



MINUTES

Conservation District of Southern Nevada

Conservation District- 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400, Conference Room

May 12, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jon Wardlaw, Chair
Supervisor Joe Fortier, Vice-Chair
Supervisor Mark Silverstein, Clark County Rep.
Supervisor Chris Magee, Incorporated Cities Rep.
Supervisor John Hunt
Supervisor Elise McAllister
Jennifer Clifford, District Coordinator

Absent:

Supervisor Beth Hewitt, Treas. /Secretary

OPEN MEETING

Supervisor Wardlaw called the meeting to order at 1:42 P.M.

Consent Agenda: (Action item)

Supervisor Silverstein moved to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor McAllister seconds and the motion carries.

Business Agenda:

1. Financial Report - (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer informed the Board that no penalty is assessed for reducing the amount of dues paid to NVACD and therefore a reduced payment was submitted along with a letter of explanation. A PayPal account was created for CDSN donations. Supervisor Wardlaw donated \$50 to test the donate button that was added to the CDSN website.

Discussion occurred regarding the pros and cons of sponsoring the High Desert RC&D. Supervisor **Silverstein motioned to continue to fund RC&D through payment of annual dues in the amount of \$200. Supervisor Hunt seconded the motion and the motion passed.**

2. Financial Working Group - (Discussion/Action Item)

A fundraising ideas priority list was created by working group and discussed by the Board. The Board was supportive of the idea of creating a specialty license plate for environmental education which can generate approximately \$20,000 per year for CDSN. **The working group will continue to meet to discuss and implement fundraising initiatives.**

3. Approve Proposed Budget and Annual Work Plan - (Discussion/Action Item)

New information in the Work Plan from FY09/10 include maintaining a Facebook page, hosting fundraising events and plant sales, utilizing interns and volunteers, and updates to the project ideas list. The Financial Working Group reviewed the draft before it was presented to the Board for approval. **Supervisor Fortier motioned to approve Annual Work Plan and Budget. Supervisor Magee seconded and the motion passed.**

4. Staff Report – Jennifer Clifford (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer reported that she has changed her last name post marriage to Clifford. Email addresses were set up for staff through Network Solutions. New email addresses will have cdsn.org endings.

a) **Current Projects Update:**

Outreach Events: Two events were attended the UNLV Earth Day and Bellagio B Green Fair.

Storm drain marking project: All plaques have been installed and have been seen around the valley by several supervisors. Jydstrup Elementary School's fifth grade class is the 3rd Annual Stormwater Pollution Poster Contest winning class and will attend the field trip on Forever Earth March 18th.

Mt. Charleston License Plate Grant Program: Jennifer calculated that 159.5 hours or \$4,988.70 will be spent on project administration. CDSN will net \$515.93 from administration funds between both round one and two. The final contract is ready for signature for the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Wilderness Stewardship Project. **Supervisor Fortier motioned to sign the Mt. Charleston funding agreement. Supervisor McAllister seconded and the motion passed.**

b) **Potential grants and projects:**

No news.

c) **Assessment & Recommendation for Storage Unit:**

Jennifer contacted the Deputy Director at CC Library District and delivered composting and native flora/fauna poster. Also put an article in the CCSD Hotline for free posters for teachers. Six teachers requested posters. Supervisor Hewitt picked-up the outdoor items from the storage unit.

5. CDSN Policy Changes - (Discussion/Action Item)

a) **Document Retention Policy**

The draft Document Retention Policy will be emailed to the Board for feedback. It will be added to the July agenda for a vote of approval. **No action taken.**

b) **Employee Manual Policy Changes**

Supervisor Wardlaw will work with Jennifer to review and make recommendations on employee manual. The agenda item will remain on the agenda for the July meeting. **No action taken.**

6. Spring Plant Sale Report – (Discussion/Action Item)

A document with tables and graphs showing number of plants sold and profit was included in the meeting packet. At the April plant sale 299 plants were sold for a CDSN profit of \$968.00. A raffle for a grouping of plants raised \$65.00. Staff will look at community events happening in September and October to determine best possible dates for fall plant sales. **No action taken.**

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

Jarrod was not in attendance due to an accident. CDSN hopes Jarrod has a speedy recovery. Agenda item will be carried to next meeting. Supervisor Wardlaw noted that CDSN is in full compliance with Nevada State and NRS regarding Board diversity and civil rights. **No action taken.**

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

Supervisor Fortier will be attending a Conservation Commission meeting on June 10th. Supervisor Hunt asked if the Commission is able to apply for grants. Supervisor Fortier explained that the Commission has all the same abilities as the Conservation Districts including the right to regulate.

Supervisor Hunt thanked the Board for allowing him to remain serving for the RC&D Board and will continue attending meetings.

Supervisor Silverstein believes the Dept of Aviation will submit an agenda item to the Commissioners meeting to remain on the CDSN Board. He has also been discussing options for an alternate and has suggested that someone from DAQEM be the alternate. The Next Light EIS report is open for commenting.

Supervisor McAllister reported that the Moapa Farm & Educational Farm Foundation has received equipment and signage for selling produce to residents. The Farm Foundation board is still discussing partnering with CDSN to administer grants and manage projects for the group. PIC is working with BLM on a cleanup and tamarisk removal in Mesquite has been successful but phragmites has now grown in. Supervisor McAllister would like to work on a grant to GPS weeds with PIC and CDSN.

Supervisor Magee said he will look into fundraising options with show tickets donated from MGM Mirage. The Bellagio B Green Fair had 2,500 attendees and thanked Jennifer for attending.

Supervisor Wardlaw mentioned that the board supervisors may need to become more active in fundraising activities.

No Action Taken.

9. Open Discussion and Public Comment – (Discussion Only)*

Supervisor Fortier mentioned that NRCS is in discussion about funding extra positions to assist the State Conservation Commission.

10. Agenda Items – (Discussion/Action Item)

- Approve Draft Financial Report
- Fall Plant Sale Logistics
- CDSN Policy Changes & Document Retention Policy
- Financial Working Group Report
- NRCS – Board Diversity & Office space and storage
- Board Supervisor Appointments & Elections Logistics
- Funding Priority List

Any other agenda items can be emailed to Jennifer prior to next meeting.

11. Meeting Location- (Discussion/Action Item)

Next meeting will be on July 14th at 1:30pm at CDSN.

12. Adjournment - (Action Item)

Supervisor Fortier motioned to adjourn. Supervisor McAllister second the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tomica Hewitt, Sec. /Treasurer

Date