



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

California Trail Interpretive Center
1 Interpretive Trail Center Way
Hunter Exit 292 Elko, NV
Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma CD; Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD; Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD; Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County CD; Dr. Sherm Swanson, UNCE/CABNR; Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD; Meghan Brown, NV Dept. of Agriculture. Kevin Roukey with Washoe/Storey CD has resigned from the board.

Others Present: Bettina Scherer, Conservation Districts Program Manager; Sandy Quilici, NDCNR Director's Office; Connie Lee, NvACD Executive Director; Lori Story, Deputy Attorney General (by teleconference); Melany Aten, Winnemucca Conservation Staff Specialist; Gerry Miller, Elko Conservation Staff Specialist; Tim Rubald, retired CD Program Manager as a volunteer; Dana Olson, Nevada Tahoe CD (by teleconference); Gary McCuin, Eureka County CD; Marlene Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Ray Dotson, State Conservationist with NRCS; Chris Magee, CD of Southern Nevada (by teleconference); Shane Ammerman, CD of Southern Nevada (by teleconference) and Mark Damron, CD of Southern Nevada.

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 1:00 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. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Brown 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 she is now included in the Administrator's meetings at NDCNR which will be helpful with communicating what the CD's are doing and raising Department awareness of the Program.

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DETERMINATION OF DISTRICTS' 'IN GOOD STANDING' STATUS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Bettina said four districts submitted their testimonials and their missing paperwork. There were certified letters sent for a verification of a receipt. Bettina emphasized the need to meet the deadlines to each district.

Commissioner Rieman said Mike Hayes will try to get the Carson Valley CD minutes in on time.

Dana Olson with the Nevada Tahoe CD said the minutes were up on their website, but the minutes were not submitted to Bettina. They will provide the future minutes before the deadlines.

Chris Magee with CD of Southern Nevada said they had lost their secretary and had some other issues, but now they are sure of the dates and have increased their communication with Bettina. They are hiring staff, hopefully within the next month.

Shane Ammerman with CD of Southern Nevada added they know better now going forward.

Commissioner Orr said to Chris that in his letter he stated they would be interviewing for a position that would be funded by UNCE. Could he provide an update? Chris said there will be interviews for three finalists on Friday. Between their district and Cooperative Extension they have determined a few things for this position. One is the Resource Needs Assessment and another is to develop a Water Conservation Program. Another is to develop a tool set for urban gardens. Connie Lee asked Chris to send NvACD the information to share.

B. Chairman Sicking asked for a motion to authorize and release the funding for Carson Valley CD, Nevada Tahoe CD, CD of Southern Nevada, and Washoe-Storey CD. Commissioner Smith made the motion, Commissioner Swanson seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

VI. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO MODIFY AND EXPAND MARKET BASED FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS SPONSORED BY NEVADA TAHOE CONSERVATION DISTRICT APPROVED BY THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS DURING THEIR BUSINESS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 14, 2018 - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion that the SCC supports this resolution. Commissioner Swanson seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

VII. AGENCY UPDATES - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. Nevada Department of Agriculture – *Meghan Brown, Plant Industry Division* Commissioner Brown said the new Rangeland Monitoring Handbooks are out. Our app is out on the Rancher's Monitoring Guide for iPhone and Android phones.

The Legislative Session is coming and we are working on Agriculture's priorities.

There was a Leadership Meeting which Bettina attended and shared CD's concerns.

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 we have been working for years with multiple agencies on the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbooks. This version is streamlined and now it fits with BLM's approach. This uses scales. Brad Schultz made sure there is a standard version of the Statistical Consideration. Fire and Fuels Management and Riparian Management are included. There are flow charts to help explain and there is information on what we want to accomplish. We can focus on priorities and then write objectives.

This is online and if the CD's would like a workshop please let him know.

Commissioner Swanson provided a handout which shows how CABNR works with UNCE.

Commissioner Tibbitts said the budget enhancement to start rebuilding extension offices was put forward, but the Board of Regents did not include it in the items for consideration by the Governor. Commissioner Tibbitts asked the CD's to reach out to the Governor's Office to ask them to include this enhancement. This is needed for two years. This needs to be in the Governor's budget.

C. Natural Resources Conservation Service – *Ray Dotson, State Conservationist* Ray Dotson went over some current NRCS talks and plans.

Connie Lee said that Elko does not require a permit for hoop houses.

Commissioner Wallace asked what happened to the Fallon facility that was to raise grasses to reseed burn areas. Commissioner Brown said the Plant Material Plant will be going forward. UNR uses part of the land with NRCS. Ray Dotson said they are working on a cooperative process. Commissioner Swanson confirmed that UNR shares the intent.

- D. Nevada Department of Wildlife – *Bobby Jones, NDOW/NRCS shared Habitat Biologist* There was no report today.
- E. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – *Maggie Orr, President* Commissioner Orr said we have sponsored the first Nevada Silver State Grant Conference that will be in 2019.
- F. Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team – *Kelly McGowan, Program Manager* There was no report today.
- G. Others – There were no other reports.

XIII. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

- A. Chairman Sicking said that Commissioner Kevin Roukey had submitted a letter of resignation to the board.

IX. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. The next meeting will be in February after the Legislature begins with the date to be determined. Perhaps on NDCNR Day at the Legislature. Tim Rubald said he will help to reserve the day. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- Chairman Sicking adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m. *** NO ACTION TAKEN***