



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone (775) 684-2717 Fax (775) 684-2715
MINUTES

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Office-Humboldt County
1085 Fairgrounds Road, Winnemucca, NV 89445
Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma CD; Vice-Chairman Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD; Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD; Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD; Dr. Sherm Swanson, UNCE/CABNR (teleconference) and Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County CD.

Board Members Absent: Meghan Brown, NV Dept. of Agriculture.

Others Present: Bettina Scherer, Conservation Districts Program Manager; Sandy Quilici, NDCNR Director's Office; Tori Sundheim, Deputy Attorney General (teleconference); Bobby Jones, NDOW/NRCS; Lauren Williams, Ely Conservation Staff Specialist; Gerry Miller, Elko Conservation Staff Specialist; Melany Aten, Winnemucca Conservation Staff Specialist; Connie Lee, Executive Director, NV Association of Conservation Districts; Gloria Montero and Carl Clinger, Big Meadows CD; Karri Honaker, NRCS State Resource Conservationist; Rick Orr, public member; Marlene Wallace, Esmeralda CD; Paul Schlehr, Big Meadows CD; and Rosalee Riemen, public member.

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
A quorum was confirmed and introductions were made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

III. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. Due to the fact the last meeting was October 15, 2019, the minutes were not ready for review at this meeting. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

IV. BRIEF UPDATE ON CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

- A. Bettina Scherer said she is transitioning out of state service at the end of November. A replacement has been selected and she feels they will be a good fit. Since a formal offer is still pending she cannot share the name. We are obtaining budgetary approval for a short overlap of the position of two weeks. We are working on releasing the CD stipends as well.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS DURING THEIR BUSINESS MEETING ON OCTOBER 24, 2019 - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Smith said there were no resolutions brought forth. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

VI. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS ITEMS APPROVED BY THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS DURING THEIR BUSINESS MEETING ON OCTOBER 24, 2019 - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Smith said we embarking on a Nevada Soils Initiative. We had a great turnout for a class in Orovada and this is something we want to take around the state. Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion to support the Nevada Soils Initiative. Commissioner Orr seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. *** ACTION TAKEN***

VII. DISCUSSION OF AREA REPRESENTATIVES ON THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND ADDED APPOINTMENT TO NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) STATE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. It was agreed to have a representative and an alternate from the State Conservation Commission on the STAC. The Commission has appointed members from all 3 areas of the state. Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion that our Area 1 representative is Joe Sicking, Area 2 representative is Eric Rieman, and Area 3 representative is Maggie Orr. Commissioner Tibbitts amended his motion to add an alternate to Area 1 to be Jake Tibbitts, alternate to Area 2 to be determined as it is vacant, and Area 3 to be Leland Wallace. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

*** ACTION TAKEN*** Chairman Sicking asked for the positions to be provided per diem for the meetings. Karri Honaker said she will ask about it and follow-up.

VIII. REVIEW OF STATE-LEVEL NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND AGREEMENTS FOR SHARING RESOURCES WITH CONSERVATION DISTRICTS - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Tibbitts said we have had discussion on this; if the record can reflect we had the Association Meeting with discussion and Karri Honaker gave an update. Commissioner Orr made a motion that the State Conservation Commission supports the idea of Memoranda of Agreements between individual CDs and NRCS. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

IX. PERIODIC REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACTION PLAN - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Tibbitts suggested that we are getting new staff and the new program manager needs to be familiarized with the plan. The plan is up for renewal in 2020, I think having a comprehensive meeting with them and going over the plan would be best. It was agreed. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

X. AGENCY UPDATES - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. Nevada Department of Agriculture – *Meghan Brown, Plant Industry Division* There was no report today.

B. UNR-College of Agriculture Biotechnology and Natural Resources – *Dr. Sherm Swanson, Range and Riparian Extension State Specialist for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Scientist for Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station* Commissioner Swanson said there was a Wild Horse Event in Reno last night with about 250 people attending. There was a panel that had Steve Foree, James Sedinger, Celeste Carlisle, Tina Nappe, and Alan Shepherd. Jeremy Drew was the moderator and the video “Horse Rich and Dirt Poor” was shown. Then there was discussion among the panel and questions from the audience.

C. Natural Resources Conservation Service – *Ray Dotson, State Conservationist* There was no report today.

D. Nevada Department of Wildlife – *Bobby Jones, NDOW/NRCS shared Habitat Biologist* Bobby Jones said the fire season this year was much less than last year. We are continuing with rehab efforts on the Martin Fire and the Corta fire. Tomorrow in the Winnemucca area BLM and NDOW will be spraying acreage with herbicide spray.

Commissioner Orr said the Lincoln County CD would like an NDOW representative to attend their meetings, local work groups, and focus groups because there is a lot going on. Would he deliver the message because we would like NDOW’s input. Bobby said Moira Kolada is in the Ely Area and he will ask her.

Bobby said the interlocal agreements have brought money for CD projects and have been effective.

E. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – *Connie Lee, Executive Director* There was no report today.

F. Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team – *Kelly McGowan, Program Manager* Bettina said she attended Ethan Mower’s Greater Sage Grouse Adaptive Management Trigger Summary Workshop. The SETT would like local input about these triggers, like wildfires in the last ten years and different lek responses and to see how this relates to populations in the area. They will compile that input for specific areas based on habitat by February. Please submit the one page response. Commissioner Tibbitts attended the Battle Mountain Workshop for the South Central Area. Adaptive Management is important and CD’s can start the talk. Bettina said Melany Aten has been helping in the North Central Area. Melany said they are working with the LAWGs and CDs. Melany and Ethan may host a workshop for that area.

G. Others – There were no other reports.

XI. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. There were no other items.

XII. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. It was agreed to wait until the new Program Manager is in place before scheduling the next meeting.

NO ACTION TAKEN

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chairman Sicking adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***