

# CARSON TRUCKEE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Board Meeting  
December 10, 2013

## **DIRECTORS:**

Mike Nevin  
Ed James  
Greg Dennis  
Ron Penrose  
Todd Westergard  
Barbara Byington  
John Capurro  
Gwen Washburn

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Leo Bergin, Attorney  
Lori Williams, Engineer/Consultant  
Chad Blanchard, FWM  
Kerri Lanza, City of Reno  
Charla Honey, City of Reno  
Robert K. Martinez, Nevada DWR  
P. Luke Opperman, Nevada DWR

## **ABSENT:**

Chuck Roberts  
Ernest Schank

Chairman Westergard determined there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:57 a.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CHECKS WRITTEN –**

Director Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes for November and checks written on Bank of America #9174 #9179 and Nevada State Bank #2457 - #2465, motion seconded by Director Washburn, motion carried.

## **4. FEDERAL WATERMASTER'S REPORT -**

Chad presented the water report, a copy of which is included in Minutes book. Due to the ice some water data is missing. On the Truckee River, we are almost out of rate water in Boca only about a 1,000 AF left. The Truckee Basin Committee which consists of TCID (Truckee Carson Irrigation District, TMWA (Truckee Meadows Water Authority) and the WCWCD (Washoe County Water Conservation District) agreed to make a reduction in the rates from Boca by 50 cfs in order to prolong the flow. Inflow is being passed through now and will run out of rates in about 10 days or two weeks. Tahoe is at rim control, gates are open and the rim is 200 yards upstream from the dam which controls flow,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a foot above the rim. Down to 100 cfs, every time the lake drops from evaporation the outflow drops. Boca does have some TMWA storage water from Donner. Truckee Canal shut off on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> due to ice problems.

Director Penrose asked what the normal precipitation and snow fall for Boca and Tahoe, what do we normally expect per season? Federal Water Master Blanchard stated Tahoe is 33 inches average per water and we are at 2.11", the biggest year ever was 1982 where we received 70 inches, worst was 1977 which was 8". Boca is normally 20 or 21 inches. The office has 102/103 years of records.

Chad stated the ARC storm class they attended last month was more for emergency planners and he did not feel it was very productive.

## **5. Presentation from NDRW related to Truckee River Flood Channel – Rob Martinez**

Mr. Martinez stated he is with the State Division of Water Resources, State Engineers Office. He also introduced Luke Opperman, staff engineer who assists with the maintenance responsibilities on the Truckee River. State of Nevada, DRW Engineer delegates Robert to handle the operation and

maintenance responsibilities as well as encroachment authorizations on the lower Truckee River. Currently, he has received a letter from the USACE regarding the last inspection of 2013 – as a marginal inspection. He is looking at proposed projects coming up in the future. Historically in 2011 he received a letter from the Corps recommending numerous areas for maintenance, removal of shoals and other types of encroachments. Hopefully, in the future we can look at working with the Truckee River Flood Management Authority. Wants to talk to us about this work, the current two maintainers are DRW and Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District. Possibly we can work together as a team approach with Jay Aldean, TRFMA or the people he reports too. Mr. Martinez feels maintenance projects should be in line with TRFMA projects, as they could come along and tear out projects we might have been spent funds on.

Biological Assessments are necessary to perform stream bank stabilization which they are working on now and Ms. Williams stated we are hoping to use this Biological assessment for our work.

Director Penrose asked if Mr. Martinez expects the operation and maintenance jurisdictions boundaries will change. Mr. Martinez thinks they might, we have two different boundaries now and Truckee River Flood Management Authority has broken it up in their proposed plan it will be a little different. The Reno section goes from Verdi to 395 N/S, then lower Truckee Meadows section from 395 to Vista and lower Truckee River reach from Vista to the Reservation Boundary. In order for the two entities to be removed from the Martis Creek Agreement – as Congress put us in, then Congress would have to release us from operation and maintenance responsibilities. We really want to participate with the TRFMA so we do not have conflicts.

## **6. Discuss Virginia Street Bridge 408 Encroachment Permit – Kerri Lanza, City of Reno**

Engineer Williams introduced Kerri Lanza and Charla Honey from the City of Reno. The District has received the Encroachment package and a copy has been sent to USACE in Sacramento. Tri Sage Engineer is also reviewing the request package. The next step is to have some additional information from the City of Reno then a meeting will be put together with the City, USACE and Tri Sage so we can work out all of the concerns.

Kerri stated their 408 Encroachment Permit has been submitted and she wanted to show the District the Bridge with the Arch Rail. They are approaching the 100% plans for the project and it is totally funded. Hopefully, will advertise this spring pending the permit and possibly start work in the middle of the summer. A few of the permits have been acquired and some are in process.

