



Conservation District of Southern Nevada
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MINUTES
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Board Meeting
Conservation District of Southern Nevada – 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400
November 14, 2007 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary
Supervisor Dirick Van Gorp
Supervisor Beth Hewitt
Supervisor Elise McAllister
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw
Alt. Supervisor Mark Silverstein
Teri Knight (RC&D)
Jarrod Edmunds (NRCS)

Joseph Fortier
Brenda Williams (DAQEM)
Wilisha Daniels
Jennifer Szwejbka
Jennifer Espinosa

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 November 2007 Agenda
3. Approval of September 2007 Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills
6. Introductions

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

Supervisor Wardlaw moved to amend the September minutes and approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded, the motion passed.

Business Agenda:

7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Wardlaw questions how we are doing currently with our budget. Wilisha Daniels states that we are fine and we have received \$10,000 from the City of North Las Vegas after a second request. Wilisha also mentions that reimbursements from DAQEM will aid in the budget amount. Jennifer Szwejbka mentions that we have received \$54,500 from the Clark County community grant and that we usually receive \$60,000 although no mention was made by Clark County as to why we received less this year. Supervisor Wardlaw motioned to approve the financial report. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded, the motion passed.

8. Farm Bill Letter Follow-up- (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer Szwejbka reported that Commissioner Woodbury was the only commissioner that CDSN received a response from. Supervisor Hunt and Supervisor Wardlaw requested that CDSN's efforts to contact the County Commissioners via letter to encourage their communication to the legislative delegation regarding NRCS funding be noted in the minutes in order to notify the NvACD of our support of the conservation movement. Jarrod Edmunds expressed appreciation for the support of CDSN.

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

Jarrold Edmunds attended the NvACD conference. Pam Wilcox announced her retirement to take place by the end of June next year. Pam also announced there will be 5% budget cuts in all state budgets. NACD website has the House & Senate versions of the farm bill which they are trying to pass by the end of December. NRCS Water Quality grant could not be moved to Wetlands Park. Remaining \$2400 is to be spent at Valley of Fire. Request for another extension was sent by CDSN. NRCS is on a continuing resolution. The budget pools are smaller therefore competition will be high. Jarrod mentioned a new Fire Pre-suppression fund to practice fire prevention. Mostly used for local private use and there will be more funding once the farm bill is passed. Bill Elder inquired with Jarrod regarding a long range plan for CDSN. According to the NRCS MOU, CDSN should have a long range plan to outline the resource concerns of Southern Nevada along with defining funding sources and project plans to address those concerns.

10. NRCS Vehicle Usage –(Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt spoke to Bill Elder and Richard Vigil at the NvACD meeting. He will be working on the vehicle usage guidelines from the RC&D standpoint. Allowance to ride in vehicles is in limbo. Situations that would warrant riding in NRCS vehicles would have to fall outside of the normal range of duties.

11. NvACD Conference Follow-up – (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor's Hunt and Van Gorp attended the NvACD conference in Winnemucca. Supervisor Hunt gave nominations for the State Conservation Commission. The current representative is Judy Currier and Joe Fortier was nominated as a second representative. Supervisor Hunt spoke with Olin Sims, NACD president, about the Farm Bill. Sims reminded Supervisor Hunt that it is about agriculture, and the only reason it is reviewed by the NACD is to review the programs for food stamps and school lunches. Clark County receives less than 1/10 of 1% revenue from agriculture. Three resolutions were discussed at the conference; education about closing cattle gates, response from federal government on fires, and MOU between NvACD and environmental groups. CDSN received the District of the Year award. Supervisor McAllister moved to commend staff of great job in receiving District of the Year award, Supervisor Wardlaw seconds, and motion passed.

