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**MINUTES**  
**Conservation District of Southern Nevada**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Conservation District- 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400, Conference Room**  
**July 16, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair	Jarrold Edmunds (NRCS)
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw, Vice Chair	Jennifer Szwejbka
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas. /Secretary	Jennifer Espinosa
Supervisor Joseph Fortier	
Supervisor Elise McAllister	
Alt. Supervisor Mark Silverstein	

**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 2008 Agenda
3. Approval of May 2008 Meeting Minutes.
4. Correspondence.
5. Pay bills
6. Introductions.

**Supervisor Wardlaw called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.**

**Supervisor Fortier moved to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor McAllister seconded. The motion passed.**

**Business Agenda:**

**7. Financial Report- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Hunt asked about the Dean Witter account. He wishes to know what the status is and what it takes for the District to transfer the money and who the signatures are. **Supervisor McAllister motioned to approve the financial report. Supervisor Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**8. Appoint New County Representative and send notification to County Commission and Administrator of the Division - (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Wardlaw said that Supervisor Silverstein said he was interested in filling the position. **Supervisor Fortier motions that the District appoint Supervisor Silverstein to be the County Representative to replace Jodi at her resignation. Supervisor McAllister seconds. The motion passed.** Jennifer Szwejbka will meet with Supervisor Silverstein to fill out paper work before the next meeting. Supervisor Fortier said that a letter of notification needs to be sent to the Clark County Commissioner that is the representative that is in charge of the Conservation District. A copy must also be sent to the state notifying that Supervisor Silverstein will fill in for the remainder of Jodi Bechtel's term.

**9. Appoint Board Supervisor positions – (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Wardlaw opened the floor for nominations. Supervisor Hunt does not want to fill the position because he is already Treasurer. Supervisor Wardlaw does not have the time to attend meetings up North. Supervisor McAllister thinks it should be someone that is located in Las Vegas. **Supervisor Wardlaw nominates Supervisor Fortier.** Supervisor Fortier would not mind doing it, he only said that during the summer time he may need help because he gets very busy during that time of the year. Supervisor McAllister said it is the slowest time for her so she would be available to help. **Supervisor McAllister seconds the nomination. The nomination passed.**

**10. Review submitted Draft Financial Report- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Fortier asked if the report takes into consideration the cut in funds from the county. Jarrod Edmunds asked why Clark County cut funds this year. Jennifer Szwejbka did not enquire as to why they cut funds this year. Supervisor Fortier asked if the interest in the Dean Witter account was for the District to use. Supervisor Hunt said that is what he wants to get straightened out. Supervisor Fortier said if the District were to go back to the original terms of the Thomas & Mack if there is any interest left the District can use it as deemed fit, but that needs to be verified. Supervisor Wardlaw asked that Jennifer Szwejbka look up the detail of the final agreement for the account and send it out via e-mail. Supervisor Hunt said to contact Dean Witter and find out what they require for withdrawal. This item did not require any action. It was strictly informational.

**11. Appoint Second RC&D Representative – (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Fortier asked Supervisor McAllister if she was familiar with anyone that would be interested. Supervisor McAllister said she had asked before and she will ask again now that the Farm Foundation is set up she may find someone active that is interested.

**12. Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) – Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)**

A farm bill was passed, but was then vetoed. Currently taking sign ups for next year's programs. The sign ups will close at the end of August. More sign ups will be held if there is money. Farm Bill meetings are taking place to talk about the new farm bill for 3 weeks. Programs Assistant State Con and assistant are going all over the state to conduct farm bill forums. A forum was held in Clark County. The new farm bill is very healthy in conservation programs.

Supervisor McAllister asked if Jarrod attended the Overton meeting. Jarrod did not, but a lot of outreach was attempted to invite the Moapa community to the meeting. Letters were sent to agricultural parcel owners, an ad was posted in the Moapa paper and posters were put up in supermarkets and libraries. Not many showed up to the meeting, but now there is a list of contacts that can be used for possible participation in projects. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested to Jarrod that the Assessor's has a list of parcels with different agricultural land uses that can be helpful.

Three weather stations were installed in the Spring Mountains. Weight and depth of snow can be measured in real time. Some positions are open and a new State Con will come on in the next couple of months. They are advertising for a state archeologist and for a field biologist in Elko.

**13. Appreciation Plaque for Judy Currier-(Discussion/Action Item)**

The letter is prepared. Supervisor Wardlaw offered to take the letter and plaque to her because she could not attend the meeting.

**14. DAQEM contract outcome- (Discussion/Action Item)**

The District received a letter from the County expressing interest of the County to terminate the contract, however: Brenda from the County is still willing to work with the District in other ways. The final reimbursement for the contract has been submitted and the contract is closed. It will go on the commissioner's agenda this month and they will notify the District that it is officially closed out.

