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**MINUTES**  
**Conservation District of Southern Nevada**  
**Monthly Board Meeting**  
**Conservation District of Southern Nevada Office – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. Bldg A-400**  
**July 20, 2005 - 2:30**  
**(REVISED)**

**Attendees:**

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair	Elyse Benson, NRCS
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary	Bill Elders, NRCS
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw	Ron Smolinski, DAQEM
Supervisor Beth Hewitt	Christina Gibson, DAQEM
Supervisor Elise McAllister	Gretchen Huie
Supervisor Dirick Van Gorp	Wilisha Daniels
	Steve Thompson, Spectrum Real Estate Development Company
	Derrol W. Wynn, Wynn Real Estate Group

Supervisor Bechtel 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 of July 2005 Agenda
3. Approval of June 2005 Meeting Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills

Supervisor Bechtel suggested adding introductions to the consent agenda.

Supervisor Van Gorp made a motion to approve the consent agenda, move item 9 to item 6 and add an introduction to the agenda. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Business Agenda:**

**6. Conservation Easement on Muddy River – (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Bechtel reviewed the Conservation Easement. Two different easements were presented to the board, the Wollenzien Easement, which was relinquished in 1995 and the Whipple Easement. The Easement in question is the Whipple Easement. Supervisor Hunt stated that investigation into this issue had not entirely disclosed what the Easement entailed. He stated that the Board will need to know more. He recommended searching records in order to find out what holdings were associated with the Easement. Supervisor Bechtel stated that CDSN merged with Virgin Valley District. She asked the guest what information they would like to share with the Board. Supervisor McAllister stated that because she is a member of PIC she would abstain

from any actions associated with this item. Supervisor Hunt restated that the Board should identify where the holdings exists. Steve Thompson of Spectrum Real Estate Development Company stated that 120 acres at Tia Ranch can not be plotted because of incomplete legal description. He reported that he is not sure where the area is or who has ownership. Furthermore, he stated that he is not sure of the land description. He reported that it has something to do with the Muddy River. However, it is no longer the Muddy because it is owned by the Irrigation District, which has easements for pipeline construction. He stated that the area in discussion will be an equestrian oriented community. He reported that the easement would not be a deal breaker for his organization. They still plan to close on the property by the end of the month. Supervisor Hunt pointed out that it is important to represent the interest of other agencies in this matter. He stated that the easement may be used for various agencies. He restated that more research is needed before action is taken. Supervisor McAllister asked if the area in question could be associated with the structure that was damaged in the recent flood and needs to be repaired. According to Supervisor McAllister, The Flood District has stated that the structure will need to be repaired. Supervisor Hunt stated that the Soils Conservation had worked on the Muddy River in April 1960. Supervisor Bechtel stated that CDSN would find out more about the issue before taking any action. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested that CDSN investigate the property and or easement and prepare a title search. Supervisor Bechtel stated that CDSN focus on a full search related to this matter. Supervisor Hunt stated that the easement relates to other easements and can be a sensitive issue, therefore, he restated that CDSN may need to do more research. Supervisor Bechtel stated that she would inquire and gather more information from the County. She stated that the item would be listed on next month's agenda. Supervisor Hunt asked where the documents provided had been located. Mr. Thompson reported that their company had provided the document from 1940. Supervisor Hunt stated that many title companies have these records. The County lost many of similar documents. Supervisor Bechtel stated that she would take the lead in gathering more information. Supervisor McAllister stated that Ace Robinson is very knowledgeable on Moapa Valley issues. She offered to talk with him about this issue.

#### 7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hewitt approved the Financial Report. Supervisor Wardlaw seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### 8. Mojave Max Curriculum Development Position (Discussion/Action Item)

Christina Gibson handed out drafts for the proposed scope of work for the Mojave Max Curriculum Development position. Christina stated that she would like to work with CDSN on this position. She stated she received SNPLMA Round 4 funding, for educational purposes, and was given authority to spend \$252,000 to fulfill this task. She stated that she would like to separate the \$252,000, thereby giving CDSN \$100,000 to collaborate with the Clark County School District (CCSD). Christina reported that the CCSD and the state of Nevada would like to upgrade their standards and curriculum. She passed out a set of standards. CCSD has developed teacher groups to write the new county school curriculum. This revision occurs every 7-10 years. Christina stated that the current availability of native or local environmental information for students is limited. She stated that one problem is the lack of man power to provide this type of information for the classrooms. She stated that by changing the curriculum to include local or native environmental messages, the information would be more readily available to teachers. She said that CDSN would be given flexibility to do this project. She stated that \$100,000 would be available sometime between January-June 2005 and the project could run through September 2006. She said that the first task would be to collect messages including all local environmental messages. The second task would be to condense these messages and adapt them to suit teaching standards. The individual selected for this position would consult with teacher

