

JOE LOMBARDO
Governor



Kathleen Steele, Program Manager
Casey Adkins, Forestry/Wildland Fire
Sarah Hale, State Lands
Cheyenne Acevedo, Wildlife
Skyler Monaghan, Agriculture

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

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STATE OF NEVADA
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

MINUTES

Date: Friday, February 7, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
Conference Room
201 S. Roop Street Suite 101
Carson City, Nevada 8701

Teams Access

Meeting ID: 216 117 845 559
Passcode: a6YZ6pN9

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

- A. Call to order at 8:32am
- B. Members or Ex-Officio Present: Chris MacKenzie, Jake Tibbitts, Kyle Davis, Steven Boies, Bevan Lister, Sherm Swanson, Mathew Johns, James Settlemeyer, Kristen Jule, Chris Rose for NRCS, Meghan Brown for NDF, Justin Small for NDOW
- C. Members or Ex-Officio Not Present: Daphne Emm Hooper, Jon Stansfield, Jon Raby

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. No public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approval of agenda for Friday, February 07, 2025.
 - 1. Motion: Member Boies
 - 2. Second: Member Swanson

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from the temporary regulation hearing held on Friday, December 13, 2024.
 - 1. Motion: Member Tibbitts
 - 2. Second: Member Molini
- B. Approval of minutes from the SEC meeting held on Friday, December 13, 2024.
 - 1. Motion: Member Davis
 - 2. Second: Member Lister

C. Approval of minutes from the temporary regulation hearing held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

1. Motion: Member Boies
2. Second: Member Davis

5. COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. No items from SETT Program Manager or Staff.
- B. Member Davis has a meeting at 11:00am, and will have to step out, but will return after.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF VIRTUAL FENCE CLASSIFICATION WITHIN THE CCS

- A. Skyler Monaghan, SETT, starts the presentation at 8:38am
- B. Discussion starts at 8:48am
- C. Member Swanson moves to classify virtual fencing as an agricultural exemption without the requirement of taking old fences down.
- D. Member Molini seconds.
- E. Member Tibbitts suggested future discussion and consideration of removing old fences around leks as credit projects or credit generation.
- F. Chairman MacKenzie asked if the placement of towers should be regulated by CCS policy. Discussion regarding how tower placement and management would likely come from the Federal lands management agencies when on public land.
- G. DCNR Director Settlemeyer suggested collaboration with NRCS. Chris Rose, NRCS, confirms that NRCS works with virtual fencing and suggested future discussion and collaboration between SETT and NRCS.
- H. Motion passes at 9:13am.

7. AN OVERVIEW OF THE NEVADA CONSERVATION CREDIT SYSTEM

- A. Kathleen Steele, SETT Program Manager, starts the presentation at 9:14am
- B. Discussion and questions start at 9:52am.
- C. Member Swanson suggest aligning the boundaries of the WAWFA, BSU, and PMU, would like to refine the definition of altered and unaltered meadows, and suggest that ecological site data should be explored in replacement for the BLM AIM dataset for the HQT baseline metrics when the data is available.
- D. Discussion concludes at 9:56am

8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEMS TECHNICAL TEAM STATE LANDS POSITION

- A. Sarah Hale, SETT, starts the presentation at 9:57am
- B. Discussion and questions start at 10:28am
- C. Member Lister asks for clarification on the price of credits and how we have financial assurances without knowing how much credits are sold for.
- D. Discussion concludes at 10:30am

9. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEMS TECHNICAL TEAM NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE POSITION

- A. Skyler Monaghan, SETT, starts the presentation at 10:31am

- B. Discussion and questions start at 11:23am
- C. Member Boies asks for clarification on the difference between the landowner and a ranch and land manager. Suggests a discussion on the difference between these and how landowners play a role in their credit project. Ask for clarification on competing land use on private land and financial assurances.
- D. Discussion concludes at 11:30am

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

- A. Mrs. Steele lists the following: debit presentations, two alternative mitigation plans on public lands for discussion.
- B. Member Lister suggests including conversations with local conservation groups for future meetings regarding on the ground restoration.
- C. The next SEC meeting date: Thursday, April 17th 2025, tentatively virtual

11. FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

- A. US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - 1. Kristen Jule: John Tull left USFWS and is now at USGS. USFW is in a period of transition as they work to meet the goals of the new administration but are continuing all effective work. They remain committed to and engaged in sagebrush conservation. Federal funding pauses are in effect and there are delays with the Federal Register so reach out with questions.
- B. Bureau of Land Management
 - 1. Not in attendance.
 - 2. DCNR Director Settelmeyer announces that Jon Raby is now acting at the federal level, leaving his BLM State Director position.
- C. US Forest Service
 - 1. Not in attendance.
- D. USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - 1. Chris Rose: IRA funding is paused, so there are delays. Non-IRA funding is still active. Chris Rose is going to share NRCS information regarding virtual fencing with SETT. He will follow up on data availability for baseline, as discussed in agenda item 7.
- E. Other
 - 1. None.

12. STATE AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

- A. Office of the Governor
 - 1. Chase McNamara: The office is working with DOI on an extension of the sage-grouse FEIS.
- B. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - 1. DCNR Director Settelmeyer: Actively working to learn how changes at the federal level may impact on the SEP. Legislature has started, and there is a position to put forth regarding the CCS. The position is to put CCS document (e.g., manual and user’s guide) into the regulation.
 - 2. DCNR Deputy Director Dominique Etchegoyhen: Budget hearing occurring soon which will include the SEC and the SEP. The budget has been increased for travel, and operating

costs for SEC, SEP, and Staff (including two trucks). Shared Stewardship and other programs have been recommended for budget increases.

3. Kathleen Steele: Mitigation Summit for SETT and other states agencies for a collaborative effort to share information and effect actions regarding mitigation programs, location is TBA. Credit and Debit Proponent Workshop to increase communication. Sponsors for the Workshop are needed. Looking for public land projects that are “shovel ready”, this would be an opportunity for projects that may have lost federal funding.

C. Department of Wildlife

1. Justin Small: Lekking season is coming up, and a lek survey protocol training occurring (Feb 3rd, 4th, or 5th) and many CCS verifiers will be attending. There were many inconsistencies in lek counts last year, so the training is to increase performance and counting effectiveness.

D. Department of Agriculture

1. Meghan Brown: Spring Foundation Seed Program applications are going out. Due to federal fiscal spring grow out contracts are not going out; they will be reinstated with funding returns. NDA is presenting at different CDs and weed management groups on Early Detection maps and Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR).

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. No public comment.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion to adjourn by Member Lister.

B. Seconded by Member Swanson.

C. Adjourned at 12:01pm