

**TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
**Carson Lake Pasture Advisory Committee**  
 Minutes of the Regular Session Committee Meeting  
**January 24, 2022**

The Carson Lake Pasture Advisory Committee, in the counties of Churchill and Lyon, State of Nevada, met in regular session at the offices of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, 2666 Harrigan Road, Fallon, Nevada, on **Monday, January 24, 2022** at 1:00 p.m.

The following Committee members were present constituting a quorum:

Present:	Lester deBraga Joseph Gomes Wes Washburn Don Snodgrass	Committee Chairman Committee Member Carson Lake Pasture Stockmen Greenhead Hunting Club, Inc.
Absent:	Michele Kyte	Carson Lake Pasture Stockmen
Others Present:	Rusty Jardine Kelly Herwick Helen-Marie Morrow Michele Wisnefski	General Manager District Water Master Finance Manager Clerical Specialist

In-Person Guests	Representing
Bryant Behimer	CLP Manager – Independent Contractor
Jacob Ward	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Bill Washburn	Grazer
Cody Shroeder	Self
Walter Winder	Grazer

Teleconference/Zoom Guests	Representing
Mike Zahradka	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Isaac Metcalf	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Aaron Williams	Grazer
Monica Washburn	Self

The following agenda items are not necessarily in the order they were heard or decided but in the order as appearing on the agenda.

1. **Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman deBraga at 1:05 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by General Manager Rusty Jardine.

3. **Review and Adoption of the Agenda**

**A motion was made by Committee Member Gomes to approve the agenda, seconded by Committee Member Snodgrass, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

4. **Public Comment**

Bill Washburn expressed his concern regarding the water availability on the east side of the Carson Lake Pasture. It was decided to discuss his concerns during Agenda item 7.

5. **Carson Lake Pasture Advisory Committee Membership**

Deliberation and decision relating to development of recommendations to be made to the Board of Directors and the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the composition and duties of the Carson Lake Pasture Advisory Committee –reporting in an advisory role only to the District and the Department of Wildlife on matters pertaining to management of the Carson Lake Pasture. The Committee was instituted by agreement (dated June 19, 1980) between the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation, the District and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to advise on matters relating to the wildlife/marsh areas of the Carson Lake Pasture. The agreement includes, without limitation, committee composition and a statement of duties. The Fleischmann Foundation is no longer in existence. The Carson Lake Pasture is now owned by the State of Nevada.

Rusty Jardine, General Manager began discussion with a summary of the “Fleischmann Agreement.” Committee Chairman deBraga stated that the Committee, as outlined per the Fleischmann Agreement, consists of seven (7) representatives as follows: two (2) members from the District Board of Directors, two (2) representatives from the Carson Lake Pasture Stockmen, one (1) member from NDOW, and two (2) representatives from the Greenhead Hunting Club, Inc.

Mike Zahradka, Wildlife Staff Specialist, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) expressed his desire to maintain the current composition of the Committee until a Master Agreement can be established between NDOW and the District. He anticipates a draft Master Agreement to be available within the next year. Zahradka inquired regarding the process for selection of Committee members. Jardine responded that a recommendation by the Committee, approved by the Board and then approved by NDOW seemed reasonable. The Committee agreed. Committee Member Snodgrass suggested installation on the Committee of a second NDOW representative was reasonable.

Discussion was had regarding status of the Greenhead Hunting Club. Snodgrass stated the Club is still operating under the original charter. They are in the process of purchasing Poacherville from the federal government, a five to six (5-6) year process to date. Membership is low; approximately 70 dues paying members last year. Continued involvement on the CLP Advisory Committee is desired, with two (2) members preferred.

Discussion was had regarding representation from another wildlife group, perhaps a shorebird group.

Walter Winder, grazer, suggested a voting and non-voting membership component. It was determined that Kelly Herwick, District Water Master was not a member, but present to discuss District water operations.

The Committee made neither recommendation nor decision regarding Committee membership composition at this time. The consensus was to maintain current membership composition until a Master Agreement is negotiated.

6. **Carson Lake Pasture Grazing Management Contract**

Deliberation and decision relating to recommendations associated with contract for management of grazing (also known as the "Cowboy Contract") for the 2022 season at the Carson Lake Pasture, in Churchill County, Nevada, by and between the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and Bryant Behimer -as an independent contractor. Terms and conditions of the contract include, without limitation, the rate of compensation, term, reciprocal duties and expectations relating to Pasture management. Any such recommendations relating to the Carson Lake Pasture Grazing Management Contract are subject to final approval by the Board of Directors at a subsequent meeting thereof.

