



Minutes
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Monthly Board Meeting

Conservation District of Southern Nevada Office – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. Bldg A-400
June 15, 2005 -2:30

Attendees:

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair	Gretchen Huie
Supervisor Elizabeth Hewitt	Wilisha Daniels
Supervisor Jon Hunt, Treasurer/Secretary	Ron Smolinski, DAQEM
Supervisor Elise McAllister	Jarrod Edmonds, NRCS
Supervisor John Wardlaw	

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 June 2005 Agenda
3. Approval of May 2005 Meeting Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills

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

Business Agenda:

6. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

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

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jarrod Edmonds (Discussion/Action)
Jarrod stated that NRCS could help with the NvACD meeting in Mesquite. Supervisor Hunt asked about transportation to the Invasive Weed Conference in Barstow. Jarrod stated that the people traveling in NRCS vehicles must be Earth Team Volunteers. Jarrod recommended that Supervisor Hunt speak with Elyse Benson about transportation. Jarrod reported that the EQIP Program applicants are starting to be ranked. The funding for this area was made available to five counties: Clark County, Esmeralda, Pine, Lincoln, and White County. One million dollars was set aside for initial allocation. The life time limit is \$450,000. There is no EQIP sign up in Clark County. Clark County has two projects in planning. Currently, NRCS is undergoing reorganization and the accepted plan should be announced in one month. Supervisor Bechtel

asked if the reorganization would affect CDSN and asked if we should submit a letter of support. Jarrod said that there was currently no agenda item to close this office. Supervisor Hunt asked if Richard Vigil had been contacted and invited to the CDSN meetings. He had been contacted and invited. Jarrod stated that Richard was very busy and would be interested in attending the meetings when his schedule allows.

8. Weeds Seminar - Barstow, CA (Discussion/Action Item)

Gretchen Huie recommended that staff and any interested board members attend the Sahara Mustard Seminar in Barstow, California. Supervisor Hunt said that he would check into NRCS transportation. Supervisor Hewitt said that she also wanted to attend the seminar. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to allocate \$200 for board members and staff to attend the seminar. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.

9. NvACD Conference 2005, Mesquite, Nevada (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor McAllister stated that she would send Wilisha information on hotels and catering availability. The board discussed possible speakers. Supervisor McAllister stated that Heather Diamond, who was selected as a Range Camp participant, had offered to give a tour of the Moapa High School Farm Project. Staff will talk to Chris Freidman about the scope of interest and specific agenda.

10. Mojave Max Curriculum Development (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha reported that County representatives are currently discussing the possibility of hiring an individual who would participate in the Mojave Max curriculum development. It has been suggested that this individual be hired through CDSN. Ron Smolinski, Clark County DAEQM Outreach and Education, reported that he was present when this issue was discussed. He stated that he wanted to stay informed about the direction of this proposal. Supervisor Bechtel reported that Christina Gibson, had spoken with her briefly about the opportunity to work with CCSD in order to integrate area specific information into the school curriculum. She reported that based on the limited information that she was given; the County had suggested hiring an individual as a CDSN contract employee. This individual would work with CCSD and DAEQM. Funding would be available through SNPLMA. Funding up to \$100,000 would be available for salary for one year. Supervisor Hunt commented that he would like to be kept informed. Supervisor Wardlaw stated that he supported efforts to work with CCSD to promote conservation programming, however, he would like for the position to encourage integrated and unified programming. Supervisor Hewitt stated that she had worked at Red Rock and she was familiar with broad based environmental programs. Currently she is not aware if these programs are being conducted. However, she knows that such integrated, unified programs have been developed. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that CDSN gather more information before reaching a decision. Ron stated that the board should enquire about the timing for the position. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion reflecting the boards strong interest in moving forward with researching this high priority position, fully understanding that it may need to be a sole source contract or other opportunity, and that at least that and other alternatives should be investigated and presented to the board for possible action. He also recommended establishing a staff working group to investigate this further with DAEQM. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion and the motion passed. Supervisor Hewitt stated that she had a conflict of interest and would not be involved with the decision. Supervisor Bechtel stated that this item would be added to next months agenda.

11. Staff Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha reported poster winners had been selected. She passed around the selections. Over 700 posters were submitted. She had researched the City of Las Vegas plant list and determined that the list was currently being withdrawn.

Gretchen reported that she had received several phone calls for CCSD for composting workshop request. She continues to give classes at CCSD. She reported that the education invasive weeds CD is near completion. Supervisor Bechtel recommended that Gretchen contact the City of Las Vegas for a kick off celebration after project completion. She reported that Project Leads (Craig Wolfley and Clark Hardey) for the Straw Bale project had attended a conference. A meeting was held with stakeholders to discuss the workshop. The same Project Leads have also begun working with Moapa High School students to create signage for the Moapa Desert Demonstration project. She reported that staff had attended a Front Page design workshop and she has begun to update the CDSN website.

12 Supervisors Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw reported that Clark County is changing their approach to comprehensive planning. They have adopted 27 new elements to the Clark County Comprehensive Plan. These elements perform the NRS requirements and are referenced. The Plan elements are also changing. The elements will contain policies, maps, and diagrams. The elements will contain a concise report that will be much more implementation focused.

Supervisor Hewitt reported CCSN has up to 700 rare plants that need homes. Anyone who would be interested, needs to submit a formal letter of request. She also requested contact information for anyone who might want the plants. She will have students working at the Nursery and she offered these students as support for the Plant Exchange Program.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he had attended two RC&D meetings. The MSHCP meeting for that month had been cancelled. Supervisor McAllister reported that the Agriculture Farm had an Open House to inform the community about the Straw Bale Project and Moapa Desert Demonstration Gardens. She suggested another similar function in the future.

Supervisor Bechtel presented Wilisha an award for her work and efforts that lead to the EPA award. She reported that CDSN had been awarded \$60,000 for the irrigation project. Supervisor Bechtel reported that the grant would be located at an elementary school in Henderson.

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

Ron Smolinski asked the board if they were currently involved in the conservation of the Nevada state lands, such as Floyd Lamb Park. He stated that the state currently holds Floyd Lamb Park land, but the City is discussing the possibility of taking the land. Supervisor Hunt recommended enquiring about the status of the Park. Supervisor Wardlaw recommended that CDSN not get involved.

14 Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20th, 2005 at 2:30 at the CDSN office.

15 Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt requested that staff enquire about Assembly Bill AB 64 and add this to next month's agenda.

16. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor McAllister made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer

Date