

Minutes of the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group Meeting held on December 7th 2011 at EnviroScientists Inc. conference room, 835 Railroad Street, Elko, Nevada

Voting Board Members Present: Larry Hyslop, Leta Collord, Lucy Downer, Kent McAdoo,

Board Members Present: Deb McFarlane, Zach Pratt, Gerry Miller, Wendy Fuell, Doug Clarke, Jamie Jasmine, Allan Jenne, Ryan Shane, Sam Sanders, Jeff Williams,

Visitors: Pat Coffin, Ryan Galligan,

Larry Hyslop Called the Meeting to Order at 5:30 and determined that a quorum was present to conduct business. Larry Welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Public Comment:

Pat Coffin discussed the Mary's River Hay Contracts and gave a brief overview – He also presented the Cross Ranch payment of \$7,500.00 to the Stewardship Group. Pat noted that the Hay Bales were counted on the Gibbs Ranch and the check should be in the mail any day.

Pat mentioned that the color infra-red photography photo summary of finding should be completed soon by Open Range consultants, and this is funded by a challenge grant, NNSG funds in the amount of \$20,000 matched by BLM funds of \$20,000.

It was suggested by Doug of the possibility of exploring the concept of establishing grass banks in Elko County.

Review and approval of the minutes of the November 2, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting.

Kent McAdoo moved to accept the minutes as written, motion was seconded by Leta.

Motion Carried.

Treasures Report was tabled.

Pod Chairs Reports:

Fire Pod, Ryan discussed the prescribed fire at the Ruby Marshes for waterfowl habitat improvement, and upcoming fire summit.

Heritage Pod, Leta had no report.

Recreation Pod, Zach discussed all the great opportunities for dispersed recreation, beautiful campgrounds, hosting full moon snow shoe hikes this winter; Audubon Christmas Bird Counts; and upcoming National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day activities. Zach Pratt also volunteered to be the Recreation Pod Chair, Consensus of the members to appoint Zach Pratt.

Sage Grouse Pod - Sam Sanders introduced himself and stated his position was funded through Pheasants Forever. He will work through NRCS funds with private land owners on EQUIP and WHIP programs to enhance sage grouse habitat by getting projects on the ground.

Science Pod, Kent introduced the Fire Summit and Jeff Williams elaborated with some of the details of moving it to September to get a better panel of speakers and audience.

SWEATCO – General discussion of the history of the Soil and Water Enhancement Action Team Coalition (SWEATCO) to get conservation projects on the ground.

Agency Reports:

BLM reported fire rehabilitation is ongoing, an increase of mineral notices, litigation over the Hubbard-Vineyard allotment.

F.S. reported increased activity for minerals, fuels treatments and recreation and a brief update of the Elko RAC, (Secure Rural Schools Act monies) six projects approved, and are in the grants and agreements shop. 2 weed treatments, road reconstruction, retake the King historic survey photos on the Ruby Mountains, Trail Maintenance in Jarbidge, and hiring four campground hosts.

NRCS reported that they are busy with getting the program applications processed

NDOW reported that the biologists are busy with fire restoration activities and the winter deer surveys.

UNCE cooperative Extension sent out a report to the members: the relief BOD secretary extends to you a very hearty Thank YOU!!!!!!

County commission reported on the progress of Travel Management Plan and hoping that the congressional hearing will result in a progressive situation for all the parties.

Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Workshop – NNSG has partnered with the Western Folklife Center to support a panel discussion. This year's theme is "Crossing Borders – Ranching in the 21st Century." We have been requested to provide two panel speakers and Doug suggested Meghan, Kent or Gerry – it is the wish of the author of these minutes that Kent and Meghan are selected as the panel members. The Panel is scheduled from 10 -11:30 with lunch from 11:30 – 1:00 on Saturday the 4th of February.

Usually we supply the food for the luncheon and it was discussed by the board to upfront the money to purchase food in the Amount of \$200.00. Kent Moved to purchase the Food up to \$200.00, Leta seconded – Motion carried.

A budget has been developed for this workshop of \$3,600 dollars; most of it goes for per diem for the speakers and a speaker's fee. Last year we raised our share \$1,200.00 by private donations to sponsor the Workshop, we also discussed donations at the door and other schemes, considering that we are supplying two local speakers, per diem and the speakers fee should not be an issue resulting in a motion by Kent to donate \$500.00 from our funds and pursue outside sources for the remainder of the balance, Lucy seconded. Motion Carried.

Synergistic Monitoring Meeting: John Swanson is on board to give us a presentation, and he has assembled some terrific data concerning Elko County Rangelands. The presentation will be on Thursday February 9th at a location to be determined. We'll provide refreshments; usually we open the doors at 6:30 for mingling and start the presentation at 7:00.

Kent also discussed the successes of Holistic Resource Management established in 1996, and the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group established in 1999 and he believes through these efforts that it has improved the resources and the relationships in the planning process to work for the agencies and the livestock operator.

Kent also spoke on the spotted frog, 2003 candidate listing, and spotted frog conservation strategy preparations.

Nevada Society for Range Management Meeting on Dec 15/16th in Winnemucca presenting work on MLRA 24 state and transition models.

South Fork Meadow and River Restoration – basically consists of the conversion of noxious weeds back into native vegetation. The area is basically a 10-12 inch precipitation Dry Meadow range site consisting of 400 to 500 acres. Ryan suggested the Stewardship Group could assist with a tree planting and there was lots of board room energy directed towards holding National Public Lands Day activities at South Fork this coming September 29th.

Other Project Ideas –

Suggested a bull frog gig as a fundraiser and host a frog leg sauté

Carol Evans presentation about planning efforts in South Fork Canyon –perhaps Jan/Feb

Workshop or education about our waterways, particularly through urban areas.

Secret-Talbot Trail discussion – Tabled

National Forest Foundation workshop report – Tabled

Ongoing discussion of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Strategy – Tabled

Determine Next Meeting Date:

It was moved to hold the BOD meeting on the 11th of January at 5:30 pm at Enviroscentists 835 Railroad Street.

Motion to adjourn was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:15

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gerald Miller