



STATE OF NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL
201 South Roop Street, Suite 101
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5247
Phone (775) 684-8600 - Fax (775) 684-8604

DRAFT MINUTES

SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON MONITORING

Date/Time: Friday, May 30, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Sagebrush Ecosystem Program Office

Address: 201 South Roop Street, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701

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

Council Members Present: Steve Boies (SEC, via telephone), Bevan Lister (SEC, via telephone), Tina Nappe (SEC), and Sherman Swanson (SEC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Donnie Bruland (Nevada Conservation Districts, via telephone), Mark Coca (BLM), John Copeland (SETT), Lee Corum (USFWS), Melissa Faigeles (SETT), Raul Morales (BLM), and Tim Rubald (SETT),

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Due to the lack of a current chairperson, Tim Rubald called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – No Public Comment.
3. **SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR** – Member Nappe nominated Member Swanson to serve as Committee Chairman; seconded by Member Boies; Member Nappe then made a motion that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Member Swanson to serve as Chair of the Committee. Seconded by Member Boies; motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**
At this point Chairman Swanson began chairing the meeting.
4. **REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Member Lister moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Member Boies, motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**
5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Committee members may make comments at this time and the Program Manager will bring forward any pertinent correspondence directed to the Committee.

Chairman Swanson asked for correspondence items. There were none.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DETERMINATION OF THE SCOPE OF WORK THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS. THIS WILL FOCUS ON THE MECHANISMS FOR SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM MONITORING, THAT DOCUMENT THE EFFECTS OF MANAGEMENT OF THE LAND USES AND LAND MANAGEMENT THAT WILL DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IMPACT SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEMS AND NEVADA LANDSCAPES. THIS WILL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC LAND GRAZING ALLOTMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH BLM AND USFS.

A. Member Boies asked for clarification on “long-term.” Chairman Swanson indicated that objectives can change, but when dealing with priority objectives, the length depends on the Plan. The timeframe must be included in the Plan and be based upon the land use, rotations, season of use, etc. Member Boies asked how the Conservation Credit System (CCS) will monitor projects. Member Rubald stated that monitoring protocols are outlined in the CCS Manual and will be fully developed by the end of 2014.

Mr. Coca stated BLM has decades of information concerning allotment monitoring. BLM continues to monitor allotments. BLM will continue with the AIM Protocol outlined at the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) meeting on May 13, 2014.

Member Boies asked if BLM followed the Rangeland Monitoring Handbook, especially concerning permittee monitoring? Member Lister asked what type of monitoring is acceptable? The Committee wants to make sure that all agencies are on the same page when it comes to monitoring. There needs to be clarification on what is acceptable data for BLM protocols.

Mr. Coca confirmed that BLM does follow the Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. AIM is another way that BLM collects data. BLM has a template for a Cooperative Monitoring Agreement that can be used to answer many of the questions asked by committee members concerning monitoring data and collection. Mr. Rubald will make this document available at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Morales stated there needs to be agreement upfront on what to collect and who will collect it. Mr. Coca also indicated that BLM wants to make sure that data collected meets BLM needs and the proper training has been provided. Training needs to be involved, staff expertise, and quality control needs to be in place. Data must meet protocols so it can be used in legal proceedings. ***NO**

ACTION TAKEN

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording and is available on the Program's website.

B. Member Lister asked if there was language in the State Plan that details how the ecosystem will be monitored. Ms. Faigeles stated this is being included in the Plan. Member Nappe asked that all issues needing monitoring be addressed in the Plan, this should include: elk, oil and gas, off road recreation, etc. ***NO ACTION TAKEN**

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording and is available on the Program's website.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF NEEDED UPDATES TO THE NEVADA RANGELAND MONITORING HANDBOOK – SECOND EDITION, AND THE RANCHERS' MONITORING GUIDE; AND POSSIBLE METHODS TO ACCOMPLISH ANY CHANGES NEEDED.

A. Chairman Swanson stated that the manuals are over 8-years old. Mr. Coca indicated the one thing missing in the *Ranchers' Monitoring Guide* is the BLM/monitoring agreement, including what type of monitoring is accepted and who does the collections. An agreement is needed.

Mr. Morales suggested renaming the *Ranchers' Monitoring Guide* to *Stakeholders' Monitoring Guide*.

Chairman Swanson stated that Carol Evans' latest materials should be included in the Handbook and Guide, especially how grazing could affect habitat.

Mr. Coca agreed that AIM data collection could be incorporated in the Handbook. Random points across the land may not address the management questions therefore important locations may need more random points.

The Oregon monitoring handbook is available. Mr. Rubald will provide it. ***NO ACTION TAKEN**

8. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS, DETERMINATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE, AND DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

A. Determination of any specific items the Committee would like to work on at their next meeting, and setting of their next meeting date, including a discussion of possible agenda items. *There was committee consensus to hold the next meeting on June 24, 2014.*

June 24, 2014 Agenda Items:

- Pilot Project
- Overall Land Monitoring - Adequate Data, Training for Data Collection, Stakeholder Monitoring
- Objectives of Short-term and Long-term Monitoring
- Self-Monitoring and Monitoring Agreement
- Consistency of Monitoring Concerning BLM Protocols
- Revisions to *Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook*/*Ranchers' Monitoring Guide*
- Certification of Consultants
- Short-term Funding
- State Plan

9. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Member Nappe moved to adjourn; seconded by Member Boies, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. ***ACTION**