



**Carson Valley Conservation District
USDA Service Center
1702 County Road, Suite A
Minden, NV 89423
775-782-3661 ext 102
775-782-3547 FAX**

**Conservation Commission
RE: Draft Annual Work Plan
Tuesday, May 23, 2012**

The CVCD is adjusting to budget cuts as is everyone else. Our coordinator has been volunteering time so we can apply for grant funds and keep the office open.

We did receive a work crew paid for by ARRA funds through the Carson Water Subconservancy District and we will be able to use them this year. The crews are doing weed work and are limited to working with hand tools and backpack sprayers. We also have a GPS mapping component to the weed programs so we are locating and mapping noxious weeds in the county and checking the efficacy of the treatment protocols.

The Upper Carson Watershed Coordinator has one drainage project in Clear Creek. A new wrinkle has been added to his job in that some projects are now considered to be "Public Works" and will require the full bidding, contracting and pay schedule for a public works project under NRS 338. This means the projects will cost more to complete and the process of letting the projects will take longer.

We are working with NRCS and local producers on Farm Bill programs and our food and fiber producers appreciate the help they are getting.

Our biggest challenge for the upcoming year is funding. The District Coordinator is paid for 2 hours a day and volunteers about an additional 20-30 hours a month. With limited funds our priorities are Property Rights, Water and Weeds. We have had to curtail time spent at meetings and we have not allowed any travel or training because we are targeting helping the producers and watching the natural resources. Our producers are trying to market locally grown food and we helped with the Genoa Cowboy Poetry Festival held last month, April. We got our county commissioner to allow us to run a noxious weed program for agriculture producers and dedicate the month of May as Carson Valley Beef month. We made Range Camp scholarships available to two Douglas High School students and we participate in Ag Day in the local schools and judged the FAA State event in Carson City. We also work with river Wranglers to put on River Work Days and we have continued to co-sponsor and participate in Eagles and Agriculture. Our

community presence is still very visible, we just have to be very careful about which programs we can afford to support or expand. The Watershed Coordinator is not a District employee but works out of our office and reports to our Board of Directors. The Watershed Coordinator has NDEP 319 Grants for \$117,824.00 and NDOT Grant for \$567,960.00 for Clear Creek drainage. It is noteworthy that the CVCD doesn't make any money from running these grants through the CVCD. Is it permissible to charge direct cost or overhead component to these grants so the district can make some money off of running and administering them? If not, they represent an accounting headache with no benefit to the District. Our overhead is Insurance, Board Meeting Time, Permits, Project Reviews and meetings, District Coordinator time, vehicle use, reports and plans.

Without expanded funding we can only focus on our most popular and necessary programs and functions. We hope some additional funding will become available but have been running on a reduced employee budget now since late 2007. We can continue to function and meet the needs of our producers but we cannot expand or start new programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike Hayes
District Coordinator

CVCD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURES

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Employee Salary	63,500
Fringe Benefit Expense	7,000
Travel	
Building Rent	250
Telephone	
Insurance	
Postage	
Copying Expense	
Office Supplies	
Education & Information Expenses	
Equipment Purchase (specify) <u>SPRAY RIG</u>	6,500
Equipment Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)	500
Dues - NvACD	
Dues - NACD	
Dues - Other	
Mileage	
Investments (specify)	
Internet	
Bond and Insurance Expenses	
Project Costs:	
Grant #1 <u>NDOT</u>	567,960
Grant #2 <u>NDEP</u>	117,824
Grant #3 <u>CWSD</u>	20,000
Other Expenses (specify) <u>COORDINATOR, BOARD MEETINGS, TRAVEL IN POV, ANNUAL MEETING, GRANT MEETINGS PREP</u>	2,966
TOTAL EXPENSES	786,500

(INCOME ESTIMATE MUST EQUAL EXPENSE ESTIMATE)

REPORT DUE JUNE 1ST - PLEASE SUBMIT TO:

