



Washoe-Storey Conservation District

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

MINUTES 1/29/24

The Washoe-Storey Conservation District held a Public Meeting on
Monday January 29th, 2024, 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_ZmM3YjUzYzAtMTYwNy00MzFkLWJmMmMtOGUxYzQyN2FiZDIh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Td%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228e9fe95-2573-49dc-b9cf-955deb738bcb%22%7d

Meeting ID: 268 059 855 796

Passcode: R6CbMk

<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: 984 408 191#

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.

Meeting called to order at 3:34 pm by Mr. Shaffer. Present were Commissioners Bret Tyler, Jim Shaffer, and Kathy Canfield to form a quorum. Also present were Jessica Gwerder & Elsie Childress (NRCS – Minden), Jake Dick (NDA Noxious Weeds), 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 has not received any plans from Washoe County in the month of January. He did receive an email from an engineer who is working on the Ophir Hill project in Washoe Valley concerning reseeding. Jim did not see any issues with the plan. They will provide irrigation on the project and will implement a three year monitoring plan.

B. **Storey County Projects** – Storey County general updates from Kathy Canfield.

Storey County had a meeting last Thursday in Lockwood related to the Allum Valley Creek Hazard Mitigation Plan. This project came out of the Truckee River Flood Management Agency's review of downstream potential impacts from the work planned at Vista Narrows. It was a good community meeting and results from the engineer were presented. In the case of a 100-year event, the channel at Allum Valley Creek would not be able to hold flood waters. Storey County is asking for mitigation measures and ideas to improve safety in that area with this plan. They have been involved with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community

Rating System (CRS) and National Flood Insurance Program, but those programs have not provided much support as the Lockwood floodplain is already built out, and regulations mostly relate to new developments. So, this mitigation plan was developed by JB Engineering, to get information on what the community can do to make the area safer. The draft mitigation plan will be taken to the Storey County board meeting in March. Initial findings show that the biggest impact would come from rebuilding bridges so that water can pass through more efficiently with reduced flooding. There are concerns with access roads being flooded and what that could mean for emergency response.

A Washoe County application was submitted for a plot of vacant land directly across from Lockwood/Rainbow Bend. The applicant has requested to change the Washoe County Master Plan zoning determination from General Rule Zoning District to Industrial Zoning District. Storey County is concerned because this area is only approximately 305 ft from the Rainbow Bend community. This change in zoning would open possibilities of what might be built on that land in the future. Part of that area, which is mapped as floodplain but is currently just a compacted dirt parking lot, the applicant suggested to rezone as Open Space Zoning. Storey County made comments to Washoe County, and it will go to their planning commission in April.

Mr. Shaffer asked if Storey County will plan to move services away from Long Valley Creek due to the flooding concerns. Ms. Canfield says this is a possibility, but Storey County needs to determine if they could make any alterations first that would protect these service areas where they are currently. The fire station is old, and it isn't out of the question that they might build a new station, but the County would have to look into land acquisition. Mr. Shaffer asked if there were any opportunities for retention/detention basins in the area to reduce flood danger. Ms. Canfield says that the area is mostly private property, and the canyon is narrow and steep so there isn't much room for detention basins.

The Storey County public works department will be moving the storage shed for equipment behind the sheriff's station. The move was delayed by the weather, but it should happen soon.

1. Updates and next actions on Rainbow Bend Weed Abatement Project, project timeline, communications, and liability updates. Review and approval for next steps in January and February. Ms. Jenkins says that she connected with Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) to collaborate on a volunteer liability waiver to use for projects. Ms. Jenkins will work with NTCD staff to draft a form that both districts could use. Ms. Jenkins heard from Larry Butcher with the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Butcher reached out to ask about the Rainbow Bend project and any other plans for weed projects in the area. Ms. Jenkins will let him know the status of the project and invite him to the next WSCD meeting to talk about potential future projects.
- C. **Sage-Grouse Projects** – Updates from Brett Tyler on sage-grouse tags.
No updates, the tags are being stored and are available for sale.

IV. External Agency Items and Reports – For Possible Action

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jessica Gwerder – Updates

1. Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners – Review and discussion of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity requirements for institutions that participate in or administer USDA federally conducted and/or federally assisted programs. Distribution of form for board members' signatures.

Ms. Gwerder provided a yearly review of the Civil Rights responsibilities for NRCS partners. Nevada is currently undergoing a National Civil Rights Review, and the Minden NRCS office is participating. Ms. Gwerder provided the Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity requirements document for WSCD board members to review and sign.

The deadline for Batch II of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications is coming up at the end of March. If there are any producers interested, please encourage them to apply. The Batch I deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will also be at the end of March. The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program is also accepting applications (often used for high tunnels).

Ms. Gwerder received an email requesting members for an Urban Agricultural group for NRCS. Ms. Gwerder listed Ms. Jenkins to be added to the email list.

B. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) – Marlee Jenkins – Updates

Ms. Jenkins had no updates outside of what will be discussed within agenda items.

