

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2001 Meeting

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2001 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Claire Clift

Dan Greytak

Thomas Hall

Kevin Walsh

Barbara Wright

STAFF: Vern Krahn, Parks Planner

John Warpeha, Carson River Intern

Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

(CRAC 08/01/01)

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Vice Chairperson Clift. 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) - Vice Chairperson Clift called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Chairperson Zimmerman and Member Johnson were absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 20, 2001 (1-0006) - Member Wright moved to approve the minutes. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0011) - Michael Conroy provided background information on development of the Riverview Park wetlands. He advised that the only supply of water for the wetlands is the Mexican Ditch which is dry during drought years. He expressed a preference for maintaining the wetlands through August of each year in order to support the wildlife habitat. He discussed possible solutions, which included requesting the Federal Watermaster to "keep it full"; creating dikes or berms so that effluent water could be used without draining to the River; further treatment of wastewater to make it suitable for drainage into the river; topping the aquifers in Eagle Valley to compensate for short water years; changing the watering schedule to every three days instead of every other day and using the excess in the wells to fill up the wetlands. Mr. Conroy advised of conversations regarding this matter with the Federal Watermaster, Parks Superintendent Scott Fahrenbruch, Sewer Operations Chief Kelvin Ikehara, Water Operations Chief Curtis Horton, Utility Operations Manager Tom Hoffert, Gabe Vinegas and John Singlaub of the BLM, Steve Brown of State Water Resources, and Paul Pugsley of the Carson Valley Conservation District ("CVCD"). Vice Chairperson Clift advised Mr. Conroy that this matter could be agendized for discussion and possible action at the next meeting. Mr. Krahn advised that Mr. Fahrenbruch has been considering various options to address this matter. He suggested that Mr. Conroy could discuss the matter with Parks and Recreation Director Steve Kastens as well. He will discuss agendizing the item for the next meeting with Chairperson Zimmerman or Vice Chairperson Clift.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2001 Meeting

Page 2

D. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0078) - Mr. Krahn advised that item F-9 would be deferred to the next meeting as Chris Miller was on temporary assignment and unable to attend this meeting.

E. DISCLOSURES (1-0091) - None.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F-1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY BY CARL LACKEY, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE (“NDOW”) BIOLOGIST, REGARDING BEAVER ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE DAMAGE ALONG THE CARSON RIVER AND NDOW’S MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES (1-0093) - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this agenda item and introduced Mr. Lackey. Mr. Lackey introduced Ted Lowery, a private trapper, and provided information on his background and experience. Mr. Lackey provided a slide presentation, including discussion regarding beaver biology, the possible origin of beavers to the Carson River area, benefits and detriments of beavers, beaver trapping statistics, beaver damage, and trapping benefits. Mr. Lackey displayed a typical Nevada beaver pelt, a beaver skull, and various forms of traps.

In response to a question, Mr. Lackey advised that NDOW has established a beaver trapping season to manage the population. He explained that beaver populations fluctuate depending upon habitat conditions. NDOW does not currently conduct censuses on beaver populations. The only data available consists of the number of beavers trapped each year and the number of complaints to which NDOW staff respond. Mr. Lackey suggested that the beaver population is most likely lower than it was ten years ago due to climatic conditions over the last few years. He acknowledged that NDOW’s mission is not to eliminate beavers from Nevada watersheds. NDOW manages wildlife for the citizens of Nevada and, pursuant to Nevada statute, when wildlife is causing damage or destruction to property, NDOW staff is charged with taking care of the specific problem. In response to a question, Mr. Lackey discussed beaver diets. Member Wright expressed appreciation for the trapping service provided by NDOW. In response to a further question, Mr. Lackey discussed NDOW’s trapping services for the Bureau of Land Management, the beaver trapping season, and the long-term benefits of tree wrapping. Mr. Warpeha discussed the extensive damage to cottonwoods and willows caused by beavers along the River, and encouraged continued pressure on the beaver population. Mr. Lackey acknowledged that the beaver population is an ongoing problem which needs an ongoing solution. He further acknowledged that beaver lodges along the banks contribute to erosion. He responded to questions regarding trapping regulations and precautions for trapping non-target species.

Mr. Lowery discussed his routine for communicating with private land owners regarding pets, foot traffic, etc. prior to setting traps. He responded to questions regarding beaver diets, the method for setting traps, and the various traps used. Vice Chairperson Clift and Mr. Krahn thanked Mr. Lackey and Mr. Lowery for their presentation.

F-2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE REVIEW AND INCORPORATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS INTO THE FINAL DRAFT DOCUMENT TO CHAPTER 3 OF THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN RESOURCE INVENTORY SECTION (1-0705) - Mr. Krahn referred to the written comments included in the agenda materials, and the additional written comments

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2001 Meeting

Page 3

distributed prior to the start of the meeting. He provided background information on this item and discussed the articles published by the Nevada *Appeal* and the Reno *Gazette-Journal*. He advised of discussing the written comments of NDOW Biologist Patrick Sollberger and Water Resources Specialist John Cobourn with Chairperson Zimmerman. Mr. Krahn indicated that Mr. Cobourn's comments may be more appropriately incorporated in Chapter 6 of the Carson River master plan. Mr. Pugsley commented that Chapter 6 addresses environmental resource concerns, including water quality and the health of the River. He indicated that it would be inappropriate to incorporate beneficial use issues within the scope of Chapter 3.

With regard to the written comments of NDOW Biologist Walter Mandeville and Jack Walters, Mr. Krahn advised there were no specific concerns. He reviewed staff's recommended action for this item, and advised that Mr. Warpeha could most likely complete the project within the next week. In response to a question, he indicated that Chairperson Zimmerman had not reviewed the comments of Mr. Mandeville or Mr. Walters. In response to a further question, Mr. Krahn explained that opportunities for additional public comment will be available at the time the proposed revisions are submitted to the Regional Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. **Member Greytak moved to accept the comments, have them reviewed by John Warpeha and incorporated into the final revision of Chapter 3.** At the request of Mr. Krahn, **Member Greytak amended his motion to accept the comments of Walter Mandeville, Jack Walters, and Patrick Sollberger, and withhold the comments of John Cobourn to be incorporated in another more appropriate chapter, and have John Warpeha move forward with the final version of Chapter 3.** Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

F-3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW CHAPTER 3 OF THE CARSON RIVER MASTER PLAN RESOURCE INVENTORY SECTION (1-0867) - Member Hall moved to accept the changes as stated tonight into Chapter 3 of the master plan. Member Walsh seconded the motion. In response to a question, Member Hall acknowledged that his motion included acceptance of the entire Chapter 3 revision. Motion carried 5-0.

F-4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CERTIFICATES OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR BUSINESSES, AGENCIES, OR INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE RECREATIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ALONG THE CARSON RIVER WITHIN CARSON CITY (1-0885) - Mr. Krahn reviewed the nominations included in the agenda materials and those which were distributed prior to the start of the meeting. Discussion took place regarding the plaques awarded in 1999, the cost, and the award format. Mr. Krahn advised that Mark Kimbrough has other photographs for consideration, and Vice Chairperson Clift requested that the Committee be provided an opportunity to review them.

Member Walsh commented that every nominee is worthy of recognition, and the nominees most worthy are those who have contributed on a volunteer basis without compensation. Vice Chairperson Clift solicited Committee member comments with regard to plaques versus certificates. Member Greytak suggested awarding two plaques in each of the three categories. He further suggested giving additional consideration to those individuals or agencies who were nominated more than once by separate people. Member Wright concurred. Member Hall commented that plaques are more significant than certificates. He acknowledged the cost constraints, and commented that every nominee is deserving of some

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2001 Meeting

Page 4

recognition. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the budget allows for six plaques. Vice Chairperson Clift offered to donate funding to cover any cost not met by the plaque budget. Member Walsh concurred with awarding a limited number of plaques, and acknowledging the remaining nominees with a certificate. Vice Chairperson Clift suggested recognizing the remaining nominees with a letter from the Committee. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that the Committee should take action at this meeting in order to allow enough time to order the plaques. Discussion took place regarding the method by which to determine the award recipients. **Member Walsh moved to award six plaques to be divided among the various nominees with the remaining nominees to receive certificates and a letter of appreciation. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** (Vice Chairperson Clift recessed the meeting at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

At the direction of the Committee, Mr. Krahn read the list of award recipients, as follows: Rose Mary Johnson, John Warpeha, Jack Walters, Southwest Gas, Julie Koop and Dan Kaffer. He advised that, if for some reason, any of the individuals has already received a plaque, the list will continue with Phyllis Lipka, the Carson Water Subconservancy District (“CWSD”), the Nevada Conservation Corps (Jerry Kier), John Singlaub of the Bureau of Land Management, Gary Schiff of the U.S. Forest Service, and the Kiwanis Club. Vice Chairperson Clift solicited public comment.

(1-1410) David Morgan, of Nevada Video Productions, commented on John Singlaub’s contributions to the community and requested that the Committee acknowledge his efforts. Member Walsh concurred with Mr. Morgan’s comments, and discussed Mr. Singlaub’s participation in the first meeting of the Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Singlaub’s efforts. Vice Chairperson Clift also acknowledged Mr. Singlaub’s contributions to the community, and expressed the hope that he will be nominated again next year. She commented that the six people chosen had a direct impact on the River in the last year. Mr. Morgan clarified that his request was to perhaps include Mr. Singlaub’s superiors as additional recipients of his letter of appreciation. **Member Hall moved to adopt the list of award recipients, as set forth by the Committee, with the first six receiving plaques and the remainder receiving letters of recognition from the Committee for the work done to help Carson City and the River in particular. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

F-5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE NEW JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE NEXT “CARSON RIVER INTERN” (1-1508) - Mr. Krahn referred to the memo included in the agenda materials regarding Mr. Warpeha’s new position with the Washoe Tribe. He advised of a meeting with Supervisor Robin Williamson, Paul Pugsley, Dan Kaffer, and Chairperson Zimmerman to discuss the future of the intern program. Consensus was that the program had been successful and that it should continue. Mr. Krahn discussed the goal to change the focus of the intern position to address private property issues. He referred to the job description distributed prior to the start of the meeting, and invited Mr. Pugsley to the podium to discuss issues regarding Clear Creek.

Mr. Pugsley reviewed the intern responsibilities outlined by the CVCD. He advised that discussion has taken place regarding formation of a watershed group specific to Clear Creek. He hopes to involve the private land owners both in Carson City and Douglas County, the Fuji Park Users Coalition, property owners below Highway 50, and State Prison officials. He discussed a significant erosion problem caused by runoff from Highway 50 up the grade to Spooner Summit. The Carson River intern would provide the

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2001 Meeting

Page 5

background time necessary to develop a watershed group, including research of land ownership history, roads, etc. The CVCD has received a grant from the CWS to sponsor that activity.

Mr. Krahn advised that Dan Kaffer, of the Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development Agency, is very committed to the intern program. He explained that funding mechanisms for the program have yet to be finalized, and that two resumes have been received from Jerry Kier, of the Nevada Conservation Corps. He reviewed the responsibilities outlined by the WNRCD and the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding Mr. Warpeha's remaining hours. Vice Chairperson Clift solicited public comment; however, none was provided. **Member Wright moved to accept the job description as presented. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

F-6. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING AN ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE UPPER CARSON RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN (1-1765) - Mr. Pugsley advised of a visit to the Mexican Dam yesterday morning. He reported that the River is going through the dam and not over it. Given the very low level of the River at this time, the Mexican Dam Users Association has asked Mr. Pugsley to permit some maintenance projects. One project will address an area encompassing approximately 25' of the overall 80-90' structure. Mr. Pugsley advised that the dam is little more than a rock wall. It appears that some mortar was used at the time it was built. The dimensions are approximately 10' high, six feet wide, and constructed of "midas-sized" cobblestone. Mr. Pugsley indicated that the wall seems to be fairly sound, but the only reason it is still standing is because of very little pressure against it and the large silt deposit behind it. He suspects the builders filled the area behind the wall with rock. He described it as a "1960s approach to solving the problem."

Mr. Pugsley advised of interesting discussions with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives relative to the wetland proposed for the Prison off of Clear Creek along the Carson River. The approach was to construct a diversion on Clear Creek so the prison could take its water right. The USFWS has advised they will oppose any permit for the project. There has been no indication as to the reason other than they hope to establish a Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery plan on the Carson River.

Mr. Pugsley reported on his attendance at the first planning session for National Public Lands Day, scheduled for September 15th. This year's focus will be Silver Saddle property on the east side of the River, specifically the riparian zone. The plan is to place large boulders and do substantial planting in the riparian corridor.

Mr. Pugsley reported that the Washoe Tribe has approached the CWS for permits at the Stewart Ranch. The River has been fenced at Stewart Ranch and the proposed project includes fencing of approximately another mile and a half of the River upstream of Cradlebaugh Bridge on Highway 395. The reason it is of interest to the Committee is that approaches to 12' to 20' vertical banks in the area are being considered.

Funding from the CWS for the Clear Creek project will be available, in addition to available funding for projects in Carson City. He reminded the Committee that approximately \$5,000 of the allocated funding was used for the assessment of Mexican Dam. The remaining \$15,000 will be used for a stream bank restoration effort in Carson City. The two places Mr. Pugsley is considering are the "Golf Course Turn" on the east side of the River which has cattle in the River. He would like to approach the private property owners regarding their consideration of fencing the cattle out of the River. The other potential area would

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2001 Meeting

Page 6

be along the Buzzi Andersen Ranch roughly in the area where the eagles had nested. In response to a question, Mr. Pugsley advised that the projects are scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2002. Discussion took place regarding agendizing discussion and action regarding the specific projects. In response to a question, Mr. Pugsley indicated he would like to develop a project for presentation to the Committee for review and approval. Discussion took place regarding private land ownership issues with regard to the proposed projects, agency permitting processes, and Mr. Pugsley's role in applying for permits. Vice Chairperson Clift thanked Mr. Pugsley for his report.

F-7. REPORT AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES RELATED TO IMPROVING THE CHARACTER AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CARSON RIVER CANYON (1-2094) - Member Walsh advised that on June 23, 2001, the Carson City Sheriff's Mounted Unit met at the Carson River near the Bertagnolli industrial property. He noted that it takes a great deal of time for the Mounted Unit to unload horses and equipment and prepare to ride. He advised that they proceeded down the River and talked with two individuals camped on Serpa property. The campers were instructed to leave the area which they did. Several trailers were parked in the area with no one occupying them at the time. Member Walsh suspects that residents of the trailers only spend nights there. The Sheriff's deputies left notices on the trailers instructing the owners to remove them.

Member Walsh advised of visiting the same area on Saturday, July 28th and noted that another individual had moved into the camp spot which had been previously vacated. It appears that the camping spots are constantly reoccupied, and Member Walsh discussed the damage caused to the River due to the large amounts of garbage produced by the campers. He indicated he will continue to study the law enforcement issues, and noted that Officer Tom Casey has been very helpful in discussing ideas and problems. Because of the amount of time necessary to prepare the Mounted Unit, Member Walsh indicated that it is more practical to send a Sheriff's deputy in a patrol car. He commented on another problem regarding favoritism toward certain property owners.

With regard to a clean up project, Member Walsh expressed a preference for waiting until a more permanent solution to the camping problem is established. He discussed alternative solutions such as a land swap or a lease arrangement. In response to a question, Member Walsh discussed the feelings of the private property owners in the area. He acknowledged that there is presently no signage indicating that the land is private and trespassing is prohibited. He noted that "no trespassing" signage would also keep recreational users from the land. He indicated that all the property owners with whom he has talked have been cooperative.

Mr. Pugsley suggested that the Committee consider a recommendation to the Sheriff's Department that the area be patrolled more frequently. Member Walsh advised that he will be taking photographs and perhaps video footage to present to the Committee at a future meeting. Vice Chairperson Clift pointed out that without signage, most people will not know that camping is prohibited. She suggested considering signage in cooperation with the land owners. Member Walsh expressed a concern that signage wouldn't last long because of being used for target practice. Vice Chairperson Clift discussed a concerted effort by the U.S. Forest Service to restrict camping to the allowed fourteen days. She indicated that it took signage, regular patrol, and a period of time to change the situation.

CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 1, 2001 Meeting

Page 7

(1-2396) Mr. Morgan suggested posting the area and using a private security company such as High Sierra Patrol. Member Walsh thanked Mr. Morgan and encouraged other input from the Committee members, staff, and public. Vice Chairperson Clift commented that once the V&T project begins to move forward, the area will become of more concern to the City and other public land agencies. At that time, a more cooperative effort may make more progress toward a solution. She thanked Member Walsh for his continued attention to this matter. Mr. Krahn pointed out that these same problems existed several years ago in the area of the Mexican Dam all the way to Deer Run Road Bridge. There has been a concerted effort over the last 5-6 years to clean up the River, limit access, etc. Member Walsh concurred. Vice Chairperson Clift commented that the focus on education and publicity regarding the River has been a benefit.

F-8. DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS OF THE CARSON RIVER PARK, PHASE 1B, SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (1-2514) - Mr. Krahn advised that the project is underway, and that staff has had very good cooperation with the contractor, Landmark Construction of Reno. The ramp has been installed, the picnic sites have been established and graded, and the paths have been constructed. Placing the picnic tables and installing the concrete curbs in the parking lot remains to be finished. If things go well, final inspection may be completed on Monday, August 6th. Mr. Krahn expressed appreciation for Fred Stanio's assistance with the grading. Mr. Krahn responded to questions regarding the position of the ramp and the location of the gravel in relation to the River. He advised that concrete curbs have been installed at the end of the ramp to prevent vehicles from rolling into the River to unload boats. Vice Chairperson Clift called for public comment; however, none was provided.

F-9. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY AND CARSON RIVER CLEAN UP ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2001 (1-2640) - Deferred.

F-10. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1-2642) - Mr. Krahn will reagenda items F-4, F-6, F-8, and F-9. Member Greytak suggested agendaizing a presentation by Open Space Manager Juan Guzman. Mr. Krahn discussed a joint meeting between the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Carson River Advisory Committee. He will agendaize discussion and possible action on the Riverview Park wetlands.

G. ADJOURNMENT (1-2725) - Vice Chairperson Clift welcomed Dan Greytak to the Committee. Member Greytak commended the Committee on its work. Member Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Member Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the August 1, 2001 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this 5th day of September, 2001.

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chairperson