



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 State Conservation Commission
The Las Vegas Springs Preserve Board Room
333 S. Valley View Blvd, Las Vegas, Nevada
Monday, November 14, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

The Nevada State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items.

Board Members Present: Vice Chairman Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD; Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD; Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Kevin Roukey, Washoe-Storey CD; Dr. Sherm Swanson, UNCE/CABNR and Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD.

Board Members Absent: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma CD; Meghan Brown, NV Dept. of Agriculture and Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD.

Others Present: Tim Rubald, Conservation Districts Program Manager; Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office; Ray Dotson, State Conservationist; Connie Lee, Department of Wildlife; Rick Orr, public; Marlene Wallace, Esmeralda County CD; Vicki Roukey, public; Eric King, Southern Nevada CD; Gerry Miller, Elko Staff Specialist; Lauren Williams, Ely Staff Specialist; Bettina Scherer, Winnemucca Staff Specialist and Barbara Perlman-Whyman, Nevada-Tahoe CD.

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. Vice-Chairman Rieman called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.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 Swanson said on Page 3, Item VIII., in paragraph 3, it says "Soon we will hire" – please change to "Soon we will interview and possibly hire". Commissioner Swanson noted at the end of this week they are interviewing Robert Washington-Allen who is a remote sensor from Utah State University and they hope to hire him.

In paragraph 5, it says "a cost index" – please change to "grazing response index and range nutrition index", the same line says "define the index" – please change to "define the indices", and further it says "and to develop curriculum.", - please change to "and to develop Range Management School curriculum."

Commissioner Roukey said on Page 4 in paragraph 10, it says “It is to have” and it should say “ It is intended to have”.

Commissioner Swanson made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Commissioner Orr seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

The changes were made and the minutes were finalized on November 29, 2016 by Sandy Quilici.

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

A. Tim Rubald, program manager, introduced Lauren Williams who is the new Ely Area Staff Specialist. She has been to Caliente, Winnemucca, Carson City, Ely, and Las Vegas since she started. Bettina Scherer, the Winnemucca Staff Specialist, is here and has been with us almost a year. Gerry Miller, the Elko Staff Specialist, is also here.

The Sagebrush Ecosystem Program has a new manager and that is Kelly McGowan. The NDOW position with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program has been filled with Katie Andrlé. She worked with Pete Coates and has good experience. The State Lands position with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program has been filled with Sara McBee. The NDF and Agriculture positions are still in the recruitment process.

The Sagebrush Ecosystem Program will be releasing a request for a Letter of Intent for projects. They have 1.25 million dollars to put towards Credit System Projects for sage-grouse. Please share this with producers and landowners that may be interested.

There is \$75,000 that will be put out as a grant application for CDs with Sage-grouse habitat – Mr. Rubald will try to send these in December. These are sage-grouse projects which some districts received funding for last year. Please encourage your CD to participate.

Chairman Sicking is not here due to his mother’s recent passing. The service will be in Fallon next Saturday and Mr. Rubald will forward her obituary to the members. Georgie Sicking was one of the first participants at the Western Folklife Center National Cowboy Poetry Gathering and an inductee of the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame.

V. DISCUSSION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE’S (NRCS) RESOURCE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) APPLICATION SUBMISSION - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. Mr. Rubald said we wanted to discuss implementing the possible funding. Commissioner Tibbitts noted that it is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, not Resource Conservation Partnership Program. Commissioner Tibbitts said that at tomorrow’s meeting Sherm Swanson will talk about Coordinated Resource Management. Alan Clark with the Watershed Restoration Initiative will talk about the Utah partnership program. This will help with the Nevada CRM Initiative. A lot of our partners will be attending. He added let’s not count on the RCPP funding, but plan to move ahead with the partners and the momentum we have.

Commissioner Tibbitts said we should have CRMP’s in place in each district. BLM, USFS, and NDF have money to direct to CRMP’s. He believes as a Commission we should recommend this to go forward. Commissioner Swanson said each district can decide on a project(s) and we can move forward in a collaborative way. Commissioner Tibbitts said this will be good for each district to have their own project or they could have a multiple district project. They can choose.

Commissioner Swanson said there is a lot of potential money right now and the CD needs to see where there can be a good collaborative effort.

