



MINUTES
Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Monthly Board Meeting
Conservation District of Southern Nevada Office – 5820 S. Pecos Rd. Bldg A-400
December 15, 2004 – 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Supervisor Judy Currier, Chair	Elyse Benson, NRCS
Supervisor John Hunt, Treas./Secretary	Wilisha Daniels
Supervisor Joseph Fortier	Gretchen Huie
Supervisor Christina Gibson	

Supervisor Currier called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

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 of December 2004 Agenda
3. Approval of November 2004 Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Pay Bills

Supervisor Fortier made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Business Agenda:

6. Financial Report (Discussion & Action Item)

Supervisor Fortier asked about monies received in 2004 from other municipalities. Staff reported that we had received funding from North Las Vegas, BOR, and Clark County. Supervisor Currier stated that she would send an invoice to City of Henderson. Supervisor Fortier made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Supervisor Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Elyse Benson reported EQUIP sign ups will soon be closing. She stated an outreach committee has been formed with the mission to reach landowners who have not been reached in the past. Elyse also reported that the NRCS State Office has expressed interest in hiring a part-time Weed Coordinator Assistant. The Clark County CWMA has written a letter to the State Office stating the Clark County CWMA would be interested in working with and housing this individual. Elyse stated the Area Conservationist is retiring and there is currently some uncertainty about who will assume responsibilities, as well as how task will be assigned to the new position. Additionally, a new State Director will soon be appointed.

8. *Las Vegas Valley Community Gardens – Supervisor Wardlaw (Discussion/Action Item)*

Staff reported that Supervisor Wardlaw was interested in developing a community garden in Las Vegas. He suggested that staff begin discussions with the appropriate stake holders to possibly convert turf areas at Sunset Park, to xeriscape. Supervisor Fortier suggested that Desert Breeze would be another location to consider. Supervisor Currier stated that the item be added to next months agenda.

9. *Weeds Hotline – Gretchen Huie (Discussion/Action Item)*

Gretchen Huie reported a request from the NRCS State Office had been made to develop a weed hotline in Clark County. Gretchen asked the Board if they would support a weed hotline that was based out of the CDSN Office. Supervisor Hunt stated that this could be a problem due to the lack of a strong support system of resident experts. Supervisor Hunt stated that CDSN needs to be prepared to respond to an influx of calls received from the hotline. Supervisor Hunt also suggested that a database of names be developed in order to handle the incoming calls. Supervisor Currier suggested the hotline be established so that all calls go directly to a voice mail. Gretchen agreed to develop a list of resident experts that can be used to help with incoming inquires. Supervisor Gibson stated she supported the idea of using a main line or recording to accept incoming calls. Supervisor Gibson also stated that although she understood the aforementioned concerns, she believes that establishing the phone line is essential to weed awareness and CWMA's mission. Furthermore, she stated that a survey should be developed to assist in describing the caller profile. Supervisor Gibson made a motion to support the weeds hotline being housed in the CDSN Office with an outline of the project and appropriate resources. Supervisor Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10. *Acacia Demonstration Gardens Grand Opening Report (Discussion/Action Item)*

Supervisor Currier reported that the opening was a great success. Supervisor Hunt also passed around pictures of the opening to the Board. Supervisor Currier also stated plans are being made to install the CDSN dedication plaque in Tomi's garden.

11. *Rural Planning & Natural Resource Conference – Supervisor Hunt (Discussion/Action Item)*

Supervisor Hunt stated he would like to attend the Rural Planning and Natural Resources Conference in Tonopah. Supervisor Gibson made a motion to send Supervisor Hunt to the Conference on January 19th-21st. Supervisor Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12. *Staff Report – Wilisha Daniels (Discussion/Action Item)*

Wilisha Daniels reported that calendars are now in print. Wilisha recently met with the school district and they decided to send 40 calendars to all 186 elementary schools in the District; which will total 8,000 calendars. The remaining 2,000 will be distributed by CDSN and partnering agencies. Wilisha also reported she had completed the strategic plan for the student outreach program with DAEQM. Additionally, a task force of teachers will be created to assist with the program. Wilisha reported that meetings with the City of Henderson had been held and the agencies are working to develop workshops for the gardens. Gretchen Huie reported that meetings had been organized and held with stake holders in the straw bale project, and the project was moving forward. She reported that a master plan should be ready to present in February 2005. Gretchen also reported that a workshop for CWMA was held with Frontier Girl Scouts. Additionally, Gretchen stated that a newsletter is being created for the CWMA. She also stated that the CWMA had begun work with Silverado High School to develop an informational video on invasive weed species. Supervisor Currier suggested that Gretchen contact Mike McCartney and Mitch Fox for support on this project. Supervisor Gibson agreed that Gretchen should contact Channel 10 for support.

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

Supervisor Currier presented Supervisor Fortier with a plaque of appreciation for his hard work and dedication to CDSN over the years.

Supervisor Gibson reported that the County had appointed Jodi Bechtel as the new County representative for the Board beginning January 2005. Supervisor Gibson will continue to serve on the Board as the Alternate County Representative.

Supervisor Hunt reported that he attended the RC&D and MSHCP meetings. He also asked if meetings could be used as in-kind match for grants. Elyse stated that board members can record meeting hours through the Earth Team Volunteer Program. Supervisor Currier agreed that the meeting hours could be tracked through the Earth Team Volunteer Program. Supervisor Hunt also made a motion to move the meeting date from January 19th to January 12th at 2:30 p.m. Supervisor Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Supervisor Fortier reported he met with Kim about the drip irrigation brochures, and will continue working with her in the future. He also stated that there was no change on the tree study, and he will continue to investigate other funding resources. Supervisor Fortier stated he will also assist the board with the BMPs as needed.

*14. Open Discussion (Discussion Only)**

No public comments.

15. Next Meeting Date (Discussion Only)

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2005 at the CDSN office.

16. Agenda Items (Discussion/Agenda Item)

The Las Vegas Valley Community Gardens will be reviewed at the next meeting. Supervisor Hunt requested that the NACD conference be added to the January agenda.

17. Adjournment (Action Item)

Supervisor Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hunt, Secretary/Treasurer

Date