



STATE OF NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL
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DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
Time: The Nevada Legislative Building
Place: 401 S. Carson Street, Room 4100, Carson City, Nevada 89701

Video Conference was not available, but could be viewed on the internet at:
<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Calednar/A/>

A full audio recording of this meeting is accessible through the following website -
http://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/Meetings/Sagebrush_Ecosystem_Council_Meeting/

Council Members Present: Jim Barbee, Allen Biaggi, Steven Boies, Jeremy Drew, Leo Drozdoff joined the meeting at 9:25 AM, JJ Goicoechea, Ted Koch, Bevan Lister, Tony Wasley, Raul Morales as a proxy for Amy Lueders.

Council Members Absent: Bill Dunkelberger, Gerry Emm, Starla Lacy, Amy Lueders, and Tina Nappe. Ted Koch left the meeting at 10:53 AM and returned at 12:05 PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Goicoechea called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public comment was heard by: Cliff Gardner, Rural Heritage Preservation Project; Robyn Boies, SANE – Elko, NV. A full account of their comments are captured in the audio recording and available on the Program’s website.
3. **REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Member Biaggi moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Member Drew, motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**
4. **REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. *Approval of minutes from the meeting held February 13, 2014.* Member Biaggi moved to approved the February 13, 2014 minutes; seconded by Member Boies, motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**
5. **COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - A. Council members may make comments at this time and the Program Manager will bring forward any pertinent correspondence directed to the Council. No Council comments under this item.

Mr. Rubald made mention to the public comment letters inserted into the meeting packets.

6. DISCUSSION AND ELECTION OF A COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

A. With the recent resignation of Vice-chairman McAdoo from the Council (effective 2-14-2014), the Council will nominate and elect a vice-chair from current voting members.

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for nominations. Member Biaggi nominated Member Drew to fill the vacancy of Council Vice-Chairman; seconded by Member Lister. Chairman Goicoechea called for other nominations; there were none, he closed the nominations and called for a vote. Member Drew was elected to Council Vice-Chairman unanimously. ***ACTION**

7. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF "DRAFT" WORK PRODUCTS ON THE CONSERVATION CREDIT SYSTEM, FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE'S ALTERNATIVE (ALT. "E") IN THE BLM/USFS SUB-REGIONAL EIS, AND ALSO EVENTUALLY THE STATE PLAN.

A. A presentation of the Draft *Nevada Conservation Credit System Manual, February 2014, Version 0.9* was provided by Jeremy Sokulsky, Eoin Doherty and Jane Rice – Environmental Incentives. The manual was reviewed and discussed by the Council at length.

Chairman Goicoechea took public comment from Sherm Swanson, Preston Wright, and Robyn Boies under this item. Mr. Wright; representing Mary's River Ranch provided a brief presentation to the Council requesting credits be in terms of fees vs. units / market driven vs. consumer driven. A full account of their comments are captured in the audio recording and available on the Program's website.

Break for lunch: 12:32 – 1:42 p.m.

The Council resumed their review and discussion of the manual. A full account of the discussion is available in the audio recording on the Program's website.

Member Biaggi made a motion to approve the proposed Conservation Credit System Manual to be included in the State Alternative of the Sub-Regional EIS to the BLM & USFS on condition of specific revisions to pg. 28, and the removal of the 2 sentences immediately prior to table 2.1. Chairman Goicoechea asked Member Biaggi if he would entertain an amendment to include; the Administrator will set the percentages based upon risks, as well as all the numbers in the mitigation ratio section, and to include levels of high, medium and low that will later be completed with consultation from the agencies, Science Work Group and the SETT, with final review and approval by this body. Member Biaggi accepted the amendment; seconded by Member Lister, discussion, motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**

B. A presentation was provided by Jeremy Sokulsky, Eoin Doherty and Linda Hwang of the Draft *Nevada Conservation Credit System: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Quantification Tool, Scientific Methods Document, Version 0.9*.

Chairman Goicoechea introduced and welcomed Linda Hwang, Ecometrix Solutions, sub-contractor for Environmental Incentives, via teleconference to the meeting. Ms. Hwang provided a brief review and slide presentation of the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT); special scales framework. She discussed the HQT Scales – Area and Attributes table on pg. 7 of the manual.

- 1st order – GRSG Range
- 2nd order – Landscape Context
- 3rd order – Local Context
- 4th order – Site, review of maps and order concept model.

Member Biaggi made a motion to approve the proposed Habitat Quantification Tool Scientific Methods Document to be included in the State Alternative of the Sub-Regional EIS to the BLM and USFS; seconded by Boies, discussion, Member Biaggi made an amendment to the motion to include, numbers are tentative and subject to revision and review, amendment accepted by Member Boies, motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**

8. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DRAFTED ON FLIP CHARTS DURING THIS MEETING

A. With staff assistance, the Council reviewed items discussed, as well as items acted upon during this meeting, and items directed to the SETT. Mr. Rubald highlighted the two action items from the meeting, noting they will come back for review and refinement. ***No action taken.**

B. Determination of any specific items the Council would like to work on at their March 13th, 2014 meeting, which is the next scheduled Council meeting. The meeting will be held at the Legislative Building in room 1214 at 9:00 a.m. The Council's regular meeting date in April was moved from April 10th, to Tuesday April 8th at 8:30 a.m. due to conflicts.

March 13, 2014 meeting items:

- Wild horse and burros – revisions to section in State EIS Alternative

April 8, 2014 meeting items:

- Predation
- CCS – mitigation ratios, including the Science Work Group's feedback

9. FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

- A. US Fish and Wildlife Service – No update.
- B. Bureau of Land Management – No update.
- C. US Forest Service – No update.
- D. Other – No update.

10. STATE AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

- A. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – No update.
- B. Department of Wildlife – No update.
- C. Department of Agriculture – Director Barbee will provide Eddmaps update at next meeting.
- D. Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team – Ms. Neill noted the second meeting of the Expert Review Team was held and the management category maps and habitat suitability maps were changed. They changed their assumption to be more conservative in determining what is and what is not habitat. They modified the standard deviations from 2 to 1 ½ standard deviations; what that means is that they cut off approximately 4,000,000 acres from what the maps that the Council originally reviewed were, to what the maps currently are. The maps will be put together on March 28th and submitted to the BLM with the rest of the state package.
- E. Other – No update.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Goicoechea moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 4:11 p.m.