

# NNSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5:15 pm**

**Via Zoom**

1. Welcome and introductions determination of quorum
  - Board Members: Margaret Walch, Gerry Miller, Larry Hyslop, Andi Porreca, Coralee Ditman, Gail Ross, Dave Voth, Pam Harrington, Leslie Creel, Amanda Conklin
  - Public: Doug Clarke, Nick Brancato
  - Andi called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.
2. Public Comment/Short General Discussion Period, Adjust Agenda
  - Nick stated that he is interested in becoming a BOD member this fall.
  - There will be a meeting with NDOT on February 9<sup>th</sup> where the expansion of the multi-use trail from Elko to the Trails Center will be discussed.
3. Approval of December meeting minutes
  - **Gerry made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Larry seconded and the motion passed.**
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - Approval of Bills Accrued Since the Last Meeting
    - i. Item tabled for a future Board meeting.
5. Consideration of expanding BOD seats to 15 members.
  - Item tabled for annual meeting discussion.
6. BLM Mary's River riparian assessment:
  - a. Do we want to do a follow-up study since we have the funds for it, but we no longer manage the land?
    - NNSG has roughly \$30,000 to do an assessment or a study on the Mary's River. To move forward, we would have to submit a proposal in writing to the BLM. Melanie would like to see some sort of project proposal from NNSG. Andi contacted Greg Simmons and he does have the old data files from the original assessment. Open Range Consulting is interested in taking on the project and would like to do a new survey. Those present discussed different ideas of how BLM could cost share with us on getting monitoring completed, like a 50:50 cost share.
    - Possible project partners: Roger Group participants, Gary Bach, Tracey Shane, Tamzen, Preston Wright
7. Friends of the Rubies Events Update
  - The NOS snowshoe hike in December had 8 participants. Need to think about parking during the winter months moving forward.
8. Updates on:
  - Upcoming educational workshops
    - i. Upcoming educational workshops
    - ii. NNSG fall 2023 Ecosystem Resilience/Climate Change Symposium

1. Doug stated that he will help to organize. Andi will reach out to Jesse Braatz to see if he'd be interested in presenting on the Humboldt River Ranch beaver project with Carol Evans and John Elliot. Nick has climate change contacts in Carson that he can reach out to. Other presenters could include John Griggs and Mark Paris. Doug will contact GBC to see when GTA 130 is available this fall. Theme for symposium: Climate Change in Great Basin Ecosystems/Adaptive Ecosystem Resilience. Rachel Buzzetti (Nevada Rangelands) has funding available for educational opportunities.
- iii. Rangeland monitoring workshop March 2023
  1. Paul stated that he is available February 21-24 and March 6-8 to hold the workshop in Elko. He'd like to give a one-hour presentation giving an overview of some monitoring practices and then showcase some ranchers and their operations. Brad at WCF would like to see a proposal from Paul and Dave is also interested in helping to give the presentation.
- Microbiome Working Group Update
  - i. The group met on January 9<sup>th</sup> to flush out their vision moving forward. They would like to include discussion on pertinent books, plant and gut health information with regards to soil health in Nevada. So far Gail, Margaret and Brandolyn are working on the group and a Google drive will be created to get information out to whoever is interested.
- Mary Winter's Flora of Northern Nevada Book funding request update
  - i. No update.
- Lamoille summit trails partnership update
  - i. Leslie stated that the quarterly report was submitted to RTP and now funds were spent during that time due to snow. Southfork State Park would like to have their trail system connect to the summit trail sometime in the future. They are working on their MOU for corner crossings on public and private lands.
- Boot cleaning station
  - i. The station will be installed by USFS seasonals once the snow melts.
- Lamoille Canyon chronolog photopoint on the Range 2 fire
  - i. The site is up and running, so far, two photos have been submitted. Public involvement needs to be encouraged.
9. Upcoming opportunities requesting contribution/partner support
  - 2023 Cowboy Poetry Gathering panel discussion
    - i. There will be two panel discussion sessions, still needing some local folks to present. Leslie has agreed to be a panel moderator and Gerry will lead the discussion afterwards.
  - 2023 Sage Grouse Experience – should we have our annual meeting on the same date (April 22) to save on Basque House rental fee?
    - i. Rental for the basque house is \$450 for the day. Need to lock down a speaker for the annual meeting. Item tabled for February meeting.

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 currently working on updating the sage grouse plan. They meet the last Monday of every month. Dave will have NRMAC review the original document that is on the NNSG webpage. Gerry stated that he can make a presentation at one of their future meetings and Dave will agendize the presentation.
11. Board Member updates/Public Comment
  - Gerry stated that James Settlemyer is the new DCNR Director. Matt Peterson from Elko County will also be giving defensible space demonstrations this May with Smoky Bear.
12. Determine the next meeting date (February 14) location TBD.
13. Adjourn
  - The January meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.