



## Washoe-Storey Conservation District

Bret Tyler, Chairman  
Jim Shaffer, Treasurer  
Kathy Canfield, Storey Co. App.  
Jeanne Herman, Washoe Co. App.

### **MEETING MINUTES 09/11/23**

The Washoe-Storey Conservation District held a Public Meeting on

**Monday September 11, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.**

**The meeting was held online and in person at the**

**Nevada Department of Agriculture 405 21st St, Sparks, NV 89431**

to participate online please RSVP to [mjenkins@dcnr.nv.gov](mailto:mjenkins@dcnr.nv.gov) or

use the following link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODk2NWJhMDItZTEwYy00NTg1LTg4ZmMtZDRiZmVhZDI1OWRh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228e9fe95-2573-49dc-b9cf-955deb738bcb%22%7d)

[join/19%3ameeting\\_ODk2NWJhMDItZTEwYy00NTg1LTg4ZmMtZDRiZmVhZDI1OWRh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228e9fe95-2573-49dc-b9cf-955deb738bcb%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODk2NWJhMDItZTEwYy00NTg1LTg4ZmMtZDRiZmVhZDI1OWRh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228e9fe95-2573-49dc-b9cf-955deb738bcb%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 242 479 928 388

Passcode: HwkuYh

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Phone Conference ID: 704 124 925#

The Conservation District will consider and act on the following items unless otherwise noted:

#### **I. Call to Order @ 3:32 p.m.**

A. Introductions, determination of board quorum, and introduction of guests. Present – Commissioners Bret Tyler, Kathy Canfield (online), and Jim Shaffer to constitute a quorum. Also present were Jessica Gwerder (NRCS), Jake Dick (NDA), and Marlee Jenkins (DCNR).

B. Determination of agenda order – Agenda items may be taken out of order or deleted for lack of time. No items were proposed to be taken out of order.

**II. Public Comments** – Public comment will be allowed at the beginning, after each item on the agenda and prior to the adjournment of every meeting. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per comment. No public comment.

#### **III. District Projects – For Possible Action**

A. **Washoe County Planning Reviews** – Updates from Jim Shaffer.

Two projects were reviewed: There was one submittal for a project on Red Rock Rd., where the person did work illegally and submitted the plan retroactively. They are importing material, so Jim requested a weed seed management plan component. LA Studio is doing the revegetation work and Jim asked for 3 years of monitoring until vegetation is established. The second project is at Mt. Rose ski resort, where they are putting in a tubing hill. They will be importing 33,000 CY of material from various sites at Mt. Rose and need a weed seed management plan. They asked to have some requirements waived. They want to put riprap in and do a finished grade on a slope. Jim advised that if they are going to contour, they need to do it naturally. They also asked to waive the requirement that for every 10 parking spaces, the placement of a tree is required no further than 12 parking spaces apart. Jim advised against waiving this. They will be removing 122 mature evergreen trees. Jim recommended those be replaced plus another 20. Jim wrote a firm letter with these requests. Once the project is over, it's too late, so requirements need to be established early on, especially in this high-altitude setting. They will still be able to complete the project with the requirements. They are putting in roadside ditches which they will riprap. The USFS is doing the seeding, so Jim didn't advise on the seed mix, but did request monitoring for 3 years. They are also putting in a detention basin, to trap water for groundwater recharge. Jim asked for an infiltration trench, a few feet wide and 3 feet deep, to enhance groundwater recharge. They are putting in a

ticket sale building for the tubing hill. County will ask for the same specifications. Jake asked where they will take the trees? To the new sawmill? Likely, but Jim did not know.

**B. Storey County Projects** – Updates and next actions on Rainbow Bend Weed Abatement Project, project timeline, communications with State Lands, and liability updates. Review and approval for next steps in September and October.

