



Washoe-Storey Conservation District

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

MINUTES 2/26/24

The Washoe-Storey Conservation District held a Public Meeting on
Monday February 26th, 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-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZjA4NTdjZjktNTUxNC00ZDFjLTliNmYtMjE3ZmJmZGEzMzBh%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_ZjA4NTdjZjktNTUxNC00ZDFjLTliNmYtMjE3ZmJmZGEzMzBh%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_ZjA4NTdjZjktNTUxNC00ZDFjLTliNmYtMjE3ZmJmZGEzMzBh%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: 246 789 294 920

Passcode: gkiiLK

<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: 686 724 428#

Meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm on February 26, 2024.

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 Jessica Gwerder (NRCS – Minden), Hudson Klein (Incline Village General Improvement District), Larry Butcher (Bureau of Reclamation), Connie Lee (Nevada Association of Conservation Districts), 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 comments.

III. District Projects – For Possible Action

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

Mr. Shaffer has received no projects for February from Washoe County. Hudson Klein is representing Incline Village General Improvement District (IBGIB) Public Works Department and presented on a project for a

wastewater treatment plant with a discharge permit with Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. Pond 1 is an unlined pond built in 1962, before the requirement of treating discharge existed. Thus, the pond must be lined, but the Bureau of Dam Safety refuses to allow dam changes without updating standards to be able to exercise water into a 2-million gallon storage tank update. To accomplish this work which would also require the building of a road, they received a special use permit for grading for Washoe County Planning & Engineering Division. As part of this permit, the County Engineer is requiring an approved seed mix for their revegetation plan. Mr. Klein is proposing no revegetation, as there is no current vegetation except for pines and manzanitas. Mr. Klein is also working with the local Fire District to leave this as decomposed granite with pine needles and an erosion control blanket and is looking for acceptance of non-applicability for seed mix for the revegetation plan from the Conservation District. Annual inspections in years 3, 4, and 5 would be done with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to ensure there is no erosion. Mr. Shaffer asked if the slope wouldn't take a seed mix, to which Mr. Klein responded that there are currently no organics and the Fire District does not want manzanitas for defensible space, whereas grass would be anomalous to other slopes that just have decomposed granite. Mr. Shaffer requested for IVGID to submit photos at the annual inspection in years 3, 4, and 5. Mr. Klein agreed and extended an invitation to the board to walk through during the inspections as well.

Motion 2024-02-1: Motion by Bret Tyler to waive the revegetation seed mix requirement, seconded by Kathy Canfield. Motion carries unanimously.

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

Ms. Canfield reported on the upcoming Storey County board meeting on March 7 where the Long Valley Creek hazard mitigation plan will be presented for approval. There were a few public meetings with Lockwood residents already. Next steps are to look for funding to implement the project. A larger project will be the bridges crossing Long Valley Creek which cause lots of water to leave the channel and flood the neighborhood. Held congressional delegation meetings in Washington DC to garner interest from Nevada-specific Congress. This is an especially important project since it involves lower income senior communities. Ms. Canfield also provided an update on the shed for the Public Works Department being moved to the Sheriff's substation in Lockwood to use for storage. Mr. Tyler asked about water contamination issues at Canyon Gid, to which Ms. Canfield responded that she hasn't heard of the issue.

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

Ms. Jenkins is still working on the Nevada Tahoe volunteer liability form for Conservation Districts to use but hopes to have that finalized in the next few months. She reminded the board that they will need to start thinking about planning for the Rainbow Bend Weed Abatement Project, including surveying growing plants, timeline for volunteer days, and treatment options, as well as gauging HOA interest. The main target plants are poison hemlock, purple loosestrife, and whitetop. Mr. Dick noted that poison hemlock is sprouting now, while purple loosestrife may not be identifiable until September. Mr. Tyler noted that poison hemlock is a huge problem there. Mr. Shaffer recommended inspection of the area in April and for Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Tyler to meet with the HOA in April to improve relations.

2. Discussion of possible weed control educational workshop in the Highlands subdivision in Storey County. Discuss potential partners/speakers, dates, materials/needs.

Ms. Canfield presented on the Highlands subdivision's high interest in weeds and was curious if Washoe-Storey Conservation District would sponsor an educational workshop for them. Possible presenters could be someone from the cooperative extension, and they are interested in learning about invasive species and how to identify them, best treatments, time of year of treatment, and other options for best managing their lands. This land is private property so public funds could not

be used to treat lands, but a possible coordinated event with the Fire Station at Highlands could occur to present in the perspective of defensible space. Ms. Canfield has funds to pay for printing if there's any resources for brochures or other handouts.

C. **Other Projects** – Discussion and prioritization of other potential projects for implementation in 2024.

1. **Weeds on Derby Dam** – Larry Butcher from Bureau of Reclamation

Mr. Butcher presented on weed issues in the Derby Dam area. The Bureau of Reclamation has a vegetation control contract to keep invasive species away from roadways, but there is a proliferation of whitetop. He is trying to add purple loosestrife to the contract, which is going out to bid again in the spring. He was curious what support the conservation district could provide. Ms. Jenkins stated that the Rainbow Bend project is a good example of something Washoe-Storey Conservation District could provide, which is a couple acre stretch of the Truckee River corridor the HOA is concerned about. Storey County is providing funds for volunteer days and weed abatement. Mr. Shaffer suggested possibly using goats as a treatment option, and Mr. Butcher noted that that could be a possibility with no known opposition and there has been some internal discussion. However, there was a concern that there might be too much whitetop even for goats. The Derby Dam is on Bureau of Reclamation land. Ms. Lee asked about a coordinator for weed control at the Bureau of Reclamation or a Cooperative Weed Management Area with the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Ms. Jenkins updated on the current status of a Cooperative Weed Management Area, which is that there is not currently one but Mr. Dick and Ms. Jenkins are in talks to get the program started again. There was further discussion on the existence of extensive funding but not enough staff capacity for the work at either the Washoe-Storey Conservation District or Bureau of Reclamation levels. Mr. Shaffer asked about a sheriff's work crew, but Ms. Canfield does not believe Storey County has a program like this. Mr. Butcher is interested in a long-term management plan to address the whitetop issue at the dam beyond the vegetation control contract that exists, with help from Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Dick.