coordinators, as well as, county representatives and CDSN staff. The third task would be to compile a master list of stake holders, key teachers, and environmental messages. The messages would be the outcome of coordination between teacher groups and local experts. The person selected for this position would need to match experts and teachers to generate the best messages. The fourth task will be to submit the final report. Christina stated that her primary purpose for her visit to the Board was to see if CDSN was in support of working with her to hire someone for the aforementioned position. Supervisor Hewitt asked if the selected individual would work with Outside Las Vegas. Christina stated that Outside Las Vegas is an educational program. The selected individual would help provide the link between CCSD and organizations such as Outdoor Las Vegas. The person selected would talk to these types of organizations and integrate their information/messages into the school district. Supervisor Hunt stated that there must be at least 300 environmental messages and voiced his concern about conflicting messages. He asked how the experts would be located, which group would provide the experts, and how the money for salary would be handled. Christina stated that CDSN would pay for salary through the \$100,000 that she had mentioned earlier in the discussion. She stated the scope of work would be limited to science and biology and would be very technical and specific. She also stated that most experts could not be paid and would volunteer their time to this project. Supervisor Wardlaw stated that we have access to many experts and the best available science, therefore the project will have no problem working out the challenges that Supervisor Hunt had mentioned. Supervisor Hunt stated that the experts may require payment for their contributions. Christina stated that the selected individual would meet weekly with her to touch base. She stated that the position could be offered as contract work or full time staff. Supervisor Hunt stated that if the Board decides to take on this project, a complete task list should be generated. Supervisor Bechtel stated that the best applicant for this job would be someone with specific expertise, and there should be a pre-interview process conducted prior to hiring. She stated that the money offered was an acceptable amount. Supervisor McAllister stated that this would be a great program for new teachers coming into the area because they are often unfamiliar with the local environment. Supervisor Hunt stated that this would be a great program to achieve goals of the district. He stated that he was in support of the program. Supervisor Van Gorp asked if the curriculum was only revised every 7-10 years. Christina stated that she was uncertain, but this was a chance to develop messages. She stated that most of the experts that would participate in this program have already been identified. Ron Smolinski stated that he had worked with CDSN for several years and he knew that CDSN is capable of bringing many environmental groups together. He said this is not an easy task, and this proposal presented an excellent opportunity and challenge. Supervisor Wardlaw stated that the challenge is not so much to coordinate experts but to collect the messages. He stated that teachers know how and what to teach. Therefore, the selected individual would act as a facilitator and connect the appropriate expert with the appropriate teacher. Supervisor Bechtel asked the Board for further comments or concerns. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to support the proposal as a CDSN program and to authorize staff to research a scope of work and budget for the position. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. Supervisor Bechtel abstained from the vote. The motion passed. Christina suggested that we research similar projects with the county and use existing cost sheets. Ron suggested invoicing the county every three months. This is how his contract with CDSN operates.

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

Elyse Benson filled in for Jarrod Edmonds, and introduced Bill Elders, Assistant State Conservationist to the board. Bill stated that he would like to participate in the development of the new program. Bill reviewed the ranking of EQUIP and stated that official funding was not yet available. He stated that he had recently received a call from an individual who had funding for projects on private property. The criteria for funding require the project to be tied to threatened and or endangered species. Bill stated that he was here as a representative for Richard Vigil. He also said that there were no intentions of closing the Las Vegas NRCS Office. He said the NRCS in Nevada was in the process of reorganization which entails hiring employees to meet their mission. He restated that no field offices were scheduled to close as a part of the reorganization. He stated that they were currently reorganizing the state office. Bill stated that he had interviewed staff on training needs and their expectations of supervisors in the NRCS. Supervisor Hunt stated that he was concerned about NRCS ambition to be proactive outside of Reno. He asked what NRCS would do about decision making in Southern Nevada. He stated that he would like to see group down in this area with a better understanding of the local government. Bill stated that NRCS provides remote assistance. He agreed that communication is key to identifying key issues. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested looking at the mission and goals of an urban Conservation District and their role. He pointed out that a projected 3.2 million people are expected live in Southern Nevada by the year 2030, and 90% of the state population will be in this area. Bill stated that the key concern is to figure out conservation measures to improve sustainability. He stated that NRCS is trying to figure out the best way to support this mission. Supervisor Hunt stated that he would like to have a group in contact with the southern part of the state. Supervisor McAllister asked if Jarrod Edmonds could help to bridge the gap. Supervisor Hunt stated that they needed a representative to share their issues with the office in Washington, DC. He stated that the growth of this area is a large challenge. Supervisor Bechtel stated that there might be an opportunity to better use staff here in the Las Vegas Office, and that issue was worth consideration and suggested continuing this discussion at another time.

