



P.O. Box 577 Elko, NV 89803
www.nnsg.org

Working Together for Healthy Landscapes and Quality Lifestyles

NNSG Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8th, 2024 at 5:30 pm
Elko Interagency Dispatch Center
725 Aspen Way, Elko, NV 89801

1. A quorum was present: Paul Meiman, Dave Voth, Larry Hyslop, Andrew Church, Doug Clarke, Gerry Miller. Agency representation: Wendy Markham, Chuck Markham, Jeff Moore and Erica M (NRCS)
2. No public comment
3. Dave motioned to approve December 14th minutes. Paul seconded. Carried.
4. Dave moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Gerry seconded. Carried.
 - a. A check from the Elko Trail System Initiative account for \$15,622.65 to UES went through.
 - b. A \$150 check to Susan Reeser and \$100 to NOS for the chronolog have yet to be cashed.
 - c. Gerry mentioned getting books from Katie so we know how much is Friends of the Rubies.
5. Donations
 - a. Paul moved to approve a \$1000 contribution to Cowboy Poetry Gathering as a sponsor. Doug seconded. Carried. NNSG usually receives two deluxe day passes in exchange. One goes to Dave for moderating the panel discussion. Gerry and Larry are also interested in day passes.
 - b. Dave mentioned the February 10th SRM Producer's Forum in Spokane is short \$3000. Gerry moved to support in exchange for a video of the event. Paul seconded. Carried.
6. Group and partner updates
 - a. Gerry reported that there was another meeting for the Sage Grouse Local Area Working Group. No one took over chairmanship. Doug will pursue getting NDOW involved. Erica has forwarded information to her NDOW boss and can help liaison.
 - b. The Rangeland monitoring workshop will be March 18th, with March 20th as an alternative.
 - i. Paul is the lead instructor, tasked with sparking rancher permittees' interest and to rolling out a new handbook. State transition models and habitat thresholds will be presented. There could be an outside component if the weather cooperates.
 - ii. Dave can introduce the app if the NDA is supportive.
 - iii. It would be good to gauge interest in a follow-up field session as well as a Grass and Forbs workshop.

- iv. Doug will pin down a location, GBC or WFC, and pursue partnering with GBC continuing education.
 - v. Larry will create a flyer and check into a mention in the Progressive Rancher.
 - vi. Doug will ask Martin Paris if the Cattlemen's Association would like to co- sponsor the workshop.
- c. Dougs' Grass and Forbs workshop tentative date is May 29th.
- i. Gerry, Paul , Erica can all help with instruction
 - ii. Andrew will ask the Glasers for access to sites.
 - iii. Doug will check with Lone Mountain Station if a steak sandwich lunch stop will work in the plan.
 - iv. Rough draft of the plan by next meeting, February 12th.
- d. The Microbiome working group is planning something for May 4th-10th. Gail was not present to report.
- e. Larry had no report on Friends of the Rubies events
- f. Elko Trail Systems Initiative
- i. NEPA continues for LSTS
 - ii. The FHWA sent Elko County an MOA to be signed for a Phase I, Elko-SC Connection, scoping study.
 - iii. Josh Nicholes of The US Forest Service wants to establish a Trails Interagency Management Plan. The Forest Service has received no funding to hire seasonal employees. USFS was not awarded any RTP funding either so they will have minimal employee labor for trail maintenance.
 - iv. Curtis Moore of Elko County would like to apply for Americorp NCCC labor to assist with trail development. He is working toward a coordinated effort with Josh Nicholes of the USFS, Hillary Swarts of the USFWS in Ruby Valley, and Nick Brancato of South Fork State Park.
- g. Leslie had no report on Dark Skies developments
7. Agency Updates
8. Board Member Updates
- a. The Stewardship Panel is February 1 at 9 am at the G3 Bar theater.
 - i. no cost
 - ii. Dave will moderate
 - iii. Panel is Agee Smith, Steve Boies, Kathryn Dyer and Sherm Swanson
 - iv. 2 minute introduction about stewardship group. 1 hour discussion and 30 minutes of Q&A.
 - v. Topic is Properly Functioning Conditions - Creeks and Communities
 - vi. <https://ncpg2025.sched.com/event/1tNZz/creeks-communities>
9. Public comment
- a. Wendy Markham reported that the USFS has no budget for seasonal employees. They will be getting a Recreation Program Manager in February from the Humboldt-Toiyabe district. The USFS also has no Snow Rangers this year. There is a dedicated volunteer and employee out on patrol.
 - b. Jeff Moore reports that the BLM is preparing for the new administration.
 - c. Paul had UNR updates
 - i. Dr. Lucas Phipps accepted a position that has a restoration emphasis
 - ii. Tracy Chang was hired as an Extension Livestock Specialist.
 - iii. Next week is Calvis Update. Paul passed around a handout.

- iv. Go West, a multi-state group focused on grasses, will be in the field around Jiggs, June 10-11.
 - d. Mary Winters' book is in Gail Ross' office and can be purchased for \$25. Nick will check into payment via credit card. Zelle should be available with our NSB account.
- 10. Next meeting
 - a. Wednesday, February 12th, 5:30 pm
- 11. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.