



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Nevada State Conservation Commission
Carson Valley Inn, Douglas Room
Minden, NV
Monday, November 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Others Present: Bettina Scherer, Conservation Districts Program Manager; Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office; Dominique Etchegoyhen, DCNR Deputy Director; Gerry Miller, Conservation Staff Specialist, Elko Area; Melany Aten, Conservation Staff Specialist, Winnemucca Area; Nancy Sicking; Marlene Wallace, Esmeralda CD; Gary McCuin, Eureka CD; J.P. Kiel, NV Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning; Tim Rubald, past Conservation Districts Program Manager; Connie Lee, NV Department of Wildlife; Rainy Lawson, Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Nevada (SANE); Robin Boies, Boies Ranches and Debbie Hughes, Executive Director of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts.

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
A quorum was confirmed and there were introductions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

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

- A. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the October 13, 2017, meeting minutes. Commissioner Roukey seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

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

- A. Bettina Scherer said on October 13th all districts were found in good standing. The Conservation District of Southern Nye did not fully expend their annual stipend. Therefore they can only be awarded what they spent. They spent \$2800 of \$4000. With the additional \$500 that the Legislature approved this year they will receive \$3300.

There is a new Conservation Staff Specialist for the Winnemucca Area and she is Melany Aten. Melany was present and introduced herself.

V. DISCUSSION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS CAPABILITY TO COLLECT FEES - * FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. Commissioner Roukey attended the National Association of Invasive Species Management Agencies (NAISMA) joint conference with the Nevada Weed Management Association (NWMA) last month. He said looking at our CD reports that were submitted he observed a disparity amongst CD's regarding the amount of monies that are received from the counties and the cities. Commissioner Roukey posed the question to the board: "Is there something in statute that requires the counties to support CDs?"

Commissioner Tibbitts discussed that SB476 did say if a CD has a Weed Control District within the CD boundary the County Commission can designate the CD board of supervisors to act as the weed district board of directors and administer the weed district. Mr. Tibbitts also noted that weed control funding may be available from BLM.

Commissioner Rieman said his CD receives money from the Weed District who receives money from the county. The CD receives money from the Weed District to help with weed control. It is a combined effort.

Commissioner Tibbitts said the CD of Southern Nevada has started some conversation with their County Commission regarding the CD's and funding. Chairman Sicking commented that the CDs need to show that they are relevant and that they are capable of doing a job the county wants done.

VI. DISCUSSION OF THE VIRGINIA RANGE HORSE HERD - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Orr said she had talked with Jim Barbee, the Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, about having someone at this meeting. Mr. Barbee spoke with her on Sunday and he said he could not have anyone here because of a news article released through the RGJ since this item was placed on the agenda. Mr. Barbee said that NDA is actively addressing concerns. Commissioner Orr made a motion to say that we stay apprised of any major developments with the herd and we support NDA and recognize there is a problem. Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

Chairman Sicking asked to put the motion before the NvACD for support. NvACD President, Maggie Orr, said she would.

VII. 2018 HEALTHY WATERSHEDS CONSORTIUM GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HUMBOLDT RIVER BASIN NETWORK - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Bettina Scherer said she is presenting the concept tomorrow; right now she wants to make the Commission aware of a potential funding source. It is a grant through EPA; the U.S. Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program funded through the U.S. Endowment of Forestry and Communities to potentially present the findings from the Humboldt River Basin Network Situation Assessment, defining and clarifying the concerns of water users and other stakeholders within the basin. The SCC would be the grant applicant requesting \$150,000 over a period of three years for education and outreach efforts to disseminate the findings of the SA or to tailor outreach efforts to address emergent themes from the SA and potentially fund an HRBN coordinator. The funding may also be used for logistics in support of a basin wide educational conference or smaller workshops. The non-federal match required is 25%.

Commissioner Tibbitts asked if the match is rolled in to the \$150,000. Bettina said yes it is. Commissioner Tibbitts said it would be best to wait until after the Situation Assessment has been shared in mid to late January prior to the February 1, 2018 deadline. Chairman Sicking said it is important to have the landowners on board.

Commissioner Roukey made a motion to apply for the grant. Commissioner Tibbitts said we need a couple of check-ins before the due date and before submittal we should have a meeting before submitting the final application in February 2018. The motion was amended to add Commissioner Tibbitts' statement. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

VIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NEW CONSERVATION DISTRICT RESOLUTIONS - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Orr said there were no resolutions at this time. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

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

A. It was agreed to move this item to a future agenda. ***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 the Northwest Association of Colleges and Universities has accredited the new Graduate Program and Animal and Rangeland Sciences at UNR which includes both a masters and a PhD. Commissioner Swanson is the new Director of the program. Dr. Ivory Lyles is the new director of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and associate dean for engagement in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. He started in this new position Nov. 1.

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

D. Nevada Department of Wildlife – *Connie Lee, Landowner Incentive Programs* Ms. Lee said the replacement representative from NDOW is Jasmine Kleiber from the Habitat Division.

E. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – *Maggie Orr, President* Commissioner Orr said the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and NRCS at the national level have signed an agreement that 80% of it - \$10 million - is to get EQIP funding on the ground. This will help NRCS with additional manpower for Resource Needs Assessment and planning assistance. Twenty percent of the funding is dedicated to Conservation Technical Assistance and would provide greater capacity projected from the NvACD agreement with NV-NRCS to carry out Resource Needs Assessments. This will require the need for someone to compile results from the Resource Needs Assessment, whilst integrating data sets from the different agencies and other partners. We would like to use the \$50,000 for Nevada to hire a position to help the first six CD's that are in our agreement with NRCS. Ray Dotson, the State Conservationist, supports the idea. There are several people in D.C. that are pushing the idea to see if it falls under the 20% funding. The paperwork for this is due November 28th.

F. Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team – *Kelly McGowan, Program Manager* There was no report today.

G. Others – There were no other reports.

XI. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. There were no items.

XII. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. It was agreed to meet in the first part of January 2018. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chairman Sicking adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.