

# CARSON-TRUCKEE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

December 13, 2011

## **DIRECTORS:**

Andre Aldax  
Barbara Byington  
Greg Dennis  
Mike Nevin  
Engineers  
Sal Quilici  
Todd Westergard  
Ron Penrose  
Gwen Washburn  
Ernest Schank  
John Capurro

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Chad Blanchard, FWM office  
Leo P. Bergin, Attorney  
Christine Davis, Nichols Consulting  
Jack Norberg, Nichols Consulting  
  
Matt Setty, CH2M Hill  
Mark Gookin, Wood Rodgers  
Karen Schlichting, Tri Sage Consulting  
Lori Williams, Tri Sage Consulting

President Aldax called the Regular meeting of the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District to order at 9 a.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

There being no corrections or deletions to the minutes and the Financial Statements for November. Director Byington moved to approve, seconded by Director Nevin. Motion carried.

## **FEDERAL WATERMASTER'S REPORT**

Chad Blanchard presented the water report, a copy of which is attached. There has been the largest evaporation loss on Tahoe in November. Farad is at 460 cfs which includes water from TWMA. Tahoe has been increased by 40 cfs as there is icing. Carson has a lot of ice problems; also, USGS has taken some gauges off line; 144 cfs at Carson City and 247 cfs at Fort Churchill.

NRCS website is down this morning, not sure why. Truckee River was 30%; Tahoe Basin was 20% and Carson 5% of average snowpack for this time of year.

## **CONSULTANT COMMITTEE REPORT –**

Director Dennis reported the committee: Ron Penrose, John Capurro, Greg Dennis and Gwyn met on two different occasions; first to develop the criteria for evaluation of each engineering firm's submittal of the proposal and then to narrow the proposals to a reasonable number to be interviewed today.

1. Quality of Proposal – includes clear understanding of proposal and response to questions posed in the RFP
2. Quality of Support Staff and work experience – includes staff qualification statements, overall staff capabilities and professional expertise
3. HEC RAS Modeling Experience-capability/overall technical expertise – includes maintenance, application and usage of model for evaluating encroachment permit applications, river channel improvements, and capability of internally producing designs and plan sets for bidding
4. Regulatory Knowledge – Includes knowledge of the Martis Creek Agreement and overall

regulatory knowledge of Truckee River System

5. Relationships – Includes demonstrated communication skills with regulatory agencies and demonstrated productive history of regulatory success (securing permit approvals)

A matrix evaluation sheet was developed with the appropriate weights and ranking. After reviewing each proposal received on an individual basis, the committee met to discuss the capabilities of each consultant against the criteria giving close attention to items 3, 4 & 5. The rating times the weight gave us the consultant's total numerical evaluation. There was one high evaluation and two that were very close together; the fourth was lower. It was decided to interview the top three candidates, with best skills for the operation of this District.

Director Penrose stated that equal weight should be given for the interview process, as communication skills and articulation of our needs must be demonstrated during the interview.

### **NICHOLS CONSULTING ENGINEERS, CHTD –**

**Christine Davis** introduced herself, stating she was introduced to this District when she worked with Tom Foote, Kennedy-Jenks and later as consultant with Setty Resources while she worked at Wood Rodgers. During the later time, she worked on the geo referenced HEC-RAS model the District uses for their 14,000 cfs flood plain identification. Christine stated she would be acting as project manager with Jack Norberg as support/principal in charge and Matt Setty, as a project advisor.

**Jack Norberg**, Principal and Chief Engineer for Nichols Consulting Engineers based in the Reno office with 35 years of experience, first 10 working for Bureau of Reclamation and then in private practice with NCE for the past 8 years. The NCE is a locally based firm founded in 1990 with offices in Reno, Sacramento, South Lake Tahoe, and the Bay area and recently opened a small office in Orange County. All staff of professionals (approximately 50) will provide support to Christine.

**Matt Setty**, the departing Engineer/Consultant for the District, stated CH2M Hill made the decision not to pursue this job. Matt wanted the opportunity to convey the continuity of knowledge as engineer for the last eight years. He will further serve in an advisory role as a sub consultant for Nichols Consulting on any past projects and other knowledge he can provide.

