



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Bristlecone Convention Center
150 6th Street, Ely, Nevada
Monday, November 2, 2015 5:30 p.m.
Available by teleconference

The Nevada State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items.

Board Members Present: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma CD; Vice Chairman Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD (by phone); Robert Little, NV Dept. of Agriculture; Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD; Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD; Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD; Dr. Sherm Swanson, UNR/CABNR; and Kevin Roukey, Washoe-Storey CD.

Board Members Absent: No members were absent.

Others Present: Tim Rubald, Conservation Districts Program Manager; Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office; Nancy Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma CD; Connie Lee, NV Dept. of Wildlife; Gerry Miller, Conservation Staff Specialist, Elko Area; Ben Bolton, Conservation Staff Specialist, Ely Area; Marlene Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Chris Freeman, Nevada-Tahoe CD, and Carl Clinger, Big Meadow CD.

CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
A quorum was confirmed.
The participants introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

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

- A. Approval of September 17, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Orr commented that under Item VI on the second line after "has sent two letters" to add "and it needs a new perspective."

On the next line it says "he will draft language". It should read "he will help draft language."

Under Item X after "The tour as part of the NvACD meeting will be Wednesday, November 4th"; the next two lines were about the NACD Meeting in February not the NvACD Meeting in Ely. It should read "At the NACD meeting in February there will be a rangeland tour and the cost should be around \$60.00. The money goes back to the NACD. The agenda will include an item on wild horses." Commissioner Roukey made a motion to approve the minutes as

amended; Commissioner Orr seconded the motion; there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

B. Approval of October 5, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Orr said on page 4 under Item IX in the 2nd paragraph after “and their response” - to add “Tourism should be involved by working to see that the whole picture of the situation is shown.” Commissioner Orr added it should say that she asked Mr. Rubald to forward the email to the Lt. Governor not Ms. Vecchio. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Roukey seconded the motion; there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

Sandy Quilici made the amendments to the September and October meeting minutes and the minutes are finalized.

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

A. Mr. Rubald said the recruitment is ongoing for the Winnemucca Area Conservation Staff Specialist position.

Mr. Rubald is looking for new (newer) vehicles for Ben Bolton, Ely Area Conservation Staff Specialist, and Gerry Miller, Elko Area Conservation Staff Specialist. He is checking with the Dept. of Agriculture. The Winnemucca position will require a vehicle also.

V. DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S STRATEGIC PLAN - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Mr. Rubald the Strategic Plan is almost completed and he hopes to have it done in the next couple of weeks. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

VI. DISCUSSION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO NAC 555 BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Little provided copies of the proposed changes. *See Attachment I.* Commissioner Little said it had been mentioned at the last meeting that a government entity would require liability insurance of 2 million dollars for pest/weed control. He researched the NAC and found that is not true. The amounts required are in the copy of the NAC he provided on Page 27, Section 22, under Number 2.

The hearing date for adoption of the regulation is November 30, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. at the UNR Cooperative Extension Offices in Reno, Las Vegas, and Elko.

The LCB edits are back. One item states all entities are required a license if they are doing work for hire. Work for hire is defined on Page 5, Section 9. ‘For hire’ is when a pest control business or government agency receives any form of compensation from another person, including, without limitation: (1) A grant of money from a governmental entity; or (2) Money paid from the proceeds of a voluntary tax that is paid by persons in exchange for an activity described in NRS 555.2667 being conducted on or relating to property owned or controlled by the persons who pay the tax.

Money that a CD receives from the state (stipend) that is used for pest/weed control would not require a license.

If a CD receives a grant that is only available to CD's (no one else may apply for), any grant money used for pest/weed control would not require a license.

Licensing is required for competitive grants that any entity may apply for – this would be work for hire. Agriculture will look at each entity on its own merits – what type of work are they doing, what supervision is needed, and how many individuals will need to be licensed.

Agriculture understands that some entities were not able to budget for this requirement and have set the compliance date for July 1, 2016 so the entities can plan.

Commissioner Tibbitts asked about provisions for the weed districts and asked if Agriculture was taking comments on this. Commissioner Little said they are taking written comments until 5:00 p.m., November 25th.

Agriculture wants to continue to have the weed work done. CWMA and CD's have the ability to work under another's license. A CWMA can have a county group or CD work under their supervision or under a member's license.

NO ACTION TAKEN

VII. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED REGULATION R113-15; WHICH WILL POSSIBLY BE PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION BY THE COMMISSION AT A LATER DATE - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Mr. Rubald provided copies of the draft regulation and the draft regulation with LCB's edits (in color). *See Attachment II.*

The draft with color notations is what LCB proposes we adopt. Mr. Rubald said he will post the 30 day notice and we can make changes at the public adoption hearing. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

VIII. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING EFFORTS TOWARD BETTER COLLABORATION WITH THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE'S (NDOW) PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (NPCD) PROGRAM - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Connie Lee said she has asked Lee Turner who is the Partners for Conservation and Development Program Manager to come and speak at the next State Conservation Commission meeting. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

IX. AGENCY UPDATES - * FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

Commissioner Tibbitts asked to have a Sagebrush Ecosystem Team report added to the agency updates. Mr. Rubald said he will ask for that.

A. Nevada Department of Agriculture – Robert Little, Plant Industry Administrator. Commissioner Little said the Nevada Weed Management Association's Conference was held last week and offered good information. There was also a Medusahead Symposium with participation from other states that produced useful discussion.

The Governor's Conference on Agriculture will be November 10th in Las Vegas.

Commissioner Tibbitts noted that Commissioner Little is now the Administrator of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry. The Commissioners congratulated Commissioner Little on his promotion.

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 he will be presenting tomorrow at the NvACD Annual Meeting.

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

D. Farm Services Administration – Clint Koble, State Executive Director There was no report today.

E. Nevada Department of Wildlife – Connie Lee, Private Lands Coordinator Ms. Lee said NDOW will be having some Game Management Workshops. *See Attachment III.*

There is an overlay of the NDOW biologists that cover Conservation Districts. This will show CD's their area biologist. Ms. Lee provided a list of CD's and their NDOW biologists. *See Attachment IV.*

Ms. Lee said there is some funding for CD's and she would help as an NDOW sponsor.

The Habitat Division is organizing these funding sources. There is an NDOW web page that lists some grant opportunities.

F. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – Jake Tibbitts, President Commissioner Tibbitts said the NvACD Annual Meeting starts tomorrow.

Chairman Sicking said he would like to recognize Commissioner Tibbitts for the work he has done as president of the State Association. He has improved the Association and done a great job. The Commissioners agreed and applauded Commissioner Tibbitts.

G. Others – Participating agencies and partners. There were no other reports.

X. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. Commissioner Orr said she met with Ray Dotson and said he believes in building relationships and in good planning.

Commissioner Roukey said regarding the tax per parcel, it might be helpful to have the Commission (or the Association) and UNCE put on a workshop to see what will be needed, and then present it to the CD's.

XI. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Agenda items to be considered will be the Strategic Plan, Wild Horse letter, and the regulation public hearing and adoption.

B. It was agreed to have the next meeting on Tuesday, December 15th, at the Bryan Building in Carson City. The time will be 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be teleconferenced. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Freeman with the Nevada-Tahoe CD said they are working on the parcel fee program.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chairman Sicking adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***