



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Nevada Department of Wildlife
Main Conference Room
6980 Sierra Center Pkwy #120
Reno, NV 89511

Microsoft Teams meeting

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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, USFWS; Jon Stansfield, USFS; Kim Prill, BLM; Jim Gifford, NRCS; Meghan Brown, NDA

Council Members Absent: None

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 8:33am; ROLL CALL- All members present

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- [Wild Horse and Burro protest letter submitted by A. Boustred](#)
- [Wild Horse and Burro protest letter submitted by C. Downer](#)
- Ralph Sacrison gave [public comment online](#) regarding item # 10 and has submitted [written letter](#)

***The Chair wanted to make a note that this item the is being referred to, has been removed from this meeting's agenda and will be brought back at a future August meeting.**

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - *ACTION: Approval of agenda for Friday, April 19, 2024. Member Davis moved to approve the [agenda](#) for April 19, 2024; Member Lister seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *ACTION:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the meetings held on Thursday, February 22, 2024; Member Swanson moved to approve the minutes for February 22, 2024, with minor typo changes as discussed; Member Lister seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. [Final minutes.](#)

5. COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Council members may make comments at this time and the Program Manager will bring forward any pertinent correspondence directed to the Council. K.Steele

- [Raven Take Increase Letter](#)
- [Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands Support Letter](#)
- Member Lister mentioned the [FREES 2024 Summit](#) (Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability) had just finished up and was a good conference. There were a lot of presentations and good information on impacts and interactions between wild horses, wildlife, and livestock. Member Swanson also mentioned that the breakout sessions had a lot of constructive collaboration and that was after the formal program, so the discussions were great. Member Swanson also wanted to thank the team for the letter that was submitted last fall and give some updates on the 2023/24 numbers, decreased appropriation, reduction of horses or spreading out and off range holding. [\(12:20 - 14:27\)](#)

6. Western Solar Environmental Impact Statement Presentation and discussion

- Kim Frill (BLM) gave a quick [overview and update](#) of the project that will be further discussed in the presentation. They are in midst of addressing comments and the final EIS should be completed by this Fall. Member Lister asked the question of how all three plans roll together, referring to the Solar PEIS, Greater Sage-Grouse and ACEC; K.Frill gave an overview of what is taken into consideration. [\(23:45 - 27:50\)](#)
- [Presentation](#) by Vicki Campell, BLM on the [2024 Solar PEIS Website](#)

***NO ACTION TAKEN**

7. Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendment and Draft EIS presentation and discussion

Timothy Bowden, BLM

- [Presentation](#) given by Tim Bowden on [Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments Website](#) and further discussion on Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACEC). [\(31:55 – 56:15\)](#)
 - Draft EIS [comment](#) period March 15, 2024 - June 13, 2024.
 - Final EIS, including State specific proposed plans, anticipated Fall 2024
 - 60-day Governor’s Consistency Review
 - 30-day Concurrent Protest Period
- Member Lister followed-up with questions @ [\(56:18\)](#)

***NO ACTION TAKEN**

8. Discussion of the SEC being a cooperating Agency, possible action to ask BLM to allow sec to be a Cooperating agency - SEP Staff and Nicole Ting, DAG

- N. Ting explained that the [Example MOU](#) is no different than a standard MOU and her recommendation is for this body to submit a letter to BLM requesting to be considered as cooperating agency.
- Discussion by Members

***ACTION:** Member Lister made a motion that the SEC submit a letter to BLM requesting to be considered as a cooperating agency for all sagebrush ecosystem EIS level actions; Member Boies seconded the motion. The motion was approved with seven in favor. Chair MacKenzie wanted the record to reflect that he was in opposition.

9. Discussion of California Department of Fish and Wildlife petition to list the greater sage-grouse under the California Endangered Species Act - Neil Clipperton, CDFW

- Mr. Clipperton from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife gave a [summary](#) and update regarding the petition to list the greater sage-grouse under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

***NO ACTION TAKEN**

10. Review and Discuss the Dispute on Version control Brought forth By ORLA Mining regarding south Railroad Mine Project - Donald Dwyer and Glenn King, Orla Mining

- [Orla Objection Letter](#); [SETT Return Letter](#)

***This item has been removed from this meeting's agenda and will be brought back at a future meeting.**

11. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL - SEP Staff

- S.Monaghan presented the [CCS Update](#) to the group regarding the Credit side of the presentation highlighting a total of 30,000 acres conserved.
 - 19 credits transferred in total in 2024; Several more transactions are pending, but not yet finalized.
 - Two new credit projects added 4,115 credits and 8,547 acres to the CCS; One existing credit project added 24 credits via PJ removal.
 - ~8,000 newly anticipated credits (17,234 acres)
- C.Acevedo continued the [CCS Update](#) going over the Debit side of the presentation.
 - Debits anticipated after CCS inclusion total ~32,500 debits
 - Official unmitigated plus anticipated debits will total ~ 70,500
- Current balances:
 - ~63,000 credits (anticipated and available)
 - ~70,500 debits (unmitigated and anticipated)
- SEC members asked SETT members follow-up questions.
- Fees and Penalties Update:
 - Authority of acquiring fees request made through LCB; submitted a BDR request
 - Three Debit projects out of compliance for severity, rectify, prevent; Three debit projects were found out of compliance since February. We are currently working with two to rectify. Steps have been made to contact the third.
- SEC members asked SETT members follow-up questions.
- Member Boies asked about SWPP North regarding mitigation

12. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING THIS MEETING AND SCHEDULING NEXT SEC MEETING

- 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.
- Determination of any specific items the Council would like to work on at their next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
 - HMA's -Adoption of USGS Maps
 - Semi Annual Report to Governor's Office
 - ARMPA Discussion – *maybe a special mtg*
 - Native Seed
 - Fire Restoration Topics
 - How we handle renewables in our system

- New Public Lands Rule - *Presentation by BLM*
- Scheduling of the next Council meeting date, time, and place.
 - Thursday May 30, 2024 @ Legislature Building in Carson City

13. FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

- Justin Barrett with US Fish and Wildlife Service (*USFW*)
 - Updates on section 7 EPA and the section 10 revisions effective May 5th, also mentioned there will be a webinar available.
 - Raven public Comment period ends next week, and permit will be issued
- Kim Prill with Bureau of Land Management (*BLM*)
 - Public Lands Rule
 - 21 Restoration Landscapes
 - Interagency partnership
- John Stansfield with US Forest Service (*USFS*)
 - Wild horse/Burro discussions w/BLM
 - Forest wide subscribed burn
 - Forest wide application of germicide
- Jim Gifford with USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (*NRCS*)
 - Bistate Amend Letter
 - 3rd round of programs – IRA Funds available
 - Treating of Basin grasses
 - Federal Lands/Public Lands
 - Need projects to spend money on
 - New staff and vacancy updates, recruitment and retention events

14. STATE AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

- Office of the Governor- J. Settelmeyer read letter from Tim Robb into the record
- J. Settelmeyer & D. Etchegoyhen with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (*NDCNR*) provided update
- Allen Jenne with Department of Wildlife (*NDOW*)
 - NRCS new person Kaylee Pena with Pheasants Forever
- Kim Prill with Department of Agriculture (*NDA*)
 - Solar AEIS exclusions of Sage Grouse habitat
 - Native Seed funding- contract grow outs
 - Forbes, grasses, shrub
- Other:
 - 3-year grant mormon crickets/forecast
 - Sage Grouse habitats
 - Public Lands Rule
 - PHMA

15. PUBLIC COMMENT - *NO PUBLIC COMMENT

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.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman MacKenzie adjourned the meeting at 1:49pm

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