

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 Wednesday, May 5, 2004 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Chuck Zimmerman
Vice Chairperson Paul Pugsley
Tom Farrer
Dan Greytak
Mark McCubbin
Keith Wills

STAFF: Scott Fahrenbruch, Acting Parks and Recreation Director
Vern Krahn, Park Planner
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 (1-0008) - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Pugsley arrived at 6:04 p.m. Member Pahl was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0013) - None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 3, 2004 (1-0017) - Member Farrer moved to accept the minutes, as written. Member Greytak seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (1-0026) - None.

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING "EXPLORE YOUR WATERSHED PROGRAM" (1-0029) - Watershed Coordinator Genie Azad, of the Carson Water Subconservancy District, introduced Nonpoint Source Program Project WET Coordinator Mary Kay Riedl, of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. Ms. Azad advised that the "Explore Your Watershed Program" was presented at a recent meeting of the Nevada Water Resources Association, where it won the Educational Program of the Year Award. Ms. Azad and Ms. Riedl narrated the "Explore Your Watershed" PowerPoint presentation. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Ms. Azad and Ms. Riedl for their presentation. Member Greytak commended them on the award.

3-B. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE CARSON CITY FREEWAY'S WATER QUALITY TREATMENT FACILITIES, TREATMENT METHODS, AND THEIR PROPOSED IMPACTS TO THE WATER QUALITY ENTERING THE CARSON RIVER (1-0282) - Carson City Freeway Project Manager Jim Gallegos introduced Principal Hydraulic Engineer Paul Frost, and provided

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background information on Mr. Frost's experience over the last ten years working on freeway drainage design, hydrology studies, and water quality treatment facilities. Mr. Gallegos advised that NDOT representatives believe the freeway project will actually improve the water quality of the Carson River. Mr. Frost narrated a PowerPoint presentation, entitled "Carson Freeway Erosion Control/Water Quality Design." [Vice Chairperson Pugsley arrived at 6:04 p.m.] Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Frost and Mr. Gallegos for their presentation, and expressed appreciation for NDOT's consideration of water quality issues.

Member Greytak inquired as to the relationship between the Silver Saddle Ranch wetlands and the freeway flood control project. Mr. Frost advised that the freeway project impacted approximately eleven acres which NDOT is mitigating "within the valley and outside the valley." Mr. Gallegos explained that, during negotiations on the landscape and multi-use path included in phase 1 of the freeway bypass, Carson City agreed to create the Silver Saddle Ranch wetlands. NDOT did a 3:1 mitigation in the Washoe Valley wetlands bank. Mr. Frost advised that the central water quality basin and the water quality basin south of Fifth Street both have fairly substantial areas which are anticipated to become true wetlands. In response to a question, he advised that NDOT staff anticipates the basin bottoms to always be at least soggy; however, he doesn't anticipate standing water. The water collection channel on the upstream side will pull some water and prevent it from rising within the wetland. Mr. Frost responded to additional questions regarding the amount of water flowing through the culverts during construction.

In response to a question, Mr. Gallegos explained that the contractor was required to submit a noxious weed plan, and to map all noxious weeds on the project prior to beginning construction. He advised that the contract specifications included some of the same requirements which the U.S. Forest Service has applied to managing noxious weeds in the Lake Tahoe area. He explained the method by which noxious weeds were flagged and protected, and advised that the contractor has conformed to the requirements and proceeded with construction. He advised that NDOT environmental staff was involved in overseeing the mapping and protection of the area.

In response to a question regarding the NDEP discharge permit, Mr. Frost advised that NDOT was only required to provide qualitative predictions, not quantitative. He acknowledged that there are not yet any predictions of total maximum daily loads. Water quality will be demonstrated through sediment deposition, collection, and removal. In response to a further question, Mr. Frost advised that a specific monitoring location will eventually be established. Chairperson Zimmerman noted that the revegetation effort is very ambitious, and inquired as to its anticipated success. Mr. Frost advised that NDOT representatives are hopeful the revegetation effort will be successful. He provided background information on the research conducted, the involvement of WRC and Western Botanical Services, and advised that the seed mix developed should be compatible with the arid climate. Planting has been done at the most opportune times, and provisions have been made to water the plants if necessary. In addition, a plan is in place to revegetate areas after a couple years, if necessary. Mr. Krahn discussed the process involved in developing the seed mix, and advised that topsoil will be integrated into the slopes to allow for water harvest. He commented that NDOT representatives made a tremendous effort to develop a successful plan. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Frost and Mr. Gallegos. He recessed the meeting at 6:22 p.m. and reconvened at 6:26 p.m.

