

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the April 4, 2001 Meeting**

**Page 1**

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, 2001 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** David Johnson, Acting Chairperson  
Thomas Hall  
Paul Pettersen  
Kevin Walsh  
Barbara Wright

**STAFF:** Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director  
Vern Krahn, Park Planner  
John Warpeha, Carson River Intern  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary  
(CRAC 04/04/01)

**NOTE:** Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Acting Chairperson Johnson. 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, ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001)** - Acting Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman and Vice Chairperson Clift were absent.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 7, 2001 (1-0010)** - Member Walsh noted a clarification to a statement made under item F-7. Member Pettersen moved to approve the minutes with the previously stated amendment. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0-2-0.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0037)** - None.

**D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0057)** - Mr. Krahn requested that the Committee defer consideration of items F-1 and F-2 until Chris Miller arrived at the meeting.

**E. DISCLOSURES (1-0066)** - Acting Chairperson Johnson advised that item F-2 was agendized at his request following a discussion with his neighbors.

**F. PUBLIC HEARING**

**F-1. UPDATE ON BLM'S PLANNING EFFORTS FOR THE SILVER SADDLE RANCH (1-0793)** - Chris Miller, of the Bureau of Land Management, reported that Mike Baily has been hired as the park ranger at the Silver Saddle Ranch. Mr. Baily will be working weekends and has been busy implementing structural changes, eliminating weed problems, putting up signs, and redirecting ATV traffic. Ms. Miller further reported that she has been working with the Pine Nut Mountains Trail Association on a brochure to advise people regarding ATV trails.

## **CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the April 4, 2001 Meeting**

#### **Page 2**

Ms. Miller advised of a meeting with City staff on March 23<sup>rd</sup> wherein discussion took place regarding assistance in getting potable water to the Silver Saddle Ranch, grey water for the fields as a part of the Wetlands Mitigation Act, and funding for development of a Silver Saddle Ranch brochure. Ms. Miller advised that the last signs have been ordered from the funding provided by the 1999 T-21 grant. One of the signs will be installed at Carson River Park and will show the various trails, roads, and access points in the area. Ms. Miller will be submitting an additional grant application for interpretive signs. She will be requesting funding from the City for rehabilitation of the red and white houses and replacement of barbed wire fences.

Ms. Miller advised that the riparian project is underway, and that fourteen acres of wetlands will be created as a result. She described the location of the wetlands. An environmental education project, the High Sierra Resource Workshop, will begin in June. Any interested high school students can contact Ms. Miller for more information. Acting Chairperson Johnson expressed appreciation for Ms. Miller's leadership in relation to the Silver Saddle Ranch. In response to a question, Ms. Miller advised that the staging area, located one mile south of Mexican Dam Road on the east side of the River, is being used for both OHV and equestrian activities. Ms. Miller indicated that the Nevada Conservation Corps will be working to improve the equestrian trail this summer. Member Walsh indicated that the Pine Nut Mountains Trail Association can provide ideas regarding berms which will assist with unloading vehicles. Ms. Miller indicated that these projects can be addressed during Carson River Day and National Public Lands Day (September 15, 2001).

#### **F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING BLM'S LAND RESTORATION EFFORTS (FORMER ROCKY CONNER PROPERTY) ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0915) -**

Ms. Miller advised of conversations with Dan Jacquet and Ron Telcan, both of the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Telcan has been discussing with the City Street Department the placement of boulders on the eastern access of Deer Run Road and Pinion Hills Drive. In response to a question, Ms. Miller described the location of the former Rocky Conner property. In response to a question regarding concerns expressed over dust and dirt in the area, Ms. Miller advised that the area was seeded last year on National Public Lands Day. She will check the area and recommend a second seed application if necessary. Acting Chairperson Johnson advised that some growth is taking place. He discussed the heavy use of the area, described access to the flood plain, and advised of erosion due to recent grading work. He suggested that Ms. Miller look into stabilization of the wash. Ms. Miller advised that she will check into the need for backhoe work in the area. She further advised that Julie Koop's high school science class, Mark Kimbrough, and BLM staff will be working on the trail project at the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. She invited the Committee members and the public to participate. Member Wright thanked Ms. Miller for all her efforts and for the regular status reports. Ms. Miller thanked the Committee for their support.

#### **F-3. UPDATE REGARDING THE CARSON RIVER CANYON (NORTHERN SECTION OF THE CARSON RIVER), SPECIFICALLY ISSUES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERSHIP, CHARACTER, AND LAND USE (1-0083) -**

Member Walsh provided background information on this project, and read a letter to Sheriff Rod Bannister into the record. He advised that Sheriff Bannister was helpful in providing an understanding of the problems with enforcement in the area. Member Walsh

## **CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the April 4, 2001 Meeting**

#### **Page 3**

indicated that he will be looking into the possibility of having the mounted posse patrol the area on a regular basis. He noted that it will be in conjunction with the will of the private property owners with whom he has been establishing contact. He plans to organize a clean up project within the next few months. Acting Chairperson Johnson thanked Member Walsh for his report.

