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|  | **STATE OF NEVADA**  **Department of Conservation & Natural Resources**  **Joe Lombardo**, *Governor* **James A. Settelmeyer**, *Director* **Denise K. Beronio,** Administrator |

**AGENDA -- MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**Date and Time: Thursday, June 27th, 2024,**

**10 AM – 12PM**

**\* This meeting will be held in person with a virtual option. \***

**Physical Location: Piper’s Opera House, 12 B Street, Virginia City, NV 89440**

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Microsoft Teams meeting

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* **CALL TO ORDER –** Stavros Anthony, Chair
* **ROLL CALL OF THE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

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| **ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER** | **Representation** |
| Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony, Chair | Office of Lieutenant Governor |
| Amy Berry, Vice Chair | Conservation |
| Mauricia Baca | Education |
| Bob Potts for Tom Burns | Governor’s Office of Economic Development |
| Alan Jenne | Nevada Department of Wildlife |
| Vacant | Nevada Indian Commission |
| Robert Mergell | Nevada Division of State Parks |
| Dr. Andrew Pasternak | Public Health |
| Brenda Scolari | Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs |
| James A. Settelmeyer | Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources |
| Debra Strickland | Nevada Association of Counties |
| Chad Taylor | Outdoor Recreation Industry |

**Present:** Stavros Anthony, Amy Berry, Mauricia Baca, Bob Potts, Robert Mergell, Brenda Scolari, James A. Settelmeyer, Debra Strickland, Chad Taylor, Cheva Gabor, Miles Gurtler.

**Absent:** Alan Jenne, Dr. Andrew Pasternak.

Online: Jennifer M. Jackson (Public Information Officer, DCNR), Rachel Lewison (Public)

* **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2024, MEETING \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\* -** Stavros Anthony, Chair.

Chair asks if there is a motion to approve the minutes. Bob Potts motion to approve, Debra Strickland seconds. Amy Berry abstains. Motion carries unanimously and minutes are approved. Debra Strickland-‘Under page 2, under Jasmina. There are 90,00 miles of road. Should read 90,000 miles of road’.

* **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*–** *Stavros Anthony, Chair.*

No comment**.** Chair asks if there is a motion to approve the agenda. Debra Strickland motion to approve, Brenda Scolari seconds. Motion carries unanimously and agenda is approved.

* **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person. The public may request that items be added to a future agenda. No action will be taken on any matter raised during the public comment period that is not already on the agenda. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating and spelling their name for the record.

*Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comments that may be reasonably limited.*

Rachel Lewison- City of Las Vegas. Attending meeting to learn about how to collaborate.

* **ADVISORY BOARD WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR \*FOR DISCUSSION –** *Stavros Anthony, Chair*
* **DIVISION UPDATES \*FOR DISCUSSION\*–** *Denise Beronio,* Administrator; Elisabeth Jonhson, Deputy Administrator; Kendal Scott, Outdoor Education Lead; Jasmina Sekanovich, GIS Mapping Analyst; Chelsea Kincheloe, Program Officer & Comms Lead: may provide updates as they apply regarding division activities, partnerships, opportunities, challenges, initiatives, collaborations, relevant public lands updates, state legislative updates, accomplishments, as well as ongoing and upcoming projects.
* **Denise Beronio:** We have hired an economic firm to implement our OREC analysis. Hopefully the contract will be done next week. Once the contract is completed, we will be collecting a lot of data. Outreach to some of the agencies represented here today. Collect asset data. Our website contract should be finalized in two weeks. We will have our own website instead of having a webpage on DCNR page. Applied for a 3-million-dollar ear mark through Senators Cortez- Masto’s and Rosen’s office for UNR to help with the Outdoor Recreation career path. Past phase one of that, getting past the 1st phase is a good milestone. Most likely hear back in 6-10 months on this item. Continue to work with communities with outdoor recreation strategic plan. This will help build economic vitality and increase health benefits.
* **Elisabeth Johnson**: Focused on supporting the OHV program since the previous Manager departed. Primarily focusing on the OHV grantees, working to support them on reports and grant reimbursements. Additionally, any questions that may come in from the public. We were successful in the reclassification of the OHV Manager position. We have changed it from a Management Analyst 2 to a Management Analyst 3. This bumps up the pay scale and fully encompasses what the previous incumbent was already doing. We were successful in creating a Management Analyst 1 position to assist the Management Analyst 3. Recruitment for the MA3 is closed and interviews have been finalized. We are hoping to finalize that hiring process in the next week or two. Once they are onboarded, we will start recruitment for the MA1 position.
* Kendal Scott: Focus mainly on the grant program. We are continuing to work with UNR in developing programs oriented towards supporting the Outdoor Recreation industry. Coming this fall, UNR will launch two new programs. Minor in Outdoor Adventure Leadership. Environmental Science major, you can now study Sustainable Outdoor Recreation. The Outdoor Education Advisory Group currently has a survey open for final recommendations to make to the legislature to integrate Outdoor Education into the public education school system. Survey is open through August 16th, 2024. This advisory board is the Technical Advisory Board (TAC) for the Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation (NOER) grant. We have made a couple of updates. We made a couple of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) changes to the NOER grant. The reason for the changes were from feedback on how to make the program easier. We adjusted the micro grant amounts from $5,000 to $7,500. Those under $7,500 will be reviewed by the Division. Grant request of up to $50,000 must be reviewed by the TAC. The first NAC stated that teams and leagues could not receive funding. The focus was to reserve funding for Outdoor Recreation oriented activities, compared to traditional sports. It limited us from helping Mountain Biking Leagues. New NAC reflects that the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation (ABOR) is the advisory board for the NOER grant. Administrative changes involved changes to the scoring for the NOER grant. One of the questions is around the percentage of students that are being served that face barriers to outdoor recreation. Adding a question that will be worth 10 points about the organization itself. Several applicants provided feedback that they would like the opportunity to talk about the organization’s successes and background. Lastly, you will remember there were 9 program impacts that you had to score last year. This year, we will limit it to 5 program impacts, which will showcase an organization’s strength. Applications open August 1st, 2024. Kendal goes on to explain scoring training and dates for the application scores to be completed.
* The ABOR participants discussed grading 15 grant participants or narrowing it down to 10 grant participants and fund fewer applicants but provides more money. Discussion points included scoring the applications and then changing the scores based on presentations. Board discussion opted to keep 15 awardees for the NOER grant. Kendal opened to floor for discussion about in-person presentations, having a hybrid model (in-person and virtual) or do strictly virtual presentations for the NOER grant applicants. Hybrid is a great option; one individual would prefer in-person presentations. TAC members are encouraged to reach out to Kendal with any additional feedback or questions. Add an agenda item at the October meeting about Bill Draft Requests (BDR) opportunities for the NOER grant and NDOR. Discussion continued to talk about how to increase the funds for the NOER grants. Looking at foundations to grow this pool of money is of interest to the board.

* Jasmina Sekanovich: NDOR has been working on compiling an Outdoor Recreation Businesses list, which is now completed. List is comprised of 490 businesses in the State of Nevada that supports our outdoor recreation economy. Jasmina provided a map of the different Outdoor Recreation Businesses in each County. Working with State Parks on the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This has to be completed every 5-years, this year we are going more in-depth down to the County and City data. Reaching out to BLM, USFS and City and County GIS employees. Seeking contacts for local GIS employees. Jasmina provided rack cards in the pamphlet for NV Trail Finder promotion. Would like to collaborate with other agencies and organizations to promote NV Trail Finder. Focusing on visitor centers, Chambers of Commerce. Completed the Challenge Badges for NV Trail Finder.
* Chelsea Kincheloe: Updates on the Nevada Starry Skies Destination program. Interested parties in the NSSD will need to complete a management plan that promotes dark skies through infrastructure and policy changes. Additionally, they will need to complete an educational component about the changes they are making. Jasmina and Chelsea have also been connecting with the USFS, BLM and non-profit groups about trail maintenance challenges across the state. We are looking at ways to advocate for more funding to be allocated for trail maintenance. Continued working on the NDOR quarterly newsletter and providing updates for the Lt. Gov’s newsletter. Working with partners on social media and trying to grow our followers on Instagram and Facebook.
* **PRESENTATION FROM** Storey County Sheriff and Nevada OHV Program Vice Chair, Michael Cullen. Sheriff Cullen will discuss OHV recreation in Storey County as well as other potential future OREC opportunities and projects.

Storey County has an established Storey Off Highway Operations (SOHO) Team. Established in 2023 in a response to an observed need for off-highway education and enforcement in Storey County, NV. Currently have five team members, who are experienced with training specific to off-highway vehicles and regulations. The SOHO Team does outreach at events, specifically at the Virginia City Grand Prix motorcycle race. Future goals of the program include having booths set up at events, such as local racing or OHV specific events. The program is also working on conducting educational events such as VIN inspection events, safety and regulations seminars, and Learn To Ride events for children.