Director Quilici asked *Mr. Norberg what other district he worked with.* Mr. Norberg stated he has been a consultant for Stagecoach General Improvement District since 1991.

Director Schank wanted to know *who will specifically be working with the District.* Ms. Davis stated she would regularly be attending meetings, working with the Board, perform permit reviews, the annual inspection with the Corps of Army Engineers and any other coordination with the Corps.

Director Dennis provided the following questions to be answered:

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1. *What are the really neat things your firm has done that is relative to our district?*
2. *What would you do if there was a flood, how would you help us, do you know what we are going to do if we have a flood?*
3. *What do you bring to the table for the District?*

Ms. Davis referenced a project “Via Verde Emergency Response and Repair Project” in Richmond, California. (See reference in Proposal)

Mr. Norberg stated NCE team assisted Carson City during the flood of 1986 & 1997. Flood damage assessments to be provided to FEMA; also able to respond to flooding on the Carson River and advise what the City should do in order to protect properties and also protect the conveyance of water through town. A whole variety of services are available to the District: watershed planning group, vegetation specialist (weed abatement) and construction management.

Director Schank wanted to know *the interaction of Nichols with the following entities: City of Reno, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), USACE and State of Nevada.*

Ms. Davis stated she has the most familiarity with Glen Daily of the City of Reno for the Oxbow Park and stream restoration project. Also, has done work with Shaun Carrey on the flood management side and modeling. While at Wood Rodgers she worked in and around the Truckee River in the downtown corridor. No personal experience with TMWA. Ms. Davis from a permitting side has worked with and attended the stake holder groups for Water Quality and has applied for permits with the State Engineers office on the water rights side. When working on the HEC-RAS modeling, Ms. Davis stated she had worked with USACE flood navigation, Sacramento people.

Mr. Norberg inserted that NCE has done a number of water utility projects, water line replacements and meter retrofit projects with TMWA, although they haven't worked with them on the water right side. As to the State of Nevada, they are currently working on a meadow restoration project at Lake Tahoe for the Nevada Division of State Lands.

There were further questions and answers with regard to who would attend the meetings; how the District would be charged for consultant time; retainer fees; legislative experience; and general liability insurance; errors and omissions.

#### **LEGAL REPORT – Leo P. Bergin**

Nothing to report

#### **SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Bergin presented the Financial Report as follows: Checks written on Bank of America # 9022 - 9028 and Nevada State Bank #2253 - 2259 for November as shown on Check Details in your file folders. Mrs. Bergin stated the check for Dayton Valley Conservation District fiscal year 2010-2011 was cut and will be mailed today. Director Schank moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills previously paid and approve those yet to be paid. Seconded by Director Dennis, motion carried.

Mrs. Bergin informed the Board the terms for President Aldax, Director Nevin, Washburn and Penrose are up at the end of December. Therefore, the entities each one represents should advise their boards and have them send recommendations to the Governor's office.

#### **WOOD RODGERS –**

Mark Gookin representing Wood Rodgers stated he was happy to be invited to present a proposal of their qualification to work with the District.

Director Dennis asked Mr. Gookin to answer the questions referenced above. \*

Mr. Gookin stated it is very important that you have a single point of contact who is a flood person which is Mr. Gookin's background. Mark informed the Board while he was still in school he worked for the City of San Diego involved with flood fighting and subsequently was employed for two years at Riverside County Flood Control District. Managed a number of large multi-year flood control efforts on the Tijuana River and FEMA flood control projects in Southern California. His emphasis has been on flood control, drainage and resource protection for the Floodplain Management Association and the National Association of State Floodplain Managers and served as Chair for the FMA.

Wood Rodgers has a very comprehensive in house team: geo-technical engineers, surveyors, hydraulic modelers who have worked on previous up dates of the HEC RAS modeling. Mary Horvath is lead modeler, she was involved with the developing of said model, also helped develop the City of Reno critical flood pool ordinances. Wood Rodgers is regularly involved with major flood control efforts in this region. They support the California DWR on the American River and lower Sacramento

River.

Mark will listen to the Board, expectations regarding performance and as well as budget. He will interact with the Board so that he can know what budget constraints we have.

Mr. Gookin as far as interesting things we bring, they have done some cutting edge river restoration/bank stabilization work. Just recently completed a Lake Forest Stream Restoration work in upper Placer County where a stream that had been completely eliminated about 40 years was restored.

Director Schank wanted to know *the interaction of Wood Rodgers with the following entities: City of Reno, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), USACE and State of Nevada.*

Mr. Gookin has fantastic relations with all the entities. City of Reno regularly works with Kerrie Williams Lanza and Joe Kudrow; they both came from NDOT and Wood Rodgers worked with them in that entity also. State of Nevada NDEP constantly are dealing with them on the environmental aspects, recently gave support to NDOT for the EP audit which involved a cooperative effort with NDEP. State Engineers a great relation, worked with Kim Davis on the Flood Plain Management board. Worked recently with TMWA on the Mogul flume replacement project and do a variety of services for them every year (survey analysis and design documents).

Mr. Gookin stated in a flood situation as he has a background in school of flood fighting, we have a capability to get staff out rapidly. A midsize company which means we can respond nimbly and effectively; largest office in Reno with their main emphasis on drainage and flood control. Will monitor trouble spots, whole areas need to be monitored and controlled; using GPS units will help collect data and watch the different areas. There is no extra charge for using GPS units.

Director Dennis stated there was one question the Board asked *specificity of your involvement and availability for this Conservancy?* Mr. Gookin said this is a key question, he can see that someone who does not have other roles to distract them from serving the District during key periods. Mr. Gookin does not have a regional marketing role and is not responsible for say the southwest United States; his role is here and will be available to provide the routine products (the 90 days permit turn around, semi-annual reports) will also be available during critical emergency periods. If unavailable, Mr. Gookin would appoint Mary Horvath.

Director Westergard wondered about *experience and exposure to issues concerning the Carson River?* Mr. Gookin stated they have quite a bit of experience with Carson River system, a couple of design efforts for the Carson Valley Conservation District on the East Fork of the Carson; also modeling efforts on the main stem of the Carson River; east of Dayton; work for Douglas County in reviewing analysis; has been on the Carson River tour with Ed James earlier this year. Currently, doing a bank stabilization project on the East Fork where Wood Rodgers did the design for Paul Pugsley.

Director Byington asked about whether *Wood Rodgers had done any work on the flooding in the past years here in Washoe County and how would you charge for your service?* Wood Rodgers has done a lot of analysis for different agencies; however, not any emergency response. He did get staff out to collect data which helped in checking and calibrating models.

There were further questions and answers with regard to who would attend the meetings; how the District would be charged for consultant time; retainer fees; legislative experience; and general liability insurance; errors and omissions.

**\*The following portion of our minutes are written without benefit of recording information and are totally from my notes & excerpts from Tri Sage Consulting's RFP; therefore, are not as complete as the other two interview processes.**

## **DIRECTORS REPORTS –**

Director Schank informed the Board, TCID would hold a special meeting on Wednesday. No bonds have been sold at this time, there are enough funds in the treasury to pay repair bills but not to run the district, have funds through March 1, 2012. Are removing 33 outlets are being reduced to 17 outlets.

Director Washburn at a recent County Managers meeting there is a project for geothermal and solar field's development to get on line in two or three years. Ms. Washburn thanked the committee for their work on the consultant proposal.

Director Capurro stated everything at Boca Reservoir is fine.

Director Penrose reported on the Caughlin Fire; TMWA Truckee River Fund will be providing grant money to help rehabilitate the area. Local burn area will submit a proposal. Nevada Land Conservancy submitted a proposal last Friday and will go before the TWMA board next week for funding. There were 30 homes lost and 2000 acres burned. Erosion control measures need to be put in place immediately. If this had happened several years ago, TWMA would have had several problems.

