



MINUTES
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Monthly Board Meeting
Conservation District of Southern Nevada Office – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. Bldg A-400
March 16, 2005 – 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Judy Currier, Chair	Elyse Benson, NRCS
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary	Wilisha Daniels
Supervisor Beth Hewitt	Gretchen Huie
Supervisor Elise McAllister	
Supervisor Jodi Bechtel	

Supervisor Currier called the meeting to order at 2:32 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 March 2005 Agenda
3. Approval of January 2005 Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills

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

Business Agenda:

6. Financial Report (Discussion/ Action Item)

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

7. Appointment of Officers (Discussion/Action Item)

A. Appointment of Chair – Supervisor Currier made a motion to nominate Supervisor Bechtel for Chair. Supervisor Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed. Supervisor Jodi Bechtel was appointed Chair.

B. Appointment of Vice Chair – Supervisor Hunt made a motion to nominate Supervisor Currier for Vice Chair. Supervisor Bechtel seconded the motion. The motion passed. Supervisor Currier was appointed Vice Chair.

C. Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer – Supervisor Currier made a motion to nominate Supervisor Hunt for Secretary/Treasurer. Supervisor Bechtel seconded the motion. The motion passed. Supervisor Hunt was appointed Secretary/Treasurer.

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

Elyse Benson reported on the flood damage in Moapa, Mesquite and Bunkerville. She stated that the ECP program will repair damages on farms from the flood. The EWP program has two projects approved for about \$8 million to repair pipelines behind Charles Hughes Middle School, and at Coyote Willows Golf Course in Mesquite which were both damaged by the flood. On March 22nd the Mesquite City Council will meet and sign the agreement for the projects. She also reported the school district will host a “kick-off” for the project on the 21st, where they will introduce the designs and sign the agreement. She stated FEMA declared the land a disaster area. Elyse stated that she is working on an EQIP project in Nye County, and NRCS is closing on a new reorganization plan in the state. She reported that Richard Vigil will review the plan and pass it to the national level for approval. Supervisor Currier suggested inviting Richard Vigil to the upcoming CDSN meeting. Supervisor Currier offered to write the letter and send it to Supervisor Bechtel for signature. Supervisor Hunt stated that Jarrod Edmunds invited him to attend the Moapa flooding project meeting with the Clark County School District, and asked for the board’s opinion in attending. The board supported him attending the meeting.

9. CWMA Grant Administration – Gretchen Huie (Discussion/Action Item)

Gretchen stated that Elyse wrote a grant to the state for the CWMA, and asked the board for clarification in administering the project. Elyse briefed the board on the project and the history of the grant. Elyse stated CWMA was granted \$10,000 to assist with the “Project Green” salt cedar removal project. Elyse stated that the funds will go directly to Kurt Dusuer of “Project Green” to continue the weed removal project. Gretchen asked if the project will still be a CDSN/CWMA project. Elyse stated it will still be considered a CDSN/CWMA project. Supervisor Hunt asked if staff could develop guidelines of possible tax deduction options for groups that would like to donate funds to the CWMA. Supervisor Currier stated CDSN is tax deductible and that information could be given to donators.

10. Update on Ethics Commission (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Currier reported on the commission’s recent ruling for the financial disclosure forms. The attorney general conducted an opinion that required all elected officials including CD’s to fill out the form. She stated that there has been no discussion on fining supervisors for filing the form late. Additionally, there was a bill draft (AB64) that specially called out CDs elected officials do not have the responsibility of filling out the form. The Commission voted in favor of the bill, which would exempt CD Supervisors from submitting a disclosure form. Supervisor Currier stated that there was a new website that provides information on bills. Supervisor Hunt stated he sent in a letter from his attorney along with his financial disclosure form, and presented the letter to the board.

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

Wilisha reported that she met with Ron Smolinski, Christina Gibson and the Clark County School District to discuss the possibility of including conservation information in the curriculum. Supervisor Currier suggested using the “Thin Blue Line” teacher’s guide to include in the curriculum for the school district. She also stated that CDSN will participate in the Celebrate Springs event and the UNLV and Summerlin Earth Fairs. Wilisha reported that the Global Lab students are scheduled to give a special presentation to the DAQEM staff on Thursday. Wilisha also reported that Kim Vilt was contacted by the Idaho Conservation District regarding CDSN speaking at their upcoming workshop. Wilisha asked the board if one of the members would be

interested in attending, or if they would like to send Kim. Supervisor Currier requested that it be added to next month's agenda for further discussion. Wilisha distributed the 2006 Poster Contest Calendar flier to the board for review. Supervisor Currier suggested that the flier clarify that winners will be submitted to the NvACD 2005 poster contest as well. Gretchen reported that the Tomiyasu Elementary School event went well and the family was very pleased and honored. She stated she will schedule upcoming presentations on composting at various elementary schools in April. Gretchen also reported that the CWMA newsletter was published this week and will be sent out via email. Additionally, CWMA/CDSN will be represented at upcoming events in March and April. Gretchen also reported that CDSN nominated the Global Lab students for a special EPA award.

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

Supervisor McAllister reported that she distributed the 2005 Conservation Calendars to the classes in Moapa. She stated she will have a booth at the Fair in the animal section. She also reported that PIC is still working on Battleship and have removed about 50 tons of trash out of that area. She also stated that the BLM will plant trees in the area, and the Eagle Scouts will put rocks and signage up for the residents to enjoy. She stated they are also working with NDOT to possibly convert the area to a rest stop. Supervisor McAllister reported that the PIC coordinated with FFA on a clean up at Perkins Ranch. She also stated she attended the Rural Planning Conference in Tonopah.

Supervisor Hewitt reported that the CCSN plant sale will be held March 26th at the CCSN nursery on Charleston. She stated the Native Plant Society Meetings are held the first Mondays of the month, and she will brief them on CDSN projects and special events. She also stated she followed up with NDOT on the beautification project and reviewed the native plant list.

Supervisor Bechtel reported she distributed the remaining calendars to the Las Vegas Wash for the Green-Up Event. She also stated that the \$10,000 contract for the Moapa Gardens was approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he will attend the Nevada Dept. of Wildlife meeting on the 17th at the BLM, and the RC & D meeting this month. He also reported he attended the Rural Nevada Planning Conference in Tonopah, and stated he would like to see more representation from Clark County.

Supervisor Currier reported Supervisor Van Gorp was reappointed to represent the incorporated cities. She also reported she sent a letter to the Nevada Legislators addressing the push to cut RC&D funding, and requested the funding be increased rather than cut.

*13. Open Discussion (Discussion Only)**

Elyse Benson stated that the City of Las Vegas sent out a letter designating certain native trees as being undesirable. She stated Supervisor Hunt received a copy of the letter, and that the board may want to respond. She also stated that Earth Team volunteer hours could be submitted to her for tracking.

14. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

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

15. Agenda Items (Discussion/Agenda Item)

The City of Las Vegas Plant List and the Idaho Conference will be agenda items for the next meeting.

16. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Secretary/Treasurer

Date