12. Tomi Garden @ Acacia – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hewitt spoke about the plans for the Tomi Garden. She is focusing on tree species not usually seen in parks. The plant list has been approved by Henderson Superintendent of Parks, Dominick Casey. Most of the plants are available at CSN Desert Garden Center. Joe Fortier suggested not using Eucalyptus because of the leaf litter. RC&D monies must be spent on Tomi Garden by December 1st. Staff will need to consult Henderson to find out where existing irrigation is in the Tomi Garden area. Joe Fortier will contact contractors that may be able to complete work. Teri Knight asks if we will hold a ground breaking ceremony at the gardens with Parks & Recreation.

13. Staff Report- Wilisha Daniels (Discussion/Action Item)

Reintroduction of Brenda Williams, DAQEM Public Information Officer. Jennifer Szwejbka holds most administrative duties at CDSN; Wilisha Daniels is working part of the work week at the County and continues to perform the financial duties at CDSN. First drafts of 2008 calendars are prepared for printing; 25,000 copies will be sent to government agencies, media, and the public. Galleria Mall outreach event (Hallow Green & Safe-streets Trick-o-Treating) was successful. Over \$300 was raised for Asthma walk. Wilisha's also working on DAQEM outreach program policy to be put in place; currently revamping student outreach program 'DAQEM JUST FOR KIDS'. Kimberly Vilt's last day with CDSN will be November 30, 2007. She is currently working on editing the Drip Guide brochure. Jennifer Szwejbka reported the straw bale structure plastering has been completed and will also be painted by Southwest Homes contractors. Supervisor Hunt asks if the students can participate by selecting a color for the structure. Jennifer Szwejbka replies that there were too many delays, schedule conflicts, and communication problems to include the students, but students have taken the initiative to participate in other ways. Moapa Gardens is still incomplete. Once the straw bale structure is complete the garden can be planted approximately mid March. Local farmers suggest end of February. Supervisor McAllister reported that Moapa principal was pleased with progress of the projects at the farm and Jennifer's work

towards implementing the projects. Supervisor Silverstein commends Jennifer Szejbka on the storm drain marking project for pushing it along and finally making it happen.

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

Supervisor Van Gorp thanks Supervisor Hewitt and Joe Fortier for their work on the Tomi Garden. Supervisor Wardlaw mentions a major slowing in population growth. During the first quarter of 2009 there will be 50,000 new jobs pending. Supervisor Currier submitted a letter of resignation, but wants to continue working on state level. She would like the board to consider Joe Fortier for replacement and she would also like to thank everyone. Supervisor McAllister mentioned that Moapa Principal would like to make Friends of Pirates Cove a non-profit to aid the farm. Asking members to commit for 4 years, 6-10 people have made a commitment. A plaque for Southwest Homes will be created by the High School for their help with the straw bale structure. Principal wants other schools to get involved with the farm. School Farm is growing hydroponics veggies in the greenhouse and currently working on insurance to sell crops to nearby grocery stores and restaurants. Partners in Conservation hired a new part-time employee focusing on Bunkerville and clean up along Virgin River. Current projects include Teacher's Activity Guide, Calendar contest, Mojave Max, teen OHV video. Supervisor Hewitt mentions the first Saturday event on December 8th. Contact Cheryl Waits for booth information at 515-5050. Supervisor Hunt mentions RC&D meeting on November 28th at 11:00 a.m. He is looking for people that will serve the board, elections are in January. Has to be on sponsored list and has to be an entity.

15. Open Discussion and Public Comment (Discussion Only)*

Joe Fortier mentions that 2 or 3 other water districts are interested in the Drip guide along with David Riggleman. Jarrod Edmunds mentions taking water from Northern Nevada.

16. Next Meeting Date – (Discussion Only)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2008 at 1:30pm at the Government Center.

17. Agenda Items (Discussion/Action Item)

- Rotation of meeting location
- Board Vacancy
- Thank you letter written to board of county commissioners
- Appreciation plaque for Judy
- Review long range plan
- Tomi Garden Follow-up
- NACD conference in Reno

18. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer

Date