Director Nevin had nothing to report; however, he also wanted to thank the Consultant committee for their efforts.

Director Quilici stated DVCD has just completed some river clearing last week at the cost of \$30,000. Bank stabilization is going well should take two to three weeks to get it done. Bids for restoration work came in from \$610,000 to the low bid of \$420,000.

Director Westergard mentioned he had talked to Tracey Taylor, Department of Water Engineer's office with regard to request for funding, they will consider coming back next fiscal year.

Director Schank further noted the Dairy Farmers of America are planning to build an \$85 million ingredient plant in Churchill County which would supply third world countries with reconstituted milk. This will be a state of the art plant and should be a two year project.

While waiting for next interview, there was general discussion regarding:

- Day to day, month to month basis of consultant contact
- Knowledge of our district
- Pick best – most qualified
- Negotiate price
- Move forward with scope of work

Director Dennis broached the question of whether or not professional services had to be put out to bid per NRS for public agencies. It was determined Attorney Bergin would look into this matter and report back to Board.

## **TRI SAGE CONSULTING –**

Lori Williams introduced herself as a past Director of the Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District to those new members on the board. Lori is Senior Project Manager and Engineer for Tri-Sage Consulting and has over 30 years of professional experience in the utility industry. While serving on the CTWCD Board, Lori served as Director of Water Operations as well as General Manager of TMWA.

Karen Schlichting informed the Board she is the founder of Tri Sage Consulting with over 20 years of experience in the utility industry, including project management of major water and electric

lines, design of transmission and distribution lines, flood control support, erosion control and BMP design and management. Ms. Schlichting stated she was a first responder at Farad during the 1997 flood while Ms. Williams was home with a 7 day old baby where she coordinated the work and relief effort. Tri Sage has four people in the permit and engineering field able to help during flooding. Kayla Cass an Engineer Associate has experience with HEC-RAS modeling. Jim Bengochea and Kayla will support Lori with the modeling effort. Tri Sage has the HES RAS model in-house and will maintain the public domain HEC-RAS for the portion of the Truckee River extending from Mogul to the Glendale Water Treatment Plant.

Ms. Williams informed the Board they have worked with Ryan Byrd, City of Reno; Washoe County; Gerald Gardner and Al Tinney, State NDEP; NDOW and Fish & Wildlife. Tri Sage understands the regulations and has legislative capabilities. During the TMWA Glendale Water Treatment Plant work, Ms. Schlichting actually met with Robert Murakami, USACE in Sacramento.

Director Quilici asked about extent *of knowledge of Carson River, State Water rights, how the 2 rivers operate and who would be the lead person.* Ms. Williams would be the point of contact for the District and will attend all meetings as required by District. She has extensive knowledge of the Truckee River system being involved in negotiations and agreements related to the Truckee River Negotiated Settlement in 1995 and the Truckee River Operating Agreement which was signed in September 2008; also, led negotiations with USBOR for storage contracts in Stampede and Boca Reservoirs.

Director Byington asked *how billing would be handled.* Ms. Williams stated billing would be based on an hourly rate which is probably the best deal; however, time and materials would be pretty flexible. Tri Sage is a local engineer who believes in loyalty, conscience and quality of work.

Director Westergard asked about *legislative experience.* Ms. Williams informed the board she has testimony experience re: water meter installation and rate case hearings; has also appeared in Public Service Commission proceedings. Ms. Schlichting mentioned her experience with Nevada and California regulatory agency negotiations and project permitting.

There was further discussion with regard to size of firm; Nevada experience; HEC-RAS model; weak area (Carson River). However, the Consultant/Engineer is being hired to perform USACE Martis Creek Operations & Maintenance functions which covers the Truckee River not the Carson River. It was mentioned the different firms being articulate, knowledgeable, capable in water right and flood issues.

As the actual selection of Consultant/Engineer was not placed on the agenda for December, the Board will discuss and make their decision at the January meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

There being no further business President Aldax adjourned, the next meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

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Andre Aldax,  
President

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Gwyndalyn S. Bergin,  
Secretary/Treasurer