Supervisor Van Gorp asked how often that the state was required to review their plan. Bill said that the review is initiated by the state, which requires the structure and staff to be reviewed. Supervisor Hunt suggested that the State Conservationist give a summary of their role. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that the discussion be continued after the meeting.

10. CWMA Mapping Scope of Work (Discussion/Action Item)  
Postponed to next meeting

11. NvACD Conference 2005, Mesquite, Nevada (Discussion/Action Item)  
Wilisha reported that she and Gretchen have communicated with Chris Freeman and Sandi Gotta about the conference, and provided the information requested of CDSN. The Board recommended that staff send a memo to the state office regarding the coordination of the conference. The memo should clearly indicate that CDSN considers all planning for the conference complete unless otherwise notified.

12. Staff Report – Wilisha Daniels (Discussion/Action Item)  
Wilisha reported that she is working with Kim Vilt to develop an environmental activity book for DAQEM to distribute to students and teachers. She also reported that the Silverado High School Global Lab students were presented with proclamations by the Clark County Board of County Commissioners for their student outreach work with DAQEM. Wilisha stated she sent a draft of the financial report to the state office. Gretchen reported that the invasive species educational video project was complete. The video will be streamlined into all CCSD science classrooms. In addition, she is working with Candy Schneider at the CCSD Partnership Office to

distribute 45 hard copies. The hard copies will be distributed with a letter describing the project and mission of the CWMA/CDSN. Gretchen stated that she is working with City of Henderson on a CWMA grant which will be submitted in mid August. Gretchen reported that she had recently submitted a grant to USDA for a \$10,000 weed removal project in Valley of Fire. Wilisha

### 13. Supervisor's Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw asked if there were any possibility to work with the County on tamarisk removal projects. Supervisor Bechtel said that NRCS procedure is to have the owner handle the problem when the tamarisk is on private land. Supervisor Hunt stated that Ann Schreiber requested help with a similar problem. Supervisor Wardlaw said that the County had put together an existing land use report for all unincorporated lands in the County. This report will be put on the County webpage. Supervisor Hunt asked if this report could be overlaid with the Congressional Districts.

Supervisor Van Gorp reported that a contract is being developed with the Wetlands Park for tamarisk removal along Duck Creek.

Supervisor Hunt stated that he would be attending the RC&D and MSHCP meeting.

Supervisor McAllister reported that she had talked with the principal at Moapa about getting involved in the farm project. She suggested forming "A friends of Pirates Cove" group to have people assist or help out with the project.

Supervisor Hewitt stated that she had attended the Native Plant Society meeting and Outside Las Vegas environmental education management meeting. She suggested that the new hire for the curriculum development attend the management meetings.

Supervisor Bechtel stated that Carrie Stowers at the County would be leaving her current position. She said that the County is currently holding interviews. She also said that she had received invoices for the agriculture farm and gardens and the County is processing the request for payment.

### 14. Open Discussion and Public Comment (Discussion Only)\*

Supervisor Hunt asked if a NRCS vehicle would be available for the weeds conference in September. Bill stated that this would only be possible if a NRCS employee was attending. Elyse state that no one from NRCS was attending. Supervisor Bechtel stated the board approved a \$200 budget at the last meeting, which could be used for the transportation. Gretchen will reserve the vehicle for the conference.

### 15. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 in the CDSN conference room.

### 16. Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

The agenda items for the next meeting are as follows:

- Mojave Max Curriculum Development Position
- Conservation Easement
- CWAM Mapping
- NvACD Conference
- Personnel and staffing strategies

17. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw moved to adjourn. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Hunt, Sect./Treas.

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Date