2. **Great Community Cleanup** – Marlee Jenkins from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Ms. Jenkins spoke with Marina McCreary from Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful about their Great Community Cleanup on April 27. They are looking for submissions for possible cleanup sites and volunteer leaders, due March 8. The work would entail litter removal or noxious weed removal and would require one person from the organization there day-of on-site. Mr. Shaffer asked if there were any locations in mind, and Ms. Jenkins replied with Verdi and Crystal Peak Park, but those sites have yet to be scouted.

IV. External Agency Items and Reports – For Possible Action

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

Ms. Gwerder presented on a new Conservation Planner that was hired recently named Max Kittel starting March 11. He will be in the Reno state office but reporting to Ms. Gwerder and will be attending a meeting soon. The hope is to have him work on urban conservation work in Reno. The Equipment AMA Batch 2 has a deadline of March 29th, as they are currently going through Batch 1 but may have leftover IRA money. CSP applications are due on April 5th. Ms. Jenkins asks what the stipulations are for those applying for climate smart funds? Ms. Gwerder clarifies that they have either be in agriculture or interested in agriculture. They don't have to have pastures but they need some rangeland component. For example, climate smart funds have been provided to an HOA that have a grazing treatment in the area as that would be considered an agriculture interest, or the grazer could also apply for funds. As long as it is not only crop production but has a rangeland component, it could apply, but eligibility would be decided on a case-by-case-basis.

B. **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)** – Marlee Jenkins – Updates
Ms. Jenkins had no further updates outside of updates provided under Other Projects above.

C. **Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD)** – Updates
Ms. Lee stated that the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts is moving away from the state email listserv and going towards their own newsletter and asked if anyone received the newsletter and if it was legible. There was discussion about the legibility of the newsletter. Ms. Lee states that they would like to showcase conservation district stories and included a survey for meetings as well as an open call for scholarship applications. Mr. Shaffer asked the board about a possible donation from the Washoe-Storey Conservation District, and the board confirmed.

Motion 2024-02-2: Motion by Bret Tyler to approve a contribution to the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts to the same amount as last year, seconded by Kathy Canfield. Motion carries unanimously.

D. **Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)** – Partner Biologist, Victoria Cernoch – Updates
Not present.

E. **E. Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)** – Jake Dick – Updates
Mr. Dick presented on Stewardship funding which is starting to roll out, with proposals being received. In the last round of funding, two projects were submitted which were Galena Creek and Geiger Grade in Storey County. The Geiger Grade project was denied and they are currently looking for other sources of funding. Mr. Dick is working with the Goatgrass working group which will likely be eligible for funding. It seems like they are most interested in funding noxious weeds, habitat, and fire related to Forest Service-type properties. The Nevada Department of Agriculture’s survey efforts will be focused mostly in Verdi and San Rafael/Peavine Park. Mr. Shaffer asks if trail and park signage would be eligible for funding. Mr. Dick believes so, but also states that the Nevada Department of Agriculture also has funding for trail signs and can send examples of signs they’ve created in the past as examples.

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

A. **Review, Amendment, and Approval** of Minutes from previous meeting, conducted 1/29/2024.

Review of the January 29th, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Tyler and Ms. Canfield had no edits. Mr. Shaffer had one slight revision under Item 4, A, 1 which states: “Distribution of form for board member signatures” but should be changed to “Ms. Gwerder distributed the form for board member signatures”.

Motion 2024-02-3: Motion by Jim to make small amendment to January 29th, 2024 meeting minutes as stated above, seconded by Bret Tyler. Motion carries unanimously.

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

Treasurer’s Report- Balances and Financial Reports, Delegate Funds from Washoe and Storey Counties and the State of Nevada

Mr. Shaffer reports that bank accounts are in good standing. The current total in the WSCD checking account is \$9089.44, which grew by \$555.63 from Storey County’s reimbursement for their seed mix purchase. The total in the savings mitigation account is \$3896.61 and the certificate of deposit (CD) savings account is now \$15,294.67, with \$297.67 of that in interest.

Motion 2024-02-4: Motion by Bret Tyler to approve January’s Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Kathy Canfield. Motion carries unanimously.

C. Outreach

The Washoe Storey Conservation District is seeking:

- New members to join the board of supervisors (elected volunteers).

Mr. Shaffer asks if any board member outreach has happened yet. Ms. Jenkins states that it has not, but the new Secretary Alisa Kim will help and hopefully post flyers around town. Ms. Lee says NvACD has outreach resources she can share as well.

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 comments.

VII. Next Scheduled WSCD Board Meeting – (second Monday) March 11, 2024, at 3:30pm

March 11th was positioned too close to the meeting held for February on February 26th. The next board meeting will be held on March 18th at 3:30 pm.

VIII. Adjourn – Action

Motion to adjourn.