Commissioner Roukey asked are there any requirements we need to incorporate to move forward. Mr. Rubald said we will know in December if we will receive the RCPP funds.

Commissioner Swanson moved that the Commission recognize that the Nevada Coordinated Resource Management Initiative is such a powerful idea that we cannot wait even if we don't get the RCPP funding, recognizing that we could go farther faster if we get the funding, but if we don't we can still accomplish a lot because there is a lot of readiness around the state for investing in conservation. Commissioner Roukey seconded the motion. Commissioner Tibbitts said the goal is to create a CRMP with the CD and it can be a district wide issue.

Commissioner Swanson said that the SCC in 1980 invited Bill Anderson to explain to the Commission how to do Coordinated Resource Management Planning. Mr. Anderson facilitated the process for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. The idea is not new that there needs to be collaboration. At one time people said we can't do CRMP because we have to do NEPA. Commissioner Swanson told them you can do both; they complement each other which he wrote in a paper. In the paper he said it would be ideal for a CD to identify where in the area we can collaborate. Right now we have the commitments from the agencies to help which is so encouraging.

There was a vote on the motion and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

Commissioner Swanson said Laura Van Riper and Mike Lunn often work together on collaboration. They were involved with Robert Chadwick who wrote the book "Finding New Ground" about building consensus. Mike and Laura are doing a workshop on November 29th, 30th, and December 1st, called "Building Consensus and Finding Shared Solutions" and the subtitle is "For Implementation of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Land Use Planning Amendment". The discussion will help us to move forward in planning collaboration and not just planning for sage-grouse projects. Cheva Gabor with the USFS is the contact for more information. We will hear about the Utah process at the NvACD meeting which is a good example. Their work took funding from state and federal sources and they learned about prioritizing appropriately and making it work.

VI. AGENCY UPDATES - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. Nevada Department of Agriculture – Meghan Brown, Plant Industry Division There was no report today.

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 There was no report today.

C. Natural Resources Conservation Service – Ray Dotson, State Conservationist Mr. Dotson said there is talk of how the Conservation Credit System and the NRCS programs (e.g. EQIP, WHIP) will work together. NRCS wants the credits for the producers and it will work with their programs. NRCS does not want a producer to have to choose between the two.

NRCS is experiencing a lot of retirements right now which is hard because we strive to have people in place and consistency. Currently there are two vacant positions in Ely and there will be others. We have hired Julie Malvitz and her role will be to connect with CD's to help communicate and educate. She is the Assistant State Conservationist for Partnership.

NRCS wants to make sure that Agriculture stays vibrant in Nevada. At our STAC meeting on Thursday we will talk about some different projects.

D. Nevada Department of Wildlife – Connie Lee, Landowner Incentive Programs Ms. Lee said there was no report today. Commissioner Orr pointed out that Connie is always willing to help and it is very appreciated. The Commission agreed.

E. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – Jake Tibbitts, President Commissioner Tibbitts said the NvACD meeting starts tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. At the business meeting on Wednesday the State Association will be deciding names (3 for each area) to submit to the Governor for the State Conservation Commission. Then the membership will vote to approve. He asked four of the Commissioners if they would accept another term. Commissioner Tibbitts said yes, Commissioner Rieman said yes, Commissioner Wallace said yes, and Commissioner Smith was asked later and said yes.

F. Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team – Kelly McGowan, Program Manager There was no report today.

G. Others – There were no other reports.

VII. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

Commissioner Rieman said Douglas County wants to close open burning in their county and he hopes this won't become a statewide mandate.

Commissioner Roukey asked if there has been a talking point regarding the Washoe County Lands Bill. Mr. Rubald said no, it has not come up before. It could be suggested as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Eric King had some questions regarding sage-grouse and Commissioner Tibbitts said since this was not on today's agenda Mr. King could ask for this information at the NvACD meeting.

VIII. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Commissioner Roukey would like to have a Washoe County Lands bill discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Rubald said he had noted it.

Mr. Rubald said if there are resolutions that come out of the State Association Meeting that need to be acted upon we may have a December phone meeting. * **NO ACTION TAKEN***

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Commissioner Rieman adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.