DCNR - CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAM

BR@DCNR.NV.GOV

Fax# 775-684-2715

PROPOSED BUDGET

CNCD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

RECEIPT SOURCE AMOUNT

State Funds	2500
County Funds	10,000
City Funds	
Other Government Funds (specify) <u>MDOT</u>	567,960
Administrative Income (specify)	
Interest - CD, Savings and Checking	
Grants for projects (specify) <u>NDOA</u>	10,000
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)	7,000
Contributions	250
Building/Property Rental Fees	
Other Sources of Income <u>MDOT, NDEP 319,</u>	188,790
<u>CWSD, RIVER WRAngleAS, TCD,</u>	
<u>COUNTY</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	786 500

(INCOME ESTIMATE MUST EQUAL EXPENSE ESTIMATE)

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Annual Report

Annual Report for the Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) identifies the following key components to be addressed. Our work plan hasn't changed. Acquiring funding is still the number one priority and it has become more and more difficult.

1. Funding
2. Carson River stream bank stabilization and restoration projects
3. Clearing, snagging, and channel maintenance
4. Floodplain rehabilitation
5. Cooperative Weed Manage Treatment/Mapping - ongoing
6. Conservation Education – ongoing
7. Sponsorship Range Camp
8. District Administration/Project Management/Operating - ongoing

1. Funding

Once again the CVCD is scrambled to find and secure funding sources for district operations. The contribution from the state covers the Workman's Compensation insurance and nothing more, we still need funds for Liability Insurance through

the State AG Office but we managed to bank funds from equipment rental that allows us to pay for it. The coordinator isn't guaranteed a pay check, if he can't find grant funds, they don't get paid.

NDOT is our best supporter followed by Douglas County, NDEP, CWSD, CTWCD and NDoA. Funding from some these partners is drying up because they are being required to spend time and money doing state and federal regulatory tasks or reports and studies. Also federal agencies, with their own budgets, are applying for funds that used to go to Conservation Districts doing things like sampling, studying, reporting and regulating; districts would be doing projects with these funds. We are constantly seeking grants and other funding sources to allow us to maintain our programs and projects and expand our natural resource conservation efforts in the watershed and on agricultural production ground.

The coordinator must seek and secure grants, write grant applications, and if landed, administer the grants which are becoming more and more of a bureaucratic and paperwork nightmare. The bureaucracy is requiring more permits, meetings, reports, studies, demonstrations, tours, PowerPoint a prevent funds from being spent on the actual, physical, boots on the ground brick and mortar projects. Perhaps we could have a well-staffed district become the clearinghouse for this paperwork with each district that uses the service contributing to the cost of the paperwork and meeting guru.

More and more bureaucrats are inserting themselves into our program and projects and requiring us to provide more reports, buy more permits and/or fees and preventing more funds from being spent on our actual physical projects. The competition for funds is getting serious with local, state and federal agencies going for money that districts used to have available to them. We get the feeling that the bureaucrats use our projects to justify their existence since they don't actually do any of the physical projects, just paperwork, meeting and reports and in turn pass our reports and studies on up their chains of command and accept credit for our work because they review it or come in contact with it.

The cost of administration has therefore risen accordingly. These unique funding mechanisms don't allow us to perform long range, multifaceted planning or big projects because we can't carry funding over or count on it being there year to year. We have to stretch the funding dollar so thin it impacts the quantity of

physical projects we complete. Every year we start from with zero funds, and have to build individual budgets for each and every project and for the day to day operations of the district. This drives costs up and lowers the time we can spend actually doing physical conservation work on conservation projects which we feel are far superior to conceptual work or paperwork. In order to build a good working relationship with district cooperators, we need to actually do physical work. Too much of our funds are spent on “paperwork projects” rather than “physical projects.”

2. Carson River stream bank stabilization and restoration projects

Streambank Rehabilitation efforts in our stretch of the Carson River are just now being restarted and made a higher priority than the paperwork or conceptual projects that have consumed so much time and money. Bioengineering will be used to assist with the stability of stream banks, sloughs, and surface water conveyances, erosion control, water quality and habitat enhancement. By actually doing the physical projects, and not studying, reporting or conceptualizing projects, we offer training and job opportunities for local unemployed or underemployed individuals.