Rusty Jardine, General Manager opened the discussion with a recommendation to approve the Contract with Bryant Behimer with modification to reflect Pasture ownership by NDOW and compensation received in a short water year.

Discussion was had regarding the Grazing Manager's discretion regarding entry and exit of cattle in a short water year. The consensus was that the Grazing Manager's recommendation would be forwarded to the Committee for deliberation and decision, and would be subject to final approval by the Board of Directors if considered necessary by the CLP Advisory Committee.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Gomes to approve the contract for management of grazing (also known as the "Cowboy Contract") for the 2022 season at the Carson Lake Pasture, in Churchill County, Nevada, by and between the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and Bryant Behimer -as an independent contractor, seconded by Committee Member Snodgrass, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

7. **Carson Lake Pasture Operations Review for the 2021 Grazing Season and Development of Recommendations Including New Regulations Governing Carson Lake Pasture Operations for the 2022 Grazing Season**

Committee Chairman deBraga began the discussion requesting establishment of the rate for fees and insect control for the 2022 grazing season. The 2021 rate for was \$7.20. The grazing State Minimum Animal Unit Month (AUM) price is \$13.37 and will remain at \$13.37 for the term of the lease (five (5) years; ending on March 31, 2026) as stated in the Grazing Lease Agreement between the District and NDOW. Discussion was had regarding rate establishment. Helen-Marie Morrow, Finance Manager provided a preliminary recommendation of \$7.20 subject to review by Jardine and deBraga. Cody Schroeder inquired regarding the grazing season 2021 price citing that the Committee approved a one-year increase as opposed to a graduated 3-year increase to cover an

approximately \$20,000 deficit. Additionally, it was noted that the administrative fee is \$1.50 per head.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Gomes to approve the 2022 grazing season rate for fees at \$7.20 per head, subject to review; and the administrative fee of \$1.50 per head, seconded by Committee Member Snodgrass, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Discussion regarding operations also included concerns that less than the 1,888 head of cattle permitted by NDOW entered the Pasture in 2021. Discussion followed regarding how to fill the Pasture area to capacity should there be insufficient numbers in 2022. Current policy was referenced. Bryant Behimer suggested “tracking” numbers as applications were received by the District to ensure the 1,888 head capacity was met. Discussion continued with the consensus that current grazers should be given first priority to bring more cattle, by percentage of the insufficient number, not to exceed the limitations per Policy. A waiting list of “new applicants” would then be offered space in the Pasture if space was available.

In addition, discussion was had regarding fencing needs. NDOW discussed fence repair timeline, location, cost and labor. Bryant stated perimeter fencing was a priority; however, interior fences are needed as well. Discussion also included perimeter fencing along highway and Nevada Department of Transportation’s (NDOT’s) responsibility for such fence.

Next, discussion was had regarding water availability on the east side of the Pasture. Herwick stated that currently the L-12 canal only carries City of Fallon effluent (wastewater) during the irrigation season at approximately four (4) cubic feet per second (cfs). In addition, there is currently no water-righted land that receives water from the L-12. Bryant stated that the L-12 canal is the highest ditch in the Project; therefore, water is hard to push particularly late in the irrigation season due to moss accumulation. Discussion of a temporary water right transfer to mitigate insufficient water to the east side of the Pasture was discussed. Bryant noted approximately 1,000 head were affected by insufficient water availability on the east side.

**8. Consent Agenda**

**A motion was made by Committee Member Gomes to approve the consent agenda items which include the November 17, 2021 minutes, seconded by Committee Member Snodgrass, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**9. Additional Public Comment**

Isaac Metcalf, Wildlife Area Supervisor II, NDOW requested the Committee address drain flow accounting in relation to the Carson Lake Pasture. Bryant provided input regarding last year’s end of season drain flows. Snodgrass provided historical background regarding drain flows pursuant to the Fleischmann Agreement. Discussion and inquiry was made regarding mismatched water. It was the consensus of the Committee that this topic be included in the next meeting agenda.

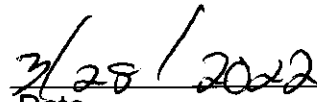
Wes Washburn asked if all Trichomoniasis (Trich) tests had been received; receipt of all Trich tests to be determined.

Committee Chairman deBraga asked if keys had been returned and new locks installed on the Pasture gates. Jacob Ward, Wildlife Area Technician I, NDOW, estimated that there are approximately twenty-seven (27) internal and external gates. New keys would need to be provided for grazers and District staff. Discussion followed. Since the Committee made the determination for keys to be returned and new locks installed, it was the consensus of the Committee that it be made so.

10. **Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Committee Chairman at 2:22 p.m.**

  
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Lester deBraga, Committee Chairman

  
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Date