

**LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CHURCHILL COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**PLACE OF MEETING: SILVER SPRINGS SENIOR CENTER,
2945 FORT CHURCHILL STREET, SILVER SPRINGS, NV 89429**

TYPE OF MEETING: Special Joint Commission Workshop

The Honorable Board of Lyon County Commissioners and the Board of Churchill County Commissioners met this day, Monday, December 12, 2022, at 5:31 p.m. in the SILVER SPRINGS SENIOR CENTER, 2945 FORT CHURCHILL STREET, SILVER SPRINGS, NV 89429.

1. Roll Call

Board of Lyon County Commissioners Present: Chairwoman Vida Keller, Wes Henderson Rob Jacobson, and Dave Hockaday (District 3 is Vacant).

Staff: District Attorney Steve Rye and Interim County Manager Andrew Haskin

Board of Churchill County Commissioners Present: Chairman Pete Olsen, Justin Heath and Harry Scharmann.

Staff: Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford and Churchill County Manager Jim Barbee

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Participation

There was none given.

4. For Possible Action: Review and adoption of agenda

Comm. Hockaday moved to approve the agenda as presented, Comm. Jacobson seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Comm. Heath moved to approve the agenda as presented, Comm. Scharmann seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

5. Presentations and Workshop:

5.a. For Consideration & Discussion: Presentations and discussion on the Carson River upstream and downstream issues in the Carson River watershed and perspective to include:

- **Vida D. Keller, Chairman of the Lyon County Board of County Commissioners: Brief introductions and welcoming comments to Churchill County Commissioners.**

Comm. Keller introduced and thanked the Churchill County Commissioners for their attendance and Comm. Olsen for requesting the workshop.

- **Chris Mahannah, P.E., Mahannah & Associates, LLC: Speaker Introductions and brief presentation on the downstream perspective, basic Capture concepts, concerns upstream of Lahontan, additional demands from upstream growth and over appropriated basins.**

Chris Mahannah gave a statement of who the speakers are and a background for the meeting. He gave a presentation of objectives, surface water flows, downstream perspective, basic Capture concepts, and concerns upstream of Lahontan, additional demands from upstream growth and over appropriated basins.

- **Kip Allander, Hydrogeologist with the NV Division of Water Resources (NDWR): Overview of groundwater hydrology and capture concepts, brief update on Humboldt River Capture model status, and water resource status in Smith and Mason Valleys.**

Kip Allander gave a presentation of what groundwater is, how it is stored, surface water, where water comes from, plumage, groundwater models and what they are used for, Humboldt River Capture model status, river capture, and water resource status in Smith and Mason Valleys.

- **Ramon Naranjo, PhD: Research Hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey (USGS).** Brief update on the role of ongoing studies using groundwater-flow models in the upper and middle Carson River basins to evaluate the impact of future water-management scenarios, as well as proposal to evaluate stream capture and use existing models to evaluate additional model scenarios in the middle Carson.

Cara Nadler attended via Zoom to give the presentation in place of Ramon Naranjo. She gave a presentation on evaluating effects, study of objectives and tasks, existing models, climate change and population dynamics, the impact of future water-management scenarios, stream capture maps, and existing models to evaluate additional model scenarios in the middle of Carson.

- **Ed James, P.E., Manager of the Carson Water Sub Conservancy District (CWSD):** Discussion of CWSD role in overall Carson River watershed water planning efforts and ongoing and anticipated studies including the 30-year regional water plan for the Carson River watershed.

Ed James gave a presentation and discussion of water demands, identifying future water sources, surface-groundwater interaction, climate change and runoff pattern changes, identifying infrastructure needs, identifying possible shortfalls and mitigation options.

- **Adam Sullivan, P.E., Nevada State Engineer with NDWR: State Engineer perspective on water issues facing the State with particular emphasis on the Carson River watershed, implementation of anticipated NDWR policies, new federal stimulus funding for water.**

Adam Sullivan reported the demand is across the state, and is not a new issue, addressing problems to optimize the resources, water rights, managing the usage of water, establishing plans, conservation, using models as operational tools, protecting senior rights holders, reducing commitments on groundwater.

- **Wrap up Q&A round table discussion (20 minutes)**

Commissioners from Lyon and Churchill County asked with the overproportion how it is being mitigated. Wells from a quarter mile within the river, is there anything to prohibit and save or protect the river. This can be used for the upstream proposal. Is there a way to come up with preventative measures to restrict drilling away from the river? If someone doesn't use their water rights will they lose them? If someone is in conserving do they have to use it or get an extension?

Adam Sullivan answered he anticipated the legislature will be hearing Bills this session addressing water law. With court decisions it's up for judicial review. He agreed there is a concern with drawing water from rivers. They are improving the baseline science of water availability, funding to digitize and store historic documents, and to support water conservation water statewide. Also, understanding conserving water and how to do so. Funding to support water conservation and prioritizing projects will help to mitigate issues such as wells.

Ed James answered a good way to protect interest is to protect your water rights. He gave their process to identify and measures they take to monitor usage. Educating the Commissioners and community is important.

Chris Mahhann clarified the quarter of a mile area and the usage for the well near a river, the history, and how they make calculations now.

Adam Sullivan stated if it's not permanent then it would need to be renewed, they don't want to discourage conservation, but the concept is to allow the usage of it to the next person. He detailed the use of extensions for conservation and the water laws. Conserving water or protecting someone's water rights is the challenging concept.

6. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners Jacobson, Henderson, Keller, and Hockaday thanked all who have participated and the speakers for their presentations.

Churchill Chairman Olsen stated the importance of the workshop, knowledge and education, and he thanked everyone for attending.

Comm. Keller acknowledged Commissioners Elect Scott Keller and Miles Getto for being in attendance.

7. Public Participation

Silver Springs Water Company General Manager Matt Martensen asked if the Extension Warning Notice, is the extension warning notice prior to cancellation of water right extension.

Adam Sullivan answered that it was to bring public awareness and to be transparent with permits. It's to mitigate problems with usage.

Randal Green asked if you lose water rights and groundwater if you don't use it on 5 acres.

Adam Sullivan replied a domestic well doesn't need a permit.

Thomas Deane commented in regards to the models with the change, if drip irrigation has been added into the models.

Ben Shawcroft introduced himself and gave TCID's perspective. He encouraged all to take these matters seriously and there are land use or policies to help with these issues.

Norman Frey gave a recommendation to include the water into the master plan and to monitor the water basin. He gave his background and the importance of ground management plans.

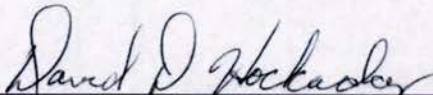
Don Smith asked for clarification about a previous meeting in Smith Valley where a representative from the state met with them, transferring water usage with a permit to reduce usage, and how many permits have been discontinued. Has water been saved utilizing this?

Adam Sullivan answered how much was taken off the books and he said it was not much and is protected by design. Changing the manner of usage for a permit, he reviewed the special circumstances and depending on the permits.

8. Adjourn

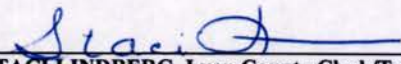
Comm. Keller adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



VIDA KELLER, Chairman
Dave Hockaday

ATTEST



STACI LINDBERG, Lyon County Clerk/Treasurer

Yerington, Nevada
December 12, 2022

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

112 Shaw
PETE OLSEN, Chairman
BUS SCHARMANN

ATTEST

Pamela D. Moore
LINDA ROTHERY, Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer
By: Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk