*The Vya Conservation District fosters and supports natural resource conservation through leadership, education, technical, and financial assistance to implement and ensure sustainable use of Northwestern Nevada’s natural resources.*

 *Vya Conservation District Mission Statement*

*Our vision is an environment where people conserve and promote natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.*

*Vya Conservation District Vision Statement*

The Annual Report for the Vya Conservation District (VCD) was developed and approved on September 8, 2021, at the VCD Annual Board Meeting. The plan identifies the following key components addressed by the VCD in Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

## Board Membership

The VCD is pleased to report that our board membership of six members has remained stable over the past fiscal year. This is truly a success, especially considering our location in remote northern Washoe County and our low number of eligible individuals (NV land- owners and registered to vote in NV) who reside in the immediate area. Additionally, a former board member continues to serve in the role of Community Liaison keeping the VCD informed of local activities in the nearby town of Cedarville, CA.

## Support of Local Farmers/Ranchers

The Vya Conservation District continued to work with local farmers and ranchers on conservation issues including sage grouse initiatives with habitat improvement, other wildlife habitat, soil health, and weed eradication through our Cost Share Program.

As part of our support of projects undertaken by local landowners, the VCD provided oversight to make sure that projects were completed in a timely manner and that all requirements and elements of projects were met. We will continue to follow up on projects we have supported to make sure that they are completed within the guidelines set out.

## Partnering with Federal, State, and County Entities

The district continued to work with county, state, and federal partners to promote our mission and vision. We partnered with NRCS on producer cost share projects, donated funds for weed abatement and weed eradication to the BLM Applegate Field Office, as we have for many years, and will continue to do so in the coming year as funds allow. However, it continues to be challenging due to cuts to conservation district funding and delays in backfilling key program manager positions at the state level. The Washoe County Road Department has been absent as to road right of way weed eradication. This is evidenced by the explosion of tumble weeds on the county road shoulders from the California border through Vya and continuing on out to the Sheldon wildlife Refuge via 8A and 34. If these weeds are not treated, they will spread into private and federal lands.

Melany Aten from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources continues to provide support by joining in on our conference calls and bringing attention to matters that are of value to the VCD, including researching grant and project opportunities.

## Support Local Events

The VCD continued to financially support local events such as the Modoc District Fair and the Modoc Heritage Foundation Ag Expo, which promote our mission and vision. Each year the VCD has a booth at the Ag Expo in which we offer information about our programs and opportunities to residents of Northern Washoe County, as well as other important matters and we plan to continue this in the coming year. At the 2021 Ag Expo, the VCD arranged for a subject matter expert to speak on Nevada water rights.

## Educational Scholarships

Vya Conservation District will continue to award educational scholarships to youth pursuing careers in agriculture, natural resources, and related technical fields through the Norma Hapgood Scholarship. There were no scholarship applicants in the spring of 2021.

## Educating the Public

During the 2021/2022 fiscal year, Vya Conservation District hopes to continue to educate the public in natural resources through activities such as an annual tour or public education workshops. Our ability to reach this goal may be affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

## Support of Organizations Promoting Natural Resource Conservation

Vya Conservation District continued to support organizations such as NACD and NvACD through our membership.

## Management and Administration

Our ongoing goals in the areas of Management and Administration are as follows:

* Hold regular meetings in September, February/March, April, and May. Meeting months are subject to change, and additional meetings may be added as necessary. Meetings will be held in accordance with current federal, state, and

local guidelines in order to protect our supervisors and the public during the current COVID-19 crisis. We met our meeting goals for 2020/2021.

* Prepare and submit all reports, agendas, and minutes required by the State of NV in a timely manner. We met our goals in this area.
* Maintain and update the Vya Conservation District website ([www.vyacd.org](http://www.vyacd.org)). Goals were met in this area.
* Submit articles and information to the local media relative to district activities as appropriate. There were no opportunities for district activities in this annual report period due to COVID-19.

## Summary

We accomplished many of our goals in 2020/2021 despite the disruption caused by COVID-19. We plan to move forward to achieve these goals in the 2021/2022 fiscal year to the best of our ability while working within the guidelines relating to the challenges we are facing as a nation at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Stobiecki

Tony Stobiecki, Board President

Vya Conservation District

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