

# NNSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, December 14, 2023 at 5:15 pm**

**Odeh's Deli, Elko**

1. Welcome and introductions determination of quorum
  - Board Members: Gerry Miller, Larry Hyslop, Andi Porreca, Gail Ross, Leslie Creel
  - Public: Doug Clarke, Cindy Hyslop, Jeff Moore, Kevin Creel
  - Gerry called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.
2. Public Comment/Short General Discussion Period, Adjust Agenda
  - No public comment.
3. Approval of November meeting minutes
  - **Larry made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Gerry seconded and the motion passed.**
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - Approval of Bills Accrued Since the Last Meeting
    - i. Item was tabled. **Dave made a motion via email to approve Andi's secretarial hours from July to December 2023 in the amount of \$540. Larry seconded and the motion passed.**
5. Friends of the Rubies Events Update
  - There was a Snowshoe Hike on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Lamoille Powerhouse. Larry stated that the turn-out was okay. The group provided smores and cocoa to attendees. And 40 members of the public attended the Avalanche Awareness class that was held at the Spring Creek Association office in December.
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 stated that he would donate coffee and donuts for staff during the tech check at 7:45 on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Andi will work with the WFC on creating a flyer for the discussion panel.
7. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting Planning Update
  - WFC and Basque House are both tentatively reserved for April 13<sup>th</sup>, 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? Andi will reach out to the museum for a donation basket. Leta and Jim Collard need an invite to the event. 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 NNSG meeting will be held at the NDOW office before the Bristlecone Audubon 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 early next year? Brad has some great before/after pictures of the Santa Rosas.
    - ii. Possible soils workshop sometime this spring?
  - Microbiome working group update
    - i. Gail will be attending an upcoming worm workshop in January and she is looking for a contact with Waste Management in Elko.
  - 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.
9. Upcoming opportunities requesting contribution/partner support
- i. NNSG will partner with the Wildfire Crisis Strategy in January, possibly sponsor a workshop or assist with some inventory work?
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
- NRMAC is working on the sage grouse plan with NDOW through ecological site analysis. The mitigation triggers comments have been submitted to the BLM.
11. Board Member updates/Public Comment
- Leslie Creel - Desert Pigs has been doing small clean-ups on North 5<sup>th</sup> Street and looking for illegal dump sites.
  - Jeff Moore – currently amending internal reviews for sage grouse plans and BLM is working on the O'Neill PPM and finalizing responsive comments.
  - Gerry – NDF has released an RFP for IRA funding. The application period will close on January 26 and projects can be as little as purchasing trees to creating inventories for entire cities. Underserved communities will be ranked higher, but everyone is encouraged to submit proposals if that would like to implement tree planting projects.
  - Doug would like to be more involved with the group once he is retired and Leslie has committed to becoming the next President at the annual meeting in April. The UISFS is needing input on areas that need improvements for the wildfire crisis funding.
12. Determine the next meeting date: January 9<sup>th</sup> at the NDOW office in Elko.
13. Adjourn
- The December meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.