Churchill County Mosquito, Vector and Noxious Weed Abatement District

Board of Trustees

Churchill County, Nevada

7400 Reno Highway

Fallon, NV 89406

Meeting August 12th, 2021

OPEN MEETING SESSION

1. **Call to Order**

Chairwoman, Christy Lattin called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chairwoman, Christy Lattin

Vice Chairman, Michael Spencer

Trustee, Marion Jonte, Jr.

Trustee, Tom Hutchings

Trustee, Cynthia McGarrah

Legal Counsel, Ben Shawcroft

District Manager, Nancy Upham

Assistant Manager, JD MacKay

Board Secretary, Melania Sagi

**Public Present**

None

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Public Comment:**

None

1. **Review and Adoption of the Agenda:**

District Manager, Nancy Upham requested the agenda be accepted as is. Vice Chairman, Michael Spencer made a motion to accept the agenda as is. Trustee, Marion Jonte seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

1. **Discussion and Approval of July 8, 2021, and July 29, 2021, Minutes:**

Mr. Jonte made a motion to accept the minutes from July 8, 2021. Trustee, Cynthia McGarrah seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from July 29, 2021. Mr. Jonte seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

1. **Certificate of Posting:**

Ms. Upham stated that the agenda was posted in accordance with NRS statues.

1. **Correspondence:**
2. 7-1-2021 Nevada Weed Management Association Link. Nevada Weed Management Association is offering a training in October. Members from our District will be in attendance.
3. 7-6-2021 Catherine MacLeod—GASB 75 Proposal. This is a formality that all local governments must do. Ms. Lattin asked if this was something that Sciarani (the auditing agency) handles. Ms. Upham responded that this was something that Sciarani makes sure the District has done.
4. 7-6-2021 Laura Morrow—Bioassay program. This program is beneficial to ensure that the chemicals the District uses are not losing their efficacy. Ms. Upham would like to be able to perform the testing in house in the future.
5. 7-29-2021 Memo (complaint) from Cliff and Christine Newmyer. This will be discussed in depth under Old Business.
6. 7-30-2021 Memo from Chairwoman Christy Lattin regarding complaint. This is a copy of the response written to the member of the public who posted the complaint.
7. 7-30-2021 Request for Reimbursement for Noxious Weed work from CWSD. This is something that Ms. Upham puts together every year so the District can receive $15,000 for the weed abatement.
8. 7-30-2021 Request for Funding for 2021-2022 from Carson Water Sub Conservancy District (CWSD). This is the application for next year's funding.
9. **Appointment:**

None

1. **Old Business:**

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the District's Mission Statement. Ms. Upham explained that due to a complaint lodged by a member of the public, now may be a good opportunity to review the District's Mission Statement. Management has personally become involved in resolving the Newmyer's issues including personal visits, flights, ground treatments, and access to Management's personal cell phone numbers. The Newmyer's home is in the Stillwater area which is mainly agricultural properties involved in flood irrigation.

Ms. Lattin asked if there had been other complaints from the Stillwater area. Assistant Manager, JD MacKay responded that out of the seasons 186 service request only 11 came from that area, 6 of which were from Mr. Newmyer.

Ms. Upham added for consideration that there had been a blowout in one of the delivery canals off the Indian Wetlands. Mr. MacKay estimated it to cover 3/4 of mile of standing water. He said it will probably take another couple of weeks for the water to percolate or dissipate. However, the technician working in the area and Mr. MacKay regularly test the water and treat it accordingly.

Ms. Upham let the Board members know that she had extended an invitation to Mr. Newmyer to attend the District's Board meeting to voice his complaints in person. She would like to maintain transparency with the public hence the need to review the Mission Statement. Ms. Upham let Mr. Newmyer know that there have been no positive results from any of the mosquito traps and that it was unrealistic to expect that there would be NO mosquitoes in that area during the summer irrigation season.

Ms. Upham mentioned that the Newmyer's property was also close to the Reservation. The tribe's current mosquito abatement practices may also be adversely affecting the area. They are shorthanded and are not doing much in the way or larviciding. They are primarily truck fogging their service requests. Ms. Lattin requested Ms. Upham to look into instructing and mentoring their efforts so they could become more proactive and independent from the District.

Ms. Upham led the Board through the Mission Statement and requested that they review it and give her any suggestions, additions, or adjustments they may want. Under goal 7 of the Mission Statement is included the need for public education. Ms. Upham stressed how important this was as some aspects of the District were misunderstood, such as "Vector Control." Ms. Lattin asked if Ms. Upham had any information about Tahoe finding plague in their chipmunks. Ms. Upham responded that the plague is not an issue for our area since we don't have a huge chipmunk or squirrel population. If it was in the area, it would be present in the coyote population. Ms. Lattin asked what signs or symptoms the animals would present if they were infected. Ms. Upham said that the plague kills quickly. It is a process of catching the animal and testing the fleas on them to diagnose the disease.

1. **New Business:**

None

1. **District Manager’s Report and Operations Review:**

The technicians have been using single brood larvicide as the water has been quickly dissipating this year. Ms. Upham is looking into Fire Mitigation Assessment grants for the Carson River Watershed. UNR has begun attempting to treat the Eurasian Watermilfoil along the canals with a UV barge. It is not evident yet if this will be the best long-term solution for this noxious weed.

1. **Board Member’s Reports:**

None

1. **Any Request for Future Agenda Items:**

The 2% breakdown for the living increase

This season's service requests and aerial flights

1. **Expenditures:**

Total Payroll: $63,710.09

Total Expenditures: $28,884.52

Total Overall: $92,594.61

Mr. Spencer make a motion to accept the expenditures. Ms. McGarrah seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

1. **Public Comment:**

None

1. **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 P.M.

SIGNATURE: Chairwoman or Vice Chairman

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DATE: