



**MINUTES**  
**Conservation District of Southern Nevada**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Conservation District- 5820 S. Pecos Road A-400, Conference Room**  
**September 17, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Supervisor Joseph Fortier, Chair  
Supervisor Jon Wardlaw, Vice Chair  
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas. /Secretary  
Supervisor Elise McAllister  
Supervisor Mark Silverstein

Supervisor Elizabeth Tomica Hewitt  
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 September 2008 Agenda
3. Approval of July 2008 Meeting Minutes.
4. Correspondence.
5. Pay bills
6. Introductions.

**Supervisor Fortier called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.**

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

**Business Agenda:**

**7. Financial Report- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jennifer Szwejbka reported that supervisor hours for the board meetings cannot be counted as match and were removed from the annual work plan. Hours for the strategic planning meetings were added and hours from the RC&D meetings are still there. It was brought to the District's attention from Sandi that we did not pay NvACD 2008 dues because no invoice was ever received. A new invoice was sent and was paid in July so it will be reported on the FY0809 financial report. A compost bin was sold for \$50.00. Supervisor Fortier inquired about the monies received from cities and the county. Jennifer Szwejbka reported that \$10,000 was received from both the City of Henderson and North Las Vegas. Also, we will receive \$43,600 from the Clark County Outside Agency grant. \$70,000 was requested from the County, but each year the amount received is being reduced. Supervisor Wardlaw inquired as to how we were doing on the budget overall. Jennifer Szwejbka reported that no money is available for travel or conferences. Salaries are taking up the bulk of the budget. There is no cushion. **Supervisor Wardlaw motioned to approve the financial report. Supervisor Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**8. Supervisor Term Limits - (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor term limits were questioned at the State Commission meeting and county DA Cliff Jeffers was consulted. Cliff interprets the provision as any elected board member is limited to serving twelve years. The board reviewed the correspondence with Cliff and each supervisor's years of service. John Hunt has served 12 years after the current calendar year everyone else is below the limit. Jennifer S. will further consult with Sandi Gotta at the state office and report back at the next meeting. No action was taken.

**9. Approve Elections set-up – (Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Wardlaw and Supervisor Hewitt are up for election. Both are interested in being re-elected. Dirick Van Gorp submitted a resignation. A replacement will need to be found since he was the appointed cities representative. Supervisor Wardlaw will contact the City of Henderson and the City of North Las Vegas for recommendations for a new cities representative. Supervisor Fortier recommended that Lisa Ortega with the City of Henderson may be interested. Elections will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center at 1 p.m. in the Pueblo Room. Balloting will close at 2 p.m. when the regular board meeting will commence. **Supervisor Wardlaw moved to approve elections set-up. Supervisor Hewitt seconds the motion. The motion passed.**

**10. Appoint Second RC&D Representative - (Discussion/Action Item)**

No volunteers. Carry over to next agenda.

**11. NvACD Conference – (Discussion/Action Item)**

The Conference will take place October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cactus Pete's Resort and Casino in Jackpot, Nevada. No funds are available to attend. No action was needed. They are signing an MOU between the Nevada Conservation League and the NvACD at this meeting.

**12. Review of Dean Witter Account- (Discussion/Action Item)**

The original terms of the mitigation funds have been met, including CDSN receiving \$22,500 for administration. The chronology of the Dean Witter Account included in the meeting packet, show that the last action on the account was made in 2006 when Clark County Wetlands Park (CCWP) requested funds for a habitat enhancement project at the Park. Prior to the withdrawal in 2006 correspondence from CC exist requesting that the remaining funds be put into the Clark County In-lieu of Fee Program. The Army Corp of Engineers also confirmed that the remaining funds could be transferred into a Clark County in lieu of fee account for the CCWP. Supervisor Hunt requested that staff check the meeting minutes that took place around the time the CCWP requested the funds. Supervisor Wardlaw also suggested contacting Bruce Sillitoe with CCWP regarding the in-lieu of fee program.

**13. Contracts-(Discussion/Action Item)**

Supervisor Fortier suggested that the District come up with a policy, like a dollar value limit where only two supervisors need to approve a project. Supervisor Hunt recommended finding out from Sandi at the State office about limits on contract approval if it has to be the majority of the board to approve. Supervisor Fortier wanted to ensure that staff gets contracts approved before moving on them.

**14. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Jarrod Edmunds (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jarrod Edmunds is in Reno training. Jennifer Szwejbka informed the board that the NRCS had nothing to report.

**15. Tomi Garden Update- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jennifer Espinosa reported that she met with Teri Knight and Supervisor Hewitt at Tomi's Garden last Monday to discuss replacement plants for the ones damaged. A final list has not yet been compiled. Teri Knight spoke with Pete Duncombe at the Springs Preserve about the possibility of using original items from Tomi's Garden at the Desert Demonstration Garden in the new garden at Acacia. Jarrod Edmunds created an aerial map of the garden which Teri will use to create a plan for the garden. Cliff with the City of Henderson will install the plants and irrigation. The trees and plants will be delivered in phases to avoid overwhelming Cliff with the labor. Supervisor Fortier mentioned that the Southern Nevada Arborists Group would be willing to help with the labor if necessary.

