



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING



DRAFT MINUTES

6

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: 3/14/2024

Location: DCNR Bryan Building, 901 S Stewart St. Carson City, NV

- **List of Acronyms attached as last page.**

Commission Members Present:

Chair Commissioner Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD;
 Vice Chairman Commissioner Eric Rieman, Carson Valley Conservation District (CD).
 Commissioner Mark Damron, CD of Southern Nevada;
 Commissioner Doug Martin, Nevada Tahoe CD;
 Commissioner Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD.
 Commissioner Jerry Annis, Lander County CD
 Commissioner Dr. Paul Meiman, University of Nevada, Reno College of Agriculture,
 Biotechnology & Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension (CABNR/UNCE), Elko;

Commission Members Absent:

Commissioner Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD, member at large;
 Commissioner Meghan Brown, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA).

Agenda

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

- A. *Chairman Tibbitts called the meeting to order at 9:14 AM.*
- B. *A quorum was confirmed. **NO ACTION TAKEN***

2. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

3. Review and consideration of approval of March 14th, 2024, agenda: (For Possible Action)

- A. *Chairman Tibbitts notes the numbering error in the agenda and notes he will refer to the item by name for the meeting. Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, Commissioner Annis second. Motion passed unanimously. **ACTION TAKEN***

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

- A. *Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Commissioner Annis second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **ACTION TAKEN***

**5. Review and approval of the SCC Certificate of Good Standing (COGS) form.
(For Possible Action)**

47 **A.** *Ms. Aten presented the commission the draft version of the COG and explained this*
48 *would be used to help CDs obtain their federal SAM and UEI number which will allow*
49 *them to receive federal grant funding. There have been issues with registration because*
50 *the CDs too do not often have a physical address to use for their registration. This COG*
51 *form can be given out by the Program and Commission with a physical address for the*
52 *CDs each year, therefore a secretary or board member may use their address*
53 *temporarily or the CD can work with the County or partner agency to secure a mail slot*
54 *and address.*
55 *Commissioner Martin made a motion to approve the COGs Commissioner Annis*
56 *second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **ACTION TAKEN***
57

58 **6. Review submissions for the FY24 SCC Sage Grouse grant funding. (For Possible**
59 **Action)**

60 **A.** *Ms. Aten presented the commission of the application and grading by the committee.*
61 *There was discussion about each project and the grading by the board.*
62 *Commissioner Meiman asked if the White Pine leafy spurge project could be scaled and*
63 *could be limited to only pay for the actual treatment versus the inventories as presented*
64 *in the application. Conservation staff specialist Lauren Williams confirmed that the grant*
65 *was scalable and could be moved to only cover the application of herbicides.*
66 *Commissioner Annis pointed out all these would likely need partners to complete, and*
67 *CDs should work on leveraging with partners to make the project cover more ground or*
68 *enhance aspects of the grant.*
69 *The Commission proposed awarding each CD. Eureka was awarded \$20,000, Lander*
70 *CD was awarded \$20,000, White Pine was awarded \$20,000 for application of herbicide*
71 *only not inventory, Smith Valley CD was awarded \$15,000.*
72 *Chairman Tibbitts abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest on the Eureka*
73 *application.*
74 *Motion was made by Commissioner Orr to award as presented above to each CD with*
75 *the specifications for White Pine, motion was second by Commissioner Meiman. Motion*
76 *passed unanimously. **ACTION TAKEN***
77

78 **7. Discussion and Approval to Release the FY25 SCC Sage Grouse Request for**
79 **Proposal on May 1st, 2025. (For Possible Action)**

80 **A.** *Ms. Aten presented the commission with the FY 25 SCC Sage grouse rfp. She also*
81 *asked about placing only a date not a time stamp on the submission of applications due*
82 *to numerous late applications due to computer and emailing errors.*
83 *Commissioner Meiman asked about the language in the rfp, asking for the words to be*

84 *more consistent throughout, calling the proposal or rfp one name throughout.*
85 *Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the release date of May 1, 2024, and*
86 *closing date of June 13th, 2024. And approved the draft FY25 SCC sage grouse rfp with*
87 *the following edits: Remove time due, only have date, ask for maps showing project in*
88 *sag grouse habitat by project applicants, and use consistent language in the rfp calling*
89 *the item their “proposal”. Commissioner Meiman second the motion. Motion passed*
90 *unanimously. **ACTION TAKEN***

91

92 **8. Discussion about updating the SCC strategic Plan. (For Discussion Only)**

93 **A.** *Ms. Aten noted this was added at the request for Chairman Tibbitts and that we will*
94 *continue to have it up for discussion on our SCC agendas. **No ACTION TAKEN***

95

96 **9. Updates from Agencies and Partners:** 97 **(For Discussion Only)**

98 a) Nevada Department of Agriculture

99 *None*

100

101 b) University of Nevada Reno/ University Cooperative Extension

102 *Commissioner Meiman: The UNCE and Cattlemen’s update was just completed, they visited*
103 *several locations throughout Nevada and held an online session to give research and industry*
104 *updates. The Department of Agriculture, Veterinary and Rangeland Sciences is down one*
105 *faculty member now with Amanda Gearhart’s move to NDOW.*

106

107 c) Natural Resources Conservation Service

108 *Mr. Jim Gifford from NRCS noted the new State Conservationist Heidi Ramsey. He noted they*
109 *are working on filling vacancies throughout the state at many field offices. They have continued*
110 *to work with NvACD on the agreement. He provided an update on the NRCS program closing*
111 *deadlines coming up soon for EQIP on March 29th.*

