



MINUTES

Conservation District of Southern Nevada Monthly Board Meeting

Conservation District of Southern Nevada – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. A-400, Conference Room
December 7, 2005 – 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Judy Currier, Vice-Chair
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary
Supervisor Elise McAllister
Supervisor Beth Tomica
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw

Gretchen Huie
Wilisha Daniels
Jarrod Edmunds, NRCS
Ron Smolinski, DAQEM

Supervisor Currier called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

Consent Agenda: Consent Agenda items are considered by the CDSN Board to be routine and may be acted upon in one motion. However, the Board may discuss any consent item individually if requested when the Consent Agenda is considered for approval. (Action item)

1. Compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Law
2. Approval December 2005 Agenda
3. Approval of October 2005 Meeting Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills
6. Introductions

Supervisor McAllister made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Business Agenda:

7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)
Jarrod updated the Board on the NRCS reorganization. He stated that he had worked with a work team to prepare and present suggestions for the reorganization. He said that the original plan was based on three distinct land use areas. However, when the plan was being reviewed, the question of Southern Nevada's placement became a point of concern. The committee suggested making Southern Nevada a separate area with support staff based out of the State Office. Currently the structure consists of State Offices, Area Offices, and Field Offices. Southern Nevada was presented as an Area Office. However, the National Office did not agree with this organization and the Area Office in Southern Nevada was denied. Finally, the committee decided to label the Southern Nevada area a Special Projects Office. Currently, this office is in a transition phase and the task and duties of the Special Projects Office is being defined. Additionally, reporting requirements for the new Projects

Office are being solidified. Jarrod stated that in the future he suspects that the Special Projects Office will work closely with Conservation Districts on both projects and reporting.

Jarrod said that unlike other NRCS Offices, the Farm Bill will not be the primary focus of the Special Projects Office. Jarrod said that Richard Vigil is his new direct Supervisor and he encouraged Board members to contact Richard or himself with any questions or concerns. Jarrod said that Richard plans to attend more Conservation District meetings; however, Richard has limited time and many Districts to visit. Jarrod also stated that the cut off date to sign up for NRCS programs is January 13th 2006. Supervisor Hunt stated that some of the criteria for funding do not apply or are not being carried out in Southern Nevada, for example EPA watershed studies. Jarrod said that the Muddy and Virgin have been studied by the EPA. He also said that the CSP program is an incentive program to continue conservation that already being implemented by land owners. Additionally, he said that it is very hard to recruit landowners into long term programs in Clark County. Supervisor Currier asked how the Conservation District could assist the NRCS initiative. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested putting together a flow chart of things that may be of interest in the Special Project Area. In this way, one can better identify overlapping project interest. Jarrod offered to prepare a list of NRCS programs that may be used in southern Nevada. Supervisor Currier suggested scheduling a meeting with Jarrod after he has prepared a list of program interest.

9. Health District – Deborah Williams (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw stated that Deborah was interested in pursuing health based planning. He had invited Deborah to the meeting in order to explore possible partnerships. Deborah said that health cost is running ramped and that society needs to think about health and lifestyles. Public Health Officials are encouraging Urban and Environmental Planners to work with them in order to create more active and healthy lifestyles. Supervisor Currier told Deborah that the CDSN currently has an urban garden project in Moapa Valley. Supervisor McAllister said that she would give Deborah the contact information for this project. Supervisor Currier suggested that Deborah speak with Ron Smolinski or Wilisha Daniels about the Clark County Air Quality Program.

10. Conservation Easement Status (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha stated that CDSN possessed a second easement. This easement is a blanket easement in Moapa and is close to the river. Wilisha and Jodi are working to gather more information on the easement. Supervisor Hunt suggested that Jarrod pull maps of the site and ask Teri Knight to visit and assess the site.

11. NvACD Conference Recap (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Currier said that everyone did a great job. Supervisor Hewitt said that the field trip was a great success. Supervisor Currier said that she had attended several NvACD. During these meetings, it was pointed out that it was important to fax or email meeting minutes to the State Office within 30 days after every meeting. Supervisor Currier presented Jon Wardlaw, Elise McAllister, and Teri Knight with Certificates of Appreciation. Mountain State Nursery donated several plants for the NvACD Auction. Supervisor Currier said that she would draft a thank you note for Mountain State Nursery.

12. Security Procedures (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha purchased a fire proof file cabinet.

13. Review and Approval of Letter to Richard Vigil (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt and Currier have drafted a letter to Richard asking him to visit with CDSN. Supervisor Currier presented a rough draft letter to the Board. She asked the Board for any suggestions. She said that the Board could postpone sending the letter until after Board Members meet with Jarrod to discuss joint program possibilities. Jarrod said that Richard was interested in meeting with as many CDs as possible. Supervisor Wardlaw said that CDSN operates independent of NRCS and it is not important to him if CDSN meets face to face with Richard. However,

Supervisor Wardlaw stated that it is important to communicate effectively with NRCS and their staff in order best meets the public's needs. Supervisor Hunt said that he would like to have Richard directly address how he intends to have NRCS and CDs effectively communicate. Supervisor Hewitt suggested that CDSN wait to send the letter. She said that she would feel more comfortable sending the letter after a work plan between NRCS and CDSN has been developed. Supervisor McAllister said that she would not want CDSN to jeopardize their relationship with NRCS. She suggested waiting to send the letter until the Special Projects Office has better defined their task and objectives. Jarrod said that NRCS will take an active role in establishing reportable items, thus clarifying how the CDSN and NRCS can best work together. Supervisor Wardlaw said that CDSN could use NRCS assistance in submitting EPA Challenge Grants. Jarrod said that he did not think that Richard Vigil meant to imply that Districts need to communicate their questions or concerns through Chris Freeman. Supervisor Currier suggested that Jarrod ask Richard what he meant by his statement at the NvACD meeting. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to table the discussion concerning the letter for the next meeting. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. Supervisor Hunt voted against the motion. However, the motion passed. Jarrod said that he would speak with Richard and ask him to clarify the Boards concerns. He also said that he would ask Mr. Vigil to come to a Conservation District Meeting.

14. Staff Report – Wilisha Daniels (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha reported for Gretchen. Gretchen submitted the 2006-2007 PTI proposals and an EPA Region 9 Education proposal. She is working with SNWA representatives to prepare a Sahara Mustard Workshop. Wilisha said that the calendars were in print and would be distributed to all schools. She participated in an educational outreach event at CCSN. She continues to meet with Don Curry and the Global Lab Students to prepare outreach activities. She met with DRI to discuss the Science Boxes for air quality.

15. Supervisor's Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt reported that he would be attending the MSHCP meeting on the 16th. Elise and Jon Hunt attended a meeting on open meeting law and they had questions about MSHCP voting processes. The group may need to consult with the County Legal Office. Supervisor McAllister reported that the straw bale building and new greenhouse would go up at the same time. She said that Gretchen would be meeting with the principal and farm workers next Monday. Supervisor Hewitt reported that Native Plant Society is working on a plant poster for Southern Nevada and that the Society would hold a plant sale in March.

16. Open Discussion and Public Comment (Discussion Only)*

Ron Smolinski reported that the County is participating in a new accounting system and reimbursements can be expected to be 30-60 days. He handed out the new Christmas Tree Recycling brochures.

17. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18th, 2006 at 2:30 in the CDSN conference room.

18. Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

- Letter to Richard Vigil
- Our Places Tell Stories
- Conservation Easements

19. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor McAllister made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Wardlaw seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer

Date