



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Richard H. Bryan Building
Video/Teleconference Meeting
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701
October 26, 2021 at 1:00 PM

- **List of Acronyms attached as last page.**

Board Members Present: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma Conservation District (CD); Vice-Chairman Commissioner Rieman, Carson Valley CD (CVCD); Commissioner Leland Wallace, Esmeralda CD; Commissioner Mark Damron, CD of Southern Nevada; Commissioner Dr. Meiman, UNCE/CABNR, Elko; Commissioner Doug Martin, Nevada Tahoe CD; Commissioner Tibbitts, Eureka CD.

Board Members Absent: Meghan Brown, NV Dept. of Agriculture; Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD, member at large.

Others Present: Melany Aten, Conservation Districts Program (CDP) Manager; Jennifer Zampanti, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) Director's Office; Dominique Etchegoyhen, NDCNR Deputy Director; Gerry Miller, CDP Elko Conservation Staff Specialist; Nikhil Narkhede, Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) Program Manager; Robert Adams, Supervisor, southern Nye County CD; Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Connie Lee, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) Executive Director; Richard Wilkinson, Grant and Watershed Coordinator, Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD).

1. Call to order, Determination of Quorum (For Possible Action)

- A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- B. A quorum was confirmed. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

2. Public Comments There were no public comments.

3. Review and consideration of approval of minutes (For Possible Action)

- A. Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion to approve the corrected August 19, 2021 minutes.
- B. Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion.
- C. Motion passed unanimously. **ACTION TAKEN**

4. Discussion about nomination for Vice Chairman of SCC (For Possible Action)

- A. Discussion: DAG confirms statute regarding Vice Chair. Vice Chair (VC) can call to order an SCC meeting and announce the agenda. Chairman Sicking agrees a VC is necessary.

B. Vote on nominations and determination: Commissioner Tibbitts nominated Commissioner Rieman and Commissioner Damron seconded. Commissioner Rieman elected VC. **ACTION TAKEN**

5. Discussion and possible action to endorse all eligible applicants interested in serving on the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Commission in the vacant position representing Conservation interests (For Possible Action)

A. Review of interested parties: SCC can recommend applicants to Governor for appointment to the Commission. Nikhil Narkhede states that he works on behalf of the Commission. The Commission awards grants that are funded by OHV registration dollars. The grants include repairing damaged areas and promoting Nevada's public lands for visitors to improve the economy. Mr. Narkhede comments that the Commission represents Conservation interests and that there are four meetings a year. A Commissioner cannot miss more than two consecutive meetings. Commission is currently chaired by Commissioner Phillip Phil, who represents motorcycle racing and interests. Vice Chair is Undersheriff Kevin Malone from Humboldt County. Commission has decided to meet more than four times a year to track progress on grants and to better assess ongoing challenges.

B. Discussion and possible action to endorse all eligible applicants according to NRS 490.067. DAG Ott clarifies that under NRS490.067 (2)(F)., the OHV Commission position is not supposed to be representing the interests of just the Conservation Commission, but all conservation needs across the state. The appointment is for a member who is actively engaged in and possesses experience and expertise in advocating for issues relating to conservation. It's not a Conservation Commission representative. Determined that a person can serve on two different commissions at this time. Commissioner Tibbitts supports Commissioner Reiman and Bob Adams to both be recommended to Governor for appointment. Motion from Commissioner Rieman. Commissioner Martin seconded. Motion passes. Ms. Aten to forward both names in letter of recommendation to Governor. **ACTION TAKEN**

6. Updates from Agencies and Partners (For Possible Action)

A. Department of Agriculture: None

B. University of Nevada, Reno, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension: Commissioner Meiman announces the University of Nevada Reno Extension Cattlemen's update for 2022. Dates are Monday, January 10, 2022 through Friday, January 14, 2022

C. DCNR: Dominique Etchegoyhen asked if there were any questions for him and NDNCR. Commissioner Martin asked if Mr. Etchegoyhen and Ms. Zampanti will be attending the next NvACD meeting in late February or early March and Mr. Etchegoyhen confirmed and praised the NvACD for their efforts and offered help in the future from DCNR.

D. Sagebrush Ecosystem Program and Technical Team: None

E. NvACD: Commissioner Martin thanks Connie Lee and all CD's for attending meetings and developing an NvACD strategic plan. Strategic plan focuses first on outreach and communication, then moves into funding and advocacy, and education and finishing collaboration. Asked supervisors about a Zoom call for business meeting on November 16, 2021 by phone. Needs more specifics for the strategic plan, like before and after photos and records, for an adoption of the plan. Reports from other CD's can be used to help develop the plan. Commissioner Rieman comments that pictures would showcase the actual work getting done and confirm the money being spent. Ms. Aten comments that the SCC and NvACD is specifically called out to help communicate with the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO). Comments on plans to be submitted should be put on next agenda. Ms. Lee spoke of the November 16, 2021 business meeting, the poster contest, and the

Sportsman's raffle. Asks for feedback on the strategic plan. Working with Nevada Weed Management Association to collaborate with them and other entities in Nevada.

