



Meeting Notice: STATE OF NEVADA STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES



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7 **Date and Time: July 30th, 2024, 9:00am – 11:30am**

8 **Meeting Location:** Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Building, 901
9 South Stewart Street, 1st Floor, Bonnie Room in Carson City, Nevada.

10

11 **1. Call to order, Determination of Quorum: (For Possible Action)**

12 a) Introductions and roll call.

13 **Commission Members Present:**

- 14 Chair Commissioner Jake Tibbitts, Area 1
- 15 Vice Chairman Commissioner Eric Rieman, Area 2
- 16 Commissioner Mark Damron, Area 3
- 17 Commissioner Doug Martin, Area 2
- 18 Commissioner Maggie Orr, Area 3
- 19 Commissioner Jerry Annis, Area 1
- 20 Commissioner Meghan Brown, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA).
- 21 Commissioner Dr. Paul Meiman, University of Nevada, Reno College of Agriculture,
22 Biotechnology & Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension (CABNR/UNCE), Elko.
- 23 Commissioner Agee Smith, member at large.

24

25 **Commission Members Absent:**

26 None

27

28 ***Chairman Tibbitts called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.***

29 ***A quorum was confirmed.***

30

31 **2. Public Comments:**

32 ***None***

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34 **3. Review and consideration of approval of July 30th, 2024, agenda:** Any items that need
35 to be taken out of order, edited, or removed may be proposed for consideration at this
36 time. **(For Possible Action)**

37 ***Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the agenda as presented,***

38 ***Commissioner Orr second. Motion passed unanimously. ACTION TAKEN***

39

40 **4. Review and consideration of approval of meeting minutes: (For Possible Action)**

41 a) Approval of minutes from April 24th, 2024.

42 **Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections,**
43 **Commissioner Martin second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. ACTION TAKEN**
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45 **5. Review FY25 Sage grouse grant submissions for funding awards. (For Possible**
46 **Action)**

47 a) Review and discussion on the grading and submissions for SCC Sage grouse grant
48 FY25.

49 b) Select application/s to be awarded for determine funding amount for each award.

50 **The Commission reviewed sage grouse applications from Eureka CD, Lincoln CD and**
51 **Northeast Elko CD. Each application was graded and scored by an outside committee.**
52 **Those scores were provided to the Commission for review. Materials attached at end of**
53 **minutes. The Commission had conversation about inviting Dr Coates regarding habitat**
54 **improvements on pivots and ask NDOW about Raven control options for landowners.**
55 **Commissioners discussed the mowing in the Lincoln CD application and discussion**
56 **was had regarding the hard lines versus a mosaic of mowing across the habitat. The**
57 **Commission requested that if funded the brush should be treated in a mosaic pattern.**

58
59 **Commissioner Martin made a motion to award every conservation district at the**
60 **following levels Lincoln CD for \$27,956.94, Northeast Elko CD for \$20,000 and Eureka**
61 **CD for \$27,043.06. Commissioner Reiman second the motion. Motion passed**
62 **unanimously. Chairman Tibbitts voted on the approval of funding which included the**
63 **Eureka application funding but disclosed for the record that he (Jake Tibbitts) did not**
64 **have any personal gain from the application or the funding of the application. The**
65 **affiliation with the Eureka CD application did not affect his vote. Commissioner Smith**
66 **abstained from the vote due to possible conflict of interest in the award and possible**
67 **benefits to private property related to funding. ACTION TAKEN**
68

69 **6. Discussion and Review of the CD Program Draft Language Access Plan. (For**
70 **Possible Action)**

71 a) Open comment period for review and edits to the draft language access plan which is
72 being developed for sharing the CD Program and SCC information across all public
73 platforms. **Meeting Materials provided.**

74 **The Commission review the LAP for the SCC and Program. There were no questions.**
75 **Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the LAP, Commissioner Reiman second**
76 **the motion. Motion passed unanimously. ACTION TAKEN**
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7. Discussion about updating the SCC strategic Plan.

(For Possible Action)

a) Review and discussion about the SCC strategic Plan and proposed updates.