**16. Approval of Annual Report- (Discussion/Action Item)**

The suggested edits were implemented and the final was provided to the board for approval.

**Supervisor Wardlaw motions to approve the annual report. Supervisor McAllister seconds the motion. The motion passed.**

**17. Thank you letter for Jodi Bechtel- (Discussion/Action Item)**

Jennifer Szwejbka reported that the thank you letter for Jodi is prepared and if approved can be signed and mailed out today. A letter for Dirick Van Gorp will also be drafted. No motion was needed.

**18. Staff Report- Jennifer Szwejbka (Discussion Item)**

Staff attended the Clark County School District Teacher orientation. The District will also partner with Rebel Recycling and the Christmas Tree Recycling Committee for Home Depot National Energy Events scheduled for every Saturday for the month of October. The District will also participate in the Galleria Malls Santa's Arrival with the CD ornament activity to promote Christmas Tree Recycling.

The DAQEM contract was cancelled and final paperwork was received. CDSN did not receive the Tortoise Hotline & Pickup contract with the county.

Staff has submitted to the state the District's 08/09 Work Plan and 07/08 Draft Financial Report.

Staff put out a Request for Bids for a contractor to install the City of Las Vegas' storm drain plaques. All bids came in too high, therefore it was agreed that the District will give the City of Las Vegas their initial investment of \$10,000 back and they will perform their own installations. The remaining funds can be used for printing more workbooks and conducting the poster contest with field trip for another year. Jennifer Szwejbka presented at the Lake Mead Water Quality Forum on the storm drain marking program.

EPA did an article on the straw bale structure in Moapa. The brochures still need to be printed for the demo gardens.

The District also attended two conferences; The National Clean Energy Summit and the UNLV Renewable Energy Symposium.

**19. Supervisor's Report- (Discussion Item)**

Supervisor Silverstein reported that there is a Water Smart Conference and the District may be able to get in for free with the help of SNWA. Supervisor Silverstein also reported that the City of Las Vegas adopted a new storm water ordinance to allow inspectors to go onsite at construction sites to assess the potential of polluting storm water if a precipitation event were to occur. The ordinance will allow the county to have a more proactive role in this area of work.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he will be attending the next RC&D meeting. Funding for Tomi's Garden was approved from RC&D. Staff needs to start thinking about items that might require funding to bring them to the meetings. Supervisor Hunt can bring ideas for projects to RC&D.

Supervisor McAllister brought flyers about the National Public Lands Day in Lincoln County. They have hikes, ATV rides, horseback rides and dinner.

Moapa Valley High School became an Empowerment School. MGM stepped forward with \$50 million to provide \$600 a student. The Bellagio is adopting the Moapa Valley Farm and High School with another \$50,000 for them. The Farm Foundation is 501(c)3 nonprofit. Nevada Farm Bureau donated \$5,000 to the Farm Foundation the day they became nonprofit. The Pig Farm may also donate money to the Farm Foundation.

Clark County received the money from SNPLMA for trails study project in Moapa Valley and Searchlight.

Supervisor Wardlaw said the District may have an opportunity with the SNRPC Sustainability Committee. There may be funding for an agency to administer project for planning. The District should make it a goal to administer any program created by the committee. Supervisor Hunt asked if an outline could be drawn up of questions we can ask our customers.

Supervisor Hewitt reported that the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) is restructuring. On October 30<sup>th</sup> the Desert Garden Center will be closed to the public. The agreement for the Nursery land stipulates that they must keep it a nursery and disabled adults are able to work there.

Supervisor Fortier had nothing to report.

**20. Idea Generating/Brainstorming Session- (Discussion Item)**

Supervisor Fortier said that the EPA is concerned about the potential of water containing harmful contaminants, therefore the Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) is making paved channels. Constructed mini wetlands could be a project on continual flow wash channels. Supervisor Silverstein mentioned that there is monitoring on Springs Preserve property of the Las Vegas Wash and it's inconclusive as to the benefit of constructed wetlands.

Supervisor Wardlaw said that the CDSN could sponsor solar generator or wind turbine project. The District can be the facilitators and find customers. Photovoltaic panels are currently being put on CCSD roofs. Nevada Power is paying the School District for the space.

Other possible projects include; assist conversion of septic systems to sewers, trails, pheral cats, energy efficiency, or alternative forms of energy. Non-point source pollution could remain a focus for the district. Staff will work on creating a contact at NV Power to discuss ways for the district to get involved with their programs. Staff will generate a list of brainstorming ideas to email to the board and this item will be placed on the next agenda to go into further detail.

**21. Open Discussion and Public Comment- (Discussion Only)\***

Supervisor Fortier mentioned that a group from Southern California liked the Drip Guide and they want to revamp it for their area.

**22. Agenda Items – (Discussion/Action Item)**

- Second RC&D Representative
- Elections
- Review Project Ideas
- Dean Witter
- Contracts
- Cities Appointment
- County Appointment
- Meeting location

**23. Meeting Location**

Due to elections the meeting will be at the county government building.

**24. Adjournment**

**Supervisor Wardlaw moved to adjourn. Supervisor McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Hunt, Sec. /Treasurer

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Date