



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.
The Depot Casino 875 W. Williams Avenue
Fallon, Nevada

The Nevada State Conservation Commission held a meeting on November 11, 2014, at the Depot Casino, 875 W. William Avenue, Fallon, NV. The State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items.

Board Members Present: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise/Sonoma CD, Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD, Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD, Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD, Tina Mudd, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Kathy Mort, Stillwater CD, Vice-Chairman Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD, and Dr. Sherm Swanson, CABNR-NAES.

Board Members Absent: Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD.

Others Present: Tim Rubald, Conservation Districts Program Manager, Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office, Barbara Perlman-Whyman, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, and NACD Board Member, Gerald Miller, Conservation Staff Specialist, Elko Area, Marlene Wallace, and Nancy Sicking. There were no teleconference participants.

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. All those present introduced themselves and are noted above.
- B. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. A quorum was established.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

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

- A. Approval of minutes from the October 7, 2014, meeting – the minutes were not completed and approval will be moved to the next meeting agenda after November. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

IV. BRIEF UPDATE ON CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM – *NOT FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. Mr. Rubald informed the Commission that Doni Bruland, the Conservation Staff Specialist for the Elko area, is leaving. Interviews for the Ely Staff Specialist were held and the job was offered to Gerald Miller who accepted. With Doni's leaving, Gerald has now requested that he be in the Elko position and there will be a new recruitment for the Ely position.

Mr. Rubald attended a two day training seminar in Elko. Mike Lunn and Laura Van Riper discussed facilitating and negotiating and it was very instructive.

Mr. Rubald will be working on a new website for the Conservation Districts Program.

Commissioner Swanson asked about the budget and the Conservation Districts Program. Mr. Rubald replied saying the budget has been submitted. There was a request for some additional funding for CD's. There is also a bill draft request to have the Competitive Grant Program changed to be "competitive".

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF A SONOMA KITCHEN USED AT THE ANNUAL RANGE CAMP - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Commissioner Orr said Ryan Shane with NDF said there would need to be a transfer of the Sonoma Kitchen to the Commission or the CD's Program. The maintenance of the kitchen would continue to be done by the Society for Range Management. If it is transferred to CD's or a non-profit the licensing can remain tax exempt.

Mr. Rubald said Deputy Attorney General Kevin Benson said it would be legal for the Conservation Districts Program (CDP) or the Commission to receive the kitchen. There is the possibility of transferring the kitchen to a non-profit which would be the Society for Range Management.

Commissioner Swanson asked if the transfer could be to the CDP and then SRM. Mr. Rubald said he believes it could happen that way.

Commissioner Orr will ask at the next SRM meeting about their desire regarding the kitchen.

Commissioner Swanson made a motion for NDF to transfer the kitchen to either the CDP or to SRM directly; whichever is more expedient. Commissioner Mudd seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. *ACTION TAKEN*

VII. AGENCY UPDATES - *NOT FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – *Jake Tibbitts, President*, Commissioner Tibbitts said the NvACD Annual Meeting will be filled with presentations and speakers. There are 69 pre-registered which is a good turnout. There are 10 CD's registered.

B. Nevada Department of Agriculture – *Tina Mudd, Rangeland Health Program Coordinator*, Commissioner Mudd said there will be the introduction of the Electronic Weed Mapping Application at tomorrow's NvACD meeting and also talk of the range monitoring maps.

There is a new electronic brand system which means the brand inspections will be done via an iPad. There will be printers in the trucks and the certificates can be printed at the location.

The brand inspectors are now driving used Highway Patrol trucks which are saving money.

Department of Agriculture has been told it is time to reimburse Public Works for the building they occupy. The cost is 8 million dollars which is not possible; the Director is in talks with LCB and the Governor's Office.

The stray horse issue along Highway 50 has resulted in fatalities and property damage. The Department is working with NDOT and with horse advocates for more adoptions.

Chairman Sicking asked about Medusahead control. Commissioner Mudd replied they are working with the USFS to have a Governor's Workshop to discuss the threat. Jamie Greer is now the Noxious Weed Program Coordinator and Commissioner Mudd is helping her until additional help is hired.

Congressman Amodei has requested that any landowners or producers that are having federal government issues to contact him directly and Commissioner Mudd can provide the address.

C. 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 there is now funding for faculty positions and nine have been hired. There are new positions to be filled in horticultural science, a biochemist, a molecular biologist, a wildlife population ecologist, a food safety scientist, and a nutrition epigeneticist.

There is money for work to study better revegetation of Nevada rangeland after fires. There will be workshops for best practices for reseeding and developing maps of seed zones. There will be discussion of purchasing seeds from outside Nevada. There is a new hydrologist that is working with seedbed preparation that would use land preparation to concentrate the water in part of the land.

There is an idea of using shrub skeletons as a way of creating snow drifts that would result in runoff to help establish seeds in islands of burned areas. We are working on refining these ideas. Commissioner Wallace said more seed harvesters are needed. Mr. Rubald said there have been talks to develop these kinds of projects in conjunction with the credit system.

D. Natural Resources Conservation Service – *Bruce Petersen, State Conservationist* There was no report today.

- E. Farm Services Administration – *Clint Koble, State Executive Director* There was no report today.
- F. Nevada Department of Wildlife – *Connie Lee, Landowner Incentive Programs* There was no report today.
- G. Others – There were no other reports today.

VI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVIEW OF THE CURRENT COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Mr. Rubald said it will take a couple of days to review the plan and it would be helpful to have a facilitator – perhaps Mike Lunn. Commissioner Tibbitts said it should be two days and Commissioner Orr agreed. Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion to make the meeting two days, Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

Chairman Sicking asked for dates and it was agreed to be in January before the Legislative Session. The dates were tentatively set for January 22nd and January 23rd. The location chosen was the Department of Agriculture in Sparks, if the space is available, and the times from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Tibbitts asked if there was money to bring in a facilitator and Mr. Rubald said he would make it work.

Commissioner Tibbitts said we should go over our mission statement and our goals. We should ask the CD's what their goals and objectives are – ask for their top 5 resource items. Commissioner Mudd asked if this can be done at the NvACD meeting. Commissioner Tibbitts said it was a good idea. Commissioner Mudd said the CD's that are not attending could be asked for their feedback.

VIII. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *NOT FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* There were no other items.

IX. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Chairman Sicking said the next meeting will be 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2014.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.