The commission reviewed the updated in the narrative portion of the Strategic plan and discussed the with the Program and Ms. Aten next steps for updates to the Action Plan portions of the Strategic Plan. Continued edits will be worked on and presented to the Commission for review and approval. Commissioner Orr made a motion to accept the updates to the Strategic Plan as presented, Commissioner Reiman second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. ACTION TAKEN

Please note the transcription and recording had errors in the file at this point and all minutes are from hand taken notes. The Program staff apologize for an inaccuracy in agency reports given.

8. Updates from Agencies and Partners:

(For Discussion Only)

a) Nevada Department of Agriculture

Commissioner Brown gave updates about the contract grow-out program offered by NDA, four applications were accepted and funded this year, and information will be provided to the growers about the program moving forward to encourage more growers.

Commissioner Brown gave an update about the grasshopper and cricket outreach efforts being made and said they have been giving regional updates. The reporting forms are found online on the NDA page, or by contacting Jeff Knight or Meghan Brown. The reporting forms help keep local information current for the NDA staff and help determine areas of treatment. NDA needs more reporting early on from communities to strategically approach treatment options.

Commissioner Reiman asked about treatment on public lands.

Commissioner Brown replied to treatment on public lands is possible but required permitting in place to be effective in timing.

b) University of Nevada Reno/ University Cooperative Extension

Commissioner Meiman gave an update about new staff and provided a UNCE newsletter introduction of all the new staff. This is attached at the end of the minutes.

c) Natural Resources Conservation Service

115 **None**

116 d) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
117 **NDEP Mr. Fritzen gave an update regarding the grants available to CDs and an**
118 **overview. They are looking for watershed planning or watershed improvement projects,**
119 **this can include upland vegetation projects and riparian projects, and could address**
120 **issues like runoff, turbidity, erosion and other natural resource concerns. The match is**
121 **one to one currently, but they are looking at ways to remove match.**

122
123 e) Nevada Conservation District Program
124 **Ms. Aten from the program gave a brief update about civil rights training and diversity**
125 **and inclusion training she is taking to become a Diversity and Inclusion Liaison for the**
126 **Program and the SCC.**

127 **Ms. Aten also noted there is a need for updated Open meeting law training for CDs and**
128 **the SCC and Civil rights training. She will be working with DCNR and DAG staff to look**
129 **into training videos and options for CDs and the SCC.**

130
131 f) Sagebrush Ecosystem Program & Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team
132 **The SETT staff gave an update about the meeting taking place tomorrow 7/31 and noted**
133 **it will have a livestream option. They have a fully staffed team now and notes they can**
134 **help with permit renewals with BLM and are looking for conservation projects for the**
135 **credit system.**

136
137 g) Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
138 **Commissioner Martin gave an update about the NVACD meeting taking place**
139 **November 19-20th and encouraged the SCC and partners to contact CDs and get**
140 **supervisors registered and involved. He gave an overview of the topics and said the**
141 **meeting would be in coordination with Nevada weed management association this year.**
142 **Mr. Piper with NVACD gave an overview of the topics and schedule noting the training**
143 **and speaker meeting will be on Tuesday and the Tours on Wednesday.**

144
145 **The Program will re-send the NvACD save the date as requested by the commission.**

146
147 h) All Other Partners and participating agencies
148 **The USFWS Partners Program gave a brief update noting the new field staff supervisor**
149 **was hired and would be announced soon. They have been reviewing and submitting**
150 **projects under the IRA funding.**

151

152 **9. Commissioner Items:**

153 **(For Discussion Only)**

154 a) Commissioners will provide comments and any reports for the Commission.

155 ***Chairman Tibbitts noted the Soil Health bill will be moving through the legislature again***
156 ***and we will have updates in the future.***

157

158 **10. Next Commission Meeting:**

159 **(For Possible Action)**

160 a) Future Agenda items for consideration.

161 i. Review CD standing and award funding for FY25

162 ii. SCC Strategic Plan

163 iii. Legislative Updates

164 b) Date, time and location of next meeting.

