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NTCD Board Minutes
December 19, 2013
The Douglas County Library, Board Room
233 Warrior Way, Zephyr Cove, NV
10:00 AM Start Time

Present:

Supervisor Smith
Supervisor Perlman-Whyman (via telephone)
Supervisor Sarnoff
Supervisor McCarthy
Supervisor Endicott
Supervisor Penzel

Staff/Others

D. Martin, District Manager
M. Thorpe, Administrator
W. Loftis, NRCS
J. Locurto, CDP (via telephone)
R. Roy, SWCS (via telephone)

Absent:

Supervisor Freeman and Supervisor Berkbigler

1. Call to Order by Chair Smith.
2. Supervisor Roll Call: see above
3. Approval of the Agenda: Supervisor Sarnoff moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Supervisor Endicott, motion carried unanimously.
4. Public Interests Comments: Rob Roy of SWCS reported the tour given at the conference this past summer was a great addition to the conference. He is looking for support of the Farm Bill, especially three points of interest: Approve Farm Bill ASAP; conservation compliance for federal subsidies of crop insurance regarding wetlands; and a strong commitment to conservation technical assistance funding, instead of a user fee. At the next Board meeting there will be an agenda item (if needed), for approval of support of these three points and the Farm Bill. Supervisor Perlman-Whyman stated NACD is also in support of these points and the Farm Bill. Supervisors Perlman-Whyman and McCarthy recommended adding the NV delegation of Reid, Heller, Horsford, and Amodei to the letter of support.

5. For Possible Action: Discussion/Possible Action regarding the dispute with Contractor on the Glenbrook Creek Restoration project. District Manager Martin handed out a copy of a letter mailed to Campbell Construction on December 18, stating the District does not agree with Campbell's request for additional payment. The dispute was reviewed by the District's attorney and a Washoe County engineer, and both agree the District has a strong case. The dispute could go to dispute resolution, which can be expensive and a potential cost to the District's general fund. No Board action will be taken until the contractor responds to the letter.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Items 6a, 6c, and 7b were pulled from the consent calendar for further discussion.

Supervisor McCarthy moved to approve the Consent Calendar (items 6b, 6d, 6e, and 7a with all other items pulled), seconded by Supervisor Sarnoff, motion carried unanimously.

6. Agency Reports, Discussion/Possible Action
 - a. Moved to Administrative calendar.
 - b. For Possible Action: NACD report. No report provided.
 - c. Moved to Administrative calendar.
 - d. For Possible Action: NvACD report. No report provided.
 - e. For Possible Action: Staff report. No report provided.
7. Discussion/Possible Action (Business)
 - a. For Possible Action: Approval of the Board of Supervisors meeting minutes for November 21, 2013.
 - d. Moved to Administrative calendar.

ADMINISTRATIVE CALENDAR

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS PULLED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Item 6a) For Possible Action: NRCS report. W. Loftis of NRCS reported his office has moved to a smaller office. Projects tied to SNPLMA funding are wrapping up. They should be completed by the summer of 2014. The first measurement for snow survey is February 1, 2014. Supervisor McCarthy reported LTRA2 received sponsorship from the Nevada delegation, but not California's delegation. There is a slim chance LTRA2 goes forward. There is no mechanism for funding, or a prospect for funding.

Item 6c) For Possible Action: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Conservation District Program (CDP) report. J. Locurto of CDP reported, in addition to the Supervisor handbooks, there is training available for Supervisors. CDP is still working on the sage grouse initiative. CDP is interviewing for the Ely conservation specialist, this position should be filled by February 1, 2014. Supervisor Perlman-Whyman would like each Board member to complete the Conservation District Evaluation Guide, and go over the results at the next Board meeting.

Item 7b) For Possible Action: Approval of the NTCD financial reports for November 2013. As of 11/30/13, the District's Fund balance was \$88,300. This represents the District's available spendable resources, or assets less liabilities. November had a deficit of \$4,448. November's deficit was due to: 5.5 weeks of unbillable time (vacations, three holidays, and grant writing), NvACD meeting expenses, NACD annual dues, and a new computer purchase (all expenses were budgeted). Administrator Thorpe stated A/R is kind of ugly, but everything past due is being processed for payment; and A/R should be in good shape by the end of December. Supervisor Endicott moved to approve the November 2013 financial reports, seconded by Supervisor McCarthy, motion carried unanimously.

8. For Possible Action: Approval of Agreement with NHC for SLRP 2 project. NHC was an excellent partner during Phase 1; therefore the District would like to use NHC for Phase 2. Supervisor Sarnoff moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Supervisor Endicott, motion carried unanimously.
9. For Possible Action: Conservation District Evaluation Guide. There was much discussion regarding the usefulness of the guide. Other items of discussion: some questions are difficult to answer; the guide may be more useful to smaller districts; even though we have a staff, the Board should be involved with outreach and have some responsibilities, the Tahoe Partnership was an example of how the Board can help; and the District has limited resources to perform outreach activities. It was recommended the District Manager collect the Staff's responses to the Guide, and report the findings at the next Board meeting.
10. Supervisor Comments: Supervisor McCarthy reported she still is the Executive Director at the Tahoe Science Consortium, but has cut her time by 50%. And she recently was appointed the Director of the Academy for the Environment at UNR, which will be primarily Great Basin related. There might be some opportunities for the District to partner with other organizations in the Great Basin.

11. Public Interest Comments: District Manager Martin handed out information, and possible grant opportunities, on “Quantifying the Potential for a low-cost, Distributed Stormwater Detention System using LIDAR and remotely sensed data” and “Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance Program 2014 Request for Letters of Intent”. Administrator Thorpe reported he has been working on new personnel policies for the District with the help of POOL/PACT. The new policies will be on the next Board meeting agenda for approval. Also, because the Affordable Care Act does not allow smaller organizations (like the District) to pool together for health insurance rate purposes, the District renewed its health insurance policy with Saint Marys until November 30, 2014, for a small increase of less than 1% in premiums. This allows the District more time to evaluate its health insurance options, which will be very different and expensive in 2014.
12. Motion to Adjourn: Supervisor Penzel moved to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Endicott, motion carried unanimously.