C. **Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD)** – Updates

Not present.

D. **Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)** – Partner Biologist, Victoria Cernoch – Updates

Not present.

E. **Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)** – Jake Dick – Updates

Mr. Dick shared that NDA is starting to see proposals coming into the Shared Stewardship group. Washoe County falls within the Shared Stewardship priority area. The NDA funding agreement is weeds focused. This is a 10-year agreement so funding will continue to be available until it is spent. There hasn't been an official request for proposals. If WSCD has a project idea, Mr. Dick can help take it to the Shared Stewardship group. Mr. Dick will be following up with the goat grass working group including the City of Reno, Washoe County, and the Forest Service. Washoe County did some goat grazing treatments last year. The City of Reno treated last year, and Mr. Dick will be going to visit the field site to see how the treatment went. There needs to be some project leadership from the City of Reno, or someone that is not a regulatory agency such as NDA. Ms. Gwerder says that she knows a producer in Douglas County that uses his sheep for grazing weeds if the District is interested in contacting him.

Mr. Dick has been contacted by people and agencies concerned about weeds in Verdi (HOAs, Truckee Meadows Fire). There is a good opportunity for noxious weeds projects in that area and last year there were lots of thistles. Shared Stewardship funding can be used on private property to benefit adjacent Forest Service lands. Some kind of cost-share program with landowners would be a good opportunity to use that funding.

Ms. Canfield inquired about a project in Storey County that Mr. Dick had mentioned. Mr. Dick said that this was a project submitted for Shared Stewardship funding to implement a fuel break near Geiger Grade. The project is currently being considered for funding by the Technical Assistance Committee, but a decision has not been made.

V. Internal District Issues – For Possible Action (unless otherwise noted)

A. **Review, Amendment, and Approval** of Minutes from previous meeting, conducted 11/27/23.

Ms. Jenkins noted that the title says "Agenda" rather than "Minutes", so she will make that correction. Ms. Canfield noted that under Section III., B., Storey County is spelled wrong. Ms. Jenkins will make that correction. Ms. Canfield motioned to approve the minutes with those amendments. Mr. Tyler seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

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

WSCD received the \$4,500 annual state funding from the State Conservation Commission. The total in the checking account is now \$8,559. The savings account total is \$3,911.61. There is \$15,294.67 in the Certificate of Deposit account (\$294.67 was from the yearly interest). Jim called to renew this account in December so that WSCD will keep the highest interest rate possible. Mr. Tyler motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Canfield seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

C. **Outreach**

1. The Washoe Storey Conservation District is seeking:

- New members to join the board of supervisors (elected volunteers).
Ms. Jenkins said that once the Secretary position has been filled, that person could work on outreach to fill vacant board positions.
- An Office Administrator (hired position, minimum 15 hours per month).

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

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

Mr. Shaffer asked that the District put together a list of potential projects and funding opportunities, so that these can be reviewed and prioritized at the next meeting. Ms. Canfield says there is an opportunity for

educational workshops for homeowners to provide information on noxious weeds (identification and treatment methods) in the Virginia Highlands community.

E. Closed session¹ – Not for Action

Ms. Jenkins stated that at this time, if any members of the public were in attendance at the meeting, they would be asked to leave the meeting for the duration of the closed session. There were no members of the public in attendance (guests in attendance left previously).

1. Motion required to move into closed session as authorized by NRS 241.030.

On motion by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by Commissioner Canfield, and approved with a unanimous vote, a closed session was conducted to discuss the selection of a candidate for the WSCD Secretary position. Separate minutes of the session have been prepared. No action was taken during the closed session.

2. This closed session is intended for the discussion of resumes submitted and interviews conducted for filling the vacant staff position of Secretary for the Washoe Storey Conservation District. The session is closed in the interest of applicants' privacy and to discuss wages to be included in offer letter.
3. Closed session will adjourn at 4:35 p.m.

F. Reconvene in open session at 4:40 p.m.

1. Hiring of WSCD board secretary and approval to send offer letter.

On motion by Commissioner Shaffer, seconded by Commissioner Canfield, and approved with a unanimous vote, the WSCD board reconvened in an open session at 4:40 p.m. Mr. Tyler motioned that the candidate selected for the WSCD Secretary position be offered \$18/hour. Ms. Canfield seconded. All in favor and the motion passed. Ms. Canfield motioned to send an offer letter to Alisa Kim, and that if Ms. Kim declines the position, to extend the position offer under the same conditions to Natalie Ligget. The motion was also made to have Mr. Shaffer sign the Staff Vacancy Fill form. Mr. Tyler seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

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) February 12, 2024, at 3:30pm

VIII. Adjourn – Action

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

¹ Closed sessions are typically used to discuss sensitive matters such as personnel issues, legal matters, or real estate negotiations. The purpose of a closed session is to protect the privacy of individuals involved and to allow for candid discussion among board members. The public is not allowed to attend closed sessions, and the board is not allowed to take any formal action during a closed session.