



**Vya Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2021; 1:00 p.m.  
Call in Number:701-802-5144  
Access code:673 9513**

Note: In the interest of public safety due to COVID-19, and by the direction of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, this meeting will be conducted by conference call. This meeting was open to the public via use of the phone number and access code above.

CALL TO ORDER AT: 1:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL: TonyStobiecki      Diane Hagelthorn Stobiecki      Steve Smith      Pati Smith  
                 Jerry Gillogley      Martishia Romesha

OTHERS PRESENT: Loraine Colbert, PwP (conference call)  
Bryon Hadwick, NRCS (conference call)      Melany Aten, DCNR (conference call)

OPENING REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: Board would like to have a new brochure made.

**NOT FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:**

- A. NRCS Report—Bryon Hadwick or representative
  1. Equip funds for NV just announced. Not many were funded.
  2. There will be more Sage Grouse money available later; no deadline announced yet.
  3. Will be doing easement monitoring throughout the summer.
  4. New Range Specialist is starting this summer: Anna Beebout
  5. A biologist position will be flown for Alturas office.
  6. Many people are retiring and moving around, so NRCS is short handed right now.
  7. ARC surveys will be going on in May and June.
  8. Ag in the Classroom program coming up. Bryon will be attending.
- B. Conservation Districts Report: Melany Aten
  1. Finished legislative session, budget and bargaining. Will be some cuts coming to all programs. CDs may be receiving less funding this year. Not refilling program manager position until 2022.
  2. CDs need a better presence in the legislature, and Melany will be working on improving this. Discussion regarding lack of participation from county commissioners.
  3. Annual Plan due June 1. Annual Report due September 30.
  4. Will have more Sage Grouse funding.
  5. New state commission meeting coming up in June. Board can reimburse members who attend meetings on conservation business.
  6. State may be mandating video conferencing soon to comply with Open Meeting Law.
  7. We will be seeing updates to the state website and supervisor handbooks over the summer.
- C. BLM Report: Levi. Not in attendance.
- D. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report—Joelle Fournier. Not in attendance
- E. Community Director Report—Regina Pratt. Not in attendance.
- F. Update on VCDs participation at Farm and Ranch Expo--Tony  
Bryon, Tony, Diane in attendance. Weather very cold, lightly attended. Sam Monteleone spoke on NV water rights.



Bryon: May need more topics that appeal to ranchers instead of having Farm Advisor picking topics.

G. Update on Vya Monopole—Tony

Received a phone call from AT&T today. The monthly service person is from Comcast. AT&T will try to contact Verizon regarding co-locating. Meeting tomorrow to extend the temporary license which expires June 1. They must respond to a Sage Brush Ecosystem Council on how they will mitigate their construction to minimize issues. Tony told them the board would be willing to write a letter to Verizon encouraging them to co-locate.

H. Discussion and Possible Action on Scholarship applications--Pati

We have not received any applications.

Bryon will reach out to Gerlach High School again today to see if they received any.

NvACD: we can try reaching out and see if we can add our scholarship to their website.

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:**

1. Possible Approval of Agenda—Tony

a. Motion by Pati Smith and second by Diane Stobiecki to approve agenda. Motion carried 6/0.

2. Possible Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2021 meeting—Tony

a. Motion by Diane and second by Steve to approve minutes of February 17, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 6/0.

3. Discussion and Possible Approval of Treasurer's Report—Pati

a. Account balances as of April 30, 2021: Checking \$13,649.25; Savings \$65,431.54; Total checking/savings \$79,080.79

b. Expenses paid since February meeting total \$880.00. Net income is -7,686.87.

c. Timecards: \$337.50

d. NvACD membership renewal for \$600. Pati will pay.

e. Reimburse travel expenses to Sam Monteleone for travel to Farm & Ranch Expo

i. Invoice for \$200. Motion by Steve and second by Jerry to pay out of education funding. Motion carried 6/0.

f. Donation request from Modoc Heritage Foundation for the fair. Motion by Martishia and second by Pati to donate \$300. We will receive recognition for giving this amount.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Scholarship applications--Pati

a. We have not received any applications.

b. Bryon will reach out to Gerlach High School again today to see if they received any.

c. NvACD: we can try reaching out and see if we can add our scholarship to their website.

5. Discussion and Possible Approval of Work Plan and Budget for FY 2021/2022 --Tony

a. Documents due to the state June 1, 2021

b. Diane updated the Work Plan. Will make minor changes to wording before submission. The work plan contains information that we don't need to include, but is acceptable per Melany.

c. Melany reminded us all documents need to be available to the public before a meeting. Jerry motion and Martishia second to approve Work Plan and Budget. Motion carried 6/0.

6. Discussion and Possible Approval of Changing Workmen's Comp Insurance—Diane/Melany

a. Diane spoke with Corey Wadsworth. We need to maintain Pool and Pact to cover board members' errors and omissions and any members of the public who attend one of our events and may get injured.

b. Melany: We don't need Risk Management since we are going with POOL/Pact. Don't need to report to Risk Management anymore.

7. Discussion and Possible Approval of Professional Audit of VCD finances--Tony/Melany

a. The state code NVRS 548.320 states that a professional audit is required by law for conservation districts. Melany suggests we talk to NvACD and try to get help from them on obtaining an audit. If we don't have an audit, we won't be eligible to receive grants from federal and state partners. Other CDs pay private entities to do audits for them. Some have had their



- county help them. We can ask Commissioner Herman if she can include our accounts in the Washoe County audit. Melany thinks an out of state auditor would be acceptable unless their CPA license prohibits it.
- b. Board will look into these items.
8. Discussion and Possible Approval of Grant Opportunities—Tony/Melany
- a. Sage Grouse grant will be released again in 2022. We can begin looking for partners now through NRCS and others. We are in a priority grant area. Watershed or riparian projects may possibly work here.
  - b. Bryon and Tony will talk about potentially working together on some Sage Grouse opportunities. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program might be an avenue.
  - c. Might be grants for noxious weeds coming out this summer through the NV Dept. of Agriculture
9. Discussion and Possible Approval of Project Oversight Opportunity—Tony
- a. A possibility of one in the Duck Lake area. Bryon will explore it more.
10. Discussion and Possible Approval of Items related to Producer Cost Share Application(s)—Tony
- a. None

**NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION:** September 8, 2021 1:00 pm; virtual.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Annual Report and audit

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Steve and second by Diane to adjourn at 2:34 p.m. Motion passed 6/0.