

NNSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 5:15 pm

Nevada Division of Forestry Office – Elko, NV

1. Welcome and introductions / determination of quorum
 - Board Members: Gerald Miller, Andi Porreca, Dave Voth, Gail Ross, Katie Moss, Larry Hyslop, Margaret Walch
 - Public: Doug Clarke, Coralee Ditman, Melanie Mitchell (BLM), Amanda Conklin and Josh Nicholes (USFS)
 - Gerry Miller called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.
2. Public Comment/Short General Discussion Period, Adjust Agenda
 - No public comment.
3. Approval of February 8th meeting minutes
 - **Larry made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Gail seconded and the motion passed.**
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - Approval of Bills Accrued Since the Last Meeting
 - i. There was no treasurer's report.
 - ii. Andi and Katie will work on the Nevada Gold Mines proposal and will include Sage Grouse Experience and Friends of the Ruby Mountains projects.
5. Consideration and approval of paying for secretarial and/or reestablishing the Executive Director title – \$25.00 hour and nominating Andi Porreca as she has been acting in this role for years
 - There was no discussion or action.
6. Lamoille Summit Trails Partnership
 - i. There was no discussion or action.
7. Friends of the Ruby Mountains Update
 - Friends and NOS hosted a snowshoe hike at the California Trails Center on March 18 at 7:30 PM. Around 120 people attended the event.
 - Reserved the Powerhouse Picnic area for three Cool Canyon Evenings and four other planned events.
8. Mary Winter's Flora of Northern Nevada Funding Request Update
 - Janel reported that she finished adding all of the corrections from their proofreaders and sent the final draft to her sister for one last review. It's looking like it will be able to finally get it printed this summer.
9. Updates: Sagebrush Seed Collection, Roads End Education Area, Boot Cleaning Station, Lamoille Canyon Chronological Photopoint on the Range 2 Fire, Cowboy Poetry Panel Discussion, Educational Workshops Planned for Mid-Winter

- Doug and Brandolyn were able to lock down a re-photography site in Lamoille Canyon, looking at cottonwood regeneration. A letter to the Forest Service has been drafted and submitted. Need follow-up on picnic table area at Road's End once the snow melts.
 - The noxious weeds awareness boot scraping station has been delivered and will be installed at Lamoille Canyon Roads End by FS crews sometime this spring.
 - Virtual fencing presentation will be given by Paul at the April annual dinner.
10. Upcoming opportunities requesting contribution/partner support – perhaps sending both Coralee and Gail to a Soils Workshop at the Cottonwood Ranch at \$500/person totaling \$1,000.00 (the cost per person has been reduced)
- Gail plans to attend the workshop on behalf of the NNSG. Coralee will attend as an alternate.
11. **Annual Meeting:** April 21st at the Elko Basque Club
- All Board members have agreed to stay on another year. Brandolyn and Amanda also expressed interest for becoming Board members, so will need to amend by-laws to include two more BOD positions.
 - Paul will be giving his presentation on virtual fencing.
 - Nominations for Recognition: \$200 for Cam Collins, Gerry will purchase some of Larry's pottery from the DLC.
 - Food will be paid for in advance by Gerry and will include appetizers from Odeh Deli (Margaret will pick up), BJ Bull Bakery (Larry will pick up), and Ogi Deli (Gail will pick up). We will plan for around 50 attendees.
 - Gail would also like for plates, and cutlery to be compostable. Gerry and Gail will go shopping for these items.
 - Margaret has contacted a band and they will be ready to set-up at 4:30 and start at 5:30ish.
 - Andi will bring two tip jars, one for the band and one for NNSG.
12. Sage Grouse Local Area Working Group Update – Elko has a few credit and debit opportunities in the works and the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council is also considering the Lahontan Cutthroat Habitat, Mule Deer Corridors and other issues facing the Sagebrush landscapes
- The Sagebrush Ecosystem Council would like LAWGs to refer to management plans and mitigate triggers as they come up. Rules are changing statewide and more corridors will be implemented.
 - The Scope has been completed and comments are being reviewed. The Sage Grouse Experience will be held virtually this year and there will be photos that will be linked for the public to view.
13. Updates from Agencies, Partners and Landowners
- Josh Nicholes - USFS
 - i. Currently in the process of all of their pre-season planning for fire and hiring for seasonal positions. Meagan Carter will be starting a 120-day detail as the deputy district ranger next week. Looking at increasing their staffing in both fire and fuels in alignment with additional emphasis in hazardous fuels reduction and shared stewardship likely adding several new positions to their organizational chart.

- ii. A rec person was hired and making plans to get the Wildhorse Crossing Campground opened with new kiosks and culverts. Prospectus for two concessionaries that would be able to outfit and guide. Moving along on targeted grazing proposal.
 - iii. Possible Trail's Day locations: Wildhorse Crossing, Griswold Lake trail – will need to follow-up with SCA to make sure they can find volunteers for, and Thomas Campground trail.
 - Dave Voth – NGM
 - i. There will be a NvSRM summer tour, he will have a better idea of what that will look like sometime in June.
 - Melanie Mitchell - BLM
 - i. She would like to partner with NNSG and create a range improvement maintenance agreement for exclosures. BLM is looking for groups to work as contractors for smaller range improvements/maintenance projects through assistance agreements. Also would be in charge of hiring crews for fence and riparian enclosure implementations. Doug asked if Melanie could provide NNSG with proposal so the Board could have a better idea of what would be expected from NNSG. May possibly need to hire staff to oversee the contract/agreement
 - ii. Currently looking for rangeland management specialists and getting fire crews hired for 2022 season.
14. Determine the Next Meeting Date and Location
- May 10th at the NDF office in Elko.
15. Adjourn
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM