



MINUTES

Conservation District of Southern Nevada Monthly Board Meeting

Conservation District of Southern Nevada – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. A-400, Conference Room
March 15, 2006– 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair
Supervisor Judy Currier, Vice-Chair
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary
Supervisor Elise McAllister
Supervisor Dirick Van Gorp
Supervisor Beth Hewitt
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw

Wilisha Daniels
Jarrod Edmunds, NRCS
Ron Smolinski, DAQEM
Mark Silverstein, DAQEM

Supervisor Bechtel called the meeting to order at 2:34 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 March 2006 Agenda
3. Approval of February 2006 Meeting Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills
6. Introductions

Supervisor Currier made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Business Agenda:

7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Van Gorp asked about the payment to the County for the Wetlands Park Project. Wilisha stated CDSN was reimbursed from the state in the amount of \$77,994.35 for the Wetlands Park, and paid \$77,169.71 to the County. Supervisor Currier asked if CDSN receives interest for the Muddy River Fund. Wilisha stated we receive interest from Morgan Stanley. Supervisor Currier made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)
Jarrod stated NRCS disbursed a partial allocation of funds for the south central area. They received a total of 43 applications for EQIP. Thirteen programs were funded. He stated NRCS will shift monies to fund a few more projects. Supervisor Hunt asked if any projects in Clark County were funded. Jarrod stated no projects were funded in Clark County. Projects funded were in Esmeralda, White Pine and Lincoln County. Jarrod also stated there is a remaining balance on the Tamarisk removal project. Elyse Benson is working on reallocating the balance to another weeds removal project.

9. NRCS/CDSN MOU – (Discussion/Action Item)

Jarrold Edmunds asked the Board to review the MOU for corrections and/or changes. He asked if the policy on the vehicle usage should be removed. Supervisor Bechtel stated it was not necessary to remove the policy. Supervisor Currier made a motion to continue to support the agreement as written. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10. Conservation Easement Status (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha passed around pictures of the blanket easement location in Moapa. Supervisor McAllister stated she contacted Brian about the easement. Brian thought there were more easements in the area. He will research easements and get back to Supervisor McAllister. Supervisor Currier suggested contacting Melvin Hughes for possible information on the easements. Supervisor McAllister said she would send an email on the status of the easement to the Board. Supervisor Bechtel suggested the item remain on the agenda. Supervisor Wardlaw stated there could be potential liability issues regarding the easements, and CDSN should continue to research them. Supervisor Bechtel stated she would also like more information on the easements. Supervisor Hunt stated the Board needs more information about ownership of the easements, and the precautionary measures that should be considered. Supervisor Bechtel offered to contact the DA's office regarding the easements. Supervisor McAllister stated she would also inquire about hiking trails along the river, and if CDSN could possibly sell or convert the easement.

11. Weeds Conference, Boise, Idaho (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt stated the Weeds Conference would be a good conference for CWMA to attend in the future. He also stated he would like to attend the local Weeds Conference, which will be held in April. Supervisor Hewitt also expressed interest in attending the conference. The conference will address local needs for restoration in southern Nevada. The conference is free of charge and will be held at the Suncost. Supervisor Bechtel encouraged interested supervisors and staff to attend.

12. District Staffing – Supervisor Wardlaw (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw stated he would like the Board to review CDSN's current mission and the tasks, and consider restructuring the staff and positions. He stated that CDSN needs more leadership for staff. He also suggested the Board re-establish the position of District Coordinator, and to appoint Wilisha Daniels as the Coordinator. Supervisor Hunt asked Wilisha if she understood the responsibilities of District Coordinator. Wilisha responded that she understood, and is interested in the position. Supervisor Currier stated that it is a well deserved promotion. Supervisors McAllister and Bechtel both supported the promotion. Supervisor Hunt asked if the Coordinator could sign checks. Supervisor Currier stated that only the manager can sign checks. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that the job description be reviewed, and revised accordingly. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to promote Wilisha to District Coordinator. Supervisor Currier seconded. The motion passed.

13. Appointment of Alternate – Supervisor Bechtel (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel appointed Mark Silverstein as the Clark County Alternate. Mr. Silverstein will be Supervisor Bechtel's vote in her absence. Supervisor Bechtel will send a formal letter regarding the appointment to the state.

14. Staff Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha reported that CDSN is continuing to recruit for the Conservation Technician position through the Great Basin Institute. She also stated she will look into recruiting through the Nevada State College, CCSN, UNLV and other options. Supervisor Hunt suggested keeping the position posted and possibly open it to the public. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested considering additional HR partners. Supervisor Bechtel suggested the District continue to actively recruit for the position. Wilisha also passed around pictures of the straw bale structure in Moapa. Ron Smolinski asked how the structure would be used. Supervisor McAllister stated the structure would be used for classes and meetings. Supervisor Currier stated there was a lot of interest in the project throughout the state. She suggested writing an article about the project. Supervisor Wardlaw stated it would also be a good article for the Western Planner publication. Supervisor Bechtel asked Wilisha to keep the Board

informed on the project's progression. Supervisor McAllister stated she will also keep the Board informed. Supervisor McAllister stated the new CCSD Superintendent is planning a visit to the Ag Farm. Jarrod asked if there will be a plaque thanking the partners and explaining the project. Supervisor McAllister said she would inquire about the plaque and grand opening. Wilisha also reported that she is coordinating the Clark County Fair and Rodeo Community tent with DAQEM. She also stated she will participate in several upcoming Earth Day events.

15. Supervisor's Report - (Discussion/Action)

Supervisor Hewitt reported CCSN will host their annual Plant Sale of March 25th. She encouraged staff to reserve a booth if interested in participating. She also asked the Board if they would like to purchase a rose bush to dedicate to the new Cooperative Extension office. The Board agreed to purchase 1-2 rose bushes. Supervisor Hewitt will coordinate the purchase with staff.

Supervisor Hunt reported he will attend the upcoming RC&D meeting. He reported that he participated in the interview panel last week, and would like to see more candidates involved. He also asked about the status of the MSHCP program. Supervisor Bechtel stated the County did not receive many applications, and will extend the deadline. Supervisor Hunt asked if CDSN would be a good fit for the new committee. Supervisor Bechtel stated CDSN may benefit more as coordinators than advisors. Supervisor Currier stated that if CDSN applies to the committee or for funding, Supervisor Bechtel would step down as Chair. Supervisor Wardlaw stated the problems in the program need to be addressed before CDSN can decide their role. Supervisor Currier suggested that the District obtain a copy of materials to review. Supervisor Bechtel stated the new committee will act as an interim advisory committee, and the County anticipates the committee moving in a good direction. She also stated there will be a celebration on the 24th in the Pueblo room at the Government Center to recognize the outgoing committee members.

Supervisor McAllister reported that the "Friends of Pirates Cove," and PIC, will have a booth at the Fair. PIC will also have maps on display at the booth. She reported that BLM will soon approve the BLM route design plan. She stated that PIC completed the clean-up project at Battle Ship and additional areas. Approximately 120 tons of trash was removed, and legal actions will be taken against dumpers.

Supervisor Bechtel asked the Board their feelings on the changes implemented to the Desert Conservation Program. She asked the Board if they would consider writing a letter of support to the program. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested it be added as an item on the agenda. Supervisor Hunt suggested that the Board wait to see how the new committee will operate before writing a letter. Supervisor Hewitt stated the change is a move in the right direction, and it will address the conflicts of interests. Supervisor Wardlaw recommended that the DCP staff give a presentation of the new system to the Board. He stated he would like to see a comparison between then and now, and the anticipated changes for the future. Supervisor Hunt supported a presentation from the DCP. Supervisor Bechtel stated a presentation may be possible in the future. Supervisor Currier stated she would prefer to write a letter supporting the revamping of the program. She stated the letter would support the County's efforts in addressing the issues and initiating changes to the program. Supervisor Hunt stated he supported the change. Supervisor Currier offered to draft the letter, and bring it to the next meeting for review.

Supervisor Bechtel also encouraged the Board to help staff with the spring events.

16. Meeting Schedule (Discussion/Action)

Supervisor Bechtel asked the Board if they would rather meet bi-monthly instead of monthly. Supervisor Hunt stated he was fine with the change as long as a meeting can be called when necessary. Supervisor Wardlaw also supported changing the meeting schedule. Supervisor Wardlaw made a motion to change the meeting schedule to bi-monthly, or at the call of the Chair as needed.

Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed. The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Ron invited everyone to participate in the Clark County Community Tent at the Fair. He also stated he is looking for plants to decorate the tent, and to contact him if interested in donating items for the tent.

Supervisor Wardlaw stated he recently spoke to Wilisha about CDSN's involvement in more conservation programs. He suggested that CDSN research conservation issues such a land, air water and biology, and expand our vision for the District. He also suggested that CDSN focus more on programming than initiatives. Supervisor Bechtel asked how CDSN should go about moving towards establishing more programs. Supervisor Currier stated that CDSN has worked with agencies in the past that have existing programs, and received limited help from the agencies. As a result, the District has received limited help. Supervisor Van Gorp suggested that we add this item to the next meeting for discussion. Supervisor Hunt stated he would like the Board to work more with Sandi Valley in the future as well.

Mark stated the amendment to the North East County for water quality will open up for public comment on the March 22, 2006. The public will have 45 days to comment on the amendment.

18. Next Meeting Date(Discussion Only)

The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2006 at CDSN at 1:30 p.m.

19. Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

The agenda items for the next meeting are as follows:

- Letter to the DCP
- Conservation Easement
- Brainstorming Session

20. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Currier 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