The best outreach is to engage the producers in physical projects; they can actually see what we’re talking about in reports and studies and reproduce the work and use the BMP’s that we incorporate into work. We are focusing on bioengineering because it is cost effective manual labor projects that uses local resources for engineering solutions. We stop erosion, capture sediment and grow wildlife habitat, shade the water with these projects. Bioengineering increases riparian habitat within the channel and on the stream bank and it increases stability of stream banks using indigenous materials. To complete these projects, we will be putting in requests for additional funding; unfortunately additional time consuming paperwork and meetings will be required.

3. Stream bank clearing, snagging, channel maintenance, and Project Maintenance

Along the Carson River there are multiple areas that require stream bank stabilization and/or restoration. Clear Creek is being worked by NDOT but many more sites exist. I received support from Douglas County and NDOT to armor the Carson River by the Cradelbaugh Bridge and HWY 395 but I didn't take that on because the paperwork requirement was too great without a fulltime administration assistant I can't do the projects I have and take on new ones. This would have been about a million dollar project but without someone to run the paper I'd be beyond my ability to do the job.

Where feasible, the district will perform channel clearing, snagging, and maintenance to help protect the past and future engineered structures, production ground and infrastructure. Nevada Division of State Lands said they would seek to refund AB-190 which we used for these purposes; this was an important source of funds.

Willow growth, beavers and sand and gravel deposits have become heavy in places and are impacting projects. Debris and sediment on the inside turns of banks are encroaching into the channel. Loss of channel capacity along with stream bank instability may threaten nearby structures, land or infrastructure. The effect of in-stream vegetation has pushed flood flows onto the outside banks causing significant bank stress and erosion. Failure may occur at high flows and threaten nearby structures and erode away trees, shrubs and grasses and have a negative impact on water quality. There is currently no funding to address this issue.

4. Cooperative Weed Management/ Invasive Weed Treatment and Mapping

The CVCD continues to develop and operate a cooperative weed management area in Douglas County. This year the district received funding from Douglas County and NDoA to continue the districts Invasive Weed Control program.

The weed control program involves hiring, training, equipping, deploying and supervising weed crews and GPS mappers involved in the identification, mapping, prioritization, treatment and monitoring of specific noxious weeds.

In order to carry this out, the district relies on assistance from local private landowners for help with identification, location and herbicide application in controlling noxious weeds within the district boundary. Along with controlling invasive weeds, the district has also been utilizing GPS units to map the known locations of noxious weeds in the area so that this information can be tracked on annual basis and submitted to NDOA for incorporation into the Nevada State Weed Map.

Last year the Cooperative Weed Management areas had assistance from different private landowners in spraying, accessing, monitoring and mapping of noxious weeds. Treatments included areas in and around the 35,000 acres of irrigated agriculture ground producing weed free fiber and food. This successful program has helped the CVCD treat and map thousands of acres of invasive noxious weeds including tributaries which enter into the Carson River Corridor.

We have received recognition from Nevada Department of Agriculture for our program and hay producers have improved the quality of their hay crops.

5. Conservation Education Outreach

The River Wrangler's "River Work Day" event provides the opportunity for elementary school children to visit the Carson River and learn about the watershed they live in. The local high school students team up with approximately 3 to 6 elementary school children for the day and teach them about the many benefits the Carson River Watershed provides for their community. Hundreds of students also learn how to conserve the Carson River's natural resources and wildlife and to maintain it for future generations.

This year we will be conducting and bioengineering class at the Nature Conservancy ranch. We had some 125 participants. Funding came from Caesars and TNC.

6. Nevada Youth Range Camp

The CVCD will continue to support and offer scholarships for local youth attending the Nevada Range Camp held annually during the month of June. Douglas High School is usually the source of campers interested in attending.

7. Invasive Weed Treatment and Mapping

The CVCD has worked with project stakeholders and the county to develop a weed treatment strategy, mapping and monitoring throughout the 35,000 acres of irrigated agriculture production ground.

8. District Administration and Operating

CVCD is in agreement and understands that in order for the district to have a successful work plan and carry out this work plan in a timely and efficient manner that the administrative component becomes the vital link between the Board of Supervisors, District Stakeholders, and other agencies assisting the CVCD in the completion of its work.

