

NNSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm

NDOW Office – Elko, NV

1. Welcome and introductions determination of quorum
 - Board Members: Gerry Miller, Andi Porreca, Dave Voth, Nick Brancato, Leslie Creel
 - Public: Doug Clarke, Jeff Moore, Cam Collins, Danielle Beezer, Lydia, Snow, Morgan Esterlee
 - Gerry called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Public Comment/Short General Discussion Period, Adjust Agenda
 - It is the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Friends group might be hosting something in Elko to celebrate this year.
 - The Stockman's Update will be held at the Dalling Hall in Elko on January 11th at 12:30 PM. It is being hosted by Cooperative Extension and the State Veterinarian's Association.
 - SRM will be held in Sparks, Nevada January 28th through February 1. There is still time to register and there will be a BLM and USFS job fair during the meeting.
3. Approval of December meeting minutes
 - **Leslie made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Dave seconded and the motion passed.**
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - Approval of Bills Accrued Since the Last Meeting
 - i. There is currently \$9,695.86 in the checking account. **Dave made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Andi seconded and the motion passed.**
5. Friends of the Rubies Events Update
 - There will be snowshoe hike hosted by NOS on Friday January 12th at the Powerhouse at 2:00 PM.
6. 2024 Cowboy Poetry Gathering Panel Discussion
 - The theme for the Gathering is "Right Where You Belong" and Jeffrey Mendell will be the keynote speaker. The panel discussion theme is "What Does Agriculture Mean to You?" Panel participants include: Jared Sorenson, Alexis Bonogofsky, Ervin Crosson, and Dave will be the moderator.
 - Doug and Dave will have a pre-meeting with the presenters on the 12th and Dave has agreed to be the moderator. The panel discussion will be held at the WFC on February 3rd from 9:00 to 10:30 AM.
 - Doug stated that he would donate coffee and donuts for staff during the tech check at 7:45 on February 3rd.
 - Andi will work with the WFC on creating a flyer for the discussion panel.
7. 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting Planning Update

- WFC is reserved for April 13th, 2024. The Board agreed that we should spend up to \$2,500 to get a speaker that would draw in a good crowd. The Board will brainstorm speaker ideas before February meeting, perhaps pull a speaker from the SRM meeting that is being held in February? Doug will reach out to TNC to see if they have anyone interested in giving a presentation. Andi will reach out to the museum for a donation basket. Leta and Jim Collard need an invite to the event as well as Helen Hankins, Gary Reese, Kaitlyn. Larry will see if Southwind would be interested in participating and Doug stated that McAdoo's would be interested in catering if the event is held at the WFC.
8. Updates on:
- Upcoming educational workshops
 - i. The January Bristlecone Audubon meeting will be held at the NDOW office after the NNSG meeting, where Gerry will give a presentation on sage grouse.
 - ii. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition will be holding their winter weeds conference in January 17-18, 2024 in Ely, NV.
 - Rangeland Monitoring Workshop
 - i. Gerry will touch base with Paul and Brad to see if they would be interested in giving the Rancher's Monitoring Guide presentation in Elko sometime this spring? Brad has some great before/after pictures of the Santa Rosas.
 - ii. Possible soils workshop sometime this spring?
 - Microbiome working group update
 - i. No update.
 - Lamoille summit trails partnership update (ETSI)
 - i. The grant for the staging area is two years out and NEPA is currently underway. It's about 70% completed. Leslie is working on the website: ElkoTrailsWorkshop.com. She submitted a funding request to the BLM to get trails on the ground in 2025 and she presented to the Sunrise Rotary Club at the. End of December.
9. Upcoming opportunities requesting contribution/partner support
- i. No action was taken.
10. Sage Grouse Local Area Working Group update – Elko has a few credit and debit opportunities in the works and the LAWG will be monitoring the Sage Grouse Plan Amendment
- Should NNSG meet earlier in the day to accommodate agency folks and ranchers?
 - Add 2024 Sage Grouse Experience to February agenda. NDOW is taking on the event this year.
11. Board Member updates/Public Comment
- Leslie Creel - Desert Pigs applied for NEVORA grant for off-road clean-up events. They did 8 events last year and are taking requests for 2025. Dave said he would donate his tractor if ever needed.
 - Nick Brancato – he submitted a recreational trails grant and is formalizing Adopt-a-Trail sponsors where volunteers would pick up trash, remove weeds and maintain trails.

- Brandolyn Thran – She is looking for projects for their new recruits at the Battle Born Youth Academy – educational work for 40 cadets.
12. Determine the next meeting date: February 15th and location TBD.
 13. Adjourn
 - The December meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.