

LANDER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING

WEDNESDAY February 22nd, 2023, 5:30pm

Location: 815 North 2nd Street Battle Mountain, NV 89820

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

- **Quorum established, Chairman Paul Tomera called meeting to order at 5:35pm.**

A. Introduction of those in attendance

- **In Person: USFWS Cheryl Mandich. LCCD board members Amy Nelson, Dennis Cawrse, Paul Tomera, Suzann Lemaire, Wayne Nebeker. LCCD Secretary Anna Vinogradova. LC manager Bert Ramos.**
- **Online: NDA Jake Dick. NRCS Jamie Gottlieb. BLM Robert Burdick.**

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 02/22/2023 AGENDA- [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- **Bert pointed out agenda typo of date on first page. Motion to approve agenda (Anna to fix typo) Suzann, 2nd Dennis. None opposed.**

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO VIII. ITEM A

IV. REVIEW, AMEND AND/OR APPROVE MINUTES FROM 01/10/2023 MEETING- [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- **Suzann pointed out error in VII. Item A, change "bird seed" to "native seed". Motion to approve after Anna fixes error Suzann, 2nd Dennis. Wayne abstained. None opposed.**

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO VIII. ITEM F

V. OPEN BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Jake Dick from Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) about Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) noxious weed species and removal strategy - [FOR](#)

[POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- **Jake spoke about NDA and their EDRR species, removal strategy and EDRR weed grant opportunity, funds only for use on private land. Mentioned training being held on March 14 for more information and that [nda.gov/noxiousweeds](#) a good resource. For**

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supporting documents and/or more information please contact LCCD secretary at nvlccd@outlook.com or (775)455-2731.

- *Suzann asked who reports the most.*
- *Jake said it's mostly Forest Service, BLM, privately funded corporations, landowners. NDA looking for more partners to collaborate with on reporting and projects.*
- *Paul asked if funds only available on forest land.*
- *Jake not sure if it's a steadfast rule, just a guideline at this point and it may change.*

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO VII. ITEM B 1

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Financial updates- [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- *Paul updated board on clerical error and county not reimbursing CD funds for fiscal year 2021-2022. Anna informed board she spoke with county fiscal officer who told her to speak with county manager who told her to speak with county commissioners. **Anna to email county secretary** and get onto next possible commissioner's agenda to discuss possibly reimbursing FY 21-22 funds spent by CD with approved FY 22-23 funds. Discussion on CD funds and a better system of reporting. Motion to approve **Anna to contact accountant to restructure CD financial statement format and system used and to give update at next meeting,** Suzann, 2nd Wayne. None opposed.*

B. Bills to be paid- [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- *No bills, Anna asked if board wanted receipts for small \$5.00, \$10.00 purchases in meeting packets, Suzann said if they are available then they can be provided but no need to include them in regular fiscal updates.*

C. Wages/timesheet approval for Anna for January - [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- *Motion to approve Suzann, 2nd Amy. Wayne Abstained. None opposed.*

D. Grant/Agreement/Partnership updates- [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

1. Lander County Operating, Chemical and Wildlife Grants

- *Suzann pointed out per diem mileage rate different. Anna asked if cost share year correct. Motion to approve county grant packet (**Anna to update GSA rate on operating grant form before submitting to county fiscal officer**) Amy, 2nd Suzann. None opposed.*

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AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO VI. ITEM D 3

2. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Cheryl Mandich to discuss Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding, possible approval of partnership with LCCD and/or individual landowners
 - ***Cheryl updated board on BIL funding available through USFWS. Project proposals due end of March. For supporting documents and/or more information please contact LCCD secretary at nvlccd@outlook.com or 775)455-2731.***
 - ***Wild horse damage restoration projects brought up. Dennis asked if horse comes into project area and damages land who is responsible. Cheryl said it's an act of nature and agreement should have language to cover these. Paul mentioned to word requests to include wild horse damage coverage. Amy mentioned revitalization of damaged areas. Paul mentioned rehab to water supplies damaged by horses. Wayne commented that BLM doesn't have water rights so said projects would be difficult to fulfill. Amy asked about outreach. Cheryl said its word of mouth for now, and up to landowners to attend CD meetings to find out about funding. Bert suggested getting shovel ready projects together for these funds. Suzann said it's a good idea to pick an issue and focus on it. Wayne mentioned drainage ditches north of town as possible project. Discussion on possible projects and asking amount. Anna asked how to share funding availability to email list/LCCD Facebook page, to write up poster/ad to share.***

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO IV

3. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved \$75,000.00 grant payment to LCCD
 - ***Robert said paperwork completed, just waiting for fiscal officer to give final approval. Gave update on BLM projects. Also suggested wording in USFWS funds ask to include something regarding "Rangeland Improvement."***

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4. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Technical Assistance Grant application period opens March 2023
 - ***Anna informed board this grant can cover wages***
5. Nevada Conservation Districts Program (NCDP) Sage Grouse Grant (March 9th Deadline)
 - ***Anna informed board grant is available if needed***
6. Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) EDRR Weed Grant (March 31st Deadline)
 - ***Anna informed board grant is available if needed***

