

NNSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 1st, 2019 at 5:15 pm

**BBQ at Gerry Miller's House
3915 Desert Plain Avenue, Elko, Nevada**

- 1) Welcome and introductions / determination of quorum
Board Members: Gary Reese, Gerald Miller, Dave Voth, Gail Ross, Larry Hyslop, William Kutosky and Andi Porreca
Public: Madi Stout (NDOW), Cindy Hyslop, Susanne Reese, Nancy Bradley, Doug Clarke, Melissa Schultz (Nevada Gold Mines), Meghan Voth and Emily Kutosky
- 2) Public Comment/Short General Discussion Period, Adjust Agenda
 - a) Susie noted that the NNSG is doing a wonderful job with projects and keeping the community involved.
 - b) Discussion of the National Cowboy Gathering under 7g and Lamoille Canyon Steering Committee/Friends of the Ruby Mountains Volunteer Event under 7h.
- 3) Approval of the June 3, 2019 Minutes
 - a) **Dave made a motion to approve the June 3, 2019 meeting minutes with date corrections. Gerry seconded and the motion passed.**
- 4) Treasurer's Report
 - i) Tabled until August meeting.
- 5) Outreach
 - a) NNSG Brochures, Table Displays, Poster Board, etc.
 - i) The NNSG brochure needs to be updated. The Chamber may be able to assist us with PR materials as part of our membership. *Andi will send Dave the NNSG logo along with project photos that Susie has taken, will work on a newsletter together.*
 - ii) The subgroup should get together before National Public Lands Day. *Doug and Gerry will do a Doodle poll to see determine a date that works for everyone. Susie will move forward with ordering a banner from discountbanners.com.*
- 6) Update on Dream Tag Proposal
 - a) Field Monitoring Update – Next Spring we'll need folks to monitor
 - i) Determination of New Monitoring Sites
 - (1) Gerry sent out a summary for the monitoring sites that Brad viewed and completed monitoring for.
 - (2) William applied for a grant to sagebrush cache project on a larger scale at Red House at Maggie Creek Ranch.

- (3) Gerry noted that it might be a good idea to do some mahogany cache sites at the Range Two fire and South Sugarloaf fires sites this fall. We will need to obtain a permit from Josh at USFS.
- 7) Upcoming Opportunities Requesting Contribution/Partner Support
- a) Programmatic EIS for Fuel Breaks in the Great Basin
 - i) The information was sent to the Board for informational purposes. The comment period for the EIS ends August 5th. **Dave made a motion for the Board to draft comments on behalf of the NNSG and submit before the comment period ends. Gerry seconded and the motion passed.**
 - b) Big W Ranch Rehab Project – Possible Cost-Share
 - i) Big W Ranch is approximately 1,400 acres. Sam is looking for partners to either purchase seed, herbicide, equipment rental, etc.
 - ii) Sam Sanders Project Summary:
 - (1) My train of thought on the lease is that if I have the lease I can manage amount and timing of the grazing and or haying. Over grazing the grass allows weeds, I would rest the place for a year or two while establishing a healthy grass system that can maintain for longer term. Having the lease and having it paid for (without depending on cow income) would also encourage me to invest more of my funds and time into the property, including improving the weed management.
 - (2) A one-time lump sum is not necessarily beneficial for weed management over large acreages over time in heavily grazed areas. Say we spend \$20,000 and a growing season on brush removal spraying and reseeding to winter rye to clean up the weed problem on 200 acres for the following year in heavy grazed system. The second year's successful maintenance and conversion to perennial grasses of those acres may cost more money than what can be consistently put into it, potentially making the weed problem worse over time than what it currently is.
 - (a) Seed Costs are not yet finalized because many aren't harvested yet but what I can currently get in the ground is:
 - (b) Winter Rye (approximately \$20 / 100lbs) - 2000 for approximately 15-20 acres, seeded heavy to account for bird and rodent damage.
 - (c) Great Basin Wild Rye - 200 pounds in seed mix for previously treated areas
 - (d) Smooth Brome - 500 pounds in seed mix for previously treated area
 - (e) Other species of grass wanted is Garrison, perennial rye grass, annual rye grass, and some crested. This list and quantity may change depending on how much area and costs for brush removal. No herbaceous plants wanted yet due to continued field maintenance with broadleaf herbicides. Any additional seed would require additional funds to seed, and seeding costs would depend on method.
 - (f) Current Brush hog costs are about \$75 an acre along winding creek and small brush areas, will map out area today to get acres I currently plan

on brush hogging. If extensive acreages are brush hogged price per acre should significantly decrease, working on numbers...

