



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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DRAFT MINUTES
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
AND STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 1:30 p.m.
Director's Conference Room, Richard H. Bryan Building
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701

The Nevada State Conservation Commission held a public hearing and meeting on March 25, 2014, in the Director's Office Conference Room of the Richard H. Bryan Building, 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV, 89701. The State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items on March 25, 2014.

Board Members Present: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise/Sonoma CD (by phone), Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD (in person), Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD (by phone), Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD (by phone), Kathy Mort, Stillwater CD (by phone), Dr. Sherm Swanson, CABNR-NAES (by phone), Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD (by phone), and Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD (by phone). **Board Members Absent:** Robert Little, Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Others Present: Joe Locurto, Conservation Districts Program Coordinator, Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office, Tim Rubald, Sagebrush Ecosystem Program Manager, Kevin Benson, Deputy Attorney General, Steve Weaver, Conservation Staff Specialist Winnemucca Area (by phone), Anita Lahey, Conservation Staff Specialist Ely Area (by phone), Doni Bruland, Conservation Staff Specialist Elko Area (by phone), Rebecca Elkins, Tonopah CD, (by phone), and Michelle Langsdorf, Mason and Smith Valley CDs.

Chairman Sicking opened the Public Hearing on proposed regulation R139-13 at 1:30p.m and asked for public input and comment. There was none. Chairman Sicking repeated his request for public input and comment on the proposed regulation. There was none. Chairman Sicking then closed the public hearing on proposed regulation R139-13.

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Chairman Sicking called the Meeting to order at **1:33 p.m.** A quorum was established with members: Chairman Joe Sicking, Commissioner Jake Tibbitts, Commissioner Eric Rieman, Commissioner Maggie Orr, Commissioner Kathy Mort, Commissioner Leland Wallace, Commissioner Dr. Sherm Swanson, and Commissioner Agee Smith.

A. Others present introduced themselves and are noted above.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

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

A. Chairman Sicking asked for approval of minutes from the January 15, 2014 Meeting that also included a public hearing. Commissioner Orr made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Mort seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioners Tibbitts and Smith abstained from voting since they were not Commissioners at the time of the meeting. ***ACTION TAKEN***

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF PERMANENT REGULATIONS OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Sage-grouse Competitive Grant Fund Regulation. Tim Rubald stated that legal counsel with LCB said there are problems with the regulation as written. The statute states that all legislative appropriations to be distributed to the Districts must be distributed equally to those qualifying. He urged the Commission to not approve the regulation as written.

Mr. Rubald had earlier emailed the Commissioners proposed revisions to the regulation (*see Attachment I*) which generally replaced the wording “competitive” with “qualifying” on March 24th. The proposed revised regulation has to be approved by LCB before the Commissioners can vote on it so it cannot take place today. If the Commission decides not to approve the current regulation with “competitive” wording, they could schedule a meeting to discuss the “qualifying” wording and get it to LCB posthaste. LCB then has 30 days to review the regulation and send it back. There would then have to be another public hearing notice posted for 30 days. Subsequent to that, there could then be a public hearing and Commission meeting for the adoption of the regulation. The regulation then would go back to LCB to be scheduled on the next meeting of the Legislative Commission.

If approved, the monies could be provided to the CD’s that qualify under the new requirements of the new regulation rather than returning the money to the Legislature.

Commissioner Orr asked if the northern CD’s had projects that were ready now. Chairman Sicking said yes. Commissioner Orr said she would want to try and get this through quickly.

Commissioner Tibbitts asked if these funds are appropriated for this fiscal year. Mr. Rubald said yes. There is \$40,000 for this fiscal year and \$40,000 for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Tibbitts said now until June is the sage grouse breeding/nesting season and it would be hard to use the funds quickly.

Michelle Langsdorf asked if the funds can be used for the bi-state sage grouse also. Mr. Rubald said yes.

Commissioner Orr asked if the money can be committed to a project or does it have to be spent? Mr. Rubald said showing the funds are obligated should be enough.

Commissioner Tibbitts said it would help to get the information to the CD’s quickly so they can have the projects shovel ready. Mr. Rubald said once the Commission has a new proposed draft regulation the CD’s that could be eligible (25) would be notified and could begin planning projects.

Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion to not approve the adoption of the proposed regulation R139-13 as drafted. Commissioner Mort seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed unanimously.***ACTION TAKEN***

V. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *NOT FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

There were no Commissioner items.

VI. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*.

A. Chairman Sicking said at the next meeting the Commission will look at the new proposed changes in the wording of the proposed regulation.

B. March 31st was agreed and the time was set for 10:00 a.m. It will be a telephonic meeting with a different call in number published on the agenda.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS There was no public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Wallace seconded; there was a vote and the meeting was adjourned at **2:03 p.m.**