



Conservation District of Southern Nevada  
5820 S. Pecos Rd., Bldg. A-Ste. 400  
Las Vegas, NV 89120  
Phone: (702) 262-9047 Ext. 5  
FAX: (702) 736-7415  
E-mail: cdsn@cdsn.org  
Web Site: www.cdsn.org

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**MINUTES**  
**Conservation District of Southern Nevada**  
**Special Board Meeting**  
**Conservation District- 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400, Conference Room**  
**March 19, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Supervisor Jon Wardlaw, Vice Chair  
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas. /Secretary  
Supervisor Dirick Van Gorp  
Supervisor Joseph Fortier  
Supervisor Elise McAllister  
Supervisor Elizabeth Hewitt

Alt. Supervisor Mark Silverstein  
Jarrod Edmunds (NRCS)  
Jennifer Szwejbka  
Jennifer Espinosa

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

**Supervisor Wardlaw called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.**

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

**Business Agenda:**

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

Jennifer Szwejbka has nothing to report. **Supervisor McAllister moves to approve the financial report. Supervisor Hewitt seconds the motion. The motion passed.**

**8. Appoint Second RC &D Representative - (Action Item)**

No volunteers. Supervisor Wardlaw takes no action. This item will be included in the next agenda.

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

As of March 1<sup>st</sup> snow pack was at 134% average for water content and 123% of snow depth. Only one small storm has occurred since then. Another measurement will be taken April 1<sup>st</sup>. Right now 118% above average snow level was measured that contributes to Lake Powell.

Soil Climate project funded by SNPLMA. Automated snow monitors will be installed in May. Also 6 scan sites were installed this summer. Two installed in the Sheep Range and four in the Spring Mountains to get better precipitation and moisture measurements.

The continuing resolution remains, they may not get a new Farm Bill this year. In 2007 EQIP statewide had 95 contracts for 5 million. In 2008 there were 114 contracts for 7 million dollars. In the WHIP incentives program there were 4 contracts for 96 thousand. NRCS is planning a prescribed burn this

winter with the Nature Conservancy and Nevada Division of Forestry. A new full time employee has been recruited as a range management specialist. He will be doing soil surveys as a term employee. The soil survey will be completed in 2010. Also 2 graduate students will get advanced credits for soil work with NRCS. Both are PHD candidates under Dr. Brenda Buck at UNLV.

**10. NACD Conference Follow-up- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jarrold Edmunds from NRCS attended. He found it very informative. It was a large conference consisting of over 1,000 people. NRCS has a new identity campaign that they unveiled at the event titled "Conservation. Our purpose, our passion." The campaign will showcase what they do as an agency for their customers. Also at the conference was a presentation on the accomplishments of the late Olin Sims. A new award was invoked in his name called the Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award. This will continue each year at the conference. Jarrold was impressed by the break out sessions and enthusiasm of other conservation districts. Ohio has some of the most active conservation districts.

**11. Appreciation Plaque for Judy Currier – (Discussion/Action Item)**

**Alt. Supervisor Silverstein motions to approve the 9x12 Saturn Plaque. Supervisor Hewitt seconds the motion. The motion passed.** "In recognition of your valuable service to the Conservation District of Southern Nevada, Judy Currier, dates of service" was the engraving agreed upon. Jennifer Szwejbka will ask Judy of her years of service and staff will purchase the plaque.

**12. Tomi Garden Follow-up- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jennifer Szwejbka had nothing new to report. Everything is in the ground and growing. Everything is looking good. Jennifer Szwejbka has contacted the City of Henderson about what monies they have available, but has not heard anything or followed up. Plant signs, commemorative sign and the bench still need to be installed.

**13. Wells Fargo Credit Card-(Action Item)**

Supervisor Hunt reported that we can have a credit card, but we can incur no debt. When we are presented with a bill it must be paid within the time frame. Not meeting monthly would pose a problem to discuss financial payments. Supervisor Hunt can attain the credit card, but it is up to the board to decide how it is to be used. Supervisor Wardlaw thanked Jennifer S. and Supervisor Hunt for doing extensive research, but the DA advised that we don't attain a credit card so we should use alternative methods. **Supervisor Fortier motions to agree in not attaining a credit/debit card. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded. The motion passed.**

**14. Policies Regarding the Use of the Credit Card- (Discussion/Action Item)**

No policies needed regarding credit card.

**15. Nevada Youth Range Camp- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Applications for Youth Range Camp are due April 28<sup>th</sup>. CDSN usually sponsors 1-2 students. Jennifer Szwejbka reports that we do have monies in the budget to sponsor this year. The web page will not be up by the end of April, so applications cannot be posted on our website. Jennifer Szwejbka can put an announcement on the school district website. **Supervisor Hewitt motions sponsoring up to 2 students going to the Nevada Youth Range Camp. Supervisor McAllister seconds the motion. The motion passed.**

**16. NvACD Scholarship- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jennifer Szwejbka was asked to distribute NvACD Scholarship information if anyone has a possible outlet. The scholarship is to help agricultural and renewable resource management. Supervisor Hewitt offered to use the CSN website under the horticulture program. Supervisor Wardlaw suggests putting potential scholarships on our website to encourage urban kids to get involved in agricultural sciences. Jennifer Szwejbka will e-mail it so that it can be posted.