112

113 d) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

114 *Director Settlemeyer from DCNR gave an update on the ongoing work on budgets and*
115 *budgetary deadlines. They started working on them internally on March 6th. He suggested that*
116 *if CDs or the Commission have any needs, they bring them forward for budgetary review. He*
117 *recommended that if the Commissions has any input on NRS or NAC to provide those*
118 *comments to himself or Deputy Directory Etchegoyhen. He mentioned that we are working on*
119 *the budget for the CD Program and looking into how to expand that budget and allow for more*
120 *travel.*

121 *Deputy Directory Etchegoyhen gave an update about the Nevada Water Conservation*
122 *Infrastructure Initiative and said they have received \$100 million in funding. \$75million was*
123 *allocated to water resources. He gave an update about the water buyback program. He*
124 *mentioned the program has been successful and they hope to continue to talk to sellers in*
125 *overallocated basins to fund opportunities for conservation.*
126 *Ms. Aten CD Program manager brought up the Soil Health Bill from last legislative session and*
127 *asked if the commission would still like to work on the review of language so that if it were*
128 *presented again, we would have authority in place to use the funding and award the funding.*
129 *Director Settlemeyer suggested it was a good idea to consider the language again and submit*
130 *something in advance.*

131

132 e) Nevada Conservation District Program

133 *Ms. Aten CD Program manager gave a brief update on staff meetings and our continued*
134 *efforts to assist CDs in any way we can and prop them up. She mentioned Conservation staff*
135 *specialist Marlee Jenkins will be working with USWFS Partners program and state permitting*
136 *to develop a flow chart for working in waterways in Nevada.*

137 *Ms. Aten noted a workshop in May 9-10, 2024, for Beaver dam analogue training in the*
138 *Winnemucca area. The notice will go out to the listserv. She also mentioned the use of state*
139 *mitigation monies from the Environmental Quality Improvement account (EQIA) which were*
140 *proposed to DCNR for conservation projects. She put together two applications for funding and*
141 *it's in review. This is hopefully another avenue for funding in the future for other CDs for*
142 *conservation projects in specific areas.*

143

144 f) Sagebrush Ecosystem Program & Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team

145 *Ms. Sarah Hale for the SETT: They finished training for the 2024 verifiers and have a*
146 *completed list of companies and contractors. They have a deadline for March 15th for free field*
147 *project review. They are down one staff person but hope to have the position filled soon.*

148

149 g) Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

150 *Commissioner Martin mentioned the progress on the NvACD agreement and that they will*
151 *have some CDs enrolled soon. The annual meeting will be set for November 19-20, they are*
152 *working on a collaborative meeting with the Nevada weed management association. They are*
153 *looking into venues and the topic will be urban ag related.*

154 *Commissioner Damron: NvACD has a tentative working theme for the meeting to be*
155 *something like urban conservation in the modern world, and they have already talked to*
156 *Jasmine Wilson, who's the newly appointed state urban conservation with NRCS.*

157

158 h) All Other Partners and participating agencies
159 *NDEP Chris Fritsen with the nonpoint source program within the NDP said we have ongoing*
160 *work in the Walker River and the Carson River, we're doing stream stabilization through the*
161 *fantastic work of the conservation districts. We have work that's ongoing related to Tahoe's*
162 *clarity reduction and fine sediment particle reductions loading to the lake. They are starting to*
163 *work on our next five-year plan, he has been taking tours with partners on projects, and trying*
164 *to solicit what potentially can be done in the next five years and moving out beyond the*
165 *Walker, the Carson Tahoe, and the Truckee watersheds. In order for them to get it to the*
166 *ground and implementation, they have to have a structured plan that's required by EPA and*
167 *they want to try to streamline that process and make it easier to get small HUC 12 small scale*
168 *watershed plans in place such that they can reach implementation faster in some areas that*
169 *have really high priority or high capacity for either recovery of water quality or protection of*
170 *water quality.*

171
172 *OHV Commission: Bob Adams provided an update on the commission. They just finished a*
173 *round of funding, there were no CD applications. He asked interested CDs to get a hold of him*
174 *to talk through possible applications specifically if they have any regarding OHV damages, or*
175 *conservation opportunities.*

176
177 *NDOW: Representative Madie Stout: Introduced herself as the new private lands partner lead,*
178 *and said they are looking for FY25 projects and please reach out to her for coordination on*
179 *projects.*

180
181 **10. Commissioner Items:(For Discussion Only)**
182 *A. Commissioner Orr mentioned the Lincoln County CD has been contacting BLM permittee's*
183 *and ranchers to encourage them to utilize the NRCS funding in Nevada and reminded*
184 *them it can be used on public lands when working with their BLM office.*
185 *Chairman Tibbitts noted the loss of an amazing star in conservation, Tim Rubald who was*
186 *a champion for conservation districts in Nevada. He also mentioned the loss of Carl*
187 *Clinger, the Big Meadow Chairman who passed away recently. He mentioned Mr.*
188 *Clinger's dedication and hard work for CDs.*

189
190 **11. Next Commission Meeting: (For Possible Action)**
191 *a) Future Agenda items for consideration.*
192 *i. SCC Sage grouse grant review and award.*
193 *ii. SCC Strategic Plan*
194 *iii. Legislative Updates*

195 *b) Date, time and location of next meeting.*

196 *i. July 30th, 2024, meeting date*

197

198 **12. Public Comments:**

199 None

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201 **13 Adjournment:** *Chairman Tibbitts moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 PM*

CD – Conservation District

UNCE – University Nevada cooperative extension

CABNR- College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources

NVACD – Nevada association of Conservation Districts

DAG – District Attorney general

DCNR – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

CVCD – Carson Valley Conservation District

VC – Vice chairman

NTCD- Nevada Tahoe conservation district

NACD – national association of conservation districts

NE Elko – north east Elko Conservation district

NACO - Nevada Association of Counties