165 i. November 19-21, 2024, in correlation with the NvACD annual meeting, Reno, NV

166

167 **11. Public Comments:**

168 ***None***

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170 **12. Adjournment:**

171 ***Chairman Tibbitts adjourned the meeting at 10:38am***

172 ***Attachments:***

173 ***1: CD Sage grouse grading forms for awards FY25***

174 ***2: UNCE update***

SETT Review							
COMPILATION OF SAGE-GROUSE COMPETITIVE GRANTS							
Conservation District	Match?	Match % of Proj	Match \$\$s	SCC \$\$s	Total \$\$s	Points	
Eureka CD	Yes	68.38%	\$ 78,166.00	\$ 36,151.00	\$114,317.00	85	
NEECD	yes	23.08%	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$26,000.00	61	
Lincoln CD	yes	46.60%	\$ 24,393.45	\$ 27,956.94	\$ 52,350.39	61	

NDOW REVIEWER							
COMPILATION OF SAGE-GROUSE COMPETITIVE GRANTS							
Conservation District	Match?	Match % of Proj	Match \$\$s	SCC \$\$s	Total \$\$s	Points	
Eureka CD	Yes	68.38%	\$ 78,166.00	\$ 36,151.00	\$114,317.00	96	
NEECD	yes	23.08%	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$26,000.00	93	
Lincoln CD	yes	46.60%	\$ 24,393.45	\$ 27,956.94	\$52,350.39	91	

Conservation Partner Reviewer							
COMPILATION OF SAGE-GROUSE COMPETITIVE GRANTS							
Conservation District	Match?	Match % of Proj	Match \$\$s	SCC \$\$s	Total \$\$s	Points	
Eureka CD	Yes	68.38%	\$ 78,166.00	\$ 36,151.00	\$114,317.00	97	
NEECD	yes	23.08%	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$26,000.00	91	
Lincoln CD	yes	46.60%	\$ 24,393.45	\$ 27,956.94	\$52,350.39	93	

CD NAME	CD REQUESTED AMOUNT	AVERAGE SCORE Over the 3 submissions	AWARDED AMOUNT
Eureka CD	\$ 31,151.00	93	<u>27,043.06</u>
NEECD	\$ 26,000.00	82	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
LCCD	\$ 52,350.39	82	<u>\$27,956.94</u>
	\$ 109,501.39		75,000.00

Please join us in welcoming our new Extension County Coordinators!

We are so excited to have them all started in their respective counties, and can't wait for the great contributions they will make to Extension!



Heather Nield- Extension County Coordinator- Lander and Humboldt Counties

hniield@unr.edu

I am excited to create relationships within Lander and Humboldt communities to strengthen extension in the respective communities. My education has focused on agriculture, and I am enthusiastic to help bring programs that will be a resource and a new opportunity for these communities. My husband and I have 4 who are active in showing livestock, hunting, and sports. In my limited spare time, I like to garden and create things, mainly quilt, or redo furniture.



Jessica “JJ” Hendricksen- Extension County Coordinator-

White Pine and Eureka Counties

jessicahendrickson@unr.edu

- I just relocated to Ely, NV from Alaska!
- I love to read!
- I love spending time with my family in nature.



Keyna Vandervort- Extension County

Coordinator- Lyon County

kvandervort@unr.edu

I have a background in secondary education, business, and government before moving into the world of higher education. Most recently I served as the Director of Student Success and Advising for non-traditional student degree programs. Having grown up in rural northern Nevada, I'm excited to be able to join hands with the communities and educators in the field of extension work.

When not working, I enjoy most outdoor activities (including hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, and camping), reading, DIY projects, and traveling whenever possible. I can usually be found with a coffee in one hand and water in the other and love spending as much time as possible with family.



Kristen Burr- Extension County

Coordinator- Churchill, Mineral and Pershing Counties

kburr@unr.edu

I am excited to be a part of the UNR Extension team with you all. Before working with Extension, I worked with Western SARE where I found a passion for agriculture and community. Outside of work, I enjoy hiking with my two dogs, photography, and salsa dancing on the weekends!

