



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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APPROVED MINUTES
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Teleconference - Thursday, February 17, 2011
Division of Conservation Districts, Richard Bryan Building
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004, Carson City, NV 89703

The Nevada State Conservation Commission held a public meeting on February 17, 2011 at 12 pm at the Division of Conservation Districts, 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701. The State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items on February 17, 2011.

Board Members Present: Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD.

Board Members Present Via Teleconference: Joe Sicking, Paradise/Sonoma CD; Leland Wallace, Esmeralda CD; Joseph Fortier, CD of Southern Nevada; Chris Freeman, Nevada-Tahoe CD; Vance Vesco, Big Meadow CD.

Others Present: Jim Lawrence, Acting Administrator, NV Division of Conservation Districts; Brandi Ré, NV Division of CDs; Kevin Benson, Deputy Attorney General, NV Attorney General's Office.

Others Present Via Teleconference: Barbara Perlman-Whyman, Nevada Tahoe CD & NvACD; Jessi Eckert, Lahontan/Stillwater CD; Rich Wilkinson, Dayton Valley CD.

I. CALL TO ORDER - Quorum established.

A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Introductions were made of those present and participating via teleconference.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA - *ACTION*

A. The agenda was approved as written via a motion to approve by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, motion passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment.

IV. REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION– Status of Division of Conservation Districts

1. General – Jim Lawrence

- a. Jim notified the commission of the upcoming meetings scheduled for DCNR. The department is on the agenda for the Assembly Natural Resources Committee Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 1:30 pm in room 3161. The agenda item is *Department Introduction and Overview* and Leo Drozdoff will be giving a brief overview of the department and agency administrators will give a program overview on their various agencies. The same type of presentation

will be given the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 3:30 pm. The agenda is not out yet for this meeting. Chairman Sicking requested clarification if there would be an opportunity for public comment during the committee meetings. Jim said that is at the discretion of the chair; however, there is a public comment item on the bottom of the agenda but it is unknown how much time will be allowed for comment.

- b. Commissioner Freeman noted the presentation Leo gave at the budget hearing included misinformation given regarding district match. Leo stated not all districts match 1:1; however, Commissioner Freeman said they are required to match to be eligible for their state funding. Jim noted what he provided Leo was the revenue report for FY10. The same revenue report the commission previously reviewed. The report showed the revenue the state provided as well as any other revenue the districts reported for FY10. Jim will review the report to see if there were inconsistencies. Jim will clarify this information with Leo, but noted the districts can report carry-over funds from other sources other than the state.
- c. Correspondence was received this morning from the Public Utilities Commission regarding the interruptible rate. Staff was unable to review or distribute the correspondence prior to the meeting; however, we will scan the document and email it to the commissioners later today. Commissioner Rieman provided updated information noting the elimination of required shut down periods between 2 to 6, allowing pumps to be on at all times; however the rate will be close six cents. They are still negotiating on the connection and disconnect fee, either by eliminating or reducing the fee all together.

2. General/Correspondence- Brandi Ré – No Report.

V. AGENCY UPDATES – No Agency Updates.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Continued discussion of the Governor recommended FY12/13 budget for the Division, State Conservation Commission and the Grants to District Program. Discussion of drafted proposal and strategic actions. – *ACTION*

- a. Jim Lawrence noted nothing has changed at this time. Certainly the showing from the districts and commission at that hearing was very impressive. It obviously caught the eyes and ears of several legislatures, particularly Senator Rhoads and Assemblymen Goicoechea. The division has not been contacted to provide additional information, however, the commission or districts may be contacted directly to supply support documents to the testimony provided. Jim reiterated to the commission that as they are thinking of different scenarios and packages to possibly present, staff is available to provide figures and assistance to them during this process.
- b. Commissioner Freeman reported he spoke with the Vya Conservation District and they indicated they will have to close if they are required to pay the workers comp. and general liability insurance. They also expressed concern over committing to funding that requires state match and losing those funds and partnerships.
- c. Chairman Sicking said he felt positive after his conversation with Assemblymen Goicoechea that funding to the commission and/or districts would be made available. Vice-Chairman Vesco asked Chairman Sicking if he felt it would be necessary or be of benefit to revise the proposed budget. Chairman Sicking said based on his conversation with Assemblymen Goicoechea that would not be required.

- B. Updates and discussion of proposed bills that could affect conservation districts.
 - a. Jim Lawrence updated the commission that since our last meeting, no bills concerning conservation districts or the commission have language available. He will continue to track the bills of interest and provide updates. Jim noted language for BDR 299 sponsored by Assemblyman Goicoechea was still not available. Chairman Sicking commented there are over 20 water bills in the works.

VII. COMMISSIONER ITEMS – No Report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- 1. Barbara Perlman-Whyman, Vice President of NvACD requested clarification of her role and her level of authority during the legislative proceedings. She questioned the process and the commission's involvement resolving the current situation with one of their officer positions. Pam Griswold, elected NvACD President is not currently holding a legal position as a district supervisor. She has neither been elected nor appointed to the district board she resides in. Per NvACD by-laws, it is a requirement that an officer of the association is an elected or appointed supervisor of their conservation district board. A letter received from Pam Griswold by the division, and forwarded to the commission, was discussed. The letter was written by Clif Eklund, Mayor of Carlin stating he had appointed Pam to the Elko Conservation District board; however, no such board exists.
 - a. Commissioner Freeman, former NvACD President, noted the mayor does not have the authority to appoint a member to a district board; rather it is the City Councils obligation to do so. He also noted the Jiggs board sits within two counties and both City Councils would have to take a vote to appoint her.
 - b. Staff explained neither the commission nor the division has any regulatory authority over the association and it would be the association and its members' responsibility to take action.
- 2. Rich Wilkinson from Dayton Valley requested clarification as to whom and where they would submit support documents for the testimony provided at the hearing? Staff instructed districts to submit information to Senator Dean Rhoads and Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea. It was noted the committee did not want PowerPoint presentations, rather submit information in a word or excel format.
 - c. Rich felt everyone did a great job who presented at the meeting. He feels it would be of benefit for the committee to hear testimony on the history behind the formation of DVCD in 1999 and before working as the Middle Carson River Group. The state claimed ownership in the 70's to the Carson River; however the farmers and ranchers were concerned there wasn't action being taken to maintain the river. He would like to suggest including the history in the next presentation. The projects done on the river prove to be tangible and give opportunity as they adapt well to photography.

IX. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *ACTION*

- A. The next SCC meeting will be held on May 26, 2011 – 10 am at DCNR, Division of Conservation Districts office or in the State Lands conference room.
- B. Items for the agenda will include legislative update. Additional items may be included at the request of the commission.

X. ADJOURNMENT - *ACTION*

- A. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adjourn; Chairman Sicking adjourned the meeting at 12:37 pm.