

NNSG Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2024 NNSG
Nevada Division of Forestry



Present:

Nick Brancato, South Fork State Park Ranger
Gerry Miller, DCNR
Cole Hoover, NDOW Partners Biologist
Gail Ross, Biodiversity Consultant
Leslie Creel, ETSI
Doug Clarke, Interested Citizen
Mark Lattin, Interested Participant
Jeff Moore, BLM rep
Brandolyn Thran, Battle Born Youth Academy

Present Via phone:

Dave Voth

Meeting called to Order 5:15 pm

The transition to treasurer is in progress. Gerry reports that we made about \$1500 in receipts from the Annual Dinner, and may have come within \$1000 of breaking even.

Friends of the Rubies. Larry is meeting with USFS this week. They will be doing Cool Canyon evenings in August, campfire programs in Thomas Canyon and a couple of information booths at Road's End for handing out maps and cold water for hikers and tourists. Last week they were at the Volunteer Fair at the museum and think it was worthwhile. They would like to purchase portable microphone headsets. Doug thinks there's money left from an NGM donation a few years ago. Nick Brancato, incoming treasurer, will check in Katie's spreadsheet.

Nick asked if anyone participated in Environmental Days, when 5th graders go to Powerhouse and agencies each have a booth. Next year, NNSG might consider a booth. Doug will send an email to the teacher who organizes and ask them to include ETSI, NNSG and State Parks on their email list.

2024 Sage Grouse Experience was successful. Bird viewing ended early. 30 people attended. 4 birds were there, but ravens showed up. The event stayed within budget. Doug suggests throwing out a donation can at breakfast next year.

Gerry moved to accept the March 14th 2024 and April 11th 2024 and April 13th 2024 meeting minutes.. Gail seconded meeting minutes. All in favor.

Gerry moved to add Nick as Treasurer and to the NSB Account. Gail seconded. All in favor.

Sage Grouse Local Area Working Group was a failure. One person showed up. Gerry talked to each agency head, but Doug suggested a letter. Gerry elaborated on the function of the LAWG, explaining that Pete Coates gives problems and targets. The group gets together and decides how they want to address it. Meetings should be held quarterly. A different time for meetings was suggested to perhaps boost attendance. We will try for Monday, June 3rd at 8:30 am. Doug suggested letters in addition to phone calls. He and Gerry will collaborate on this.

For upcoming educational workshops, Doug suggests a Grass and Forbs identification workshop. He asked if we should have a cosponsor, even if just to promote attendance. Suggestions were the UNR Co-op extension, SRM, NV Cattlemen's. Since time is short, Gerry suggested we aim for above 7000' in July this year. The commitment for NNSG is to send out invites, co-sponsors, and water. People can bring brown bag lunches. A tentative date of Friday, July 12th, 9 am is set.

Gail summarized microbiome activities over the year. They gave 4 presentations, took 20 people to Wallipini and had 20 people at a hot compost demonstration project. Her group will be meeting to discuss next year's activities.

Paul Meiner wants to do the rangeland monitoring workshop. Have been trying to do it for the past 3 years. The focus will get a boost with the release of the 3rd edition of the monitoring workbook. Those present foresee a half classroom, half outside day. Informally, USFS would like to participate. Date tentatively set for Thursday, October 10, 2024.

No one present had anything planned for Trails Day on June 1.

The group discussed doing a brochure update. Nick and Leslie will collaborate on a website update. The current domain is with FatCow and they now have a user friendly website development interface.

Doug will ask Meghan Sturgell at NOS who is paying for the Chronolog site?

Sherm Swanson, UNR Riparian specialist will be in Elko to conduct an PFC integrated riparian management 4-day class about creeks, communities and livestock management. Doug will call Sherm to see if they would like us to host a dinner gathering.

Leslie commented on a Dark Skies meeting that took place at the Sherman Station on Friday, April 11th. First step for those who attended was to inform the public. We discussed putting together a pamphlet with summary information to hand out to people. Doug says it's worth pursuing and Gerry is willing to commit some funds for a promotional event.

Doug will give feedback on a work plan and budget that Nick and Leslie create.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.