



STATE OF NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL
201 South Roop Street, Suite 101
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5247
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MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, April 5th, 2023
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Risk Management Conference Room
201 S Roop Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Virtual Access:

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Council Members Present: Chris MacKenzie, Kyle Davis, Bevan Lister, Steven Boies, William Molini, John Raby, Cheva Gabor for Bill Dunkelberger, Justin Barrett, JJ Goicoechea, Alan Jenne, James Settelmeyer

Council Members Absent: Sherm Swanson, Jay Gibbs

1. CALL TO ORDER

Member MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Member Molini moved to approve the agenda with no changes. Member Lister seconded the motion. ***ACTION**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Member MacKenzie moved to postpone the approval of the minutes until the next meeting so that people may have time to read them. ***NO ACTION**

5. COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Member Davis addressed the Council to put it on record that he spoke to Mr. McGowan about project deadlines and increased communication so that everyone is aware of project deadlines. But he thinks they came to a good place. Mr. McGowan clarified that the SETT has deadlines for proponents to submit potential projects to be ready for April 15th field start. What was discovered is that in drought years, it was hard to get verifiers ready to hit that April 15th field start to hit

the peak growing season. So, a March 15th deadline was implemented to protect the verifiers to ensure that they can get in the field during the peak of the growing season. The verifiers are aware of the deadline as they go through an annual training, but we could do a better job at reaching out to the proponents. We will work on that in the upcoming year.

Mr. McGowan also shared that Dan Huser's last day was April 3. Mr. McGowan read a message from Mr. Huser expressing his appreciation for the SEC and the opportunities over the last 6.5 years. In addition to Mr. Huser, Emily Hagler too is leaving. Ms. Hagler explained that she has decided to look for opportunities closer to home.

6. REVIEW THE STAFFS DRAFT REPORT FROM COMMENTS RECEIVED AT THE MARCH 2, 2023, WORKSHOP AND MEETING RELATED TO THE REVIEW OF NAC 232.400 – 232.480. CONSIDER ADDITIONAL COMMENTS RECEIVED TO STREAMLINE, CLARIFY, REDUCE, OR OTHERWISE IMPROVE THE REGULATION TO ENSURE IT PROVIDES FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE STATE WITHOUT UNNECESSARILY INHIBITING ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCT STAFF TO INCORPORATE COMMENTS INTO THE FINAL REPORT TO THE NDCNR DIRECTOR. - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Member MacKenzie opened the floor to the Council members' concerns or comments for the regulation. Hearing none, Mr. Davis made a motion that no regulation changes are proposed at this time, and the SETT is to submit the completed report that would represent the discussion on the regulation. Member Molini seconded the motion, all approved.

***ACTION**

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL

Mr. McGowan reminded the Council that May 12th is the next meeting, and that the agenda will include a continuation of the improvement discussion from the prior meeting as well as an update to the Habitat Management Areas map. This new map stems from USGS and Pete Coates will be at the meeting to introduce his work. Mr. Davis asked if there had been any progress filling in the vacant Council seats, to which Mr. McGowan replied that two have been submitted but he is unsure as to where they are in the process.

8. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING THIS MEETING AND SCHEDULING NEXT SEC MEETING – *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Mr. McGowan reiterated that the next meeting is May 12th. He also expressed an interest in conducting another field tour in July, potentially visiting the Martin Fire. Mr. Molini expressed interest in seeing the new wild horse holding facility in the area as well. Ms. Gabor also expressed interest in touring the Shared Stewardship restoration sites in the area.

Member Boies asked for an update on where USFWS is on addressing predation. Mr. McGowan also brought up a new public lands bill that they might introduce to the Council, but he will discuss it with Alan Shepherd first.

Ms. Gabor asked if she could update the Council quickly on what is happening with the USFS. The Sierra and Elko landscapes were selected as a wildfire crisis strategy with a focus on reduction of wildfire risk. The investment is around \$57 million total. They are trying to move that into agreements and contracts for the next five years, for invasives and wildlife management activities. They are beginning the process of NEPA for aerial herbicide application, as this has been a missing link on National Forest Service lands. They are hoping to have that NEPA done by the end of September. The Santa Rose Range management project is coming to an end and are finalizing the decision. The language will be adhering to the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan. Going back to the wildfire strategy, everywhere possible, the USFS will be trying to tie into the bi-state and greater sage-grouse habitat restoration.

Mr. Raby also wanted to update the Council for the Bureau of Land Management. First, he expressed appreciation for sending the letter to support wild horse and burro management. They are going to be capturing 7,500 animals and working toward 20,000 animals. They are focusing on areas that are most out of appropriate management levels. This includes fertility treatments and adoptions. As for Greater Sage-Grouse planning, they are working to update habitat maps. There is a meeting in Salt Lake City coming up. A mapping update was completed a year ago to identify important habitat changes. Subsequent mapping efforts should be straight forward. The public lands rule will continue to be discussed and was rolled out to public comment last week. There will be several meetings coming up to discuss this. Outside entities can come to the BLM with interest in doing conservation on public lands and ensure that restoration effort is going to be sustained, then they can apply for a conservation lease. Finally, the BLM has two focal landscapes that have been selected in Nevada for restoration efforts - the Montana Mountains and the O'Neil PPA area. They are looking at \$5-10 million for those landscapes. ***NO ACTION**

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Member Molini moved to adjourn, and Member Boies seconded the motion. Member MacKenzie adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

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