Kathy did not have updates. Marlee had some items to discuss for the Rainbow Bend Project now that the project is delayed until Spring and Fall 2024. Marlee contacted Alicia Dickerson today to ask if we should delay the State Lands application. The application only authorizes one year of work, so if we are seeding fall 2024 it might not cover that time period. The board isn't sure if authorization begins the date that they approve, or if it begins the date we submitted the application. Marlee will see what Alicia recommends and let the board know. Marlee talked to Cory King from Washoe State Nursery, and he provided seeding suggestions. Marlee will forward the list to the board. Cory was hoping we would do multiple herbicide treatments over several years before seeding, but Marlee told him that the project timeline is a single year. Kathy asked if Honey was okay with us not purchasing seeds until next year. The purchase was approved for FY24, but Honey with Storey County likely prefers that the board spends that money this fall. Kathy asked if we can pay for seeds now, and have the order processed next year as we probably don't want the seed to sit around for a year. Marlee will ask Corey if WSCD can pay now to fulfill the grant requirement and let the board know. Kathy will talk to Honey and let her know. Bret will try to attend the HOA meeting in Lockwood next month to provide them with updates.

**C. Sage-Grouse Projects** – Updates from Brett Tyler on sage-grouse tags.

WSCD has a lot of material for tags. The board should raise the price, likely to 45 cents. Amazon charges 75 cents. Workers are cutting the tags now, then they will be boxed up. The labor has not been paid for yet but will be when the workers are finished. There are light and dark tags. Jessica has a client looking for fence markers, so she will send him our way. Marlee will be sure to log into the WSCD email to check correspondence until the board gets a new secretary. Bret hasn't been able to pay the website recently because the credit card expired, hopefully the new one comes soon. Marlee said the website let her post the agenda last week, so it was still working then.

#### **IV. External Agency Items and Reports – For Possible Action**

**A. NRCS** – Jessica Gwerder – Updates

The Minden LWG meeting was on Sep. 5<sup>th</sup>. Priority resource concerns didn't change much and are as follows: 1) Plant pest pressure 2) Water quantity 3) Water quality 4) Concentrated erosion 5) Inadequate livestock water. Jessica submitted these to be set up for next year FY24 rankings. The NRCS STAC meeting is set for Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 8am – 4pm, and will take place here at NDA. The EQIP and AMA deadline has not been officially set yet for applications but will likely be around November 16<sup>th</sup>. Jessica will confirm once she knows. Washoe County is redoing their Master Plan, and NRCS has been concerned that high tunnels have been an issue here. Washoe County would not allow an NRCS client last year to install a high tunnel. They wanted engineering designs, which NRCS can't do. It isn't cost-effective. Jim says they want plans stamped by a civil engineer due to liability issues. The client would also have to submit plans to the county and pay a fee. Bret says we have come across this in past years, and nothing has been allowed. Jessica says the high tunnels come with specifications and instructions. Jim says the NRCS could make a standard engineer drawing to stamp for these packages. Jessica says it has been a challenge, because NRCS doesn't typically provide those services. Washoe county is accepting comments on their Master Plan up until September 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a short turnaround, but Jessica will provide the board with the website if they would like to comment. Kathy asked if the Master Plan includes high tunnels currently or if there is room for anything that specific. Jessica said there is an active client planning to make comments – he emailed NRCS to notify them of this master plan comment period. NRCS plans to put a letter together describing projects they do with high tunnels to see if they can align with the County. Is there a way to avoid permit costs and engineering burden? Kathy said during previous discussions on this matter, Jeanne Herman was present, and she is part of the board, so she might be a good source to advocate for the high tunnels. Marlee said the Reno Food System comments (shared with Jessica from Philip Moore) suggest adding an urban agriculture element to the master plan, so maybe not specific to high tunnels, but adding an urban

agriculture element could provide general support. Jessica shared website and info with Marlee so she will share with board. Marlee checked out the website and you can look at other people's comments and respond or add your own. Jessica says urban agriculture is a big push nationwide, and NRCS hopes to start incorporating other aspects like low tunnels and raised beds. Kathy says it might be the County Building Department, not Planning Department, that wants the engineer plans. Jim says yes, the Building Dept. would review those civil plans. Jim asked if there are differences in the kinds of high tunnels NRCS gets. Jessica says it depends on the package and what the client needs. NRCS requires 6 ft tall in center minimum, 6 mil UV resistant plastic, and size is over that of existing garden. Bret says Washoe County is concerned about the stakes and safety so the tunnels don't blow away, but that they just need to be buried deep enough. Jim thinks the NRCS engineer could work with the building department to accept a basic plan that covers all high tunnels. Jessica says that once NRCS gets a state engineer, that might be a possibility.

**B. DCNR – Marlee Jenkins – Updates**

Marlee sat in on a planning meeting for the NVACD annual meeting which will be in Winnemucca Nov. 8-9. Connie Lee will be sending a save the date, so we should get that from her. They are working on the theme and tour now. Connie is no longer the NVACD Executive Director, she does communications and partnerships. Kevin Piper is the new Exec. Director, he used to work with Dayton Valley CD. Marlee met Kevin at the NACD conference in Tahoe, and he seems interested in being involved with CD projects.

**C. NVACD, Adjacent CD – Updates**

**D. NDOW – Partner Biologist, Victoria Cernoch – Updates**

**E. NDA – Jake Dick – Updates**

NDA will be releasing an RFP this week for the Cooperative Forestry Assistance weed management grant. There will be one grant, ~\$28,000 for noxious weeds prioritizing EDRR species and riparian habitat work for bonus points to score higher. There are other funding sources coming, from the Wildfire Crisis Strategy (WCS). NDA is receiving \$1.6 million, they will hire a staff to help manage the awards, he will provide more info when they have it. There are a few good projects lined up in Washoe County. Jake was encouraged by federal partner, under BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), to apply for funding through the western regional priority projects. Jake applied last year for EDRR species work in 10 regions. Last time the requirements were ~15,000 word narrative, budget breakdown, short easy proposal. Good opportunity for ~\$50,000 projects. Bret asked about the timeframe. Jake says for the proposal, the announcement should be in September with about a week to submit proposal, so a short time frame. Jake wants to make sure Nevada applies, and BIL funding will be for next 4 years at least, so could always plan and try in future years. Bret says there are lots of opportunities for whitetop along the river, we just need to get a plan hammered out. Bret brought up the BOR project, maybe we can partner with them. Jake says WCS funding for the Sierra Front would be good for that too. Jim and Bret say we could maybe get good volunteer from Lockwood area to support these river projects. They cleaned up the RV park really well and the HOA is very active, depending on how far along the river they are willing to work. Jake will be sending out letters to address yellow star thistle at the base of Mt. Rose hwy. NDA did some weed pulling with NDOT there a few weeks ago where the turnoff at the base is. Letters will go to property owners, and USFS is already treating their land in that area. Jake is still working on goat grass project at Tom Cooke/Mayberry trailhead with city of Reno and NDOW, they have funding. The city was going to do goat grazing but lost funding for that. Jake will share pictures where they utilized grazing along the trail there. Jake is unsure about the long term effects of the grazing, if the seed will be passed by the goats, but it looked good after the treatment. Jake got a yellow star thistle report from city of Sparks, he will follow up with them. There have been lots of Washoe County residential complaints with the increased moisture for star thistle. Jake could try to get Reno or Sparks city staff to attend WSCD meetings, he can invite them to the group. He will let us know when he sends letters out to property owners.

Bret asked Kathy if she knows anything about what is being doing about the encampments in Vista along the river. Bad river quality and trailhead. Kathy says Storey Co. sheriff's office has been out, but this is the Washoe Co. boundary; the area closer to the railroad bridge is Washoe even on south side of river. Sheriff's department has been active. Bret says if someone could put a port-o-potty out there, it would help keep waste out of the river. Kathy says it also could be part of the city of Sparks as the boundary is close. Sparks has adopted harsher language on this issue recently.

## **V. Internal District Issues – For Possible Action**

**A. Review, Amendment, and Approval** of Minutes from previous meeting. Jim motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Brett. All in favor, passed unanimously.

### **B. Financial Reports – Treasurer Jim Shaffer**

1. Treasurer's Report- Balances and Financial Reports, Delegate Funds from Washoe and Storey Counties and the State of Nevada  
In checking: \$9,953,96, savings: \$3,971.61, plus \$15,000 CD account. Bret asked when the CD account rolls, 3 or 5 months? Can look for paperwork in CD email. Can roll it over again if the interest rate is still good. Bret motioned to approve the financial report. Kathy seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.
2. Employee Salary- Review and Approve Payment for Employee Hours and Expenses  
Susan submitted final 10 hours to Jim.

**C. Review, amendments to, and approval** of the Annual Report and Financial Report for fiscal year 2023. Due September 30, 2023, to the State Conservation Commission.

Marlee sent out the report with her edits added to Naomi's report. Marlee asked Kathy about her current appointed term. Kathy says the board reconfirms her appointment every year. But WSCD has a 4-year term for elected, and 2-year term for appointees. Marlee will check last year's annual report to see what was listed. All meeting dates were entered for the report. Marlee asked about the veteran workers for the sage-grouse tags, if they are members of an organization that we should call a partner. Bret says no, they are just hired individuals. Marlee asked if there were any resource concerns the CD needs help addressing or more information on? Kathy said that having Marlee supporting the group has been very helpful, and to add that to the section where we can list needs that were addressed during the fiscal year. Marlee added Jim's information about the sage-grouse tags sale. Bret would like to find a place to store the tags. Kathy says that when the storage building behind the new sheriff's office is available, we can likely store them there. Based on the size of the boxes, they should fit in the space. There will be less than 25 boxes. Marlee asked about the timeline on that storage space and if we need to find somewhere in between for storage. Bret would like to move them by November. Kathy says hopefully within the next month, and she will check on the status. Bret motioned to approve the report as amended. Jim seconded. All approved, motion passed unanimously. Bret signed the annual report. The board looked at the financial report. Jim added expense amounts to the state appropriated funding sheet. Marlee can plug those amounts into excel and send the final version out to board. Jim listed the herbicide paid for by the grant as an expense, but it will go through next year. Bret motioned to approve the financial report. Kathy seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.

**D. Outreach –** The Washoe Storey Conservation District is seeking:

1. New members to join the board of supervisors (elected volunteers).  
Marlee can make a flyer for the board supervisor position, and share with local non-profits. Maybe someone from the City of Sparks or Reno would be interested. Jake said he talked to the city of Reno, and they weren't sure how they would benefit from attending the meetings. Jake is happy to help reach out and tell them it would help address weeds. Jim pointed out that they can meet online which makes it easier. Jake's contacts are public utilities people.
2. An Office Administrator (hired position, minimum 15 hours per month).  
Marlee created a flyer for the secretary position to share with the board. One thing that needs to be edited is the background requirements. This was an old version Melany shared, and listed requirements are 3 years of secretarial/office experience, but this is a little much for WSCD. Bret says we should look at UNR, a first-year student with Microsoft software experience would be great. Marlee will edit requirements and share with the board to finalize the flyer before we put it out. Marlee listed meeting attendance requirements, minutes and agendas needs.

*This item will remain on the agenda until positions are filled.*

**E. Review and delegate tasks** to be completed by the next meeting. Tasks were already discussed.

**VI. Public Comments –** Public comment will be allowed at the beginning, after each item on the agenda and prior to the adjournment of every meeting. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per comment.

**VII. Next Scheduled WSCD Board Meeting – (second Monday) October 9, 2023, at 3:30pm** Next meeting will be October 9, 2023, at 3:30pm.

**VIII. Adjourn – Action** Adjourned 4:42 p.m.