The existing bridge is over 100 years old and has outlived its useful life. A replacement bridge will better serve the flood conveyance for the river channel and this bridge will remove some of the encroachments that are within the channel. Near the Ice Rink on Virginia Street/Center Street the bridge will be shifted over and will be touching upon what is known as Park. A mitigation process will have to go through to replace some of the public feature. A step down plaza is being looked at on the Ice Rink side which creates ADA access on one side and the step down on the other side. The Ice Rink is Olympic standards and the pathway is part of the Truckee Tahoe Bike Link.

Also, intend to divert the River in a couple of times to build the sub wall sections and also in order to remove shoaling and reuse the material in other places.

Federal Water Master Blanchard asked what the time frame for being in the river? Ms. Lanza stated they plan on getting in the river and staying from mid-June or July depending on river flows. Chad stated typically starting in July the Tribe exercises the flow permits in the lower River which reduces the amount of water in the river which will be a pretty good drop in flow rates. It would be appreciated if Kerri were to call when work is going on.

The step down plaza is actually a feature of the Truckee River Flood Management Authority design which is in the 100 year flood flow of up to 18,000/20,000 cfs range. Lori stated the 408 process is looking to get data regarding the actual flow. Kerri knows that the District would like to have access to the river from the project. There is constrain, due to the Ice Rink; however, there are some bobcats

that have the ability to get in the medium and turn on a dime. There is a \$17 million reserve for the construction of the bridge, the engineer estimates were about \$20 million. They do have monies from RTC reserved. Still having calibration issues with the modeling as TRFMA is also having some variations in survey of different locations.

#### **7. Update on the SWIF – Discuss Status of USACE Inspection, related matters and action plan**

Ms. Williams was informed by USACE they are on Hold regarding the SWIF as they are not sure if the project qualifies for a SWIF as their reviewers are not sure if the walls in downtown Reno are “floodwalls” or if they are “channel walls”. The SWIF process applies to “floodwalls” and levees only. USACE also wants to see the results of the updated river HEC-RAS model before they can determine where the water surface elevations are and will help them determine they are “floodwalls” or not. If it is determined not to be “flood walls” the item which will go away is the vegetation removal; however, the shoaling and flap gates will still be an issue. This finding may also impact future findings related to the Virginia Street Bridge Projects step-down plaza feature. So we are On Hold.

#### **8. Report on Debris Removal Project**

Lori informed the Board the Debris Removal began on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Reno Tahoe Construction started at Idlewild Park and Booth Street, then moved upstream and then moved down river removing identified debris area by area which work was completed on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The contractor actually pulled out more debris than was in their contract. As the foliage disappeared, Lori saw more debris that should be cleared up next year. A report will be prepared for the regulatory agencies and will be incorporated into the semi-annual report to USACE.

Ms. Lanza stated City of Reno had also started clean up along the channel before Thanksgiving and TMWA also performed some clearance.

#### **9. ENGINEER/CONSULTANT REPORT -**

Ms. Williams stated Ed James had scheduled a meeting with Jason King, State Engineer and a few people from the Dayton and Carson Conservation Districts. We talked about funding for debris removal maintenance type work. In the statues there is funding for this type of work in the State Engineer’s Budget, in the past it has been funded for \$250,000. Mr. Martinez was not able to attend this meeting; his funding comes a little different. Two years ago, due to the economic downturn the money was taken out of the budget. The State Engineer is willing to ask the Legislators to add the money back into his budget. If someone approaches for grant funds, he would or might be able to find those funds.

The meeting was solely for the purpose of getting funding for the conservation districts that normally come to us for funding. Not so much that we would ask for money from the State, although, we might want to ask for funds; as we might want to get Washoe County on board for funding. The State Engineer asked the Districts to put together some projects and ask for funding in the sum of \$50,000 to \$80,000.

Mr. Martinez stated he actually reviewed all the requests for funds in the past on a 50/50 basis. He has discussed this with Jason King. The only option currently is through IFC (Interim Finance Committee) a formal request has to be made for smaller requests.

A semi-annual report will be delayed to USACE until Lori can write up the work that has just been completed.

#### **10. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT –**

Attorney Bergin has nothing to report at this time.

#### **11. PUBLIC COMMENT -**

Robert Martinez stated the State of Nevada Drought Committee consisting of members from

Division of Water Resources, Department of Conservation and Natural Resource and the State Climatologist are meeting today with regard to a strategic Drought planning.

**12. BOARD COMMENTS and/or REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS –**

Director Barbara Byington informed the Board her term is up at the end of this month and she is not submitting her name to the County for reappointment. The appointment was put on the December calendar for Douglas County and she had heard Karen Baggett was appointed to take her place.

Todd thanked Barbara for serving on the Board.

He further stated he has asked someone from the Department of Taxation to explain the Consolidated Tax Revenue, hopefully within the next two months.

There being no further business, Chair Westergard asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Director Capurro moved to adjourn, Director Penrose, seconded said motion, motion carried. Announced the next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

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Todd Westergard  
Chairman

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Gwyn S. Bergin,  
Secretary/Treasurer