**15. Staff Report- Jennifer Szwejbka (Discussion Item)**

Jennifer Szwejbka reported that she will try to gear future staff reports around the District work plan. Under Products Services and Programs: The District attended an outreach at the Shark Reef World

Ocean's Day. The District will also start attending the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Sustainability working group meetings.

The Christmas Tree Recycling committee is starting meetings again and the District will be attending.

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee is putting new interpretive signs and the District will be attending the meeting to review the drafts of the signs.

The DAQEM contract will be cancelled. Letters were sent to the cities and Mesquite politely declined sending any money this year. We have already received the \$10, 000 from Henderson and North Las Vegas has it in their budget to give funds every year, but nothing has been received yet. The Outside Agency the District is getting \$43, 600.

The Tortoise Hotline & Pickup proposal was submitted and the District asked for just over \$100,000 to cover salaries, but the District has not heard anything from the County yet. Supervisor McAllister offered to help with the quarterly reports if we are to receive the contract. Supervisor Wardlaw complimented Jennifer Szwercjka for pitching in with little input from others and going after a contract to do something and it has an actual outcome.

Under Operations and Administration: the work plan was submitted to the state for '08/'09 and the draft financial report the only report left to submit is the annual report.

For the Strom Drain Marking Program the Forever Earth Field Trip was a success. The Shark Reef educators attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner's school. The bookmarks were printed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner. Plaque installation has started. The city of Henderson has installed 161 plaques; Clark County has installed 358 and the city of Las Vegas still needs to hire a contractor.

The Moapa Grand Opening took place on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The high school presented a plaque to SW homes. The only remaining thing for the structure and the gardens is to print the brochure at which point the project will be completed.

Tomi Garden- Supervisor Hewitt visited the garden. Some plants were eaten by the animals, but the city of Henderson may replace the plants that were lost.

Supervisor Hunt asked if there was a contract that was supposed to signed with Department of Recreation. Jennifer Swejbka said that the contract had ran out and another contract was to be drafted, but nothing has been heard yet. Supervisor Hunt asked that the District call and find out what the status of that is or find out what their needs are.

#### **16. Supervisor's Report- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor McAllister reported that Supervisor Silverstein was very supportive of the Moapa gardens had attended the ceremony in Moapa and had brought the boulder sign for the gardens. The Farm Foundation is working on their work plan. Approval was received from the army core of engineers to do restoration at wetlands for long-term science observations.

Supervisor Hunt reported that the RC&D Meeting will be taking place tomorrow if anyone is interested.

Supervisor Fortier reported that the Clark County school District has 14 shares of water that may be transferred to the farm.

Supervisor Wardlaw reported that they are looking at population figures and it looks like there is a lot less residential development that will be added this year and there is a tremendous amount of redevelopment. Vacant lands are being developed for commercial use. There is a 7% residential vacancy would be an increase from last year when it was 4.7%.

#### **17. OHV Video- Elise McAllister (Discussion/Action Item)**

The board passed on watching the video and will wait for the next meeting. Supervisor McAllister said that within a month a copy can be given to all next meeting.

**18. Open Discussion and Public Comment- (Discussion Only)\***

Supervisor McAllister had taken a grant writing course with the Cooperative Extension and will make a copy of the handbook for the District.

Jarrold Edmunds asked if the board should discuss opportunities for new projects on the next agenda since other projects are closing out. Supervisor Wardlaw said that Jarrold had a good point and that the District should look for parts in the strategic plan that the District would like to focus on for funding opportunities. Supervisor Fortier said that Energy Star may be a good opportunity for grants and re-vegetation projects can have opportunities for the District as well. Jennifer Szwejbka mentioned that Linn Mills had called about composting bins, occasionally the general public calls about the bins because no one else in the area sells them. Supervisor Wardlaw said that an avenue to look at is having a program where all we have to do is advertise what to do. The coordination of it is something we can do. The District can provide leadership for the focal point of other organization's ideas. Supervisor Fortier said that we need to consider staff time and availability.

**19. Agenda Items- (Discussion/Action Item)**

- Appoint second RC&D Representative
- Approve Elections-where they can be held/set it up
- NvACD Conference
- Dean Witter Account Review
- Approval of Annual Report
- Idea Generating
- Special Meeting to approve Tortoise Hotline & Pickup contract with DAQEM if awarded

**20. Meeting Location- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor McAllister mentioned that she liked Supervisor Silverstein's idea of having the meeting once a year in the Spring or Fall to have it at the Moapa Valley Farm, if there is good reason to have it there. **Supervisor McAllister motions to have the meeting at the CDSN Office next time. Supervisor Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**21. Adjournment- (Action Item)**

**Supervisor Hunt motioned to adjourn. Supervisor Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Hunt, Sec. /Treasurer

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Date