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Division of Water Resources  
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## **Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

### **ADOPTION HEARING MINUTES NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVE NEVADA PROGRAM**

**JUNE 3, 2022  
1:30 P.M. PST**

**Note:** Items on the agenda may be taken out of the posted order, items may be combined for consideration, and items may be pulled or removed from the agenda.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Brandon Bishop called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM on June 3, 2022.

**2. ATTENDANCE:**

Conserve Nevada Program Present: Brandon Bishop (DCNR-Conserve Nevada Program Manager); Jim Lawrence (DCNR Deputy Director); Cathy Erskine (DCNR) Public in attendance: Kristen Szabo (DCNR- Division of Natural Heritage), Robb Fellows (Carson City Public Works Department); Laurel Saito (The Nature Conservancy), Kathy Flanagan (Southern Nevada Water Authority), Alexia Sober, Sarah Scott.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was received.

**4. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT REGULATIONS:**

Brandon Bishop (Program Manager, Conserve Nevada) presented an overview of the proposed regulations. This included proposed revisions based upon written public comment received prior to the hearing. (See: Proposed Hearing Revision June 2, 2022)

Robb Fellows (Carson City Public Works) asked when the regulations would be in place and when grants would be available.

Brandon Bishop (Program Manager, Conserve Nevada) stated that based upon public comment that the regulations were anticipated to be in place at the conclusion of the meeting pending legislative commission review. He further specified that the first grant

round would likely be in Fall or Winter of 2023 dependent upon the upcoming legislative session.

Jim Lawrence (DCNR Deputy Director): Further outlined the process for the bond sale and the regulation adoption.

Robb Fellows (Carson City Public Works): Asked when Conserve Nevada anticipated that there will be a notice of intent to receive potential projects for a needs assessment.

Brandon Bishop (Program Manager, Conserve Nevada): Stated that this process would likely be announced in the coming weeks and that a needs assessment document would be developed over the summer to help inform the budget process.

Jim Lawrence (DCNR Deputy Director): Encouraged entities to reach out before the formal notice if they had any comments or questions and that the program was always available for feedback.

Laurel Saito (The Nature Conservancy): In regard to Section 29(3)(B) was wondering why this section omitted nonprofits for land and water acquisitions.

Jim Lawrence (DCNR Deputy Director): Clarified that Section 29(3)(F) provided for land and water right acquisitions by nonprofits like The Nature Conservancy.

Laurel Saito (The Nature Conservancy): Further clarified that she was concerned that Section 29(3)(F) required the state to hold interest in the acquisition.

Jim Lawrence (Deputy Director DCNR): Specified that this section was to secure the interests of the State. This would typically be a security to protect the state interest through an element such as first right of refusal of a property or conservation easement in the event the nonprofit was unable to maintain the terms of the grant.

Laurel Saito (Deputy Director DCNR): Stated that they were concerned about the discrepancy between Section 29(3)(B) and 29(3)(F) in relation to “water rights” verse “water” and sought further clarification on this section.

Jim Lawrence (Deputy Director DCNR): Stated that he believes the intent for both 29(3)(B) and 29(3)(F) were related to water rights. He requested that ‘rights’ be included in proposed regulations. He further stated acquisition of water is the acquisition of water rights.

Brandon Bishop (Program Manager): Closed the public comment and hearing on the proposed regulations.

## **5. ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS:**

Brandon Bishop (Program Manager, Conserve Nevada): Opened the adoption hearing on the proposed regulation.

Jim Lawrence (Deputy Director, DCNR): Stated that he will go ahead and adopt the proposed regulation (Proposed Hearing Revision June 2, 2022) with the further amendment to add “rights” after the word “water” on the second line of paragraph F, under Section 29. With these amendments to the proposed regulation, he considers the regulation adopted.

Jim Lawrence (Deputy Director, DCNR): Thanked everyone for their participation with the program and looks forward to working with all of program’s partners. He stated that this program will be adaptive, and the regulations may be revisited after the first grant round.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was received.

## **7. Adjournment**

Brandon Bishop adjourned the meeting at 1:52 PM.

A copy of all materials relating to the minutes may be obtained by contacting the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 1003, Carson City, NV 89701, Brandon.Bishop@dcnr.nv.gov, or (775) 684-2707.