



MINUTES
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Monthly Board Meeting
Conservation District of Southern Nevada Office – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. Bldg A-400
May 18, 2005 – 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair	Sandi Gotta, NvACD
Supervisor Judy Currier, Vice Chair	Wilisha Daniels
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas. /Secretary	
Supervisor Beth Hewitt	
Supervisor Elise McAllister	
Supervisor Dirick Van Gorp	

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 May 2005 Agenda
3. Approval of March and May 2005 Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills

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

Business Agenda:

6. Financial Report (Discussion/ Action Item)

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

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

No report

8. City of Las Vegas Plant List (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel stated that the City of Las Vegas developed a list of plants that limited the plants they were allowed to plant on City owned property. Supervisor Bechtel also stated that Susan Stead, of the Nevada Division of Forestry wrote a letter addressing the list of plants. Supervisor Hunt asked if they would remove existing prohibited plants from their property. Supervisor Currier stated she was not sure if the list is public knowledge. Additionally, many of the plants stated on the list are native. Supervisor Bechtel requested that staff draft a letter to the City regarding the plant list, and asking their rationale behind the list.

9. Idaho Assoc. of Soil Conservation Districts Conference – (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha stated that Kim Vilt was recently contacted by the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts to speak at their upcoming conference about grant funding. The Association offered to pay for her travel and lodging, and will send an official letter of request to CDSN in the near future. Supervisor Bechtel stated it was a great idea and supported her going to the conference. Supervisor Currier stated Kim is a contract employee and not a regular employee and she would be representing the CDSN at the conference. Supervisor Currier made a motion to have Kim represent CDSN at the conference. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Supervisor Currier reported that the NvACD asked CDSN to host the conference on November 6-8th in Mesquite. She stated she contacted the Oasis and Casablanca Hotels in Mesquite for prices for lodging and meeting rooms. Supervisor McAllister offered to follow up with the hotels for prices. Supervisor Currier stated CDSN would need facilities for up to 150 attendees, as well as, beverages, one lunch and banquet for the conference. Supervisor Bechtel asked what the state expects from the CDSN staff. Supervisor Currier said the state would ask CDSN to help with local arrangements and assisting Chris Freedman as needed. She also stated CDSN will want to provide a tour to the Ag School and arranging the tour and buses. Supervisor Currier stated that arrangements will be made with Chris. Supervisor McAllister stated she would set-up a tour of the Ag school. Supervisor Bechtel asked who would take the lead for staff in coordinating the conference. Wilisha offered to help with the coordination of the conference. Supervisor Bechtel also inquired about possible speakers that Chris had lined up for workshops/roundtables. She also stated she will contact Chris regarding the logistics for the conference. No action was taken.

11. CWMA Noxious Weeds Removal Project – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt reported that Kurt Deuser was recently hired to restore Pitman Wash and remove the tamarisks. He also stated the Moapa Band of Paiutes received funding from RC&D for weed removal but had not spent it. He reported Gretchen was working on locating tamarisk sites outside of Las Vegas. She is also working on a letter of support for the weeds bill. Supervisor Bechtel stated she will follow up with Gretchen regarding the letter. Supervisor Hunt also reported that a weed seminar is scheduled in Barstow this summer. He asked that it be added to next meeting's agenda. Supervisor Van Gorp asked if monies for weed removal could be funneled or made available through CDSN. He stated he was contacted by the County to possibly design a tamarisk removal project in Duck Creek, and the funding would come through CDSN. Supervisor Currier stated that Supervisor Van Gorp was referring to the Thomas and Mack money that CDSN is administering from Clark County that was original for the Muddy River. She stated she reviewed the paper work between the County and Army Corp, which was designated outside of the watershed for Muddy River until the money could be used for the Wetlands Park. The County received the money and released it to CDSN to spend at the Wetlands Park. CDSN received a letter from Jeff Harris asking to bring the money to the County to have an in-lieu of fund for the Wetlands Mitigation. CDSN also wrote a letter to Army Corp regarding the funding and asked if we could receive the money and cut a check for their in-lieu of fund. However, the County did not complete their in-lieu fund and CDSN still holds the money. Clark County is interested in spending the money for the tamarisk removal on Duck Creek, and is requesting the money. Army Corp approved CDSN to hold the money to place in the in-lieu of fund. Supervisor Currier spoke to Cliff Jeffers regarding requesting authority from the Army Corp to use the funding. She suggested that we establish a contract with Clark County outlining our duties for the monies and fees. Sandi Gotta asked if the District had a current agreement with Army Corp to accept in-lieu funds. Supervisor Currier stated we did not. Supervisor Currier stated that CDSN is not responsible for the Wetlands Park.

12. Proposed Positions for 05-06 Fiscal Year – Wilisha Daniels (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel asked the board to review the staffing report in their packets. The report included the current positions, as well as, a seasonal intern. Supervisor McAllister made a motion to approve the proposed positions for 05-06. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

13. Request for Funding Letters (Discussion/Action Items)

Supervisor Bechtel stated that she talked with Wilisha about sending letters to the cities requesting funding. She also stated that the letters to the City of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas were in the packet.

