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**MINUTES**  
**Conservation District of Southern Nevada**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Conservation District of Southern Nevada – 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400**  
**May 15, 2007 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair	Wilisha Daniels
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary	Jennifer Szwejbka
Supervisor Dirick Van Gorp	Teri Knight, NRCS
Supervisor Elise McAllister	
Supervisor Beth Hewitt	
Alt. Supervisor Mark Silverstein	

**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 May 2007 Agenda
3. Approval of March 2007 Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills
6. Introductions

Supervisor Bechtel called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Supervisor McAllister moved to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Business Agenda:**

7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hewitt moved to approve the financial report. Supervisor McAllister seconded. The motion passed.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)  
Teri Knight, RC&D Coordinator, extended an invitation to the Grass Planting event. RC&D partnered with the BLM, and Moapa Valley High School Farm to conduct a pilot project growing native grasses for the BLM. Next week, May 24<sup>th</sup>, the second grass planting will occur and the media along with others have been invited out to the farm. Supervisor Bechtel inquired about what the tour for potential farmers. Teri explained that they decided to host a tour because of the interest they received from other areas that would like to get involved. The event will be a “Show & Tell” for the pilot project, and will allow guest to interact directly with the growers. Local media will also be in attendance. Supervisor Hunt added that this project was a learning experience in the way of writing contracts, the BLM and RC&D were able to create a concise contract. Alternate Supervisor Silverstein commented that it sounded like a good project.

9. Work Plan 2007-2008 (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel asked the Board to review the work plan. Wilisha is working on a draft of letter to the cities to ask for extra funding for this year. Supervisor Hunt questioned if County funding is being reduced due to other issues. Supervisor Bechtel said she would check with Brian Paulson about funding decreases. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that we ask for the same amount, and write a separate letter for specific projects we would like them to fund. Supervisor McAllister made a motion to approve the work plan. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### 10. Brochure Review (Discussion/Action Item)

The Board reviewed the draft brochure. Wilisha asked the board how many they would like to print. Supervisor Bechtel suggested we print 500-1,000 brochures, and use them as a marketing piece. The Board will email their comments to Kim.

#### 11. Farm Bill Update with County Commissioners – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt suggested that the Board work with the County Commission to address the Farm Bill and funding issues with NRCS programs. He stated that he would like CDSN to produce a letter to be sent to Washington, DC regarding the Farm Bill. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that the Board hold a special meeting to review the Farm Bill, and to discuss working with the Commission. Wilisha will talk to Jarrod about scheduling a meeting with NRCS to discuss their programs and the Farm Bill. She will email the Board with possible meeting dates.

#### 12. Area Meeting Update (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Bechtel reported there was good attendance at the Area Meeting. A few topics of discussion included the Farm Bill review, and interesting projects the Dixie Conservation District presented.

#### 13. Acacia Demonstration Garden Planting Event (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Van Gorp suggested the MOU with Henderson regarding Acacia Gardens be reviewed before moving forward with finishing Tomi's Garden. He also stated he would favor redesigning Tomi's garden as an arboretum instead of an Asian themed garden. The Garden currently has a commemorative boulder and decomposed granite. Supervisor Hunt stated Tomi developed the fruitless Mulberry, which could be incorporated into the new design for the garden. Supervisor Bechtel offered to coordinate a meeting with Supervisors Currier and Van Gorp to discuss the Garden further detail.

#### 14. Staff Report – Wilisha Daniels & Jennifer Szwejbka (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha reported that Ron Smolinski from DAQEM was retiring at the end of June and a small party was being thrown to celebrate. Wilisha extended an invitation to the celebration to the Board. Supervisor Bechtel inquired as to how the party was being paid for. Supervisor Hewitt moved to donate \$100 from CDSN towards the gift and party for Ron's retirement. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed. Wilisha also reported that the Explore Your Nevada tent that she coordinated at the Clark County Fair & Rodeo was a great success with 16 agencies participating. Other outreach events attended this spring included the Summerlin Earthfaire, and the Red Rock Spring Fling. The Conservation & Environment Calendar poster contest is being extended to the end of May to make up for the low participation. Wilisha has started meeting with Ron's replacement and is also working on expanding the student outreach programs to a new SEED Program (Students for Environmental Education in the Desert).

Jennifer showed her interview on the Flood Show about the Storm Drain Marking Project. Jennifer reported that she will be teaching two more classes at Acacia this spring, Invasive Weeds and Backyard Composting. She also reported that the Straw Bale Structures doors are being installed and the windows have been ordered. In addition, the Moapa gardens hardscapes have been installed and planting will be postponed until the fall.

#### 15. Supervisor's Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hewitt reported that she taught an edible plants class to the Desert Tortoise Group. The Native Plant Society is moving forward with their Mojave native plant poster and they are working with an artist to design it. Ash Meadows purchased a substantial number to plants for the CCSN Nursery. National Shade Tree Council is having their June meeting in Reno.

Supervisor McAllister reported that she is on the recreation trail grant review committee, and this is the first year they will be funding educational projects. CDSN submitted a grant proposal to create a workbook for the wetlands park, which Elise had to excuse herself from formally reviewing as a committee member. She also reported that the OHV Registration Bill will not likely pass this year because the Governor does not want any new taxes, and because consensus could not be reached as to how the money should be used. The Desert Conservation Program produced six new shows for Channel 4. PIC participated in one of the segments discussing OHV use.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he will attend a seminar in Park City, Utah on 501(c)3s. He is looking forward to picking up some good pointers on how to work more efficiently.

Supervisor Bechtel reported that the annual NACD meeting is in Utah on September 9-11. Discussion about attending the NACD meeting should be discussed at the next board meeting. Supervisor Bechtel also mentioned that Wilisha's current contract with DAQEM states that CDSN will provide a 40 hour full time person towards the contract objectives. She stated that some of the administrative duties may need to be delegated to Jennifer. The current contract expires at the beginning of 2009. Supervisor Hunt asked if the 40 hours could be broken up between staff. Supervisor Bechtel responded that the contract states a full time person. Supervisor Bechtel voiced concern that if this is actually a contract position with DAQEM then Wilisha's would report to a DAQEM supervisor. In addition, the Board may need to address and update the employee manual, specifically position titles and descriptions.

16. Open Discussion and Public Comment (Discussion/Action Item)

None

17. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2007 at 1:30 in the CDSN conference room.

18. Agenda Items (Discussion/ Action Item)

- Farm Bill
- NACD Meeting in Park City

19. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Van Gorp made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer

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Date