



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone (775) 684-2717 Fax (775) 684-2715

MINUTES
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
The Richard H. Bryan Building 2nd Floor Tahoe Hearing Room
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada
Monday, October 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.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; Meghan Brown, NV Dept. of Agriculture (by phone); Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD; Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Kevin Roukey, Washoe-Storey CD, and Dr. Sherm Swanson, UNCE/CABNR (by phone).

Board Members Absent: Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD and Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD.

Others Present: Tim Rubald, Conservation Districts Program Manager; Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office; Nancy Sicking; Lori Story, Sr. Deputy Attorney General and Connie Lee, Department of Wildlife (by phone).

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.
A quorum was confirmed and introductions were made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

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

- A. Commissioner Tibbitts noted that on Page 5 in the second paragraph it says "fill the Noxious Weeds/Rangelands positon" and that should be two positions (change "positon" to "positions" and change to "the Noxious Weeds Coordinator and the Rangeland Health/Agriculturist II." Also on Page 5 in the third paragraph it says "pest licensing" and it should say: "pesticide applicator licensing". Again on Page 5 in the fourth paragraph it says "range app" and it should say: "Rangeland and Project Monitoring App." Commissioner Roukey made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION TAKEN

The changes were made and the minutes were finalized on October 12, 2016 by Sandy Quilici.

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

- A. Tim Rubald, program manager, said there was an error on the Esmeralda report that said the final annual report was not received, but it was received on time. He apologized for the error and it was corrected in the log.

The recruitment is ongoing to fill the Conservation Staff Specialist position for the Ely area. Ben Bolton returned to NDF, but he is still helping with a couple of projects. The recruitment for the Staff Specialist II had limited results. There are two applicants that will be considered. Personnel said there is the opportunity to recruit for a trainee position (which does not require as much experience) which he did. There were 12 applicants that qualified and next they will need to test. The test will be October 12th. Then Personnel will send him a list and he will schedule interviews in Ely the first week in November. If possible he would like the person selected to attend the NvACD Annual Meeting.

Mr. Rubald said he is working with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team on the two projects CD Program staff are completing which are in Elko County. There are some IT/Communication issues that he is working on and GIS skills are becoming more and more important when working with the credit system. He is hoping the new Ely recruitment will have GIS skills which will be helpful. The SETT program manager, Jennifer Celio, is leaving and the Director's Office may use the previous list for hiring. The SETT NDOW position has been filled with Katie Andrie who previously worked with Pete Coates. The SETT NDF and Lands positions are continuing recruitments.

V. DISCUSSION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE'S RESOURCE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) APPLICATION SUBMISSION - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. Mr. Rubald said you have a rough printout of the document. (*See Attachment I*) The NRCS application is difficult to navigate. The last page lists the partners and we have additional partners this year. There is more money and there are letters of support. There is \$18 million pledged and we requested \$5 million from NRCS. This would be a 5 year program with \$23 million. We should know the decision by the end of December. With the partner's contributions we may not need the NRCS money.

Commissioner Tibbitts said we owe Tim our gratitude to rework this and it was a tremendous effort. The Commission thanked Mr. Rubald. Commissioner Tibbitts said forming the groundwork of getting the partners commitments is a huge step.

Commissioner Swanson said we should have the partners meet and talk about what the CD's want as projects. At the meeting in Las Vegas we could ask the CD's about possible projects. Commissioner Roukey said we would want to find out what projects require permitting and the Army Corps of Engineers could issue a regional general permit.

VI. REVIEW OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORTS - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Mr. Rubald said Commissioners have the recap sheet of the Budgets, Work Plans, Final Annual Reports, and the Final Financial Reports. (*See Attachment II*) Lander CD held four meetings; one of the meetings he did not receive the minutes. One of the four meetings was an "emergency meeting" and the question is does the Commission want to accept this as a regular meeting? He did receive minutes for the "emergency" meeting.

Quinn River CD only held two meetings and three are required. Also they did not submit all of their required reports. It was agreed that Quinn River has problems. Chairman Sicking said Quinn River is a very large geographical area and Paradise-Sonoma could not take them in. It was agreed that Paradise-Sonoma would take over Quinn River's sage-grouse projects since there is a large and critically important habitat area in the Quinn River CD.

Chairman Sicking said we should count the Lander CD emergency meeting as one of the required three. The Commission agreed.

Commissioner Tibbitts said regarding the sage-grouse reports that are due in December is that on next year's? Mr. Rubald said yes.

B. Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion to find all the CD's in 'good standing' except Quinn River. Commissioner Roukey seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DETERMINATION OF DISTRICTS' 'IN GOOD STANDING' STATUS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION *

A. & B. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to release the funds to all CD's 'in good standing' except Quinn River CD. Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tibbitts asked what can be done about Quinn River CD and noted they have a good ending balance. Mr. Rubald said they need new people. He asked them to hold an election. The election would need to be in the first ten days of November. ***ACTION TAKEN***

VIII. AGENCY UPDATES - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY* *

A. Nevada Department of Agriculture – Meghan Brown, Plant Industry Division Ms. Brown said the Noxious Weed Coordinator is Sean Gephart. She also reported they have hired a Rangeland Health Coordinator, David Voth, who will be based out of Elko. Mr. Rubald asked about the BDR regarding the weed applicator licensing. Ms. Brown said it requires government agencies to have practical operating licenses to do work for hire. There will be a workshop and meeting for the pest control operators on October 24th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Legislature and there will be others.

