



STATE OF NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL

Approved Meeting Minutes

Action was taken to approve minutes May 31, 2013

Date: Monday, May 13, 2013
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Teleconference Meeting – Participants were able to join the conference via the following information. Phone number: 1-877-807-5706; access code 21584

Participants at the DCNR Director’s Office Conference Room: Leo Drozdoff, Director, DCNR; Jim Lawrence, Administrator, Division of State Lands; Tim Rubald, Manager, Sagebrush Ecosystem Program; Jim Barbee, Director, NV Dept. of Agriculture; Tony Wasley, Director, NV Dept. of Wildlife, Cassandra Joseph, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General’s Office; Doug Busselman, Sagebrush Ecosystem Council member; Brandi Re, Office Manager, Division of State Lands.

Council Members Participating via Teleconference: Starla Lacy, Allen Biaggi, Tina Nappe, Gerry Emm, Kent McAdoo, Steve Boies, Jeremy Drew, JJ Goicoechea, Amy Lueders, Ted Koch.
Quorum Established.

Public Participating via Teleconference: Naomi Duerr, Steven Courtney, Debbie Struhsacker, and Melissa Sherman.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Goicoechea called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comments.
3. **REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Councilman Biaggi moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairman McAdoo, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried. *ACTION
4. **REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) TO BE USED AS AN INITIAL TOOL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MITIGATION CREDIT SYSTEM** – Mr. Rubald presented the draft RFI for developing a mitigation credit system to the council. The council identified and discussed several areas of the RFI requesting clarification and modifications.
 - a. Councilman Busselman asked how the RFI would be distributed. Mr. Rubald noted the draft was distributed to the current requesting person/agency contact distribution list and had been posted to the website. The final RFI will be distributed to the same list and will be posted on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program website as well as the State of Nevada Purchasing website. Chairman

- Goicoechea asked how many vendors had responded to date. Mr. Rubald indicated three (3) organizations had shown interest to the draft RFI.
- b. Councilwoman Nappe inquired about the proposed budget and the expense to the vendors to submit a proposal. Mr. Rubald explained the purpose of the RFI is to allow vendors to express interest to the council, provide information and detail their expertise. Three to five vendor proposals will be selected and vendors will have the opportunity to give a 20 minutes presentation to the council on May 31, 2013. Chairman Goicoechea noted there are various ways to set-up and administer the mitigation bank and the RFI will allow the council access to information to establish the best mitigation credit system for their needs.
 - c. Mr. Rubald explained the next step would be the RFP process. This will include advertising and accepting bids following the protocols of State Purchasing. Mr. Drozdoff suggested the possibility of eliminating the RFP process by requesting a "Sole Source" solicitation waiver from State Purchasing, as time is of the essence. Mr. Rubald will contact Gregg Smith at State Purchasing to explore all of the possibilities to expedite the process.
 - d. Councilman Drew requested clarification regarding the budget and process required, along with the available funding sources. Mr. Lawrence explained the RFI is a way to expedite the process; to put in place and develop the metrics for different impacts and conservation activities. The vendor awarded the contract would serve as a consultant to establish the metrics. Budgets and funding sources is a discussion to be had after the RFI process has been completed.
 - e. Councilman Biaggi requested review of the bullets outlined in section 2.1 of the RFI. He commented that the mitigation bank should account for mitigation efforts not on the ground; referencing not on the ground mitigation rather than specifically those things for vegetation management efforts. Councilman Biaggi asked if this was perceived as a policy issue vs. a metric. Chairman Goicoechea provided an example of a cost shared helicopter for fire suppression as a not on the ground effort. Mr. Drozdoff noted he thought this discussion was premature and that discussion of in-kind mitigation for services or goods is secondary to the RFI process. His opinion is fire suppression is a policy issue not a metric.
 - f. Councilman Busselman opened a discussion on the language relating to section 2.1 – "Additionally, the SEC is looking to meet requirements of federal land management agencies, primarily BLM & the USFS, as well as the requirements of the US Fish & Wildlife Service in their capacity as the agency administering the ESA. Councilman Koch stated he thinks the language in this section of the RFI should be more like maintaining consistency with the federal land and resource partners, as opposed to using "meeting requirements". Councilwoman Lueders agreed.
 - g. Vice-Chairman McAdoo requested language in bullet#3 to incorporate, "treatments that maintain resistance and resilience, as well address risks to Sage-grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem." A discussion ensued of potential language modifications in the bullet section of the RFI. Chairman Goicoechea stated as Chairman, he would like Mr. Rubald, Councilman Drew, and Vice-Chairman McAdoo to collaborate to modify and craft language to incorporate the suggestions discussed by the council.
 - h. Vice-Chairman McAdoo requested review of bullet#4. He believes the bullet was unclear and was concerned the vendor/consultant would assume they are responsible to determine existing habitat. Mr. Rubald clarified the bullet is to

make the vendor aware of the use of resource selection functions with state and transition models and the existing contract with Dr. Coates. Councilman Busselman suggested modified language to include, "integration methods".

- i. Councilman Drew suggested adding a bullet to address concepts of administration and leveraging with other funding sources and mechanisms to layout steps and sources of revenue. Mr. Drozdoff explained the administration would fall to the council and technical team, not with a vendor.
- j. Councilman Busselman requested bullet#1 incorporate language requesting the vendor to define their roll in the process. Vice-Chairman McAdoo expressed the importance to maintain a broad outline in the RFI.
- k. Councilman Busselman indicated his expectations are that the Technical Team would determine the metric values. Mr. Lawrence explained the RFI is the process to retrieve information from restoration specialists and to utilize methods successfully implemented elsewhere and adapt them to our needs; this would include the value metrics. Mr. Drozdoff noted the intent is to maintain control using a history and science background.
- l. Councilman Drew requested language be added to define the value of mitigation, vendor website information be requested for the purpose of researching the vendor, and credit system define: sagebrush vs. Sage-grouse to ensure conceptual long term practice is transferable.

Chairman Goicoechea called for a motion to accept the incorporated changes as discussed and drafted by Mr. Rubald, Vice-Chairman McAdoo and Councilman Drew. Councilman Boies moved to accept any incorporated changes and to approve the RFI, seconded by Vice-Chairman McAdoo, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried. *Action

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments.

Councilwoman Lueders requested a recap of the upcoming council meeting dates. Mr. Rubald noted three upcoming meetings.

- a. May 31, 2013 – Business meeting, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., Guinn room – Carson City
- b. June 3, 2013 – Collaborative meeting, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., NRCS Office – Reno
- c. June 17, 2013 – Business meeting, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Guinn room – Carson City

6. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Goicoechea moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Nappe. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.