

Vya Conservation District

Annual Report for

2020-2021

The Vya Conservation District fosters and supports natural resource conservation through leadership, education, technical, and financial assistance to implement and ensure sustainable use of Northwestern Nevada's natural resources.

Vya Conservation District Mission Statement

Our vision is an environment where people conserve and promote natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Vya Conservation District Vision Statement

The Annual Report for the Vya Conservation District (VCD) was developed and approved on September 8, 2021, at the VCD Annual Board Meeting. The plan identifies the following key components addressed by the VCD in Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

Board Membership

The VCD is pleased to report that our board membership of six members has remained stable over the past fiscal year. This is truly a success, especially considering our location in remote northern Washoe County and our low number of eligible individuals (NV land-owners and registered to vote in NV) who reside in the immediate area. Additionally, a former board member continues to serve in the role of Community Liaison keeping the VCD informed of local activities in the nearby town of Cedarville, CA.

Support of Local Farmers/Ranchers

The Vya Conservation District continued to work with local farmers and ranchers on conservation issues including sage grouse initiatives with habitat improvement, other wildlife habitat, soil health, and weed eradication through our Cost Share Program.

We were able to provide funds to two local ranchers through our Producer Cost Share Program:

Project 1: A water development project for 300 acres of livestock grazing and wildlife hydration located in the Vya area. We supported the project with a cost share amount of \$4,000.

Project 2: A solar power, carbon free method to pump water for cattle into two separate remote pastures in the Vya area. We supported the project with a cost share amount of \$3,388.



USDA Service Center; 221 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101
vyaconservatiodistrict@vyacd.org; www.vyacd.org

As part of our support of projects undertaken by local landowners, the VCD provided oversight to make sure that projects were completed in a timely manner and that all requirements and elements of projects were met. We will continue to follow up on projects we have supported to make sure that they are completed within the guidelines set out.

Partnering with Federal, State, and County Entities

The district continued to work with county, state, and federal partners to promote our mission and vision. We partnered with NRCS on producer cost share projects, donated \$2,500 for weed abatement and weed eradication to the BLM Applegate Field Office, as

we have for many years, and will continue to do so in the coming year as funds allow. However, it continues to be challenging due to cuts to conservation district funding and delays in backfilling key program manager positions at the state level. The Washoe County Road Department has been absent as to road right of way weed eradication. This is evidenced by the explosion of tumbleweeds on the county road shoulders from the California border through Vya and continuing on out to the Sheldon Wildlife Refuge via 8A and 34. If these weeds are not treated, they will spread into private and federal lands.

Melany Aten from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources continues to provide support by joining in on our conference calls and bringing attention to matters that are of value to the VCD, including researching grant and project opportunities.

Support Local Events

The VCD continued to financially support local events such as the Modoc District Fair and the Modoc Heritage Foundation Ag Expo, with \$800, which promotes our mission and vision. Each year the VCD has a booth at the Ag Expo in which we offer information about our programs and opportunities to residents of Northern Washoe County, as well as other important matters and we plan to continue this in the coming year. At the 2021 Ag Expo, the VCD arranged for a subject matter expert to speak on Nevada water rights.

Educational Scholarships

Vya Conservation District will continue to award educational scholarships to youth pursuing careers in agriculture, natural resources, and related technical fields through the Norma Hapgood Scholarship. There were no scholarship applicants in the spring of 2021.



USDA Service Center; 221 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101
vyaconservationdistrict@vyacd.org; www.vyacd.org

Educating the Public

During the 2021/2022 fiscal year, Vya Conservation District hopes to continue to educate the public in natural resources through activities such as an annual tour or public education workshops. Our ability to reach this goal may be affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Support of Organizations Promoting Natural Resource Conservation

Vya Conservation District continued to support organizations such as NACD and NvACD through our membership.

Management and Administration

Our ongoing goals in the areas of Management and Administration are as follows:

- Hold regular meetings in September, February/March, April, and May. Meeting months are subject to change, and additional meetings may be added as necessary. Meetings will be held in accordance with current federal, state, and local guidelines in order to protect our supervisors and the public during the current COVID-19 crisis. We met our meeting goals for 2020/2021.
- Prepare and submit all reports, agendas, and minutes required by the State of NV in a timely manner. We met our goals in this area.
- Maintain and update the Vya Conservation District website (www.vyacd.org). Goals were met in this area.
- Submit articles and information to the local media relative to district activities as appropriate. There were no opportunities for district activities in this annual report period due to COVID-19.

Summary

We accomplished many of our goals in 2020/2021 despite the disruption caused by COVID-19. We plan to move forward to achieve these goals in the 2021/2022 fiscal year to the best of our ability while working within the guidelines relating to the challenges we are facing as a nation at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Stobiecki

Tony Stobiecki, Board President
Vya Conservation District



USDA Service Center; 221 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101
vyaconservationdistrict@vyacd.org; www.vyacd.org

vyaconservationdistrict@vyacd.org

Vya Conservation District Financial Summary

Year ending June 30, 2021

1. BEGINNING OF YEAR FUND BALANCE

Equals Funds Reported from end of previous fiscal year)

A.	List all bank accounts:	
	Checking Account	\$9,387.50
	Savings	\$77,380.16
	Certificate of Deposit	
B.	Cash on hand	
C.	Total Fund Balance	<u>\$86,767.66</u>
D.	Accounts Receivable Grants	
E.	Accounts Payable	
F.	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u><u>\$86,767.66</u></u>

2. END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE

A.	List all bank accounts:	
	Checking account	\$11,852.50
	Savings Account	\$65,439.33
	Money Market	
B.	Cash on hand	
C.	Total fund balance	<u>\$77,291.83</u>
D.	Accounts Receivable Grants	
	1. Grant #1	
	2. Grant #2	
E.	Accounts Payable	
	1. Item #1	
	2. Item #2	
F.	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$77,291.83

3. SUMMARY

A.	Beginning of year fund balance (1C above)	\$86,767.66
B.	Plus total receipts (from Receipt Summary)	<u>\$4,059.17</u>
C.	Less Expenditures (from Expense Summary)	<u>\$13,535.00</u>
D.	Must equal end-of-year balance (2C above)	<u><u>77,291.83</u></u>

ASSETS List all assets (equipment, land, buildings, etc.) and estimate their value

- A.
- B.
- C.

Vya Conservation District Summary of Expenditures

Year ending June 30, 2021

Summary of Expenditures

Contracted services	\$925.00
Insurance	\$1,118.00
Education & Information Expense	\$800.00
Dues--NvACD/NACD/NorthCalNeva	\$600.00
Cost Share payments	\$7,388.00
Website fee.	\$204.00
BLM Weed Spraying	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,535.00

Vya Conservation District Summary of Receipts

Year ending June 30, 2021

Summary of Receipts

State funds	\$4,000.00
County funds	
City funds	
Other Government funds (specify)	
Interest--CD, Savings, Checking	\$59.17
Other sources of Income	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$4,059.17</u>

Vya Conservation District Use of State Money			
Year ending June 30, 2021			
Use of State Appropriated Money			
Amount of State Appropriated Money			
Money Spent			
Contracted services			\$925.00
Dues--NvACD/NACD			600.00
Weed spraying			\$2,500.00
Total			4,025.00
State Appropriated Money			4,000.00
Loss			-25.00
<i>Patricia Smith</i>			June 8, 2021
Treasurer			Date
VYA Conservation District			



USDA Service Center; 221 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101
vyaconservatiodistrict@vyacd.org; www.vyacd.org

The Vya Conservation District fosters and supports natural resource conservation through leadership, education, technical, and financial assistance to implement and ensure sustainable use of Northwestern Nevada's natural resources.

Vya Conservation District Mission Statement

Our vision is an environment where people conserve and promote natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Vya Conservation District Vision Statement

Vya Conservation District Work Plan for 2021/2022

The Annual Work Plan for the Vya Conservation District (VCD) was developed and approved at the May 2021 board meeting. The plan identifies the following key components to be addressed by the VCD in Fiscal Year 2021/2022:

Board Membership

Because of our location in remote northern Washoe County and our low population, the VCD has experienced challenges when it came to attracting eligible board members.

After losing the majority of our board members in 2018 and 2019, the VCD began a rigorous recruitment process, which resulted in successfully adding four new supervisors and we are pleased to share that our board currently consists of six members, one of which is an appointee by our Washoe County Commissioner, Jeanne Herman. We continue to maintain a full board and still look for new members. Maintaining a full board has been a great accomplishment for us, and we are looking forward to the fresh insight and ideas our new supervisors and any new members coming onboard will bring.

In addition to having a full board, the Community Coordinator Director position created in the 2020 fiscal year is still filled. This is a non-voting, volunteer position chaired by one of our previous board members who is active in local events and activities. Our Community Coordinator attended their first meeting in their new role in January of 2020 and provides valuable information regarding events that the VCD board has participated in and supported for many years and will continue to support this year. Additionally, a local community member continues to be recognized by the VCD for his ongoing efforts



USDA Service Center; 221 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101
vyaconservationdistrict@vyacd.org; www.vyacd.org

in maintaining the Dugway shortcut road utilizing his own grader. This well-traveled road, no longer serviced by Washoe County, has fallen into disrepair and this individual

volunteers his own time and equipment to provide grading when the road conditions deteriorate.

Support of Local Farmers/Ranchers

The Vya Conservation District will continue to work with local farmers and ranchers on conservation issues including sage grouse initiatives, wildlife habitat improvement, soil health, wildlife friendly fencing, solar powered watering facilities and weed eradication through our Cost Share program as funds allow.