F. All other Partners and participating agencies: None

7. Review and discussion of Conservation District reports (For Possible Action) Ms.

Aten states that all reports were received on time to the program, and the late ones submitted by CDs were sent as drafts on time, with final versions being sent in later for the SCC to review. Discrepancies with Carson Valley were addressed. Nevada Tahoe submitted only one form on time and it was a draft. Final version received morning of SCC meeting. Commissioner Tibbitts responds that Quinn River CD and Vya CD were signed and dated later than the due date (checking whether it's June 30th) and that the Administrative code is not being followed. Noted that some CD's don't have the ability to sign documents and transmit them on time, so dated signatures were submitted after the documents were sent originally. Commissioner Tibbitts stresses the code is black and white that the CD's shall submit their documents on time. June 30 was the deadline set out to CDs for reports due.

Carson Valley: Richard Wilkinson mislabeled one of the reports, since both looked similar. Commissioner Tibbitts and Mr. Wilkinson discuss documents received. Mr. Wilkinson will submit actual expenses and review expenses and income.

Ms. Aten had sent out templates so that all information is more easily read and asks CD's to use the template in the future. Item for next agenda.

Commissioner Tibbitts states problems with various reports. Chairman Sicking asks what to do about the problems. Commissioner Tibbitts says that reports can be rejected. Chairman Sicking would like to do something to meet standards. Commissioner Rieman asked about Dayton Valley. Ms. Aten confirming tracking report. Commissioner Rieman questions Dayton Valley's meetings. Commissioner Tibbitts states the deadline for reports is June 1st. confirmed that submissions were on time, just signed later. Commissioner Martin speaks about Nevada Tahoe CD (NTCD) submitting a draft to ensure they met the deadline. Chairman Sicking talks about "good standing."

At 1:19 minutes into the meeting, Chairman Sicking suggests going through the list of CD's one-by-one to determine good standing. The following notes are minutes compiled specifically on each CD at different times throughout the meeting. Chairman Sicking states voting will take place after the final review.

1. Big Meadow reviewed: In good standing.
2. Carson Valley reviewed: Found in good standing, but requesting they submit their revised financials for clarity within the allowable 60 days. Mr. Wilkinson agreed.
3. CD of Southern Nevada (CDSN): Commissioner Tibbitts - Did not spend \$1,149.10 of disbursement from state. If in good standing, will subtract that amount off new disbursement. In good standing.

Legislature reduced the distribution amount to \$3,000. (Note: It was clarified after the meeting that the amount to each CD is \$4,000, not \$3,000) Any CD's that did not spend their allocation money will have it subtracted this fiscal year from their distribution and the remaining amount equally distributed to the districts in good standing. Ms. Aten will work with CDSN to ask about financial report to ensure it reflects spending correctly.

