



MINUTES
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Board Meeting
Conservation District- 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400, Conference Room
March 18, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jon Wardlaw, Chair	Supervisor Elise McAllister
Supervisor Joseph Fortier, Vice Chair	Jennifer Szwejbka, CDSN
Supervisor Elizabeth Tomica Hewitt, Treas. /Secretary	Jennifer Espinosa, CDSN
Supervisor Mark Silverstein	Jarroed Edmunds, NRCS
Supervisor John Hunt	Chris Magee, MGM Mirage

OPEN MEETING

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

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 2009 Agenda

Supervisor Silverstein moved to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Hewitt seconds, the motion is carried.

3. Approval of January 2009 Meeting Minutes.

Supervisor Silverstein moved to approve the January 09 minutes. Motion carries.

4. Correspondence.
5. Pay bills.

Supervisor Hewitt moved to approve payment of dues. Supervisor Silverstein seconds, the motion is carried.

6. Introductions.

Supervisor Hewitt motioned to move item No. 9- SNRPC Sustainability Programs Presentation by Tom Perrigo to the top of the CDSN Business Agenda and move item No. 7- Financial Report down to item No. 8. Supervisor Silverstein seconds the motion. The motion is carried.

Business Agenda:

7. SNRPC Sustainability Programs Presentation by Tom Perrigo- (Discussion/Action Item)

Tom Perrigo with the City of Las Vegas Planning Department presented on the progress of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition and its committed agencies that are pushing forward with sustainability issues. They are focusing on an emissions inventory, building & zoning codes, a regional decision support tool (ICLEI model), and working with UNLV and other agencies. Right now they are in beginning stages of a building codes workshop and working on Building Performance Advisory committee. The entire program is geared on energy audits and retrofits. Over 60 contractors are going through training for this program. Supervisor Silverstein asked if this is focusing on Energy Conservation and Green building. Tom Perrigo said it is focusing on Energy Conservation and Water Conservation, but mostly energy.

The SNRPC is partnering with UNLV to conduct a public perception survey about sustainability, what it really means to the community. There was also an opportunity to apply for a US Forestry Grant for a canopy cover study. They are pending approval, Jarrod Edmunds said it was announced it will be funded. Next year's budget there will be money to do a sustainability workshop. Next steps will be to develop a shared vision and a common language conducting public outreach and education. Supervisor Wardlaw thanked Tom for all of the work him and the group has done and wanted to note that Jennifer S. has been participating in the meetings and welcomes Tom back at any time and offers CDSN services as a funding agent in obtaining grants or anything else we can help with. Chris Magee wanted to inform Tom that MGM is holding Sustainability fairs and SNRPC is welcome to come.

8. Financial Report - (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw asked if there were any issues to be aware of or any recommendations. Jennifer Szwajbka said nothing in particular to point out. Supervisor Hewitt asked if Supervisor Hunt was still signing checks. Supervisor Hunt replied, that yes, he is still signing checks until names are changed with the bank. **Supervisor McAllister motioned to approve the financial report. Supervisor Fortier seconds the motion. The motion is carried.**

9. Appoint Second RC&D Representative– (Discussion/Action Item)

No volunteers. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested removing this as a standing item due to no volunteers.

10. Cities Appointment – (Discussion/Action Item)

All cities approved appointing Chris Magee as representative. The Cities of Henderson, North Las Vegas and Mesquite had it on their city council agendas to have Chris Magee approved. Boulder city has not responded. The City of Las Vegas has made a suggestion, Kenneth Kovalchik. It was someone they had on file as interested in serving on a board. Jennifer S. attempted contacting the City of Las Vegas to inform them that the other cities have concurred on Chris Magee. Jennifer S. asked if we should disregard the suggestion made by the City of Las Vegas. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested contacting the City of Las Vegas and Boulder City again to remind them with an update and a status report. Supervisor McAllister told CDSN staff to mention to the City of Las Vegas and Boulder that Chris Magee has already been attending CDSN board meetings.

11. County Alternate Appointment – (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Silverstein mentioned that DAQEM is aware that an alternate can be chosen. Jennifer S. reported that an alternate is not required, but it is allowed. Supervisor Fortier suggested dropping the issue until the county would like to name someone.

12. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)- Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)

The USDA proposed budget for 2010 eliminates the RC&D program. John Hunt mentioned that a letter from this board may be beneficial to letting administration know that RC&D is important. The NRCS budget will not be received until mid April. The South Central Local Work Group meeting was held in Tonopah on February 19th and the State Technical Committee met on March 4th to discuss NRCS program delivery. Programs funded included; FRPP for 3.5 million dollars, WHIP - \$783,683 , EQIP- 5.5 million dollars, WRP-5 million, Conservation Security Program - \$370,000, Grassland Reserve Program – \$314,267, and the Agricultural Management Assistance program - \$382,190. The NRCS is currently working with the Moapa Band of Paiutes on a WHIP project along the Muddy River. The project includes an irrigation system for tree and shrub plantings, a pond, and a fence to exclude livestock from the river. Supervisor Hewitt mentioned that she had extra plants if needed for restoration.

Jarrod discussed the NRCS partner's responsibility regarding representation on Boards, Councils and Committees. The NRCS policy is to encourage, support, provide training, and assist all conservation boards, councils, and committees to achieve diverse representation of customer groups on such boards, councils, and committees. It is the responsibility of NRCS managers and supervisors to provide support, training, and assistance to Agency employees, as they work to identify and assist with this diversity effort. Jarrod also discussed Civil Rights Compliance by recipients of Federal financial assistance. Compliance with applicable Civil Rights laws is a prerequisite for approval of an application for Federal financial assistance. The NRCS will ensure that prospective recipients meet the requirements set out in

NRCS General Manual 230 Part 405.10 regarding Civil Rights compliance by recipients of Federal financial assistance.

13. Review of Budget/Financial Committee-(Discussion/Action Item)

The Financial Sub-committee met twice. Jennifer S. reported that the Clark County Outside Agency Grant proposal was submitted. Last year we were funded \$43,600. The letter to the cities and other agencies soliciting projects has not yet been sent. Letters requesting funding from each of the cities have not been sent out yet. We still have \$20,000 from the City of Henderson and the City of North Las Vegas in the account from last year. Supervisor Wardlaw mentioned that before we ask for additional funding we should program the budget for it. Supervisor McAllister said that PIC is building up funds for projects. Supervisor Wardlaw said the Conservation District needs a 1-2 year spending program to set our sights. **Supervisor McAllister motioned for Financial Committee to work on a 2 or 3 year budget plan. Supervisor Hewitt seconds the motion. The motion is carried.**

14. Dean Witter/Morgan Stanley - (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer S. went through the Morgan Stanley account. The project with MRREIAC officially ended in 1999 and the funds were at about \$157,000. This is also when the funds were approved to be transferred to Clark County In Lieu Fee program. Interest from that point has been approximately \$33,000. Jennifer S. recommended a letter be sent to the county letting them know we have \$157,000 for the In Lieu Fee program per the Army Corps of Engineers authorization and CDSN should keep the \$33,000 in interest as administrative fees for handling that money from 1999 to 2009. This would be less per year in administrative costs than the original contract specified. Supervisor Wardlaw recommended not bringing it to the district attorney and follow the original guidelines from the Army Corps. **Supervisor Fortier moved to follow the Army Corps guidelines giving the \$157k to the County for the In Lieu Fee program and keeping the interest in an interest bearing account for at least 6 months. The money should be sent in a cashier's check to the appropriate people while the remainder stays in the Morgan Stanley account. Supervisor Hewitt seconds the motion. The motion is carried.**

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

Jennifer S. reported that CDSN usually sponsors 2 students for the Nevada Youth Range Camp at a cost of \$150/student. Two phone calls had been received asking for scholarship information. There are available funds in the Clark County Outside Agency Grant to sponsor a couple students this year. Jennifer S. recommended doing so. **Supervisor Fortier motioned to fund two students for the Youth Range Camp. Supervisor McAllister seconds, the motion is carried.**