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 the Board of Regents voted to approve the merger of UNCE and CABNR. The first move will be to search for a Director of Extension and Associated Dean of Engagement. The recruitment has been opened.

There are new faculty in place that include a meat/food safety scientist Amilton de Mello, Ph.D., an entomologist Andrew Nuss, a wildlife population ecologist Kevin Shoemaker, a beef production scientist Mozart Fonseca, and a remote sensing position with Jonathan Greenberg, Ph.D. Soon we will hire another remote sensing position focusing on rangeland. We will have a veterinary reproduction physiologist starting next summer. We are recruiting for other positions also.

Commissioner Swanson said he could invite some of the new people to meet the Commission if they would like. The Commission said it was a good idea.

Commissioner Swanson said he has sent letters to some ranchers inquiring if they are interested in participating in a proposal project about using/creating a cost index on their ranch and then learning from that how to define the index, learn more about range management, and to develop curriculum.

C. Natural Resources Conservation Service – Ray Dotson, State Conservationist. No report today.

D. Nevada Department of Wildlife – Connie Lee, Landowner Incentive Programs. Ms. Lee said NDOW is working with BLM and private landowners on fire restoration for the Hot Pot fire, Maggie Creek, and Izzenhood fires in the northern part of the state.

NDOW continues to support SANE (Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Elko) through their project implementation and as they move to hire a fulltime coordinator.

NDOW is working with the Lincoln County CD and the NE Elko CD on funding for facilitation and sage-grouse projects.

NDOW is working with the Elko Association of Conservation Districts which encompasses 8 CD's in this area and is helping them develop a presentation to the county. Soon there will be a meeting where they will decide if they want to continue to receive county funding for weed spraying.

There has been discussion about developing programs and outreach to the CD's. This would provide presentations for the CD supervisors and for youngsters also, with some non-game outreach.

In Elko this weekend at the trail center there will be a program on "Rethinking Beaver". It is about an hour long film; on Friday it is exclusively for ranchers and starts at 5:30 p.m. The Saturday time is 5:30 p.m. also.

E. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – Jake Tibbitts, President. Commissioner Tibbitts said there are NvACD Annual Meeting packets in your materials today. The registration is \$100 (the actual cost is about \$300 for us) and we worked very hard to keep the cost down. The Suncoast Hotel gave us a great discount on rooms; the room cost is \$76.00. The Southern Nevada CD has helped with sponsorships.

There will be a Conservation Leadership workshop on Monday with Fred Steinmann and the meeting will have more focus on resource management/planning. This will help CD's with their coordinated resource management plans (CRMP's).

Wednesday is the business meeting (at Hoover Dam) and following that is a tour of Hoover Dam and a Lake Mead boat tour.

Commissioner Tibbitts said he is reaching the end of his term as NvACD president.

We are working to have legislators come to the breakfast to learn about the CD's and what we do. The Clark County Commission will have a member giving the welcoming address (Chris Giunchigliani). The State Technical Committee will be meeting on Thursday at the Las Vegas NRCS office. If anyone is going home before Thursday, the meeting will be broadcast to the statewide NRCS offices.

Mr. Rubald said one of the things that will take place at the NvACD Meeting is: NvACD provides three names for each area for SCC Commissioners which are then given to the Governor for selection. The Commissioners whose commissions expire on June 30, 2017, are Jake Tibbitts, Eric Rieman, Leland Wallace, and Agee Smith. So please consider if you want to continue.

Mr. Tibbitts said NvACD has an agreement with NRCS for funding assistance. It is to have more producers sign up with the Conservation Client Gateway. For every district in the state there will be funding available to get producers signed up and to help increase the funding. This is still being worked out. It's a \$1000 for sign-up and will be split between the CD and the Association.

F. Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team – Jennifer Celio, Program Manager. No report today.

G. Others – There were no other reports.

IX. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

Commissioner Rieman asked if the Commissioners were all flying together to Las Vegas and Mr. Rubald said the Commissioners will make their own travel arrangements. The meetings will all be at the Springs Preserve except for Wednesday.

X. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Commissioner Tibbitts said he will have the resolutions before the NvACD business meeting so the Commission could have that information at their meeting beforehand. Mr. Rubald said it would help to not have a quick second meeting after the NvACD meeting.

Commissioner Tibbitts made a motion to have the next meeting on Monday, November 14th, at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tibbitts said an item for discussion at that meeting is the RCPP and the Coordinated Resource Management Initiative. Whether we receive the RCPP funding or not we need to move forward with this and there will be some partners there for discussion.

Commissioner Roukey asked how do we request CD positions? Washoe-Storey CD has two vacancies coming up. Can we put it on the state website and the NvACD website? Mr. Rubald said there is no place on the state website.

Commissioner Wallace said to put it on the CD's website where the notices are posted. ***ACTION TAKEN***

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

XII. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chairman Sicking adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***