



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

MINUTES
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Special Board Meeting
Conservation District- 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400, Conference Room
May 21, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

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|---|------------------------|
| Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair | Jarrold Edmunds (NRCS) |
| Supervisor Jon Wardlaw, Vice Chair | Jennifer Szwejbka |
| Supervisor John Hunt, Treas. /Secretary | Jennifer Espinosa |
| Supervisor Joseph Fortier | |
| Supervisor Elise McAllister | |
| 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 2008 Agenda
3. Approval of March 2008 Meeting Minutes.
4. Correspondence.
5. Pay bills
6. Introductions.

Supervisor Bechtel called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

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

Business Agenda:

7. Financial Report- (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw asked if Jennifer Szwejbka had anything out of the ordinary to report on the financial report. Jennifer Szwejbka had nothing to report. **Supervisor Wardlaw moved to approve the financial report. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

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

No volunteers. Supervisor Hunt will be going to the RC&D meeting so CDSN has representation. Supervisor Fortier asked if the representative had to be of this board. Supervisor Hunt said for RC &D purposes, no. RC&D would like to pull from the community, but it would give the district a chance to be committed to something if the representative was of this board. This item will be included in the next board meeting agenda.

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

They have been operating under a continued resolution. Congress recently okayed the new farm bill. The president vetoed it. It is not a good farm bill due to increased subsidies because of record crop prices and there is no need for increased subsidies.

Jarrold also reported another Wetlands Park project will be coming. Supervisor Hunt asked if the CDSN will be able to cooperate. Jarrod Edmunds replied that the project was only for the NRCS and the county.

10. Appreciation Plaque for Judy Currier- (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer Szwejbka asked how we should present it. Supervisor Bechtel suggested inviting her to the next meeting. Supervisor Fortier will call Judy Currier to see if she is available for the next meeting.

11. DAQEM Contract – (Discussion/Action Item)

Wilisha Daniels is resigning from her position, thus CDSN cannot comply with DAQEM contract. The contract ends in December. CDSN can meet with Air Quality to discuss the termination of the contract or we can mutually create a new contract as to not terminate it in such short notice. Supervisor Wardlaw asked if the board would be willing to send Jennifer Szwejbka to discuss the terms of the contract or should a board member be the one to meet with DAQEM? Supervisor Bechtel suggested sending Jennifer Szwejbka with a supervisor. Supervisor Wardlaw volunteered to accompany her. Supervisor Fortier also recommended a supervisor go with Jennifer Szwejbka for the discussion as both parties should be present for this contract. **Supervisor Wardlaw motioned to select a representative to accompany Jennifer to discuss the contract and bring back recommendations for the board at the next meeting. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Supervisor Wardlaw volunteered to be the representative. Supervisor Bechtel suggested that depending on the outcome of the discussion with DAQEM the board may want to call a special meeting to take action. Supervisor Fortier asked if we should be safe and post the position. Supervisor Wardlaw suggests that we wait until we look at the Strategic Plan because we may decide to limit the amount of powers for the position. **Supervisor Fortier motioned to post the position if the outcome of the discussion with DAQEM calls to replace the position immediately. Supervisor Wardlaw seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

12. Additional Sate Funds for Conservation Districts- (Discussion/Action Item)

We receive an additional \$8480.14 in additional funds to use before the end of the next fiscal year. We will be putting that in with the next budget we submit to request the additional funds be given to us. **Supervisor Fortier motioned to approve the budget. Supervisor Wardlaw seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

13. Review and approval of Annual Work Plan and Proposed Budget-(Discussion/Action Item)

On the work plan Supervisor Hunt stated that a name was used, Sandi Gotta, when title or position should be shown. Supervisor Fortier suggested removing Sandi Gotta's name entirely from section 3A of the Strategic Work plan. Supervisor Wardlaw pointed out that sustainability was worked into the work plan. Jarrod Edmunds pointed out the additional operational reserve added as a goal in the work plan and that it was a good backup. **Supervisor Wardlaw motioned to approve the annual work plan and proposed budget. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

14. Determine Working Group for Continued work with Strategic Plan- (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Fortier volunteers to participate in the working group. **Supervisor Wardlaw motioned to continue the current working group as is. Supervisor Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

15. CDSN Website Report- Staff(Discussion Item)

Jennifer Szwejbka presented the newly developed website with links to most projects and minutes and agendas posted. Supervisor Fortier suggested creating a generic e-mail address for public inquiries. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested dedicating a page of the website to sustainability since it is part of the Strategic Work Plan. Supervisor Bechtel suggested updating the website at least quarterly for up keep.