**F-4. UPDATE REGARDING THE STATUS OF JUNK CARS NEAR DEER RUN ROAD BRIDGE (1-0140)** - Member Walsh advised that there are currently 7-8 cars near the bridge, and that a private wrecking yard from Moundhouse has offered to remove them. If the cars are not removed some time during the month of April, the National Guard is expected to remove them. Member Walsh advised that he will continue to monitor the situation, and provide updates as appropriate. Acting Chairperson Johnson expressed appreciation for the fact that this situation is being addressed as he has received many inquiries regarding the status of the cars. Member Pettersen expressed appreciation for Member Walsh's efforts. Member Walsh expressed appreciation for the private wrecking yard's offer to remove the cars.

**F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING A FUTURE COMMITTEE RAFT TRIP WITH THE WESTERN NEVADA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ON THE CARSON RIVER (1-0175)** - Mr. Krahn introduced Dan Kaffer, of the Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development Agency. Mr. Kaffer introduced Supervisor Robin Williamson, who discussed a raft trip from Genoa to Cradlebaugh Bridge where she viewed damage from the 1997 flood, restoration efforts, and wildlife. Mr. Kaffer suggested that, because this is a drought year and flows may drop off by the beginning of June, the Committee should consider scheduling the raft trip for late April or early May. He advised that the proposed route from Cradlebaugh Bridge to Lloyd's Bridge will take approximately five hours including stops to view certain sites along the way and for lunch. He described some of the projects and the condition of the River which the Committee will see along the route.

Member Wright discussed damage caused by trespassing in the area of her home. Mr. Kaffer discussed damage which has occurred since 1860, and its subsequent effect on the River. He advised that one of the stops will be the Mexican Dam, and discussed representatives from various agencies who are interested in participating in the trip. Future projects will be discussed, including those which the Committee could work on with the conservation districts and the prison. Mr. Kaffer discussed additional items of interest to be pointed out on the trip, and invited any interested Committee members to help plan the trip. He indicated that extra canoes are always welcome. He solicited input from the Committee regarding possible dates, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Acting Chairperson Johnson advised of the raft trip taken by the Committee two years ago and the decision made at that time to take another trip. In response to a question, he advised that the trip route was from Cradlebaugh Bridge to the Deer Run Road Bridge. Consensus of the Committee was to tentatively schedule Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> for the raft trip. Mr. Krahn offered to have the Parks Department secretary poll the Committee members. Supervisor Williamson agreed to invite State Archivist Guy Rocha. Mr. Kaffer advised that he will invite wildlife experts, a fluvial geomorphologist, and others involved in irrigation diversions, etc. He suggested that anyone interested in attending should "find a canoe." He will attempt to find canoes for the Committee members, and asked that anyone with an available canoe contact him at 883-2292. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of available rafts and life jackets. Mr. Kaffer advised that canoes will not be used in the midst of spring run off. He discussed the participants in the last River tour, and advised that the

## CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the April 4, 2001 Meeting

#### Page 4

Committee members could invite guests as long as the guests provide their own canoes or rafts. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the trip would be posted as a possible quorum.

Mr. Kaffer commended Mr. Krahn and Mr. Warpeha on their hard work and support of the Carson River Advisory Committee. Acting Chairperson Johnson thanked Mr. Kaffer. Mr. Kaffer advised of his participation in the High Sierra Youth Camp as “Kit Kaffer” on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Krahn reiterated that the Parks Department Secretary would phone the Committee members to confirm the May 12<sup>th</sup> date. No formal action was taken.

**F-6. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHICH WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF NOXIOUS WEEDS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER, AN UPDATE ON THE MEXICAN DAM, TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AT THE AMBROSE-CARSON RIVER NATURAL AREA, AND THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT’S CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDING RESOURCES TO CARSON RIVER PROJECTS (1-0423)** - Paul Pugsley, of the Upper Carson River Coordinated Resources Management Project, reported that two bridges have been constructed at the Ambrose-Carson River Natural Area (“ACRNA”). Julie Koop’s high school class will be at the ACRNA on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to build a trail and install fencing.

Mr. Pugsley further reported that the Mexican Dam Users Association (the “Association”) agreed to a \$20,000 engineering assessment which will include a structural, sediment transport and grade control appraisal. He commended the City on its offer to fund the study. In turn, the Association agreed to provide water to the City, on an interim basis, for a structured wetland which will be created on a 17-acre parcel of Silver Saddle Ranch property to the north of River Road. Mr. Pugsley provided background information on the wetland and explained the need for water from the Mexican Dam. R.L. Anderson will most likely conduct the engineering assessment, and Mr. Pugsley anticipates that it will be done once the water level drops. He noted that the assessment will not include drilling for core samples below the grade, which will need to take place prior to any construction. He advised of a recommendation from Bently Agrodynamics regarding removal of the Mexican Dam. He discussed negotiations between the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection and Bently regarding permits to use effluent water on Kirman Field. In response to a question, he described the location of Kirman Field. He discussed the benefits of using the effluent water, and advised that the wetlands in the area have been very successful. He stated that “no effluent water goes to the Carson River anywhere on the Carson River, unlike the Truckee, because effluent water is used on the agricultural fields throughout the valley as is two-thirds of the water from the Tahoe Basin.” Discussion took place regarding effluent water users in the area of Kirman Field.

