which was sent last year to the remaining nominees thanking them for their assistance on the river. Member Hall seconded the motion.** In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that Vice Chairperson Clift subsidized the plaque

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funding last year to bring the total to six. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a vote on the pending motion; **motion carried 4-0.**

F-8. ACTION REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN, INCLUDING FUTURE PROJECTS AT SILVER SADDLE RANCH/CARSON RIVER PARK, AMBROSE NATURAL AREA, AND ACROSS FROM MORGAN MILL ROAD ACCESS AREA (1-1001) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Paul Pugsley, of the Carson Valley Conservation District, referred to a displayed drawing of the Ambrose Natural Area, and pointed out a particular bank which will be the subject of a bioengineering project. He described access to and the characteristics of the bank and the surrounding area, including a nearby scour hole. He advised that the bioengineering workshop will take place in October, and discussed the proposed elements of the project. He acknowledged that the objective of the project is to demonstrate the ability of bioengineering to stabilize a steep bank. His preference was to do the entire project with vegetation; however, because of the characteristics of the site, this will not be possible. He pointed out the proposed locations of brush box barbs made of 20' willows and placed approximately 14 feet into the river, the purpose of which is to gather sediment. Juniper revetments will be anchored to the bank, and a steep portion of the bank will be removed. The result will be sediment trapped in the curve which will bring "dramatic plant material" with it.

Mr. Pugsley advised that the scour hole has the potential to grow from its current 5' to 10' in the presence of a 3,000 to 5,000 cfs flow. He explained that the scour hole is very natural and is a part of "what the river wants to do in this sort of curved environment." Rather than installing a rip rap wall in the curve, Mr. Pugsley pointed out the proposed locations for pilings which would be driven 10' deep into the river bed and will maintain the existing integrity of the bank. In the carved out and curved areas, additional poles would be driven into the ground with additional revetment, the concept being to hold the curve in place. Deep-hole cottonwoods and willows would be planted behind the revetment. Mr. Pugsley advised that rock floors will be placed in the bank at the base of the brush box barbs to anchor them.

Mr. Pugsley advised that much of the work will be done by a contractor, the class will be on site on October 22nd, a field day is scheduled for October 23rd, and a tour will be conducted on October 24th. He invited the Committee members to participate in the tour. He responded to questions regarding the size of the brush box barbs and their function; whether or not the barbs may create boating hazards at high water levels; the materials to be used for constructing the barbs; the height of the juniper revetments; stability of the structures in the presence of a high flow; the length of the project; funding sources; surveys conducted; equipment access; the time frame for permits, and the permits required.

Mr. Pugsley advised of a river bank restoration project being initiated at the Ambrosetti Pond. He has entered into an agreement with NDEP for sampling phosphorous and other chemical constituents in the River. There are five sites in Carson City, including the linear ditch, Clear Creek, Mexican Dam, and Deer Run Road. Depending upon the site, he will gather samples four or nine times a year. He referred to the e-mail from Genie Azad advising of the next CRC meeting. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Pugsley for his presentation. No formal action was taken.

G. COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS (1-2488) - Member Hall advised of receiving the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife agendas. He indicated he would review the agendas and determine whether there is information pertinent to the Committee before attending the meetings. Vice Chairperson Clift advised of having reviewed the Storm Drainage Advisory Committee's last meeting agenda and

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determining there was nothing pertinent to the Committee. She further advised of having watched the July 15th Open Space Advisory Committee meeting on television.

H. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBER STATUS REPORTS (1-2546) - Mr. Krahn advised that former Committee member Kevin Walsh has indicated his continued interest in the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment process. He will be providing an update to the Committee at the October meeting. Vice Chairperson Clift requested staff to agendize an update on the status of eradicating tall white top. Member Greytak suggested agendizing discussion regarding development of a stream zone ordinance.

I. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-2607) - In response to a question, Ms. King advised that the Human Resources Department has not yet received any applications for the vacancies created by the resignations of Kevin Walsh and Barbara Wright. In response to a further question, Mr. Krahn advised that both vacancies have been or will be advertised. Discussion took place regarding Member Johnson's continued interest in serving as a member of the Committee, and Mr. Kastens indicated that staff would contact him. At the request of Member Greytak, Mr. Krahn provided his telephone number for the benefit of the viewing public, and discussed the qualifications necessary to fill the vacancies.

J. ADJOURNMENT (1-2680) - Vice Chairperson Clift moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Member Greytak seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Minutes of the August 7, 2002 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this _____ day of September, 2002.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair