



Washoe-Storey Conservation District

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

AGENDA 11/27/23

The Washoe-Storey Conservation District held a Public Meeting on
Monday November 27th, 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_OTk2YTVhY2MtNjUzZS00ZmNlLWJjZjQtNjBiYjI4NzVmZWZm%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: 270 204 296 537

Passcode: Passcode: 6GnTrX

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/download-app>

Or call in (audio only)

tel: +1 775-321-6111 United States, Reno

Phone Conference ID: 566 041 474#

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

I. Call to Order

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

Present were supervisors Bret Tyler, Jim Shaffer, and Kathy Canfield to form a quorum. Also present were Kathleen Steele (Sagebrush Ecosystem Program Manager), Jessica Gwerder (NRCS – Minden), and Marlee Jenkins (Conservation Districts Program).

B. Determination of agenda order – Agenda items may be taken out of order or deleted for lack of time. No 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 received three project plans for review. The first project is in Lemmon Valley. The applicant is a developer importing 26,000 cubic yards of material, so Mr. Shaffer requested a weed management plan. Mr. Shaffer also requested that they plant more trees than they proposed. This project drains to Swan Lake. The second project is an industrial commercial project in the Mustang/Sparks area. The applicant requested a waiver for landscaping on an area of the project. Mr. Shaffer did not support that condition and the county agreed, so landscaping will be required. The third is a solar project located 3.5 miles northwest of Wadsworth. Mr. Shaffer requested a typical revegetation plan. They will be placing an aggregate base underneath the panels. Mr. Shaffer recommended that they treat the surface with an herbicide application in the spring and one in the fall on an annual basis. It was also requested that the perimeter be fenced and to soften the chain fence with galvanized brown coating or slatting. Ms. Canfield asked if a contact from NV Energy had reached out to Mr. Shaffer. The contact had reached out to Ms. Canfield with a question about comments that were previously made on the

transmission line project, and she referred them to Mr. Shaffer. The NV Energy contact stated that they completed an EIS. Mr. Shaffer stated that the planning commission comments were directed towards work being done on private property, not on the portion of the project on state property. Mr. Shaffer had not heard from the contact, but they may have reached out to the planning committee.

- B. **Storey County Projects** – Storey County general updates. Updates and next actions on Rainbow Bend Weed Abatement Project, project timeline, communications, and liability updates. Review and approval for next steps in November and December.

Ms. Canfield says that Storey County will have a community meeting in January concerning the Long Valley Creek hazard mitigation plan, so she will have an update coming. At the Storey County board meeting next week, the Virginia City Six-Mile Canyon master drainage plan will be reviewed. Recommendations were made for driveways in the Six-Mile Canyon. A standard engineer plan was made for drainage off of steep driveways in the area. They are considering adopting this planning into building codes for the county. Ms. Canfield says there is a lot of work still happening in the industrial park area as well.

- 1. Washoe State Tree Nursery – Updates on seed mix and purchasing.

Ms. Jenkins provided an update from the Washoe State Tree Nursery for the Lockwood Weed Initiative project. Corey King sent off the order for the seed mix and he will provide a final invoice including tax and shipping. He estimated that the total will be approximately \$565. Once the invoice is received, Ms. Jenkins will send it to Jim so that WSCD can pay it. Then it can be sent to Storey County for reimbursement.

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

Mr. Tyler says that WSCD has 27,500 tags and that they look great. They are boxed up and ready to be sold. Ms. Jenkins told Ms. Steele that if she knows of anyone looking to purchase sage grouse tags, she could refer them to WSCD.

IV. External Agency Items and Reports – For Possible Action

- A. **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Jessica Gwerder – Updates

Ms. Gwerder stated that the NRCS Minden office has hired Elsie Childers as a Rangeland Management Specialist. She is a graduate from UNR with a range degree and was an NRCS pathway student. Elsie is also currently helping the Yerington office. NRCS is advertising a position for a Conservation Planner out of the Reno State Office. This position will be involved with urban agriculture as well as other NRCS priorities. The first batch of EQIP applications included six applicants in Washoe County. There are five other applicants who have shown interest in applying. The second deadline for applications is March 29th. CSP applications are due April 5th. NRCS has received a lot of funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, including over \$10 million for EQIP. This is in addition to the normal EQIP allocation of funding for the state of Nevada. Jasmine Wilson will soon be filling the position of Urban Conservationist for Nevada.

- B. **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources** – Marlee Jenkins – Updates

Ms. Jenkins gave a review of grants available right now. There is a grant available through the state Off-Highway Vehicle program. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) is releasing the sage-grouse habitat improvement grant very soon. These will be due Feb. 6th. Another round of this grant will be released by the SCC in the spring of 2024. They are changing the timeline of this project to allow for a longer window of implementation. The Nevada Division of Forestry Urban Community and Forestry grant is currently open for tree planting projects. Ms. Jenkins reached out to Reno Food Systems and shared that WSCD is searching for board members. They invited Ms. Jenkins out to the farm for a tour and to talk about potential project partnerships. Ms. Jenkins gave an overview of Shared Stewardship updates for the Sierra-Front Carson priority area. There is a ton of federal funding for this priority area that is focused on cross-boundary projects to connect treatment corridors. Funding will be distributed through state agencies including the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Treatments should be focused on wildfire risk mitigation, which includes herbaceous weed reduction, fuels management, and habitat improvement. The Shared Stewardship group will be accepting proposals over the next few years. The project site needs to be on the 5-year plan map and then a short one-page proposal can be submitted. Ms. Jenkins will send the priority area map and funding agreements to the WSCD board members.

- C. **Nevada Association of Conservation Districts** – Updates Not present.
- D. **Nevada Department of Wildlife** – Partner Biologist, Victoria Cernoch – Updates Not present.
- E. **Nevada Department of Agriculture** – Jake Dick – Updates Not present.

V. Internal District Issues – For Possible Action

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

Ms. Canfield requested on page 2, section B, for Storey County projects that “Gold Hill project” be changed to “Virginia City Six-Mile drainage project”. Ms. Canfield motioned for the minutes to be approved with the suggested amendment. Mr. Tyler seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.

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

Last month there were three checks that totaled approximately \$4,600 for the supplies and labor to make sage-grouse tags. The current total in the WSCD checking account is \$5,265.01 and in savings \$3,941.61 and \$15,000 in certificate of deposit (CD) savings account. Mr. Tyler asked if the CD account will be rolled over the next year. Mr. Shaffer will check with the bank to see when it matures and when he can renew it. Ms. Canfield motioned to approve the treasurer’s report. Mr. Tyler seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.

2. Discussion and approval of the payment of dues to the Nevada Association of Conservation District for the 2023 fiscal year. Amount due: \$600. Completion and submission of the dues packet.

Mr. Tyler motioned to approve the payment of \$600 to NVACD for annual dues. Ms. Canfield seconded. All in favor and the motion carried. Ms. Jenkins will work with Jim to submit payment with the dues packet.

- C. **Consideration** of support and signature approval for the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses letter to the Bureau of Land Management Director, titled “Additional BLM Funding and Actions for Nevada Wild Horse and Burro Gathers in 2024”.

Sherman Swanson with UNR Cooperative Extension shared this letter with Ms. Jenkins. They are looking for support from WSCD to request more funding from the BLM to prioritize the management of wild horses and burros in Nevada. Ms. Canfield said that she was hesitant to provide support without more information on how BLM will use funding for management. Mr. Tyler also stated that he wished he had more information, but that he agreed that funding is currently insufficient for management. Ms. Jenkins will request more information from the Nevada Coalition from Healthy Lands and see if they have any supplemental information. The letter will be sent Dec. 5th, but if Conservation Districts wish to show support after this date, they can send their own copy of the letter with a cover statement showing support. Ms. Canfield wished to remain neutral and not support the letter. Ms. Canfield made a motion to table the agenda item, pending further information. Mr. Shaffer seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.

D. **Outreach**

1. The Washoe Storey Conservation District is seeking:
 - New members to join the board of supervisors (elected volunteers).
 - An Office Administrator (hired position, minimum 15 hours per month).Ms. Jenkins reached out to professors at UNR who shared the WSCD Office Administrator position with their students. Ms. Jenkins received a resume from one student and an inquiry from another student. She will keep the board updated on resumes received. Ms. Jenkins and the board will work on interview questions and the hiring process.

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

D. **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.

No public comment.

VII. Next Scheduled WSCD Board Meeting – (second Monday) January 8, 2024, at 3:30pm

January 8th was not possible for a board quorum to be present. The next board meeting will be held on January 29th at 3:30 pm.

VIII. Adjourn – Action