



STATE OF NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL
201 South Roop Street, Suite 101
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5247
Phone (775) 687-2000

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
Conference Room
201 S. Roop Street Suite 101
Carson City, NV 89701

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 253 023 858#

Council Members Present: Chris MacKenzie, Chair; Jake Tibbitts, Vice Chair; Bevan Lister, Steven Boies, William Molini, Sherman Swanson; Daphne Emm-Hooper; Mathew Johns; Kyle Davis; James Settelmeyer, DCNR; Alan Jenne, NDW; Justin Barrett, USFW; Cheva Gabor, USFS; Tim Bowden, BLM; Greg Becker, USDA; JJ Goicoechea, NDA

Council Members Absent: None

1 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

A [letter](#) was received from the Board from the Coalition for Healthy Nevada, Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses regarding additional BLM funding and actions for Nevada Wild Horse and Burro gathers in 2024 and read into the record by staff Kathleen Steele and will be discussed further at a later scheduled date.

[Public Comment Response submitted into record and read by Anamaria Boustred](#)

[Public Comment Response submitted into record and read by Lacy J Dalton, President; Leslie K Adams, Treasurer; Let 'em Run Foundation](#)

Public comment will be made on any matter relevant to the Council. Public comments will be taken at the beginning and end of the meeting and may be taken at the discretion of the Chair on specific agenda items. Public comments may be limited to 3 minutes per person at the discretion of the Chair. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action will be taken on any matters raised during the public comment period that are not already on the agenda. Persons providing comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

3 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

***ACTION:** Member Swanson moved to approve the agenda for December 05, 2023; Member Lister seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Approval of minutes from the meetings held on Wednesday, August 16 and Thursday, November 02, 2023

***ACTION:** Member Molini moved to approve the agenda for August 16, 2023; Member Boies seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. ***ACTION:** Member Tibbitts moved to approve the agenda with the changes mentioned for November 02, 2023; Member Lister seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE

[Response from Letter for ESA Extension Request](#)

6 CONSIDERATION OF THE DECEMBER 2023 [SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT](#) AND THE [ANNUAL CCS PERFORMANCE REPORT](#) FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNORS OFFICE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 232.162. - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* SEP staff – Kathleen Steele, Program Manager

***ACTION:** A motion by Member Molini to approve item 6 option to update science tools and the specific updates of the ASUI and HSI. The motion was seconded by Member Swanson. Further discussion was addressed. Member Lister opposed this motion. Motion passes.

7 REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING THIS MEETING AND SCHEDULING NEXT SEC MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* SEP staff – Kathleen Steele, Program Manager

A. With staff assistance, the Council will review items discussed, as well as items acted upon during this meeting, and determine which of those they wish to direct staff to do further work on, as well as which items the Council wishes to act on that may not have been acted upon during earlier discussion.

B. Determination of any specific items the Council would like to work on at their next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

C. Scheduling of the next Council meeting date, time, and place.

February 22, 2024 - location TBD depending on LCB availability. DCNR Bonnie Room at Bryan Building offered up for use as well.

8 FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

A. [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#) – Justin Barrett

No Project Manager still; Flexibility RPM; USGS efforts database for LTC; Working on bill funding, coordination and community funding

B. Bureau of Land Management – *Alan Shepard*

Grazing Rule on Hold due to policy vs rule guidance changes; BLM-IRA Bill funding; Elko/Winnemucca restoration work project; Modernization tool (NEPA) 18-24 months out for completion; Removed 2300 horses/burros

Member Sherman asked the question

Member Lister with a follow-up question

C. US Forest Service – *Bill Dunkelberger*

John Stansfield current Deputy will take Bill's position at the end on December. Chris Boatner was promoted to Regional; Crosstie Greenland North; subscribed burning/grazing

D. USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service – *Chris Rose*

Joey Davis-Lovelock; Heidi Ramsey starts January 15th; coordination with SETT; State partnership coordinator at NDOW office; Easement app unit January 5th; Outreach BLM grazing meeting in Lander County January 11th

E. Other

9 STATE AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

A. Office of the Governor – *None in attendance*

B. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – *James Settelmeyer*

Lowest Fire season in History; Salt Cedar Delegate Discussions/ will contact State Lands /State Parks and report back; Dominique Etchegohyen added that we have a new Administrator for Natural Heritage Jamey McClinton and offered a Conservation Camp update regarding the change of 42 positions to staff crews from inmates

C. Department of Wildlife – *Mark Freese*

Restoration Projects; assistant agreements; sagebrush habitat plan and continually open to feedback

D. Department of Agriculture - *Meghan Brown*

Cooperating agency; interviews next Friday for SETT position

E. Other

10 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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11 ADJOURNMENT

Chairman MacKenzie adjourned the meeting at 12:58 pm.

All details not covered in these minutes can be heard on the meeting recording at <https://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/Meetings/Meetings/>.