



Conservation District of Southern Nevada

5820 S. Pecos Rd., A-400
Las Vegas, NV 89120
Phone: (702) 262-9047 Ext. 5
FAX: (702) 736-7415
Web Site: www.cdsn.org

MINUTES

Conservation District of Southern Nevada Conservation District- 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400, Conference Room November 18, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jon Wardlaw, Chair
Supervisor Joe Fortier, Vice-Chair
Supervisor Beth Hewitt, Treas. /Secretary
Supervisor Mark Silverstein, Clark County Rep.

Supervisor John Hunt
Jennifer Szwejbka, District Coordinator
Jarrod Edmunds, NRCS

OPEN MEETING

Supervisor Wardlaw called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Consent Agenda: (Action item)

Jennifer Szwejbka noted that CDSN sent a letter to the Forest Stewardship Council to endorse CityCenter for the FSC award. **Supervisor Fortier motioned to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Hunt seconds and the motion passed.**

Business Agenda:

1. Financial Report - (Discussion/Action Item)

A new financial statement was generated to show income and expenditures in a more comprehensive manner. For FY09-10 dues owed are going to be lowered by 30% in accordance with what our income has been lowered by.

The contract with GrantWriting & Proposal Services has been terminated. Total funding spent toward fundraising with GWPS was \$3,690.

CDSN is in compliance with the mitigation funding. The final funds have been disbursed to Clark County for the CC Wetlands Park. **Supervisor Fortier moved to approve the financial report.**

Supervisor Silverstein seconds and the motion carried.

2. Financial Working Group Report & Recommendations - (Discussion/Action Item)

The Working Group created the new financial statement and created a reserve column for \$45,511 reserve funds. Group brainstormed new project ideas to solicit funding for. Staff will submit a proposal for the EPA Environmental Education (EE) grant for a Conservation Technician to develop a Small Grant/Loan Program for EE for the CCSD. The goal is to offset costs of EE for CCSD teachers and maximize the effectiveness of CDSN. Second idea from the group is to utilize the CDSN website and develop a projects idea form to solicit project and funding ideas from the public. Supervisor Fortier mentioned that Sandi at NvACD wants to know what our project ideas are so they can help solicit funding for us. Shovel ready projects or reprinting publications, etc. She is willing to help with grant writing. Third idea from group is to inventory storage and document retention policy for analysis for usefulness of storage unit. Supervisor Fortier suggested contacting Star Nursery for storage of Drip Irrigation Guides. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested contacting City of Henderson and Las Vegas for storage and/or scanning services as in-kind donation. Jarrod also has scanning and storage space that he can offer to CDSN. **Supervisor Wardlaw suggested researching document retention and inventorying the contents of the storage unit for next meeting. No action taken.**

3. Staff Report – Jennifer Szwejbka (Discussion/Action Item)

- a) **Current Projects Update:** storm drain marking project has installed 6,376 plaques. CDSN will conduct 3rd Annual Stormwater Poster Contest in 2010. One reimbursement request has been submitted for the Mt. Charleston grant projects.
- b) **Potential grants and projects:** two proposals were submitted for 319 grants. One proposal was submitted for a BMP Manual for Resort and Casinos. A second proposal was submitted with SNWA for the stormwater poster contest and further public education. A proposal will also be submitted for an EPA EE grant. The Mt. Charleston License Plate Program RFP has been released and is due in January.
- c) **Staffing Recommendations:** Jennifer interviewed someone for an unpaid internship and they will begin working part-time after Thanksgiving. **No action taken.**

4. Annual Meeting Report – Joe Fortier – (Discussion Only)

The annual meeting will be in Ely next year. There was a good presentation from the Southwest Representative on what everyone in the region is doing. Supervisor Fortier passed around the NV Conservation Commission State Law handout to discuss the NRS 548.175 which states that the Commission has the power to carry out policies and programs relating to the conservation of renewable natural resources. The Commission discussed the importance of more and stronger partnerships. The Commission also discussed the retention and recruitment of supervisors. They want to develop training videos to use. Another goal is to increase marketing of current projects to solicit for new funding. Supervisor Fortier is chairing a committee for water conservation and will develop BMP's for Landscape Irrigation that can be used at a state level.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)

A new copier was installed and the old one will be donated to the LV Charter School for the Deaf. A budget was passed. The RC&D is down \$50,000, the Plant Materials Center, Snotel, and other programs were reduced. EQUIP got \$5 million and the wetlands programs were also well funded. Supervisor Fortier asked what the wetlands funds could be used on. Jarrod said it has to be wetlands that were impacted by agricultural use. Supervisor Hunt attended the November NRCS Working Group meeting. Soil mapping funding was not renewed for next year. **No action taken.**

6. Supervisor's Report - (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Silverstein attended the State Board & Commissioners workshop at the Attorney General's office and learned about confidentiality and other issues. No word on synergies between CDSN and the airport.

Supervisor Hunt attended the local work group meeting in Tonopah not many programs we can use because there is no agriculture in CC. He reported that he will be attending the next RC&D meeting. They will be voting on the executive council. They are working towards RC&D hosting a recovery funding workshop.

Supervisor Fortier learned that RC&D programs were supposed to end 15 years ago. Term limits were discussed at the state meeting. Some county district attorney's have said they don't affect CD board members. A county DA must request a ruling from the state attorney general for an official ruling. The Clark County DA has stated it does include CD boards therefore we must follow the term limits. Supervisor Wardlaw said the state has ruled that it does apply to county and town boards.

Supervisor Hewitt had nothing to report.

Supervisor Wardlaw had nothing to report. **No Action Taken.**

7. Open Discussion and Public Comment – (Discussion Only)*

Supervisor Silverstein mentioned that the Water Reclamation District is collecting cooking oil for bio-fuel. They will have drop-off locations during the holidays. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested that CDSN should consider promoting local environmental projects. Develop a clearinghouse of information and develop environmental coordination for Clark County. Supervisor Silverstein suggested attending the Southern Nevada Environmental Task Force (SNETF) meetings.

8. Agenda Items – (Discussion/Action Item)

- Document Retention Policy
- Assessment & Recommendation for Storage Unit
- Financial Working Group Update/Report
- Plant Sale Logistics
- Farm Foundation Projects
- Project idea for Conservation and Environmental Clearinghouse Function

9. Meeting Location- (Discussion/Action Item)

Next meeting will be at CDSN on January 20, 2010 at 1:30pm.

10. Adjournment - (Action Item)

Supervisor Fortier motioned to adjourn. Supervisor Silverstein 2nd the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tomica Hewitt, Sec. /Treasurer

Date