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3-C. UPDATE ONLY FROM THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S VOLUNTEER RIPARIAN HABITAT GROUP AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ON THEIR PROGRESS ON A HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ALONG THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-0825) - Member Greytak provided background information on this item, and advised that three meetings of the volunteer working group had taken place since the last Committee meeting. He reviewed the summary of the March 12, 2004 meeting which was included in the agenda materials. He distributed Goals of the Riparian Habitat Group of Carson City, and read the same into the record. He advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10th at Carson River Park. He invited anyone interested to attend and participate. Chairperson Zimmerman and Mr. Krahn thanked Member Greytak for taking the lead on this project.

Mr. Krahn advised that staff has been considering the related advisory committees with regard to the Riparian Habitat Group's goals. He suggested that the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission may be interested in providing input. In response to a question, Member Greytak expressed the hope that the goals will be quantifiable. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that Question #1 funding may be applicable to this project. Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised of a wildlife habitat planning allocation from Question #1 which has only a 5% match requirement. Member Greytak discussed the importance of involving habitat experts, educators, City department representatives, and the public. Mr. Krahn expressed appreciation for the Habitat Group's balanced, multi-use approach. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that best management practices are needed to educate Parks maintenance staff and the public as to why such things as leaving dead wood along the River are beneficial. He commented that this project will be very beneficial to Parks staff. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Member Greytak, who thanked staff for their participation and encouragement.

3-D. ACTION TO APPROVE THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S PLANNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY, AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE AT THEIR MARCH 3, 2004 MEETING (1-1160) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the revised planning goals and objectives included in the agenda materials. **Member Greytak moved to adopt the Carson River Advisory Committee Planning Goals for the Carson River within Carson City, as amended March 3rd, and with the addition of the word "issues" under item I(D) after the words "land development" and before the words "and resource protection along Clear Creek."** Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1236) - Vice Chairperson Pugsley advised that the Carson Valley Conservation District has been awarded the contract to survey the Carson River in the majority of its flood plain, from the California/Nevada border to the mouth of the Lahontan Reservoir. He described LIDAR technology which will be used to conduct the survey, and the anticipated resolution. The survey will provide a digital elevation model which will, in turn, provide a contour map with 1' elevations for the flood plain in Carson Valley, Carson City, and Dayton. In addition, a hyperspectral survey will be conducted and the results used primarily as a vegetation identification tool for the entire flood plain and specifically riparian areas. Vice Chairperson Pugsley

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anticipates the area will be flown during the last week of June/first week of July, and that the data sets will be available in October or November 2004. He is awaiting return phone calls from City Engineer Larry Werner and GIS Coordinator Scott Royal to inquire as to their interest in participating. He advised that Washoe Tribe representatives have initiated discussion regarding a work project along Clear Creek below Highway 395, and that the Carson Water Subconservancy District, which provided a substantial amount of funding for the project, is interested in including Alpine County.

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (1-1315) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the “FYI” items included in the agenda materials. He advised that the Board of Supervisors denied the \$75,000 match funding request for the Carson River Park Phase II project which was submitted as part of the Capital Improvement Project process. Staff is seeking to identify other funding sources, and Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the Question #1 funding time table. At Mr. Krahn’s request, Member Greytak provided an overview of the leadership training course sponsored by the City and the UNR Cooperative Extension.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1-1574) - Chairperson Zimmerman requested staff to agendize discussion regarding Chapter 3 of the Carson River Master Plan Element. In light of the Independence Day holiday, Chairperson Zimmerman suggested polling the Committee members with regard to their availability for the July 7th meeting. Mr. Krahn discussed the Pine Nut Mountain Plan Amendment which is anticipated to be available for public review in the near future. He responded to questions regarding proposed revisions to the Bicycle System Plan.

5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-1730) - Member Farrer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Vice Chairperson Pugsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Minutes of the May 5, 2004 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 2nd day of June, 2004.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair