



MINUTES

Conservation District of Southern Nevada Monthly Board Meeting

Conservation District of Southern Nevada – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. A-400, Conference Room
July 19, 2006– 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair
Supervisor John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer
Supervisor Beth Hewitt
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw
Supervisor Elise McAllister

Wilisha Daniels
Jennifer Szwejbka
Ron Smolinski, DAQEM

Supervisor Bechtel called the meeting to order at 1:40 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 July 2006 Agenda
3. Approval of May 2006 Meeting Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills
6. Introductions

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

Business Agenda:

7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to accept the financial report. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Natural Resource Conservation Service – Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha stated NRCS was unable to attend the meeting. She stated NRCS hired a new employee to fill Elyse's position. The new employee will start next month.

9. Conservation Easement Status (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor McAllister stated she spoke to Bryan Robinson about the easement, and he will review the paper work. Supervisor McAllister will keep the Board updated on the progress of the easement. There has not been any development on the property to date.

10. Weed Inventory on Urban Interface Areas (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hewitt talked to Everett Barts about the project. The proposal for the project will not be ready this year, but they anticipate that the money will be available next year. The item will be removed from the agenda at this time.

11. NDOT Highway Corridor Design Project – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt stated that Teri Knight explained the project at the last meeting, which is targeting the Highway 95 corridor. He stated that he wanted to make the Board aware of the project.

Supervisor Hewitt stated she will attend a meeting in Boulder City regarding the project in August.

Supervisor Wardlaw stated that 3% of the overall project cost was devoted to this beautification project.

13. Volunteer Program Status (Discussion/Action)

Supervisor Bechtel stated that Supervisor Hunt asked to review the status of the volunteer program, due to the various changes within NRCS. The Board reviewed the volunteer program packet.

Supervisor Hunt suggested that the DA's office review the liability release form, and a list of projects that we will require the use of volunteers. He also stated we should consider updating the volunteer duties. Wilisha will contact the Wash Team, LVSP and the County regarding their volunteer liability release forms.

14. CWMA Update – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action)

Supervisors Hunt and Hewitt attended the CWMA meeting at the BLM office. Tina Mudd, State CWMA Coordinator, hosted the meeting. She stated the CWMA had a lot of growth potential, and may want to consider a name change. The next meeting will be hosted by CDSN. Supervisor Hunt suggested the name change reflect the area they serve, because CDSN does not work outside of Clark County. Supervisor Hewitt suggested that the name change to Mojave or Southern Nevada Weed Management Association. She also stated that she will send out a request for projects and set-up a meeting at the CDSN office. Supervisor Hunt stated that an info structure should be in place.

Supervisor Hewitt is currently the interim Chair of the CWMA and CDSN staff provides administrative assistance. Supervisor Hunt stated that the original intent of CWMA's was to educate the public about weeds, and work on private and federal lands under an MOU. He suggested that CDSN review MOUs with the federal agencies. Wilisha will research the archives for information on MOUs that were established in the past. Supervisor Hunt also suggested that we send letters to the agencies that we have MOUs with regarding the status. Supervisor Hewitt also stated that she is working on a strategic plan and a work plan for the CWMA. The next meeting will be held in August.

15. Shade Tree Council – Supervisor Hewitt (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hewitt reported she attended the last Council meeting, and they are looking for support for the Urban Forestry Program. She asked if the Board would be interested in writing a letter of support regarding the value of trees in urban areas. Supervisor McAllister made a motion to write a letter of support for the Urban Forestry Program. Supervisor Wardlaw seconded the motion. The motion passed. The next Shade Tree Council meeting will be held in September. Supervisor Hewitt will draft a letter for review.

16. City of Las Vegas – Circle Park (Discussion/Action Item)

Kim Vilt drafted a report on the status of Circle Park. Supervisor Bechtel stated that she and Kim will meet with Councilman Reese to discuss some possibilities of working together on the Circle Park Project. Supervisor Hunt asked if there were any surrounding neighborhood associations that would be interested in working on the project. Supervisor Wardlaw stated he didn't think CDSN should attempt an intervention on how the City should operate the parks program. He suggested that we follow the lead of the City. Supervisor Bechtel stated that she wanted to inform the City about CDSN and what we can offer the City. She also stated that she was okay with scheduling a meeting with the City. Supervisor Hunt asked if we have worked with the City on other projects. Wilisha stated that CDSN received a grant from the City for the Weed Video. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested CDSN send an introductory letter to the Parks and Planning Department. Ron Smolinski stated he

was working with a city representative on a new project for Mayor Oscar Goodman. He that the city representative might be willing to attend a meeting. Ron will put her in contact with us. Supervisor Bechtel said she will move forward with scheduling a meeting.

17. Dean Witter/Wetlands Mitigation Account (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel stated CDSN manages funds through Morgan Stanley for the Wetlands Mitigation Account. The funds were granted through the Army Corps to MMREAC for mitigation work on the Muddy River. When the project was completed we transferred the funds to be used for the Wetlands Park. The County Wetlands Park recently hired Elsie Sellars as the Principal Planner on the project. Kim has been working closely with Elsie on the project. They recently discussed the status of the funds, and if the Park wanted CDSN to continue to administer these funds or release them to the County. Supervisor Bechtel spoke to Bruce Sillitoe about the benefits of keeping the funds with CDSN, and what the County would like to do with the account such as reinvesting the funds or maintaining the same account status. Supervisor Bechtel asked how the account is maintained. Wilisha stated that the account has not been very active, and basically generates interest. The account has approximately \$180,000. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested we talk to Dean Witter, and get their suggestions on how we should invest the funds. Supervisor Hunt stated that we need to stay within the guidelines. He suggested that we also talk to NvACD regarding what we can/cannot do. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that Kim find out more information, and talk to NvACD and the Parks Department about options. She also suggested that we keep a record of the Parks request, and of their progress. Supervisor Wardlaw stated that the funds be set aside for specific purposes and documented according to the Federal guidelines. Wilisha will pull the documentation for review with the Parks department. Supervisor Bechtel stated that in the past, CDSN has pulled funds from the Dean Witter account, and deposited it in CDSN's account for a slush fund. Supervisor Bechtel asked if the Board will approve to pull out funds for a slush fund to be held in our account for the Park. She stated she was okay with approving a request if it is for the specified project. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to transfer \$10,000 from the Dean Witter account to the District account as a mechanism to be prepared for a draw down from approved projects pending research on the ability to spend that money from the Federal government. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. Supervisor Hunt stated that we needed to make sure we had appropriate quality control. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that we keep the item on the agenda to establish a further policy. Supervisor Bechtel, Kim and Wilisha will pull the documents for review.

18. Elections (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel stated that elections are in November. Supervisors Hunt, McAllister and Currier are up for re-election. Wilisha will talk to Donna in the election department about scheduling an election date the second week in November. She will email a tentative date to the Board.

19. Proposed Positions for 2006-2007 (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha included the recommended positions for 2006-2007 in the packets for review. No action was necessary.

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

Wilisha reported that she attended the Chamber Expo and the Ladies Health Fair. She also reported that DAQEM/CDSN hosted a luncheon for the S2S students. She is working with Don Curry on the DRI science boxes. Wilisha also submitted the financial report to the state. She passed out a draft of the CDSN poster that Kim drew. Supervisor Hunt suggested that Wilisha work with Teri Knight regarding a message that should be included in the logo.

Jennifer reported that she has been getting acquainted with the programs. She visited the straw bale site, and reviewed the documentation on the project. She also designed a brochure for the project. She is working with Alt. Supervisor Silverstein on a plant list for the demonstration garden. Jennifer reported that she will teach a composting and weed class at Acacia Demonstration Garden. She also stated she attended the Christmas Tree Recycling and Woody Biomass meetings.

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

Supervisor Hewitt reported she is working on a project with Boot Leg Canyon to grow out plants. The planting will begin in a year. She is also working with BLM on a mitigation to grow out 1,000 plants, and is working with CCSN to do the planting as well. She suggested that it could be a possible project for CDSN. CDSN could hire a NCC crew to do planting. The total funding is \$15,000 for grow out and planting. CDSN could also request an administrative fee. Supervisor Hewitt stated that the money would go to CDSN to purchase the plants and contract with the NCC crew. Supervisor Hunt suggested that we work with NRCS to assist with quality control on the project. Supervisor Hewitt stated the funding is from Sierra Ready Mix. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to explore and investigate, and authorize the process to accept money from mitigation fees and work with CCSN to achieve this goal. Supervisor Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed. Supervisor Hewitt also reported that the Master Gardeners' will host a plant sale in October.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he attended the RC&D meeting in Dyer, Nevada. He also suggested that staff research the "Green Hour" program, which works to educate students/schools about the environment. The program helps to familiarize the youth with nature.

Supervisor McAllister reported that the Battleship Clean-up is complete. The BLM had a restoration crew plant trees in the area. BLM hosted public meetings regarding the roads in June. They will send out packets for comments next month.

Supervisor Wardlaw reported that the County will release population figures in October. The County is currently reviewing developable lands in the Valley.

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

Ron reported that DAQEM is working with the STEP Program, which sponsors high school student who are interested in becoming teachers in Nevada.

23. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2006 at CDSN.

24. Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

The agenda items for the next meeting are as follows:

- NvACD Resolutions
- Conservation Easement
- Circle Park
- Dean Witter Account
- Rural Town Advisory Board Meeting

12. Demonstration of LUTAC Model – Supervisor Wardlaw (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw presented a demonstration of the Land Use, Transportation and Air Quality Model (LUTAC) to the Board.

25. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer

Date