16. Grants Writer Contract Position- (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer S. spoke with UNLV Grant writing instructor about contracting a grant writer. She contacted some grant writers and two called back. GrantWriting & Proposal Services does grant writing at \$60/hour for services. We have money in the Clark County OAG that could be used to do a contract from April-June. They can research for grant opportunities or we can tell them which grants we are interested in. Supervisor Hunt asked if they receive a percentage of the grant if the grant was awarded. In the grant industry pay based on money received is unethical. **Supervisor McAllister motioned to use \$2500 to hire grant writers.** Supervisor Wardlaw asked if we were authorizing staff to bring a contract to the board or spend money. Supervisor Fortier and Supervisor Wardlaw requested a special meeting to review the contract before it is signed. **Supervisor Fortier seconds the motion. The motion is carried.**

17. Staff Report- Jennifer Szwejbka(Discussion/Action Item)

Many Drip Guides have been distributed. We started with 52 boxes now only 30 remain.

Poster Contest winners have been picked for the Strom Drain program. The 1st place winner and their entire class will go on a field trip on the Forever Earth boat on Lake Mead. Jennifer S. will talk to SNWA about a funding to keep the project running annually.

The Moapa project has been completed. The brochure is printed and final invoice sent out. Supervisor Hunt suggested making a list of all past projects and gets a wish list for grant writers. Jennifer S. said an initial meeting will be held with grant writers and staff for that type of discussion.

The Christmas Tree Recycling Report has also been completed. The numbers did drop from last year, but still remained above previous years.

The NRCS grant for the Valley of Fire is completed. Signed amendment was received. Information still needs to be received from Curt Deuser to submit final report to NRCS.

The annual work plan will be due June 1st and will need to approval at the next meeting.

Jennifer S. asked Jennifer Magby with the City of Henderson if CDSN was able to do a plant sale at Acacia Park, which was approved. April 25th date would be too competitive as other organizations are conducting earth day events and May might be too late. Supervisor Hewitt said May would not be too late and would work out better because CSN has all their plants sales throughout the month of April so anything left over can be sold by CDSN. Jennifer S. will confirm date with Henderson. Jennifer Espinosa and Supervisor Hewitt will work on the logistics. Henderson will put out a press release for the sale.

18. Supervisor's Report- (Discussion Item)

Supervisor Hewitt reported the Wash Green Up event occurring this weekend. In April CSN will be conducting their Spring in the Desert event.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he will be attending the RC&D meeting and that anyone in CDSN that is interested can be the 2nd representative. The meeting is next week in this office.

Supervisor Fortier reported that he went to Lake Havasu for a conference. They passed out the Drip Guide to all attendees and it was quite well received.

Supervisor Silverstein reported that he was approved as the Clark County representative. Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport is in the initial planning stages.

Chris Magee reported that Mandalay Bay picked up the Summerlin event that was cancelled and CDSN staff will be attending. There are a couple of locations that have chippers on site at the resorts that can act as drop off locations for Christmas Tree Recycling. Jennifer S. asked if Chris could join the committee. Chris said he could.

Supervisor Wardlaw reported that the MSHCP is being pushed to be updated. Every developer of private land does not have to hire a biologist individually. They are trying to update the amount of land that is left for the next 20-50 years. This is an ongoing project.

19. Project Ideas – (Discussion Item/Action Item)

Jennifer S. asked if urban forestry should be a focus since SNRPC is focusing on it. Supervisor Wardlaw said we could do outreach and funding. Supervisor Fortier said not to discount it. Supervisor Hunt said we could get involved with education. Supervisor Wardlaw said if any other project ideas come up, email them to Jennifer S. and a list will be made. Jennifer S. mentioned that we need to focus on one or two areas. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested putting together a list of specific project ideas. A meeting will be set-up to update the work plan and get more focus. Jennifer S. will email a reminder for project ideas due date. The state was sent a report on projects. Staff will email this report to the board.

20. Open Discussion and Public Comment- (Discussion Only)*

None.

21. Agenda Items - (Discussion/Action Item)

- Approve Annual Work plan
- Morgan Stanley/Dean Witter Account Follow-Up
- Cities Appointment

22. Meeting Location – (Discussion/Action Item)

CDSN Office- May 20th and Friday April 3rd- Budget Meeting

23. Adjournment – (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Fortier moved to adjourn. Supervisor Silverstein seconds, motion is carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tomica Hewitt, Sec. /Treasurer

Date