VII. REPORTS TO THE DISTRICT

A. Correspondences

- ***Anna mentioned first 4-H livestock meeting March 1st***

- **AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO VIII. ITEM B**

B. Agency and Partner Updates

1. Update from Cheryl Mandich on Tomera Ranch Project partnership with USFWS
 - ***Cheryl provided update that Home Ranch Phase 2 (phase 1 funded by LCCD) completed. Funds were left over so approximately 200 acres of weeds were sprayed as well. Thanked Tomera family for their partnership and is looking forward to working with them again in the future.***

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO VI. ITEM D 2

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of new county appointed board member Wayne Nebeker - [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- ***Paul introduced Wayne Nebeker as LC appointed board member. Anna informed board Wayne completed oath ceremony at county clerk's office.***

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO V. ITEM A

B. Discussion of District Supervisor Powers and Responsibilities - [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)

- ***Motion to table until all board members present Suzann, 2nd Amy. None opposed.***

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- C. Discussion and possible approval of Indian Creek Weed Abatement Project – [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)
- *Discussion of Indian Creek project proposal and wording, Anna does not have anything on file; to contact Robert or Melany. Paul stated indirect involvement in project as Tomera family own parcels in Indian Creek area. Motion to approve spraying 300 acres Amy, 2nd Dennis. None opposed. Paul abstained.*
- D. Discussion and possible approval of Ferris Creek Weed Abatement Project Bid Request – [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)
- *Discussion of Ferris Creek project, how many acres to spray and whether to add Indian Creek project to same bid. Anna to send separate bids alongside to all applicable contractors and ask, if possible, for contractor to do spraying on both projects. Paul stated indirect involvement in project as Tomera family owns parcels in Ferris Creek area. Motion to approve spraying 400 acres Amy, 2nd Dennis. None opposed. Paul abstained. Anna to send out bid requests.*
- E. Discussion and possible approval of LCCD Project Portfolio - [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)
- *Review of Project Portfolio Anna put together of CD projects over the last five (5) years. Suzann said it's a good idea to keep commissioners updated on projects. Anna to include Kingston Pond Project and keep working to finish portfolio once other more important tasks completed.*

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER, PROCEED TO VIII. ITEM G

- F. Discussion and possible approval of Lander County Manager records request - [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)
- *Paul and Bert updated board on record request from Bert emailed to Anna. Bert informed board that commissioners had questions about where CD funds spent so he submitted records request. Anna contacted Paul with concerns of why request from Bert was anonymous and why Saval Ranch was directly brought up, CD state director then contacted, she called state DA and then informed Bert that he needed to file an official request. Paul informed Bert if there was perceived pushback it was because CD was unsure how to respond to records request and he didn't want Anna to do it incorrectly. Amy asked about public records and what's protected. Paul said once you accept taxpayer funds, it's all transparent. Bert mentioned redacted checks, Anna said*

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*checks aren't redacted by choice, Wells Fargo doesn't allow viewing full check on her end because she is not admin on account. Amy discussed the need for better communication between county and CD and citizens. Bert brought up that if CD projects involve board members, to consider taking it in front of the county commissioner's board if 3rd party needed. Suzann discussed highlighting CD to commissioners and update them on what we do. Bert mentioned Bill Schaeffer as a great resource and that he provides NRS and case backing in writing when corresponding; DA is our legal representative. Mentioned Safe Harbor. Wayne mentioned that it needs to be in writing or its just hearsay. **Mentioned county budget meeting March 17-18th.***

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- G. Discussion of possible agenda items for future meetings.
- *Dennis mentioned inactive board members. Suzann and Amy mentioned date change of current meeting made it difficult for all to commit if prior engagements scheduled. Anna to add to agenda discussion and possible action regarding inactive board members.*
 - *Discussion of date and/or time change for meetings.*
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- *Suzann discussed Cattlemen's update regarding new invasive grass, ventenata, too much silica in it so the cows won't eat it, spraying being attempted. Mentioned Brad Schultz photography of Santa Rosa sheep populations, photos always in exact same location over the years (since the 50's), maybe similar project to be done regarding wild horse damage in Lander County. Mentioned PLUAC letter to Dina Titus and Debra Haaland regarding wild horse gathers to be signed by board and/or individually.*
- X. ADJOURNMENT- [FOR POSSIBLE ACTION](#)
- *Motion to adjourn Suzann, 2nd Dennis. None opposed.*
 - *Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm*

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Acronym Key:

BLM- Bureau of Land Management

FY- Fiscal Year

GSA- General Services Administration

LC- Lander County

LCCD- Lander County Conservation District

NACD- The Nation Association of Conservation Districts

NDA- National Department of Agriculture

NDOW- Nevada Department of Wildlife

NRCS- Natural Resources Conservation Service

PLUAC- Public Land Use and Advisory Board

USFWS- United States Fish and Wildlife Service