Kim Hanson, of the Carson Valley Conservation District, provided background information on, and discussed the activities of, the noxious weed group. She advised that the group established a weed area which includes Alpine County and the upper Carson River watershed. The group is comprised of public, private, tribal, and state representatives. An Integrated Weed Management Process has been developed, which is a five-year plan to reach site-specific areas including large parcels of land and residential areas. She discussed plans for education involving the Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”), the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Alpine County, Douglas County, the Washoe Tribe, etc.

## **CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the April 4, 2001 Meeting**

#### **Page 5**

Some of the plan objectives include targeting priority weeds and simplifying the processes for spraying, permitting, etc. Weed treatments include spraying, burning, hand pulling, and bio-control. Other elements of the strategic plan include communication, obtaining grant funding, and mapping.

Ms. Hanson provided detailed information regarding the yellow starthistle which has been designated a high priority for Nevada, and referred to the workshop and tour flyer distributed prior to the start of the meeting. In response to a question, Ms. Hanson displayed a weed booklet, and advised that property owners can call the Cooperative Extension and the NRCS with questions. She acknowledged that assessments will be done free of charge, and discussed a cost-share program and a donation by Dow Chemical for large agricultural areas. In response to a further question, Ms. Hanson reviewed the details of bio-control treatments. Acting Chairperson Johnson thanked Ms. Hanson for her presentation. Mr. Pugsley advised that a portion of the donation by Dow Chemical will be allocated to Carson City, and that Jane Schmidt, of the NRCS, is administering the grant.

Discussion took place regarding the weed booklet which was distributed last year by the NRCS to residents of the River corridor. Ms. Hanson acknowledged that weed booklets can be obtained through the NRCS and advised that the Committee is welcome to distribute them at river workdays, river tours, watershed meetings, etc. She provided the contact number for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Minden.

**F-7. UPDATE REGARDING THE NEVADA CONSERVATION CORPS AND CONSERVATION CREWS WORK TIME SCHEDULE AT CARSON RIVER PARK AND MORGAN MILL ROAD RIVER ACCESS AREA (1-1051)** - Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Warpeha has been working extensively with the Nevada Conservation Corps ("NCC") and other crews on River projects. With regard to the Morgan Mill Road River Access project, Mr. Warpeha reported that, on March 12 and 13, 2001, the NCC crew installed rebar in the steps, smoothed a path to the culvert, filled a large hole along the path parallel to Morgan Mill Road, connected the golf course path with the Morgan Mill path, planted native basin rye grass, cleared the area for recreational safety, and removed hazardous cottonwoods.

On March 14-16, the river trail at Carson River Park was improved, hazardous trees were cleared, and willow trees were planted in the detention area by the parking lot. At Mr. Krahn's request, Mr. Warpeha described the process for planting willow stakes. Mr. Warpeha advised that the Empire Ranch Golf Course Trail Relocation/Restoration Project was just completed by NCC crews and Empire Ranch Golf Course staff on March 26-29, 2001. Part of the fence was relocated and the lower trail was planted with native rye grass to encourage use of the upper trail. Phase two of the project is planned for April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup> at which time the upper trail will be improved. Barbless wire was installed at the northern section of the trail and the slanted portion of the trail was smoothed to improve recreational safety. Acting Chairperson Johnson thanked Mr. Warpeha for his report. Member Pettersen commended Mr. Warpeha on his efforts.

**F-8. UPDATE REGARDING COMPLETION OF CARSON RIVER PARK, PHASE I, SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (1-1179)** - Mr. Krahn advised that final construction documents were submitted to the Carson City Contracts Department today. He will be working with staff to get the contracts out to bid and will provide a time schedule for the project at the next meeting. In response to a question, he advised that he and Mr. Pugsley have discussed timing the project in such a way as to miss the

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the April 4, 2001 Meeting**

**Page 6**

high water stage. He will be discussing this further with Mr. Pugsley, and estimated that the project will take approximately a month to complete.

In response to a question, Mr. Krahn advised that the Carson River Master Plan includes separate phases for Carson River Park. The first phase (1A) was completed with Question #18 funding. Residential construction tax was requested for completion of Phase 1B. Residential construction tax and recreation trail funding may be available this year as additional funding sources. Mr. Krahn intends to begin consideration of phase two, which will involve the BLM property west of the asphalt parking lot. Well issues and a potable water source are questions which need to be resolved. In response to a question, Mr. Krahn discussed the gates to be included in the bid for Phase 1B. Discussion took place regarding the need to close the gate at night.

**F-9. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-1323)** - Mr. Krahn advised that items F-5, F-6, and F-8 will be reauthorized for the next meeting. Member Pettersen requested an update on the Chapter 3 revisions, and Mr. Krahn discussed the time frame for this project.

**G. ADJOURNMENT (1-1409)** - Member Pettersen moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the April 4, 2001 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2001.

---

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson