

CARSON TRUCKEE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Regular Meeting

January 12, 2021

Video Conference via ZOOM

DIRECTORS:

Todd Westergard

Karen Baggett

Ty Minor

John Enloe

Ed James

Mike Nevin

Ernie Schank

John Capurro

ABSENT:

Tyler Henderson

Pete Olsen

GUESTS:

Lori Williams, Tri Sage Consulting

Ron Penrose, Superintendent

Kayla Dowty, Tri Sage

Chad Blanchard, FWM

Staff

Mary Pat Eymann

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER -

President Westergard called the Regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

3. APPROVE AGENDA –

Director Schank made a motion to approve the posted agenda; seconded by Director Nevin; motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CHECKS WRITTEN –

Director Capurro made a motion to approve the November 10, 2020 and the December 17, 2020 Minutes and financial statements as submitted and checks written on Bank of America #9646- #9655 and Nevada State Bank #3030 - #3043, motion seconded by Director Baggett; motion carried.

5. FEDERAL WATERMASTER'S REPORT –

*A complete copy of the Water Report is available at
District Offices or on the internet at troa.net.*

6. DISCUSS AND REVIEW OF TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN/IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WITH POSSIBLE BOARD DIRECTION – Ron Penrose

The District has received a request from the United States Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources) to participate as a “cooperating agency” in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Truckee River Watershed Project.

The Water Project, jointly sponsored by the Washoe County Water Conservation District and the Steamboat Canal and Irrigation Company, involves improvements along the Steamboat Canal including:

- Rebuild of the diversion structure on the river
- Piping of sections of the canal
- Improvements to headgate structures, and
- Construction of stormwater retention structures along the reach of the canal

The Superintendent and District Engineer have reviewed this request. We are recommending the District “not” participate as a cooperating agency for the following reasons:

- The District has no legal authority to participate
- The District will be processing on the front end any permits that may be result from the plan including those required from the USACE, Regulatory and Flood Control branches.

Director Enloe – Is there any harm in being a cooperating agency? Mr. Enloe feels it could keep the District more in tune and involved with the project than not.

Superintendent Penrose – The District would be involved in the front end but we have no stake in the project. The project itself is going to be very expensive.

Director Enloe – It is his understanding that they already have the money in the form of a 25-million-dollar grant and are currently scoping the project.

Lori Williams – The problem is that they are asking us to be a cooperating agency, she does agree that we need to be closely involved. Not so much in the entire project but especially in the rebuilds of diversions and projects on the Truckee River. But the District has no NEPA or Environmental review responsibilities.

Director Enloe – What are the legal implications of becoming a cooperating agency? Previous experience for Mr. Enloe there were many agencies who became cooperating agencies to projects for various reasons. Mr. Enloe is fine with not being a cooperating agency as long as the District is involved in the elements it needs to be involved in.

Director Schank – Suggests running by legal counsel. But if we do decide to become a cooperating agency it has to have a letter which would specifically lay out what our legal duties are and that we would have no further responsibility other than what counsel says we have.

Director Westergard – As far as authority goes, we don’t need to stay within the parameters of the decree which gives the District the responsibility of assuring the capacity of River. We are given broad authority by State law being a conservancy district.

Director Capurro – WCWCD is a cooperating agency and Attorney Michael Pagni who is the attorney for both the WCWCD and the Steamboat Ditch Company and saw no ramifications for the WCWCD to being the sponsoring agency. The Steamboat Ditch is responsible for any financial obligations.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting after Attorney Bergin has a chance to take a look at it. NRCS will also be contacted to see who are the cooperating agencies, and that the CTWCD is reviewing the request and will be getting back to them formally.

7. UPDATE ON RTC ARLINGTON BRIDGE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS – Kayla Dowty

RTC scheduled the second and third meetings of the Working Group for the replacement of the Arlington Avenue Bridge on November 5th and December 15th 2020; Tri Sage attended these meetings via Zoom and provided comment on behalf of the District including the need for access to the river from the bridge deck, as well as from the river banks.

They have not applied for a permit as of yet, they are still in the design phase. Constructed is estimated for 2026 and permit application for 2024. It would be in the best interest of the District to be involved in the planning process to ensure there is proper access to the River from bridge.

- ❖ Director Schank made a motion to authorize a letter to be drafted by engineering people reviewed by Attorney Bergin and approved at the next meeting, letter signed by Chairman Westergard and Superintendent Penrose; seconded by Director Capurro; motion carried.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD DIRECTON REGARDING RIVERBANK EROSION CONTROL BY THE CITY OF RENO – Kayla Dowty

See Engineer's Report

Tri Sage has had several discussions with various employees at the City of Reno regarding the 14,000cfs flood channel extents and projects to prevent camping in the river area. During a site meeting at Champion Park on December 4th, 2020, the river stretch between the Kietzke bridge and the Wells bridge was assessed for erosion repair. Much of those banks have significant erosion that should be repaired. This will be included in the letter to the City to further confirm the City's legal responsibility to keep the flood channel clear of encroachments. A letter will also be sent to Washoe County reminding them of similar assurances that they committed to in the Martis Agreement.

Under the Martis Agreement a 408 permit has been determined not be need to repair this as long as the water surface elevation is not affected and is done outside of the ordinary high-water mark.

- ❖ Director Schank made a motion for the engineer's and superintendent to proceed with a process document on how erosion control and rip rap specifically should be completed; seconded by Director Capurro; motion carried.

9. DISCUSSION OF GRANTS PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR (2020-2021) AND POSSIBLE GRANTS FOR 2021-2022 INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF THE GRANT PROCESS – Kayla Dowty/Lori Williams

This agenda item will be carried to the next meeting. Directors were given the documents that described the current process for grants and asked to think about changes that they would like to see implemented.

Engineer Kayla Dowty is going to work on revising the process and present to the Board at the next meeting.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD DIRECTION REGARDING ENCROACHMENTS, PERMITS AND REQUESTS– Lori Williams/Kayla Dowty

See Engineer's Report

See Martis Creek Agreement, which is referenced in this agenda item

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD DIRECTION REGARDING MAINTENANCE DEBRIS REMOVAL WORK, EMERGENCY DEBRIS/DEPOSIT REMOVAL WORK AND AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPENDITURES FOR SUCH WORK – Lori Williams/Kayla Dowty

See Engineer's Report

12. ENGINEER/CONSULTANT REPORT – Lori Williams/Kayla Dowty

See Engineer's Report

13. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Ron Penrose

Nothing to report

14. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT – Leo Bergin

Nothing to report Mr. Bergin was not present at the meeting.

15. SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT – Mary Pat Eymann

Nothing to report

16. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

17. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future Agenda Item Requests:

- Legislative Report – Karen Baggett
- Agenda item #6 – Leo Bergin
- Agenda item #9

Board Comments: none

18. ADJOURNMENT -

There being no further business, President Westergard asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Capurro moved to adjourn, Director Baggett, seconded said motion, motion carried.

****The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.****

Todd Westergard,
President

Mary Pat Eymann,
Secretary/Treasurer