4. Clover: In good standing.

5. Dayton Valley: Commissioner Tibbitts - Page 2 of 3 missing from report. No proposed budget with FY22 report. Late on submittal with annual work plan FY22. Financial report confusing. Need breakout of how money was spent. Ms. Aten contacted them to confirm that Dayton Valley met three times and agendas were sent. Meeting minutes submitted for January 26th, April 27th, and November 24th, 2020. Determined as not in good standing due to incomplete reports, missing financial information, and fiscal records which do not show expenditures and summaries.
6. Duck Valley: Commissioner Tibbitts said they had not spent their entire state grant. Gerry Miller states that a whole new board was elected last November and a new bank account opened. They have no records from the past of any deposits. There is an issue of the CD being in two different states and it's banking in Idaho and are trying to change banks to Nevada. Only spent \$2,375, with over \$1,600 of grant unused. Discrepancy of receipts because of missing bank statements. Found in good standing, but requesting they submit their revised financials for clarity within the allowable 60 days. In good standing.
7. Esmeralda: Late with financials, due to out-of-control circumstances. In good standing.
8. Eureka: In good standing.
9. Jiggs: In good standing.
10. Lahontan: Commissioner Tibbitts – Report continually says canceled due to Covid. Text of the report and some of the financial information doesn't appear to line up with what they actually did. In good standing.
11. Lamoille: Commissioner Tibbitts – Report says they paid dues to NACD, but financial report does not say that. Text of their report doesn't match their financial statements. In good standing.
12. Lander: In good standing.
13. Lincoln: In good standing.
14. Mason Valley: In good standing.
15. Nevada Tahoe: Commissioner Tibbitts states financials not in line and Commissioner Martin answers that the September meeting was cancelled due to air quality and fires in Tahoe. Draft was sent to Ms. Aten and was discussed. Draft was approved on October 25th. Commissioner Martin introduces Dana Olson, Deputy District Manager and Administrator for NTCD. Answered questions regarding budget. Summary should break out where the funds were spent. Financial summary is correct, but expenditure and receipts should not be exactly the same. Will revise budget for Nevada Tahoe. Ms. Olson clarified that the Nevada-Tahoe CD sent in a duplicate second page. Correct financial numbers will be sent to Melany.
Ms. Olson asked about template and whether she can change it around to be more explanatory. Commissioner Martin asks why the form being used is bad. Offers copy of audit. In good standing, but requesting they submit their revised financials for clarity within the allowable 60 days.
16. NE Elko: In good standing.
17. Owyhee: In good standing.
18. Paradise-Sonoma: In good standing.
19. Quinn River: Commissioner Tibbitts – Signed past deadline, but submitted on time. In good standing.
20. Ruby Valley: Commissioner Tibbitts – Only used \$3,374.17 of funding. Will have amount deducted from funding, In good standing, but requesting they submit their revised financials for clarity within the allowable 60 days.
21. Smith Valley: In good standing.
22. Southern Nye County: Commissioner Tibbitts – Doesn't list the state funding of \$4,000 in their budget. Need to clarify. Mr. Adams states that the budget does show the state funding. Clarified that expenditures don't list state funding, it's listed in a different place. Bob will add that into the first page of the report. In good standing.

23. Starr Valley: In good standing.
24. Stillwater: In good standing.
25. Tonopah: In good standing.
26. Vya: Signed after deadline, but submitted in time. In good standing.
27. Washoe-Storey: In good standing.
28. White Pine: Tracking is wrong. They need direction on reporting. Melany will clarify with CD that all state money was spent. In good standing.

Commissioner Tibbitts – Board of supervisors need to be meeting and voting on things, instead of allowing staff to complete submittals on their own. There are too many old forms being used. CD's can submit a revised financial statement. Reports need to be updated and cleaned up. Per NAC 548.115, SCC can allow CD's to submit a revised financial statement. Districts not meeting all standards will be found not in good standing and will be allowed to request a hearing. Melany states there has been a transition problem with CD's sending their agendas and minutes, so the tracking log will not be accurate. All CD's had three meetings and agendas were submitted to meet the requirements for three meetings in a year. Not all minutes sent in. Commissioner Tibbitts states all annual work plans are due by June 1st, not June 30. Commissioner Tibbitts states that the CD's must have their financials in order for the SCC to be able to review and approve.

8. Discussion and possible determination of Districts “In Good Standing” status for fiscal years 2021-2022 (For Possible Action)

A. Commissioner Tibbitts motions for a vote on good standing. Commissioner Tibbitts motions for a vote that all districts are in good standing except Dayton Valley CD. Funds should be released to the districts found in good standing, while deducting those unspent amounts of Southern Nevada, Ruby Valley, and Duck Valley. Dayton Valley CD has opportunity to justify their non-compliance to the board. Commissioner Tibbitts retracts the motion due to separate items on agenda. Makes another motion under agenda item 8A to find all districts in good standing and eligible for funding, except Dayton Valley. Commissioner Rieman seconds. Passed. **ACTION TAKEN**

Commissioner Wallace asks about developing a standard form to make this process easier. Ms. Aten would prefer to develop templates and have them be the standard form of submission. Discussion for future agenda. Ms. Aten stated that she did send out a template to the CD's and asks the CD's and supervisors to ask her for help, if needed.

B. Motion made by Commissioner Rieman to release the funding to the CDs in good standing, less the amounts not spent to Southern Nevada, Ruby Valley, and Duck Valley. Remaining amounts including the extra amounts not spent by the three CD's will be divided equally. Funding should not be distributed until Dayton Valley CD has their appeal finalized and Ruby Valley, Southern Nevada, and Duck Valley have a chance to submit corrected financials. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed **ACTION TAKEN**

9. Commissioner Items (For Discussion Only)

A. None

10. Next Commission Meeting (For Possible Action)

A. Future agenda items: Compliance review of Dayton Valley's expenditures and review of additional CD financial reports; item 7 from previous meeting regarding Assembly Joint Resolution 2 (AJR2).

B. Date, time, and location of next meeting: The next meeting will be scheduled once Dayton Valley CD releases new information

11. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

A. Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned 3:09 PM.