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

The CDSN participated in 10 outreach events over the months of March April. Over 5,000 workbooks were given away. There is still no news on Tomi Garden. An e-mail was sent out, but never followed up.

The straw bale structure and demonstration gardens are now complete. There will be a grand opening on May 27th Tuesday at 10 a.m. Supervisor Hunt suggested sending an invitation to Porter's office to show what the CDSN has done for his district. An engraved boulder was created for the gardens, but must be delivered to Moapa. Proclamations were awarded designating April as storm water quality awareness month. Jennifer Szwejbka accepted the proclamation at the city meeting.

Nate Tanenbaum was master of ceremonies for the kick-off event at Mandalay Bay. The first place winner from the poster contest was awarded with a trophy and a field trip for his entire class on the Forever Earth Science boat on Lake Mead. A bookmark will be created for the second place winner with the same design as their poster. Adrienne Rowland installed the first plaque on the Mandalay Bay property. The event ran 10 times on the news and approximately 9 minutes which ends up as a total value of \$15,000 worth of coverage.

The CDSN is going to try to work with master gardeners at the Acacia gardens to match curriculum since the CDSN is not required by the contract to do the teaching.

Supervisor Bechtel asked what the update was with the Wetlands Park contract and Jennifer Szwejbka reported that it needs to be re-written.

17. Supervisor's Report- (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw had nothing to report.

Supervisor Fortier requested Drip Guides to take with him to give away at a symposium he will be attending in Phoenix. Supervisor Hunt mentioned unspent funds coming towards NRCS for the end of the year. The rules governing it require a project that was already approved by the RC&D. We have been given warning because the money has to be spent by the end of November. Supervisor Hunt was going to ask Jennifer Szwejbka to speak with Teri Knight to see what projects can be done, but the funds must be spent by the end of November. Supervisor Hunt suggested possibly Noxious Weeds. Jennifer Szwejbka mentioned Tomi Garden being a possibility to get plant signs or engraved signs.

Supervisor McAllister commended the CDSN on getting things accomplished. Moapa Valley High School became an empowerment school. Pirate's Cove has officially educational farm foundation of Moapa valley, they are a 501c3. The farm bureau is donating \$5,000 and RC Farms is talking about endowment funds for the farm. The ultimate goal is to raise funds to buy the land and the water so the school district does not sell it. The fencing party was successful. The BLM complimented the volunteers on ownership of a project because there has been no vandalism on the fence. Supervisor McAllister would like to show a Desert Conservation Program video of teen and preteen OHB next meeting.

Supervisor Silverstein reported that next week construction site training will take place for storm water quality. He requested more magnets for the employees. There is a stakeholder working group that is involved in a lot of issues with construction and post construction.

Supervisor Bechtel reported that 98% of tortoises picked up by the Desert Conservation Program are pets. Because of that it has been determined that it may not be in the best interest of the Desert Conservation Program to pick up unwanted pets when the funding for the program was meant to mitigate the affects on the wild tortoises. A task force will be convened to address the issues this summer regarding the protection of the tortoises and how it is to be enforced and by whom. Within the Desert Conservation Program staff two women are going on maternity leave and another will be on medical leave so Supervisor Bechtel will be acting Program Administrator during the late summer and early Fall. Because of that she will step down as the county representative. Mark Silverstein will not be the official representative for the county. Someone from Planning may be able to fill the Alternative position. She will be stepping down permanently. Supervisor Wardlaw will act as Chair.

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

Jarrod Edmunds commented that Ron Davidson is the new active conservationist.

Supervisor Bechtel commented that she has spoken with Wilisha about training for the financial report. A possible alternative would be to contact Kim Vilt to do the Financial Report for this fiscal year. Supervisor Wardlaw and Jennifer Szwejbka will get with DAQEM to discuss the contract. Jennifer Szwejbka commented that hiring Kim Vilt part-time to help with the financial report would be our best option. Supervisor Bechtel commented that a special meeting has to be had to determine what to do. Jennifer Szwejbka will look at options. Supervisor Wardlaw suggested scheduling a meeting to discuss this further. A special meeting was scheduled on June 11th at 2:30 p.m.

19. Agenda Items- (Discussion/Action Item)

-OHB Video

-Approve funding for position (Depending on the outcome of the meeting with DAQEM)

20. Meeting Location- (Discussion/Action Item)

The next board meeting will take place at the CDSN Office.

21. Adjournment- (Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw motioned to adjourn. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Sec. /Treasurer

Date