Leslie Lynn

Administrative Assistant

University of Nevada, Reno Extension

4955 Energy Way Reno, NV 89502

Mail stop: 0408

Pronouns: she/her

Work-phone: [775-336-0242](tel:775-336-0242)

lynnle@unr.edu

<https://www.extension.unr.edu>



University of Nevada, Reno



ACOE – Army Corp of Engineers

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

ADAA: Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act

AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service

ANPR: Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

AO: Administrative Office

APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

ARRA: American Recovery and Investment Act

ARS: Agricultural Research Service

ATRA: The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012

BMP – Best Management Practice

BWQP – Bureau of Water Quality Planning

CABNR- College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources

CCC: Commodity Credit Corporation

CD – Conservation District

CDSN – Conservation District of Southern Nevada

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

CODEX: U.S. Codex Office

CR: Civil Rights

CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program (a program within NRCS)

CVCD – Carson Valley Conservation District

DAG – District Attorney General

DCNR – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

DOC – Department of Corrections

eCFR: Electronic Code of Federal Regulations

EEO: Equal Employment Opportunity

EO: Executive Order

ERS: Economic Research Service

FAS: Foreign Agricultural Service

FFAS: Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service

FLSA: Fair Labor Standards Act

FMLA: Family and Medical Leave Act

FNCS: Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

FNS: Food and Nutrition Service

FOIA: Freedom of Information Act

FPAC Business Center: Farm Production and Conservation Business Center

FS – Forest Service

FS: Forest Service

FSA: Farm Service Agency

FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service

FY: Fiscal Year

GS: General Schedule

IG: Inspector General

MOA: Memorandum of Agreement

MOI: Memorandum of Interview

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

MRP: Marketing and Regulatory Programs

NACD – National Association of Conservation Districts

NACO - Nevada Association of Counties

NAL: National Agricultural Library

NARA: National Archives and Records Administration

NASS: National Agricultural Statistics Service

NCDP – Nevada Conservation Districts Program

NDCNR – Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

NDEP-Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

NDOR-Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation

NDOT-Nevada Department of Transportation

NDOW – Nevada Department of Wildlife

NE Elko – northeast Elko Conservation District

NFC: National Finance Center

NHPA: National Historic Preservation Act

NIFA: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRE: Natural Resources and the Environment

NTCD- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District

NV - Nevada

NvACD – Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

OA: Office of the Administrator

OAA: Office of the Associate Administrator

OAE: Office of Advocacy and Enterprise

OALJ: Office of Administrative Law Judges

OAO: Office of Advocacy and Outreach

OASA: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration

OASCR: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

OBPA: Office of Budget and Program Analysis

OC: Office of Communications

OCA: Office of the Consumer Advisor

OCE: Office of Community Engagement; Office of the Chief Economist

OCFO: Office of the Chief Financial Officer

OCHRO: Office of the Chief Human Resources Director

OCIO: Office of the Chief Information Officer

OCR: Office of Congressional Relations

OCS: Office of the Chief Scientist

OES: Office of the Executive Secretariat

OGC: Office of the General Counsel

OGE: Office of Government Ethics

OHR: Office of Human Resources

OHSE: Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

OHV – Off-Highway Vehicles

OIE: World Organization for Animal Health

OIG: Office of Inspector General

OMB: Office of Management and Budget

OPPE: Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

OSDBU: Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

OSEC: Office of the Secretary

OTR: Office of Tribal Relations

PIO – Public information officer

RBCS: Rural Business Cooperative Service

RCPP – regional conservation partnership program

RD: Rural Development

REE: Research, Education and Economics

RFP – Request for Proposal

RHS: Rural Housing Service

RMA: Risk Management Agency

RUS: Rural Utilities Service

SCC-State Conservation Commission

SEC – State Environmental Commission

SEP – Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

SETT-Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team

SNOTEL-snow telemetry

SOP: Standard Operating Procedure

STAC – State Technical Advisory Committee (NRCS)

TAC - Technical Advisory committee

TFAA: Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

U.S.C.: United States Code

UNCE – University Nevada Cooperative Extension

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

USFS – United State Forest Service

VC – Vice Chairman

VCD – Carson Valley Conservation District