



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
Board Meeting
Conservation District of Southern Nevada – 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400
September 19, 2007 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Jodi Bechtel, Chair	Wilisha Daniels
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary	Jennifer Szwejbka
Supervisor Dirick Van Gorp	John Jeffredo
Supervisor Judy Currier	
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 1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Currier moved to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Hunt seconded, the motion passed.

Business Agenda:

7. Financial Report (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Currier moved to approve the financial report from May 16 – July 18. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded. The motion passed. The financial report from July 19 – September 19 is not available for review because the server was down, this will be reviewed at the November 14th board meeting.

8. Annual Report (Discussion/Action Item)

A comment was made that the photos were unclear in the annual report. Supervisor Currier moved to approve the annual report. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded. The motion passed.

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

No report. Jarrod was out of town.

10. Review NRCS Civil Rights Policy – John Jeffredo (Discussion/Action Item)

John Jeffredo discussed the Partners and Recipients Responsibilities NRCS General Manual 230 Part 405 as it pertains to representation on boards, councils, and committees. Copies of GM 230 Part 405 along with the Board Diversity handout were provided in the meeting packet. Training is offered to Conservation District's for free as long as additional costs are not incurred. NRCS had been reviewed and had no record of going over diversity with CDSN board. They have to review diversity policies with all partners. Supervisor Hunt spoke with Bill Elder on behalf of CDSN during the NRCS review.

11. NvACD Conference – (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt asked John if NRCS will be going to NvACD conference for 2007. Jarrod Edmunds will get back to CDSN if they are to attend. CDSN's budget will allow for 2 persons to go to NvACD conference. Two staff or one staff and one board member. Supervisor Hunt interested in going only if driving. Supervisor Van Gorp moved to send two people. Supervisor Hunt seconded. Supervisor Bechtel suggested comparing cost for driving versus flying. An e-mail will be sent to the board to see interest. Supervisor Hunt or Supervisor Currier will be voting delegate for the NvACD conference.

12. Farm Bill Update – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer Szwejbka to follow up to see if they acted on letter we sent.

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

RC&D money will be approved September 20th for the Tomi Garden. Money will have to be used by December. Suggestions for planting include; Eagle Scout Project, city of Henderson sending postcards to neighborhood around Acacia Park to have volunteer planting, girl/boy scouts, master gardeners or City of Henderson staff. Jennifer Szwejbka will contact the board through e-mail for updates.

14. OMB Circulars A87 and A102– Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt called Kelly McGowan at the state office about audits. Criteria for audits are wanted. Kelly said it was the Conservation District's responsibility to be in compliance. Supervisor Bechtel asked why we need guidelines from the state, when we can perform our own audit. Audits are costly and can run up to a couple thousand dollars. Supervisor Currier said we should worry about an audit when it comes close to having to do them because the cost of an audit will be more than the amount we would have to pay in penalties from the audit. She also clarified that the state office is only a liaison between the Commission and the Conservation Districts, the state answers to the Commission. Supervisor Silverstein suggested contacting other Districts about audits and even out of state districts. It was also suggested that we document the inquiry to the state office about audits.

15. CDSN Staffing (Discussion/Action Item)

Jennifer prepared a staffing recommendation with Wilisha and Kim for the board to consider. Supervisor Currier presented the recommendation to the board supervisors. Supervisor Bechtel would like to see an executive position created for a District Manager. Supervisor Currier agreed but does not believe CDSN has the resources for such a position at this time. Supervisor Hunt would also like to see a District Manager that can keep a pulse on the needs of the community. Supervisor Van Gorp believes we need to work with the budget we have now and plan for such a position. Supervisor Silverstein felt that the framework for such a position needs to be built up first. Supervisor Bechtel supports the will of the board. Supervisor Hunt motioned to approve staffing recommendation with the minor changes discussed. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded the motion. The motion passed. Staff will make any appropriate changes and recruit and hire an intern.

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

Wilisha has moved over to the Government Center three days per week working with Brenda Williams, DAQEM's new public information officer. They are working on a new outreach program with an overall air quality and environmental message. Also, they will be revamping the student outreach program and launching a new teacher workshop next spring. Wilisha is now the outreach coordinator and will be in charge of all outreach items and events. Wilisha is designing an outreach policy that will include training and she is developing an outreach team to work the events. Back to School Fair, Cultural Fair, and the Health and Beauty Fair were attended this summer/fall. Upcoming events include the Galleria mall's Halloween event. For the calendar poster contest project 25,000 calendars will be printed this year.

Jennifer combined the composting and weeds workshops for Acacia gardens into a Backyard Conservation class. Jarrod ordered the Backyard Conservation booklet that NRCS has available for the workshop. Supervisor Currier suggested writing a grant for a second edition of the Backyard Conservation booklet that CDSN created. CDSN will participate in a first annual event at Acacia Gardens. Construction at the straw bale structure has started up again now that school is back in session. Southwest Homes will be donating electrical materials, plastering supplies and services, and will paint the

structure. The grand opening for the gardens and straw bale structure will be held in the spring of 08'. A draft of the stormwater workbook for the inlet marking project was included in the supervisor's packet for review. CDSN will also be attending Hallowgreen and Santa's arrival at the Galleria mall with a recycled CD ornament activity for promoting Christmas Tree Recycling.

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

Supervisor Van Gorp had nothing to report.

Supervisor Hunt reported that the RC&D board will be voting on the monies for the Tomi Garden September 20th at their board meeting. He also reported that the National Conservation Districts conference is in Sparks, Nevada.

Supervisor Currier reported that Pam Wilcox is retiring as the director of state lands and the acting director of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts. The Commission is advocating a replacement director be hired along with additional staff. The Commission consulted the State Attorney General for the distribution of the additional funds for the Conservation Districts. The Commission wants to tie in a bill draft that allows leniency for determining good standing for Conservation Districts. Supervisor Hunt asked if the money each CD gets from the state has increased. Supervisor Currier explained that the Commission Chair ran for the State Assembly and won therefore resigning from the Commission. He was able to secure an additional \$150,000 for the Districts that will hopefully get renewed, but is currently a one time increase. When the Commission meets again they'll determine what CD's qualify for the additional monies and a separate check will be sent.

Supervisor Bechtel reported that the Desert Conservation Program moved to a new building on Rancho & I-95. Their mailing address remains the same. DAQEM has been split up into divisions because of growth. Supervisor Bechtel also reported that there may be potential work for CDSN to get involved with the Desert Conservation Program's tortoise program. The County has realized issues with the pet tortoise population in the Valley. They pick up ~1,400 tortoises per year. They are considering creating a bill draft to limit the number of pet tortoises per household and making it illegal to breed them. The pet tortoises cannot be counted towards the recovery of the species and it is becoming a drain on resources. A public information campaign needs to be created to inform residents that a booming pet tortoise population is straining the County's ability to recover the threatened wild tortoise population. CDSN could possibly get involved in creating a public information campaign.

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

Alternate Supervisor Silverstein gave a strategic plan to Moapa Valley High School Principal Grant Hanevold for Moapa Valley Farm. He also suggested connecting Don Curry and the Global Lab program with the farm to have students do ecological studies.

18. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2007 at 1:30 at the Government Center. Supervisor Bechtel will reserve room.

19. Agenda Items (Discussion/ Action Item)

- Farm Bill
- NvACD Conference

20. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Currier made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Van Gorp seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Sec./Treasurer

Date