CVCD has identified this section as a key component to accomplish of overall work plan for the district. The Administrative component to the work plan consists of (but not limited to) the following:

1. Funding
2. Paperwork and meetings
3. Employee Salaries.
4. Employer Overhead
5. District Operating expenses.
6. Equipment acquisition, maintenance and/ or repairs.
7. Travel/Training/Workshops/Education. (We don't travel)
8. Equipment Purchases. (Only small purchases have been made)
9. Annual Permitting and mitigation expenses. (We have some blanket permits but we could use more because the timing of projects and permits don't often occur at the same time.)
- 10.

We are scrambling to continue to perform these tasks and expand on them. Currently the coordinator wears many hats, too many hats. If we had an administrative assistant who could navigate the federal and state agencies

“paperwork and meeting” requirements for grant funds, we could accomplish more physical work and impress the cooperators to adopt and implement conservation BMP’s. The potential to have a working district is there, it’s just hampered by all the non-work related tasks required by state and federal funding sources.

We have the potential for working full-time year-round but we are hamstrung by opening balance of funds and the meetings, reports, studies, permits, paperwork and teaching bureaucrats how we do our job. Can the program find funding or provide an administrative assistant to districts doing over \$50,000 worth of work a year? Our growth is restrained by the ability of the coordinator to perform multiple services related to the different funding sources. Standardizing the permits, forms, reports and information dissemination would go a long way in freeing up the coordinator to do actual physical projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike Hayes
District Coordinator
Carson Valley Conservation District

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

CVCD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 20 13

RECEIPT SOURCE **AMOUNT**

State Funds	<u>CD PROGRAM</u>	<u>2,463</u>
County Funds	<u>DC WEEDS</u>	<u>36,446</u>
City Funds	<u>CRASON</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Other Government Funds (specify)	<u>NDOA, NDEP</u>	<u>750,000</u>
	<u>NDOA, CWSD, CTWCD</u>	
Administrative Income (specify)	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>25,000</u>
	<u>ADMIN</u>	
Interest - CD, Savings and Checking	<u>CWSD, CTWCD</u>	<u>29,600</u>
Grants for projects (specify)	<u>BIO-ENG</u>	<u>29,100</u>
	<u>RIVERA WORK</u>	
Rental Income (equipment, etc.)		
Contributions		
Building/Property Rental Fees		
Other Sources of Income		
TOTAL INCOME		<u>927,609</u>

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

DRAFT REPORT DUE JULY 15 - FINAL REPORT DUE SEPTEMBER 30.

**TO: STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DCNR - CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAM**

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CYCD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 20 13

EXPENDITURE **AMOUNT**

Employee Salary		101359
Fringe Benefit Expense		
Travel		
Building Rent		
Telephone		
Insurance		3424
Postage		
Copying Expense		
Office Supplies		
Education & Information Expenses		
Equipment Purchase (specify)		
Equipment Expenses (maintenance, repair, operation)		1844
Dues - NvACD		25
Dues - NACD		
Dues - Other		
Mileage		3172
Investments (specify)		
Internet		
Bond and Insurance Expenses	NDOT	729000
Project Costs:	NIDEP	54000
Grant #1	CWSD	14500
Grant #2	NDOTA	1729
Grant #3	ORREN	18556
Other Expenses (specify)		
TOTAL EXPENSES		9271609

DRAFT REPORT DUE JULY 15 - FINAL REPORT DUE SEPTEMBER 30.
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CVCD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

USE OF STATE APPROPRIATED MONEY

Amount of State Appropriated Money: \$2,463.00

Money Spent:

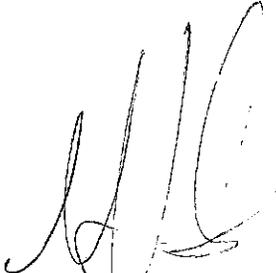
Category (specify) INSURANCE \$3424.00

Matching Funds Spent:

Category (specify) NOT \$729,000~~00~~

Balance Remaining:

\$ 0 0.00



9-30-13

Authorized Signature:
Name and Title

Date

____ CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DRAFT REPORT DUE JULY 15 – FINAL REPORT DUE SEPTEMBER 30.

*TO: STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DCNR – CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAM*

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