Supervisor Currier offered to email the invoices to Wilisha. Supervisor Bechtel stated the letters will be sent in the near future. No action was taken.

14. Range Camp, June 18th – 25th (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha reported that CDSN sent Heather Diamond last year, and can afford to send up to two students this year. Supervisor Van Gorp moved to sponsor two Range Camp students recruited from the rural area. Supervisor Currier seconded the motion. The motion passed.

15. Monthly Meeting Schedule (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel asked the board if the current meeting date and times still worked for their schedules. The supervisors all agreed that the current date and times are fine, and can be changed on an individual basis. Supervisor Bechtel also stated that the city representative can opt for an alternate if the necessary.

16. Work Plan 2005-2006 Review (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel reported that the work plan was recently advised and emailed to the board for review. She stated that CDSN board and staff met on May 3rd to review and revise the work plan. She asked the board for any questions and comments on the plan before sending it to the state. Supervisor Currier made a motion to approve the Work Plan 2005-2006. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Wilisha reported that Gretchen was absent and she would give the board her report. Gretchen presented 10 compost presentations to 5th grade Clark County School District classes. The second round of advertisement was also sent out to the CCSD Partnership office. She anticipates having at least 10 more responses for the presentations. Gretchen also presented a compost workshop at Acacia, and contacted the City Henderson about adding a weed workshop to their classes. She also mailed 111 letters to the Home Owners Associations, Garden Clubs and other social clubs offering to present “invasive weed” workshops and deliver other informational material. Gretchen also presented information about the CWMA at the Native Plant Society Meeting. She is currently working on a NDEP Grant to build a compost bin at Moapa High School. Drafts of the straw bale building, and a donation flier were distributed to the board. Supervisor Bechtel requested that fliers be also sent to board members. Supervisor Currier suggested CDSN request funding from the Home Builders for the straw bale building.

Wilisha reported that CDSN participated in several events last month. The events included, the Summerlin Earth Day Fair, UNLV Earth Day and Spring Mountain Ranch. CDSN distributed several Water Guides, ADG brochures, newsletters and air quality booklets. She reported that she attended the EPA Region 9 Awards Ceremony in April, where teacher Don Curry and his students were recognized for the hard work with DAQEM/CDSN programs. She will also write an article about the awards to post of DAQEM’s website. Wilisha stated that the Silverado High School students gave an air quality presentation to 110 5th graders at Tomiyasu Elementary School last week. The students will also be recognized at the Board of County Commission meeting on July 19th. Wilisha passed around a new DAQEM brochure, the new air quality poster and book marks. She also stated the “2006 Conservation and Environmental Poster Calendar Content” ended today and she anticipates many entries. Supervisor Currier suggested that the EPA Region 9 Awards recognition be included in the next newsletter.

18. Supervisor’s Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Currier suggested to the board that they start thinking about events CDSN may want to host at ADG. She suggested hosting Earth Day at the gardens and to coordinate it with the City of Henderson. She also suggested holding a planting event at the opening of Tomi’s Garden.

Supervisor McAllister reported that she participated in the CC Fair and Moapa Days. She also stated PIC installed 85,000 feet of tortoise retro-fit along the mesa with the Multiple Species Program. She stated PIC removed 70 tons of trash was removed from the Battle Ship Mountain. Supervisor McAllister reported that PIC was contacted and asked to give a presentation about building partnerships for the National Trail System Conference in June. She stated Overton / Logandale is preparing for a visioning process for the area.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he attended the Arbor Day event at Lorenzie Park and the RC&D meetings in Rachel, Nevada and at the CDSN office. He also asked the board about the check signing authority and if it will remain the same. Supervisor Bechtel stated that Supervisors Currier and Hunt will remain the authorized signers for the CDSN checking account.

Supervisor Hewitt reported that she attended the Native Plant Society meeting. She stated that Gretchen made a good contact with for GIS weed mapping. She reported that there are internships available at CCSN and if anyone is interested to contact her.

Supervisor Bechtel reported that she was promoted to the Senior Management Analyst for the Desert Conservation Program, and the County will recruit for her old position in the next few weeks. She also asked the board to review the contact list for staff/members in their packet.

19. Open Discussion and Public Comment (Discussion Only)

Supervisor Currier stated that she will attend the Conservation Commission meeting on June 14th in Eureka.

Sandi Gotta distributed the NvACD Newsletter and a list of current senate bills to the board. She reviewed each bill that pertained to the CDSN. She reviewed senate bills 6, 244, 267, 293, 294, 421 and 465. She also reviewed assembly bills 64, 94, 413 and 500. Sandi stated that the status of bills can be checked on the internet.

20. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2005 at 2:30 pm at the CDSN office.

21. Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt asked that the weeds seminar in Barstow.

22. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Van Gorp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Secretary/Treasurer

Date