



Conservation District of Southern Nevada
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MINUTES
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Board Meeting
Conservation District of Southern Nevada – 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400
January 17, 2007 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair
Supervisor Judy Currier, Vice Chair
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw
Supervisor Elise McAllister
Supervisor Beth Hewitt
Alt. Supervisor Mark Silverstein

Wilisha Daniels
Jennifer Szwejbka
Jarrod Edmunds, NRCS
Ron Smolinski, DAQEM

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 January 2007 Agenda
3. Approval of November 2006 Meeting Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills
6. Introductions

Supervisor Bechtel called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Supervisor Bechtel suggested that we move appointment of officers towards the end. Supervisor McAllister moved to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Currier seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Business Agenda:

7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Currier moved to approve the financial report. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)
Jarrod reported that NRCS recently printed a fugitive dust guide for agricultural landowners to reduce the amount of fugitive dust of farms. He stated NRCS sent copies to the CDs, NDCD, Department of Agriculture, and NDEP. It is also available to download on the website. He also stated that CDSN helped provide information for the guide. Supervisor Currier asked for copies to be sent to the state for the upcoming Commission meeting. Supervisor Hunt stated that the guide could be used as a preferred practice. Jarrod stated the practices have been tested and proven to work. He also reported that the new congress is working under a continuing resolution for the current budget. He said they currently have money for programs and had 202 sign-ups for EQIP. There are currently nine WHIP sign-ups and one in Clark County. Sign-ups have been extended for the Agricultural Assistance and Wildlife programs.

9. Appointment of Officers (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel stated that we have Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary / Treasurer Positions open for appointment. Supervisor Bechtel is the current Chair, Supervisor Currier is the Vice-Chair and Supervisor Hunt is the Sec./Treasurer. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion that the three current officers return for another term. Supervisor Bechtel stated that she will be re-appointed as the County Rep and could continue in her role as Chair. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. Newly elected and appointed officers signed the Oath of Office.

10. RC&D Representative – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt stated that he would like to continue as the representative for RC&D. Supervisor Bechtel asked how the RC&D has benefited CDSN. Supervisor Hunt stated that there are funding and project opportunities for CDSN because of our participation with RC&D. Supervisor Currier moved that Supervisor Hunt be reappointed as RC&D representative. Supervisor Wardlaw seconded. The motion passed.

11. NACD Conference, Los Angeles, CA, Feb 5-7, 2007 – (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel stated that the NACD conference was next month in LA. Wilisha included information about the conference in the packet for the Board to review. Supervisor Bechtel stated the Board could send up to two attendees to the conference. Supervisor Hunt expressed that he was interested in attending the conference. Supervisor Wardlaw moved to authorize one staff and board member to attend the conference. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12. NRCS Ride Policy (Discussion/Action Item)

Jarrod stated that staff and supervisors are covered for liability through the state insurance and can ride in a NRCS vehicle. He stated that CDs can take out insurance or sign-up as Earth Team volunteers to operate the vehicle. Jarrod has the discretion to authorize the use of vehicles through the Earth Team Volunteer Program and volunteers will need to act within the guidelines of the program. Jarrod stated that CDSN and NRCS are working together towards the same goals, and he doesn't see a problem with staff using vehicles as long as they are Earth Team Volunteers. Supervisor Hunt asked Richard Vigil to provide something in writing. Jarrod stated that the policy is on the Commission agenda, and DCD will likely provide documentation regarding the policy at the meeting.

13. Collaborative MOU Comments (Discussion/Action)

Supervisor Bechtel asked the Board to review the MOU and give comments to Wilisha by Friday, January 19.

14. Agreements/MOU List Review (Discussion/Action)

Wilisha stated the Board requested staff to research and create a list of CDSN's past and current Agreements/MOUs. Wilisha stated that Jennifer compiled an excel spreadsheet of information dating back to 1996. Supervisor Wardlaw stated that the Board would like to see the Agreements/MOUs that are currently active, and/or have potential liability and responsibility over. Supervisor Hunt suggested splitting the list into two lists, and for staff to develop a current and completed list of MOUs. Supervisor Bechtel stated she was concerned with the Muddy River MOU, and would like to review the fiscal responsibilities.

15. CDSN Equipment Inventory List Review (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel stated that staff developed a list of equipment over \$200, and developed a policy for the usage. Wilisha stated she contacted the state for a copy of their current equipment inventory list, and used it as a template for CDSN's policy. Supervisor Hunt suggested that staff consult with the Board regarding the disposal of old equipment. Supervisor McAllister asked if CDSN has a program to remove information off the hard drive. Wilisha stated that we did not have a program, but would look into getting one. Supervisor Currier stated we have had equipment go off-site to staff in the past, and something should be outlined in the policy regarding disposing of old equipment that is used off-site. Wilisha will add a line in the policy that equipment used off-site is the property of CDSN and should be returned upon departure and for disposal.

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

Wilisha stated the 18,000 of the 2007 Calendars had been printed, and were in the process of being distributed throughout the school district. She stated that 50 calendars were sent to each school in the district. She also stated that calendars were given to the cities, Clark County, and will be distributed at special events. Wilisha reported she will start working on the poster contest next month, and fliers should be distributed in March. She stated that she included a copy of a sample brochure for CDSN in the packet for the Board to review. She stated that it may be a good opportunity to create a brochure to distribute this spring at the upcoming events. Supervisor Currier supported the idea of creating a brochure. Supervisor Hunt asked if we were still working on a presentation to give to Sandi Valley. Supervisor Wardlaw stated that he spoke to a few people from Sandi Valley, and was asked what programs/projects CDSN offers. Supervisor Hunt stated that we should explain to the town boards what we can offer. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested that we have a strong clear vision before we give presentations to the town boards. He stated that many of the town boards in southern Nevada have different issues, and we need a clear vision/scope in order to address those issues. He also stated that tools need to be developed before a presentation is scheduled with the town boards. Supervisor Bechtel stated that we need to talk about the presentations further.

Jennifer reported that we were asked to submit a full proposal for the PTI grant. She reported we submitted a proposal for the NDEP Solid Waste Recycling Grant. She stated she sent a draft of the plaques in Spanish/English to the Storm Drain Committee for review. She also stated that the bales have been stacked for the straw bale structure, and we are waiting for the structure to be stuccoed. We are currently working with Lowes and Southwest Homes to get the doors and stucco donated. She also stated she is working with the Springs Preserve on the Garden design, which should be completed soon. Jennifer reported that the Christmas Tree Recycling Program received 6,702 trees so far this year, and expects those numbers to increase. CDSN provide about \$1400 in in-kind services to the Recycling Program. Jennifer stated that NRCS approved a grant extension for a weed removal project. Wilisha stated that at the last CWMA meeting it was determined by Tina Mudd that the Clark County CWMA will not be recognized. Supervisor Hewitt stated Tina had shown interest in starting a new CWMA. Supervisor Hunt asked what NRCS's official position will be with the CWMA. Jarrod stated NRCS can lend technical support when available, but will ultimately be another partner on the CWMA. He stated that there is a need to have a weed coordinator for the County to coordinate the CWMA. Supervisor Hunt asked the Board if they want to continue with the CWMA. Supervisor Bechtel stated the CWMA should decide if they exist or not. Supervisor Hewitt stated that the CWMA's are currently being led by federal agencies. Supervisor Hunt stated that he wants to find out for sure if the CWMA still exists. Supervisor Currier suggested that we find out from the Dept. of Agriculture what defines a CWMA. Supervisor Hewitt stated at the last meeting it was announced that the current CWMA was disbanded, and the new CWMA consists of federal agencies and utilities. Supervisor Currier offered to talk to Don Henderson regarding the dissolve of the CWMA.

17. Supervisors Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw reported that the Comp Planning Dept is taking on new plan elements for land use and facilities plan. The department is currently reviewing the plans for fire and police, and the demand of land use types.

Supervisor McAllister reported that she met with the new principal of Moapa High School. She stated the Cooperative Extension Service is hosting a meeting on February 9th, which will discuss ways to declare the land around the Ag Farm a heritage park. She also reported that she met with Jon Porter at the Farm Bureau meeting, and he is exploring ways to provide funding for the school district for field trips to the Ag Farm. Supervisor McAllister stated that the principal would like to schedule a grand opening for the straw bale and gardens project before Memorial Day.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he met with Richard Vigil regarding the ride policies. He stated the next RC&D meeting is scheduled for January 23rd.

Supervisor Currier reported that the state compiled the annual reports for the CDs in Nevada into one document. She also stated that she is sitting on the new Storm Drain committee, and expressed some concern with the Spanish text. She asked the Board's opinion on the Spanish text on the plaque. Alt. Supervisor Silverstein stated the County has a policy that anything written on the public right-away has to

be in English. Ron stated the Communications Director of the county wants to do more Spanish outreach, and DAQEM is currently working on translating all of their outreach to Spanish. Supervisor Bechtel stated that she would encourage using both or just English if it is the most cost effective. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested choosing what is most effective and gives us the most for our money, which would be English plaques. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that the District recommend to the committee to purchase the least expensive English plaque and printing outreach materials in both English and Spanish. Supervisor Hunt also supported printing English only plaques.

Supervisor Hewitt reported that the Nevada Plant Society met in December. She also stated that the CCSN Plant Sale is scheduled for March 31st. She is also working with Jennifer on the Demonstration Gardens in Moapa. She reported that BLM is working on a planting project and is considering contracting with CDSN to oversee the project. The next Wetlands Park Green-Up is scheduled for March.

18. Open Discussion (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel reminded staff and Board to use this item to discuss information that is not on the agenda in order to stay on track.

Alt. Supervisor Silverstein reported the Water Quality Plan is in progress and will be open for comments until February 6th.

Ron stated that there is a new clause to operate federal grants, and CDSN could ask for additional operating funding for current federal grants if applicable.

19. Next Meeting Date (Discussion/Action Item)

The marketing meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the CDSN conference room. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the CDSN conference room.

20. Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

February 14, 2007 agenda items:

- Review Brochure/Work Plan

March 15, 2007 agenda items:

- MOU
- NACD Review
- Brochure Status
- CWMA

21. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Currier made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Wardlaw seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer

Date