**17. DAQEM Contract- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Bechtel is absent. The item will be included in the next agenda.

**18. Acacia Contract- (Discussion/Action Item)**

The contract does not state that we are obligated to teach out at the Demonstration gardens. We could possibly work with the Master Gardeners to provide them with literature to support and assist their staff in teaching classes at the gardens. The contract is loosely stated so we may cut back on the time spent out at the gardens. Staff will approach the Master Gardeners about working some of our content into their classes for the fall.

#### **19. Additional State Funds for Conservation Districts- (Discussion/Action Item)**

CDSN has extra state funding, about \$8,400 to request and use by June 2009. A budget must be submitted to the commission in order to request those funds. Wilisha and Jennifer S. discussed including the \$8400 in the proposed budget submitted with the Annual Work Plan in June. The funds can be used for anything; there is no match required, but the state would like to know what the funds are used for to help leverage future funding.

#### **20. Update of CDSN Strategic/Working Plan- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Two meetings have taken place so far to work on the CDSN Strategic Plan. Board approval of proposed mission and objectives and goals are needed to move onto next phases of the strategic planning process. The next step will develop strategies to accomplish goals. Supervisor McAllister said the proposed mission reads easy. **Supervisor Fortier motions to accept proposed mission statement with minor change of adding "Nevada". Supervisor McAllister seconds the motion. The motion passed.** Any comments, suggestions, complaints should be sent to Jennifer Szwejbka. Supervisor Hunt suggested spelling out all acronyms.

#### **21. Staff Report- Jennifer Szwejbka- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jennifer Szwejbka will be out of the office April 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. Many outreach events are planned for March and April. A brochure is being made for the Strawbale Structure and the Demo Gardens; it will be a combined brochure. The interpretive sign is not yet installed. The second 1 year extension was received for the garden grant from DAQEM. The dates for planting will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March. The Stormdrain Marking kick-off event will take place April 4<sup>th</sup>. Invitations were sent out to over 100 guests. Supervisor Bechtel will present a trophy to the poster contest winner. Councilman Larry Brown will be speaking and Nate Tannenbaum will be Master of Ceremonies. Approximately 300 posters were received for the poster contest. The new Stormwater Quality brochures were completed as well as the workbooks. Pet waste baggy containers are a popular item at the outreach events. Our contract with the Wetlands Park is up this month and a new contract is being drafted. The Christmas Tree Recycling Program final tree count 18,951 trees were chipped which is nearly double the number from last year. Wilisha Daniels will be running the environmental tent at the County fair. She is also working on the student outreach program and attending several outreach events. Supervisor **Van Gorp motions that Wetlands park contract be e-mailed to the board to review. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

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

Supervisor McAllister reported that the Educational Farm Foundation of Moapa Valley is a non-profit that has been set up with by-laws and board members to be a 501c3. They want to focus on education and raising money to eventually buy the farm. They will have a meeting to work on the mission. Farm Bureau of Nevada will donate \$5,000 once they have become a 501c3. RC farms is also willing to donate once they become a 501c3. PIC had gotten SNPLMA money for responsible ATV use video. It will be available on the web. Additionally, 28 miles of a Tortoise fencing project is almost complete. Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> they will have a fencing party to thank volunteers for their accomplishments.

Supervisor Hewitt reported on the CSN Spring in the Desert event. The announcement will be sent out in the newspaper and the District is listed as participating. Focus is on habitat for animals. Jonathan LaValley is the new contact. They participated in the Wash Green-up event. College students helped and it was a good turn out.

Supervisor Silverstien reported that a stakeholder group has been put together. Looking at new ordinances to allow city and county authority to monitor and inspect construction sites and industrial sites. Post construction ordinances will also be looked at. Currently 4 jurisdictions change ordinances. Stakeholder website with the agenda will be on the Regional Flood Control District website.

Supervisor Van Gorp had nothing to report.

Supervisor Hunt reported a RC & D class that was developed in Spanish on tree pruning and certification. It will be on the March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Supervisor Fortier reported that the Drip guide is now available on the Southern Nevada Arborist Group website. It was also suggested that if there is money in the budget that the computers for CDSN staff should be replaced with new computers.

Supervisor Wardlaw reported that county and local entities are working on sustainability project. It is being coordinated at the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition. They are attempting to get UNLV so they can create an overarching group approach. SNRP has a tentative \$150,000 budget item for greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Clark County.

**23. Open Discussion and Public Comment – (Discussion Only)\***

Jarrod Edmunds mentioned two CDSN computers were removed from the USDA network. Internet service and hotwire is still available. No new internet provider would be needed.

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

- RC & D Representative
- Tomi Garden follow-up
- DAQEM contract
- Annual Work Plan
- Strategic Working Plan

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

The next board meeting will take place on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the CDSN office.

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

**Supervisor Silverstein moves to adjourn. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded. Motion passed.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Hunt, Sec. /Treasurer

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Date