- (3) Doug was in favor of cattle management of the area to ensure long-term success. **Gerry made a motion to have Sam present a more comprehensive project proposal before the Board makes any decisions regarding the project. William seconded and the motion passed.**
- c) Mary Winter's Flora of Northern Nevada Book Funding Request Update
- i) No update.
- d) Upcoming Friends of the Ruby Mountains Events – Larry Hyslop
- i) June 29 campground talk: 30 people attended, a few coming out from town. Robin Wignall, USFS, did a good job talking about the Range 2 Fire and rehab efforts. In the audience was a couple who started the ruby crest trail the day of the fire, leaving their RV at end of the road. People were searching for them after the fire and after finishing the trail at Harrison Pass, were taken back into the canyon to get their RV. Quite a coincidence. Thanks to Doug Clarke for helping.
 - ii) June 30 Lamoille Country Fair: we talked to a lot of people, gave out recreation guides and other materials. Thanks to Laila Buehn Miguel for helping.
 - iii) July 4th: we will have an information table at end of the road from 10:00-2:00. We have help but stop by if you are in the canyon.
 - iv) We collected \$84 in donations over the weekend. It is amazing, I think it shows how much people appreciate what we do.
- e) Fire Project Updates – Range Two and Sugarloaf
- i) Gary started the rephotography in Lamoille for the USFS and the Friends of the Ruby Mountains. He recorded 27 species at the Powerhouse and 47 species at the Lion's Camp.
 - ii) Gary was able to save 600 seedlings that were inundated with a fungus.
 - iii) Lion's Camp Clean-Up: 70 volunteers cleaned up the area around the lodge and Team Rubicon was also in attendance. Gerry suggested planting mahogany caches to see if they are successful like the sagebrush caches.
 - iv) Josh stated that the FS seasonal orientation was at the beginning of June and then they will be working out in the field. He is also impressed with the pinyon-juniper piles at Overland Pass thanks to the NDF crews.
- f) National Cowboy Gathering
- i) There are two possible panel discussion topics. BLM's outcome-based grazing techniques or Savory Institute (Jefferson) Center's holistic management practices. **Gerry made a motion to move forward with sponsoring up to \$1,500 to have Jefferson Center give their holistic management presentation at the 2020 Cowboy Poetry discussion panel. Larry seconded and the motion passed. Dave will be the point of contact with the Jefferson Center.**

- g) Lamoille Canyon Steering Committee/Friends of the Ruby Mountains Volunteer Event
 - i) Five people showed up for the steering committee meeting and there is \$27,000 available through fundraising for rehab projects. The next volunteer day is set for October 19th. There are 600 mountain big sage and Wyoming big sage plants that need to be put in the ground. Does NNSG want to co-sponsor with Friends of the Ruby Mountains on the October 19th Lamoille Canyon volunteer event? **Gerry made a motion to fund up to \$500 for lunch for the event. Larry seconded and the motion passed.**
 - ii) The NDF fall plant sale is set for October 4-5. The public will have the option to purchase sagebrush seedlings that can be planted in October by volunteers in Lamoille Canyon.
- h) National Public Land's Day Events
 - i) At previous meetings, the Board voted to spend \$2,000 on a Joint Chief's project. There is currently \$1,000 remaining to be spent on another project. Gerry also previously made a motion to spend up to \$500 per National Public Land's Day rehab event (Sugarloaf and Range Two) on food expenditures that will be held on September 28, 2019. The details for the Wild Horse Crossing Campground volunteer work-day are still being worked out, but lunch and dinner will be provided to those who attend, and is sponsored by NNSG.
- 8) Recap Fundraising Brainstorm
 - a) Item was tabled for August Board meeting.
- 9) Updates from Agencies, Partners and Local Area Working Groups
 - a) Item tabled for August Board meeting.
- 10) Determine the Next Meeting Date and Location
 - a) Andi will send out a Doodle poll for August meeting date and location.
- 11) Adjourn
 - a) The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.