

NNSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 14, 2020 at 5:15 pm

**Elko County Commissioner's Chamber
540 Court Street Street, Elko, Nevada**

1. Welcome and introductions / determination of quorum
 - Board Members: Gary Reese (via Zoom), Gerald Miller, Larry Hyslop, Dave Voth, Andi Porreca, Margaret Walch (via Zoom), William Kutosky (via Zoom) Gail Ross
 - Public: Doug Clarke, Josh Nicholes, Coralee Ditman, James Owens, Leslie Creel, Curtis Moore, Elizabeth Puentes, Melanie Mitchell, Amanda Osborne, Kevin Dost
 - Gerry Miller the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.
2. Public Comment/Short General Discussion Period, Adjust Agenda
 - i. There was no public comment.
3. Updates from Agencies, Partners and Landowners
 - Josh Nicholes – USFS
 - i. In 2020, for South Sugarloaf fire, crews put in fence, weed crews did treatments and GBI crews completed some wilderness work.
 - ii. For 2021, Carson is wanting to do an Eagle Scout project in Lamoille, he's raised \$9,000.
 - iii. Applied for two RTP grants (snow rangers and motorized and non-motorized trail work).
 - iv. Met with the Back Horsemen and will be coordinating on trail work in the Rubies. Sierra Club will be working on Overland Pass and Nevada Outdoor School will be working at Road's End.
 - v. Emily Shue is on detail as the new Recreational Tech.
 - vi. Joint Chief's – received \$90,000 for weed treatments for the South Sugarloaf fire and the fire program has a new fire prevention tech.
 - vii. Great American Outdoor Act – pavement preservation of Lamoille Road and fixture replacement on buildings in the Jarbidge area.
 - Melanie Mitchell – BLM Wells Field Office
 - i. There was a fire in April, north of Wendover.
 - ii. CX doc for replacement of Orange bridge in 2022.
 - iii. Winecup-Gamble is still working on outcome-based grazing.
 - iv. LCT allotments will be monitored and inventoried, along with land health assessments
 - v. O'Neill PPA – ongoing since 2015, draft will available for comments by the public in May.
 - Elizabeth Puentes – BLM Tuscarora Field Office
 - i. Currently working on Lamoille trails and Pony Exploration projects.

- ii. Proposals are out for TS natural gas pipeline, Ruby pipeline to TS powerplant and Horseshoe Gulch.
 - William Kutosky – USFWS
 - i. Received funding to implement sagebrush caches at Maggie Creek Ranch. 1,140 caches were installed at the Hunter Creek fire last fall with the help of Gary on around 1,000 acres of private and public land. William intends to put in more caches this fall.
 - Curtis Moore – Elko County
 - i. Following federal actions for BLM and USFS.
 - ii. Terri Lister is retiring in June, so will be working to get replacement up to speed.
4. Approval of March 2, 2020 Minutes
- **Larry made a motion to approve the March 2 meeting minutes with correction. Gail seconded and the motion passed.**
5. Treasurer’s Report(s)
- Approval of Bills Accrued Since the Last Meeting
 - i. **Item tabled until treasurer is present to give a budget report.**
 - ii. Gerry emailed out an NNSG budget to the board. There is currently \$18,500 in the general account and \$30,150 in the CDs account.
6. Outreach
- Update by Subgroup (NNSG Brochures, Table Displays, Poster Board, etc.)
 - i. The NNSG table cloth and banner were ordered and area ready to be used at public events. Larry said that the Board should check out the website, it was updated last year.
 - Update by Social Media Subgroup
 - ii. Larry updated the website. Other members of the subgroup include Gail, Gerry and Doug.
7. Update on Dream Tag Proposal
- Gerry completed and submitted the final report in January. Sites (Echo, Oil Well, Maggie Creek and Lamoille cache sites) will continue to be monitored and stakes will be pulled sometime in May. Doug would like to see a “how to” guide be created for sagebrush caching projects.
8. Upcoming Opportunities Requesting Contribution/Partner Support
- Mary Winter’s Flora of Northern Nevada Book Funding Request Update
 - i. There are currently two \$1,000 donations for printing the book from SRM Nevada Section and Southern Nevada Conservancy. Janelle Johnson (Nevada Native Plant Society) would like the NNPS to pay for the printing up front and then books can be purchased directly from them. The \$2,000 donation will be paid directly to NNPS. 150 books can be printed and cost per book will be around \$18.
 - Upcoming Friends of the Ruby Mountain Events
 - i. Larry stated that the Natural Trail guide is almost final. Trail posts will and post numbers will be replaced and updated. There will also be a volunteer event for National Trail’s Day sometime this summer. Nevada Outdoor School and Friends of the Ruby Mountains will be co-hosting a Sunset Hike on April 24 at Talbot Trail at 6:00 PM.

- National Trail’s Day Activities
 - i. **Andi made a motion to sponsor food purchase for up to \$300 for volunteer event this summer. Larry seconded and the motion passed.**
 - ii. Kevin Dost – GBI
 1. Currently working to create recreational trails map for Elko County.
 2. GBI partnered with USFS on two RTP grants. They submitted a proposal to the National Wild Stewardship Reliance team to do maintenance on the entire length of the Ruby Crest Trail. They are looking for public engagement to pick up trash at Road’s End on Saturday, June 5th. Volunteer support will help to score higher in the application process. Event will be held to COVID guidelines. Volunteers will meet at around 8:00 AM, listen to a quick presentation, safety meeting, disperse to do various projects, have lunch and then go home. Curtis will write a letter of support for Elko County and Andi will write a letter on behalf of NNSG.
- Lamoille Summit Trails Partnership
 - i. Leslie Creel
 1. Looking to create a bike path over the Lamoille Summit where the land was disturbed to put in natural gas pipeline. The FHA grant process will begin in 2022, but would like to determine partners and funding sources before then. In addition, 50 miles of trails have been proposed, most are located on public land. An MOU would need to be put in place between the not yet determined lead group and the BLM in order to move the project forward. BLM and Elko County are in support of the trails, but cannot take the lead financially or with staff. ASK: to find a partner to lead this project and help to move it forward. Keep item on agenda.
- Sage Grouse Local Area Workgroup Update
 - i. Elko has a few credit and debit opportunities in the works, the LAWG has not been able to meet since last year.
 - ii. Some population triggers include Southfork and Ruby PMUs. There are some noise issues on the North Fork because habitat has been affected.
 - iii. Gerry would like to set up a sagebrush aeration tour sometime in the near future.

9. Public Comment

- Larry stated that the group should look for a new President, someone who has not served as president in the past.

10. Determine the Next Meeting Date and Location

- May 11th, 5:15 at the Elko County Commissioner’s Chambers.

11. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.