In September of 2020, VCD supervisors approved partial funding reimbursement for two separate conservation projects submitted by local residents. The first project was for installation of two new solar pumps to supply water to newly established cattle troughs. The second was a water development project for 300 acres of livestock grazing. These projects both allow a continuous water source for wildlife and livestock in the area. The total project costs were approximately \$14,000.00. The VCD contributed \$7,388 towards these project amounts, and the landowners provided the rest of the funding.

As part of our support of projects undertaken by local landowners, the VCD provides oversight to make sure that projects are completed in a timely manner, as per the landowner's application, and that all requirements and elements of the project are met. This past year the VCD followed up with a landowner whose project needed additional elements completed. These items were completed last summer.

Partnering with Federal, State, and County Entities

The VCD will continue to work with county, state, and federal partners to promote our mission and vision. We have partnered with NRCS on producer cost share projects, donated funds to the Washoe County Road Department for weed abatement, have donated funds for weed eradication to the BLM Applegate Field Office for many years, and will continue to do so in the coming year as funds allow.

The Board, along with Melany Aten from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, continue to look for grants which will benefit the community. However, COVID-19 restrictions this past fiscal year have curtailed opportunities. A possible idea includes the funding of a greenhouse for the local high school for growing plants that the school can sell on a 50/50 basis. While the Fire Assistance WUI Grant application from the spring of 2019 was not funded, Melany will plan on resubmitting again. This grant



USDA Service Center; 221 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101
vyaconservationdistrict@vyacd.org; www.vyacd.org

would allow the VCD to offer cost share to land-owners who need assistance in removing woody debris, encroaching Pinyon-Juniper trees and large populations of invasive weeds adjacent to high-risk areas. If the grant is accepted, with Melany's help, we will move forward by submitting a formal proposal and begin the process of locating individuals who are interested in taking part in this opportunity.

Support Local Events

The VCD will continue to financially support local events such as the Modoc District Fair and the Modoc Heritage Foundation Ag Expo, which both promote our mission and vision. Each year the VCD has a booth at the Ag Expo in which we offer information about our programs and opportunities to residents of Northern Washoe County, and we plan to continue this in the coming year.

At the Ag Expo in March 2021, the VCD sponsored a water rights agent guest speaker who covered water rights and the cessation of irrigation water availability to Long Valley, NV landowners. This will have a significant impact on the residents and landowners in the Vya/Long Valley areas.

Additionally, two VCD board members attended the Invasive Plant Prioritization Workshop for the Sheldon-Hart Mountain which was held by teleconference at the Cedarville Applegate BLM conference room on October 13, 2020.

Educational Scholarships

Vya Conservation District continues to award educational scholarships to Gerlach, NV or Surprise Valley, CA high school seniors/graduates pursuing careers in agriculture, natural resources, veterinarian medicine, technical fields (such as surveying, map making, engineering), automotive/diesel technology, fire sciences or welding through VCD's Norma Hapgood Scholarship. In 2019 the VCD Board of Supervisors renamed this scholarship to honor Norma Hapgood, a long-term former VCD supervisor and area rancher.

Educating the Public

During the 2021/2022 fiscal year, Vya Conservation District hopes to continue to educate the public in natural resources through activities such as an annual tour or public education workshops. Our ability to reach this goal last fiscal year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Vya Conservation District is committed to doing all we can to protect



USDA Service Center; 221 W. 8th St., Alturas, CA 96101
vyaconservationdistrict@vyacd.org; www.vyacd.org

the public and our board members by following current public health policies and state mandated orders such as “shelter in place.”

Support of Organizations Promoting Natural Resource Conservation

Vya Conservation District will continue to support organizations such as NACD and NvACD through our membership.

Management and Administration

Our ongoing goals in the areas of Management and Administration are as follows:

- Hold regular meetings in September, February/March, April, and May. Meeting months are subject to change, and additional meetings may be added as necessary. Meetings will be held in accordance with current federal, state, and local guidelines in order to protect our supervisors and the public during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Prepare and submit all reports, agendas, and minutes required by the State of NV in a timely manner.
- Maintain and update the Vya Conservation District website (www.vyacd.org)
- Submit articles and information to the local media relative to district activities as appropriate.

Summary

We plan to move forward to achieve these goals to the best of our ability while working within the guidelines relating to the challenges we are facing as a nation at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Stobiecki

Tony Stobiecki, Board President
Vya Conservation District
vyaconservationdistrict@vyacd.org



Proposed Budget 7/1/21 - 6/30/22

Ordinary Income

Savings Interest	75.00
Grants	4,000.00
State Contribution	1,500.00
Total Income	<u>5,575.00</u>

Expense

Contract Services	\$2,200.00
Insurance	\$600.00
Operations:	
Conservation Projects:	\$10,000.00
Education	300.00
Membership Dues	\$600.00
Weed Control	\$1,500.00
Scholarship	\$500.00
Website Fee	\$72.00
Other	
Guest Speaker	\$200.00
Gift/Recognition	<u>\$300.00</u>

Total Expenses 16,272.00

Prepared by Pati Smith
Treasurer