



Washoe-Storey Conservation District

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

MINUTES 10/09/23

The Washoe-Storey Conservation District held a Public Meeting on
Monday October 9, 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 or
use the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTEzMTcyZDIYzYxNC00OTI2LWFhYWEtMDQ1MTk4ZTkxNzQ0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Ti d%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228e9fe95-2573-49dc-b9cf-955deb738bcb%22%7d

Meeting ID: 210 638 437 945

Passcode: Passcode: 9TfbuY

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

tel:+17753216111,,591461244# United States, Reno

Phone Conference ID: 591 461 244#

List of acronyms attached as last page.

I. Call to Order

A. Introductions, determination of board quorum, and introduction of guests.

Present were supervisors Kathy Canfield, Bret Tyler, and Jim Shaffer to form a quorum. Also present were Jake Dick (NDA-Noxious Weeds) and Marlee Jenkins (DCNR-Conservation Districts Program).

B. Determination of agenda order – Agenda items may be taken out of order or deleted for lack of time.

No agenda items were determined 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

Mr. Shaffer reviewed the following four plans: 1) Juniper Ridge Master Plan (off of Mayberry, about 81 acres, Thompson family trust). Mr. Shaffer recommended to support keeping 3-1 slopes, a weed management plan in the open space, and a trail easement in open space. 2) NV Energy transmission line. Will run from Border Town to Verdi, 12 miles total, 7 miles on private property. There will be treatment of weeds and BLM provided the seed mix ratio. Mr. Shaffer requested five years of monitoring and a 1:1 ratio of trees planted to replace trees that will be lost due to the project (cleared within the right of easement). 3) Sun Valley administrative permit to put in an RV for the care of an elderly person. Mr. Shaffer recommended a higher ratio of evergreen trees to be planted for screening. 4) Mono pole to improve cell tower reception in Axe Handle Canyon (Kirman Valley). They will enclose it and have proposed to use a chain link fence. Mr. Shaffer requested a brown-coated chain link or brown slats to lessen the hardened look and for them to revegetate the small area.

Ms. Canfield asked if there will be a permanent maintained access road for the NV Energy transmission line. Mr. Shaffer responded that there is an access road, but it is only temporary.

B. **Storey County Projects** – Storey County general updates.

Ms. Canfield says that things have been busy, there is a lot of development and grading going on in the industrial park. Storey County is still working on the Greenlink West project, the Virginia City Gold Hill drainage project plan is being wrapped up and presented to the community Thursday evening, and the Lockwood project is ongoing and should be wrapping up soon too. Ms. Canfield says the shed for storage space available to WSCD is coming soon at the Sheriff's office.

Updates and next actions on Rainbow Bend Weed Abatement Project, project timeline, communications, and liability updates. Review and approval for next steps in October and November.

1. Nevada State Lands application – Discussion to determine if application for right-of-entry is needed, based on if any project work will occur below the ordinary high-water mark. Discussion of off-limits project section identified by the State Lands office.

Mr. Tyler says we are going to need a gas-powered saw and a chipper for the thicker vegetation. Community support for the project has gone down, and the HOA is concerned about working too close to the river. Mr. Tyler shared some pictures of the project area. The board determined that no State Lands application is needed. Once the project begins, there will be monitoring in place to make sure that no work is done below the ordinary high water mark. Ms. Jenkins shared a map from State Lands of an area on the east end of the project that is off limits. Mr. Tyler said that the board should notify the property owner that there are noxious weeds in the area. Mr. Dick says that NDA could help out with notification to the landowner. Mr. Tyler says that the board still needs a liability sign-out form for the backpack sprayers. Ms. Jenkins will find a standard form online, and it can be edited by the board to fit their needs.

2. Washoe State Tree Nursery – Updates from discussion with Cory King on seed mix and purchasing. Ms. Canfield says the board needs to purchase seed now for the Lockwood project so that expenditures can be finalized, the grant will be satisfied, and Storey County can be finished with the financial documentation work. Honey Coughlin (Storey County Grants Manager) is still able to pay for the order, or WSCD can pay for the order and provide a receipt for reimbursement. Ms. Jenkins asked Cory about purchasing now and waiting to fulfill the order. Cory was concerned that purchasing wouldn't be allowed that far ahead of delivery. The other option is to purchase now and have them fulfill the order and store the seed, but viability may be a concern. Ms. Jenkins will get a purchase order as soon as possible to Honey. Mr. Shaffer motioned to approve the recommended seed mix purchase from Cory to fulfill any other parameters of the grant before the end of the year. Ms. Jenkins asked if it is okay that the entire grant amount was not expended and what will happen to the remaining balance of the grant money that was not spent. Ms. Canfield says it will not be a problem that all of the grant money was not spent, it will be absorbed back into the program.

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

Mr. Tyler says the board has a lot of tags boxed up and ready. Ms. Jenkins says that she can let Ed Ryan, the district manager for Mason Valley and Smith Valley Conservation Districts, know that Washoe Storey Conservation District has tags for sale as they do sage-grouse habitat work. The tags are \$0.45 each, they are 2.75" long, and there are light and dark colored ones.

IV. External Agency Items and Reports – For Possible Action

A. **NRCS** – Jessica Gwerder – Updates – Not present

B. **DCNR** – Marlee Jenkins – Updates – Ms. Jenkins shared the registration packet information for the NvACD annual meeting. The meeting will be on November 8th, the theme is "Empowering CDs to meet the mission of locally led conservation". NvACD did some outreach with the CDs out near Winnemucca to ask what they wanted to see at the meeting, and the focus will be on trying to help CDs. The price is \$100 for the meeting, luncheon, and banquet or \$60 without the banquet. The SCC meeting is planned for the following day, November 9th. Ms. Jenkins will attend both.

C. **NVACD**, Adjacent CD – Updates – Not present

D. **NDOW** – Partner Biologist, Victoria Cernoch – Updates – Not present

E. **NDA** – Jake Dick – Updates – Early Detection and Rapid Response regional meetings begin this week. Mr. Dick will share information to make the regulatory process more transparent, send CDs the species NDA is following

up on, and report numbers, and he might include EDDmapS points though not everyone is savvy with that software yet. Mr. Dick wanted to follow up on some reports in Washoe and Storey counties, several of which were aquatic invasive species reports. Curly leaf pondweed is in Lake Tahoe, and it has probably spread all the way down the Truckee; they have durable cone-like reproductive parts that are very efficient at spreading. Mr. Dick can share maps, reports, and shapefiles with the CDs. He might try to get the spatial information in a .kmz format which is more friendly to google earth users and people that don't have ESRI software to use shapefiles. Figuring out early invaders is important as the listing process takes time.

Mr. Dick was approached by the City of Sparks concerning weed projects. They have been working on a ditch project to treat purple loosestrife, and the city has another big project where they are expanding Sparks Boulevard and working on the ditch. Mr. Dick thinks it would be good to get Sparks involved in the CD meetings. His contact is Jim Bass who works in the utilities division/public works. Mr. Bass didn't have time to come to the CD meeting today. The board will try to communicate with the City of Sparks to connect on projects. Mr. Dick will share Jim's contact with Ms. Jenkins.

Mr. Tyler brought up an issue with the cell phone tower companies. They spread weeds when they construct these towers. Mr. Shaffer says that we could try to recommend weed management plans for the towers. Mr. Tyler says that they need more specific guidance and to follow up on treatment and monitoring. Mr. Dick says they request this from NDOT to follow up, but the work doesn't always seem to get done.

Mr. Shaffer says that about two weeks ago, there was an area fenced off up the hill from the intersection of Plumb Lane and McCarran Boulevard. There were goats grazing there to help with invasive weeds. He thinks that Caughlin Ranch must have requested it, maybe the homeowner's association.

V. Internal District Issues – For Possible Action

A. Review, Amendment, and Approval of Minutes from previous meeting.

Mr. Shaffer had a few amendments to the meeting minutes from September and shared these with Ms. Jenkins, who will fix these and get a finalized version. Mr. Shaffer motioned to approve the proposed changes to the minutes from the September meeting. Ms. Canfield seconded. All in favor.

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 the checking account, there is \$9,953.61. In savings there is \$3,956.61 plus the \$15,000 certificate of deposit account. The board will roll the certificate of deposit account over when the time comes. Mr. Shaffer or Mr. Tyler should receive notice. Mr. Tyler has the new credit card and the WSCD website fees have been paid for; there was a late fee. Mr. Tyler motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Mr. Shaffer seconded. Passed unanimously.
2. Employee Salary- Review and Approve Payment for Employee Hours and Expenses
Nothing to approve for this item, as WSCD does not currently have an employee.

D. Final approval of the Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2023. Verbal approval was committed by the board and the annual written and financial reports were submitted to the State Conservation Commission on September 26th.

The board verbally approved the final Annual Financial Report over email. The document was submitted on time for the September 30th deadline, and Melany Aten (Conservation Districts Program Manager) confirmed that it was received. Mr. Shaffer motioned to approve this submittal of the final document. Ms. Canfield seconded. Passed unanimously.

D. Outreach

1. The Washoe Storey Conservation District is seeking:
 - New members to join the board of supervisors (elected volunteers).
Ms. Jenkins shared the flyer for the board supervisor position with current board members. The board can finalize this flyer and Ms. Jenkins can share it around to prospective new members. Ms. Jenkins spoke with the Executive Director of Urban Roots at their event last weekend, Soil Palooza,

and will share the board supervisor flyer with the director once it is finalized. Ms. Canfield asked what the requirements are for where the board members live. Ms. Jenkins says board supervisors are required to live within the district boundaries. She will add a map of the district to the flyer to share that information.

- An Office Administrator (hired position, minimum 15 hours per month). Ms. Jenkins posted flyers on campus for the position, and she shared the flyer with a few campus clubs including the UNR Range Club and the Wildlife Society Club.

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

2. Discussion of the District's plan to respond and provide resources to local residents who are requesting assistance with noxious weeds.

Local landowners in the Virginia Highlands area have emailed Washoe Storey Conservation District to share their concerns and ask for assistance in treating noxious weeds on their lands. Ms. Canfield shared local residents concerns with the fire district to make them aware of the community's concerns. Ms. Canfield says next year there may be more opportunities for community grants to address concerns such as these. WSCD now has the infrastructure in place and equipment available to do more noxious weeds projects on private properties. The board agreed that it would be good to come up with a standard response to provide information to landowners describing how to get community projects organized, how WSCD can assist landowners, and best practices for treatment of noxious weeds.

E. Review and delegate tasks to be completed by the next meeting.

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) November 13, 2023, at 3:30pm

November 13th did not work for all current board members to meet. The next board meeting will be November 6th, 2023. There will not be a board meeting in December.

VIII. Adjourn – Action

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

List of Acronyms – Washoe Storey Conservation District meeting minutes, 10/09/23

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

CD – Conservation District

DCNR – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

ESRI – Environmental Systems Research Institute

HOA – Homeowner’s Association

NDA – Nevada Department of Agriculture

NDOT – Nevada Department of Transportation

NDOW – Nevada Department of Wildlife

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

NV – Nevada

NVACD – Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

SCC – State Conservation Commission

UNR – University of Nevada, Reno

WSCD – Washoe Storey Conservation District