The ABOR group discussed OHV licensing in Utah, which requires 26 questions, including videos. Would like to see more education and outreach provided to individuals who are testing for their OHV license. Questions were brought up on how the SOHO Team measures the metrics and statistics to gauge the success of their outreach and education efforts. The program is just beginning, so they are still working on developing methods to gauge impacts of this program.

* **PRESENTATION FROM** Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition (NVOBC) Director Mandi Elliott. Mandi will discuss the outdoor business industry in Nevada and the status of the outdoor economy in our state.

The Outdoor industry now generates over $1 Trillion in Gross Economic Output. Job growth has increased from 3.9% in 2021 to 7.4%. Top outdoor activities include RVing, Boating/Fishing/Motorcycling/ATVing/ Hunting/Shooting/Trapping and Snow Activities. In Nevada, Outdoor Recreation generates $6.1 billion in GDP and employees 3.5% of Nevada’s workforce. Overall, Nevada is ranked 27th out of 51. These numbers help show that people are interested in working in the outdoor industry. Data is critical for advocating for investment in the industry and prioritizing the industry.

Discussion from the board alluded to the numbers for Nevada being conservative because the collected data did not look at tax forms for guiders and outfitters. We believe that as a State, we are doing better than what is being presented. Talked about recruiting outdoor businesses to Nevada, painting us as a recreation haven for corporate and small businesses. Nevada desires to support small businesses and grow outdoor recreation businesses in the state. Discussion about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) cannot replace and outdoor recreation experience. There will always be a need for guides to take groups and families out and team them about recreation.

* **PRESENTATION FROM** the U.S. Forest Service. Cheva Gabor, USFS Nevada Liaison, Intermountain Region and Randy Keyes, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Staff Officer for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, will share their overview of the USDA Forest Service’s focus on recreation management.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest makes 6.3 million which is 90% in Nevada. Comprised of six ranger districts, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. The Humboldt-Toiyabe USFS oversees 24 Wilderness areas, approximately 1.3 million acres. Includes Wilderness Study Areas, National Scenic and Historic Trails and several areas in California.

The H-T hosts lots of recreation opportunities and provides 2,007 miles of non-motorized trails, 1,662 miles motorized trails and 5,595 miles of forest roads. Programs are funded through the USFS budget, Recreation Fee Program, other Federal Funding and the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), Resource Advisory Council, grants and partner funding. The H-T USFS continues to address sustainable recreation through education, partnerships, reducing deferred maintenance, and field presence. Current workforce includes 69 permanent recreation positions. Lots of vacancy issues facing the USFS. They rely on strong partnerships to assist with workforce needs. Recruit and hire temporary, seasonal employees, Youth Conservation Corps crewmembers, partner employees and volunteers. In 2022, first Recreation Shared Stewardship Agreement was signed in Nevada.

* **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING(S) \*FOR DISCUSSION\*–** *Stavros Anthony, Chair* – Advisory Board Members may at this time recommend agenda items, dates, and locations to the chair for the next meeting. No deliberation or action will be taken on any information presented until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

Kendal will provide training on scoring at the October 10th meeting in Beatty, NV. Miles Gurtler from the BLM will provide an update on the BLM Recreation Strategy. May have a final draft of it at that time. Add agenda item for BDR’s.

* **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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Elana Sullivan- Resident of the VC Highlands area, north of Virginia City. We had a few roads that lead to the petroglyphs. Very popular destination amongst the OHV community. Many riders do not understand this is a private area. Signage about private property would be appreciated. Storey County needs to develop a trailhead for this recreation area to keep them off of the private roads.

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* **ADJOURNMENT \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*-** *Stavros Anthony, Chair*

**Anthony adjourned at 12:20 PM.**

**NOTICE: Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed, combined for consideration, or removed from the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.**

Notice of this meeting was also posted on site at the Nevada State Library and Archives at 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701, The Bryan Building, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 901 S. Stewart St., Lobby, Carson City, NV 89701, and the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave, #4400, Las Vegas, NV 89101. The Agenda is also posted at the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Website at: <http://dcnr.nv.gov/>and <https://notice.nv.gov/>

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We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting. To request special accommodations or assistance at the meeting, please notify our office by writing to the Division of Outdoor Recreation, 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701; or by calling 775-684- 2794 no later than two (2) working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Please contact Denise Beronio at: 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003, Carson City, Nevada 89701; dberonio@ndor.nv.gov; or 775-684-2716 to obtain support material for the agenda. Materials will also be posted on the [DCNR website.](http://dcnr.nv.gov/)