**Board Members Present:** **Board Members Absent:**

Nate Johnson-Supervisor Joe Ricci-Supervisor

Tyler Minor-Chairman

John Cassinelli-Commissioner

Greg Lehman-Treasurer

Randy Selmi-Supervisor

**Staff Present:** **Staff Absent:**

Austin Lemons-District Manager

Rachel Schmidt-Conservation Technician

Melissa Wiggins-Administrative Assistant

**Others Present:**

Martha “Marlee” Jenkins- Conservation Districts Program, DCNR

Kevin Piper- NVACD

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

**Item 1: Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order. Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present. Please refer to the attached sign-in sheet for all those in attendance*.

**Item 2: The pledge of allegiance:** *Chairman Tyler Minor lead the board in the pledge of allegiance.*

**Item 3: Approval of the Agenda**

*Supervisor Greg Lehman motioned for approval and Supervisor Nate Johnson seconded. Motion passed.*

**Item 4: Public Comment**

*John Cassinelli introduced himself as the new Lyon County Commissioner appointed to the DVCD board. He discussed his background in agriculture, and as a contractor, and his familiarity with construction, and herbicide. He also mentioned he is a member of the farm bureau.*

**Item 5: Consent agenda**

5a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from:

December 17th, 2024 and December 29th, 2024

5b. Approval of Treasury Report for December 2024

*Supervisor Randy Selmi motioned to approve all consent agenda items listed in 5a and 5b. Supervisor Greg Lehman seconded. Motion passed.*

**Item 6: FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action regarding the Ricci Pradere Riverbank Stabilization Project: Mr. Lemons and Ms. Schmidt**

*District Manager Austin Lemons told the board that the district is waiting for updates to the plans from R.O. Anderson and they should be ready by Monday, February 3rd. He also discussed having to withdraw the engineering permit but wanting to work with Coons Construction and the landowners to possibly start hauling rock. Commissioner Cassinelli asked if the permits are issued through the state. Austin Lemons said that they are issued at both the federal and state levels Marlee Jenkins mentioned that the district is waiting for edits to plans from R.O. Anderson and that the Army Corps of Engineers Permit is good until 2026. Supervisor Randy Selmi said that they should not haul rock yet. Austin mentioned wanting to haul rock to show grant partners that there is progress on the project. Supervisor Greg Lehman asked when progress needs to be shown. Austin Lemons said that they are updated quarterly. Kevin Piper stated that the grant partners will understand that permits take time and agreed that no rock should be hauled. He suggested that Austin contact grant partners and explain that the district is ready and waiting for permits.*

*Supervisor Greg Lehman asked about the contract period and how high the water may get. He also asked about how many workdays the project will take and discussed having a Plan B. Austin Lemons said that they will miss the winter window and lose some grant funding on July 1st. Marlee Jenkins added that they can show the grant partners that there is a contractor and construction contract in place. Kevin Piper discussed plotting out plan A and B and getting in front of funders to communicate and get on their agendas to inform them of river flow conditions and engineering delays. Greg Lehman agreed and asked how many funding sources the project has. Conservation Technician Rachel Schmidt said they have five sources. Chairman Tyler Minor stated that the funding supports at risk of being lost are CTWCD, CWSD, and NDEP. Marlee Jenkins said that the district could explain the delays to the funding sources and possibly get contracts extended, but that the NDEP contract goes until 2026. Greg Lehman agreed that the district should create a plan and present it to the boards and ask if they can purchase rock for the project. Commissioner Cassinelli said that he agreed that they could purchase the rock, but to keep it at the yard rather than stockpile it if they need to show progress. Austin Lemons said that there is 37,000 square feet of space for the project, and they need to calculate how much rock will need to be used.*

**Item 7: FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Updates, discussion and possible action regarding current grant progress: Mr. Lemons and Ms. Schmidt**

*Conservation Technician Rachel Schmidt discussed that they have monitored 43 out of 60 previous riverbank stabilization projects for the NDEP 22-019 monitoring grant. She also mentioned that they have been continuing to survey noxious weeds under the NDA and CWSD grants and have four properties left to visit in the Mound House project area. They have everything else in that area mapped and ready for treatment when timing is appropriate. Austin Lemons gave an update on burning and mowing whitetop (Lepidium latifolium*) *at Rolling A in collaboration with Central Lyon County Fire Department, with plans to revisit and spray herbicide later. He also discussed working on a certified pesticide applicator license through Weed Warrior classes he and Ms. Schmidt are taking. Marlee Jenkins mentioned a half-day class at University of Reno extension for further education on weed treatment. Supervisor Greg Lehman asked if Central Lyon was receptive further collaboration on the burn at Rolling A. Austin Lemons stated that they are working on a joint grant application with them. Chairman Tyler Minor said that they also offered to help with cutting willows and have a nine-person crew.*

**Item 8:** **FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** **Updates, discussion and possible action regarding future grant requests: Mr. Lemons and Ms. Schmidt**

*Mr. Lemons discussed how they put in a request for CWSD funding for river channel clearing and snagging at five sites and asked if anyone on the board had ideas for problematic areas on the river. He also mentioned putting in a request to NDEP for the same scope of work and that they will be presenting their proposal to CWSD at the end of February. Rachel Schmidt added that they should know by April if they are awarded the funds from CWSD specifically. She also mentioned developing projects for outreach, planning, and urban grants from several organizations. She mentioned that they are still awaiting a response on the pre-applications for Conserve Nevada funding. Austin Lemons said that they have a meeting scheduled to discuss the Lyon County Weed Abatement Grant with Central Lyon Fire Department.*

**Item 9: District Supervisor Reports**

*No updates at this time.*

**Item 10: District Staff Reports**

*District Manager Austin Lemons discussed acquiring a new trailer from Lyon County and that he is doing repair work on it. He also mentioned selling the camper shell and working to sell the spray trailer. Marlee Jenkins discussed the freezing of federal grants and that there will be emergency meetings if they stay paused. She mentioned that the district may need to cut hours if the freeze is upheld for a long period of time. Rachel Schmidt updated the board that she was given a 5% raise. Tyler Minor said that she had a good six-month performance review.*

**Item 11: Agency Reports**

*NVACD’s Kevin Piper discussed the upcoming Legislative Day on February 27th from 8am to 5pm and invited DVCD to attend to promote the conservation district. He also discussed bill AB80, a soil health bill. He also mentioned a bill tracking spreadsheet that the board could access. Kevin Piper also mentioned Nevada Ag Day on March 18th, 2025. He discussed NVACD changing the process of their annual meeting, including moving it around to different areas of the state. He also stated that NRCS has money to fund soil carbon monitoring projects for Conservation Districts to use in monitoring*

*Marlee Jenkins announced they have open vacancies in DCNR’s Conservation District Program. She also mentioned the money DVCD will be getting from the state for being in good standing, along with new grant language added to conservation districts funding opportunities to encompass more than just Sage Grouse habitat.*

**Item 12: Announcements**

*There were no announcements at this time.*

**Item 13: AGENDA TOPICS AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

*Chairman Ty Minor asked Marlee Jenkins if they needed to appoint board positions at the next meeting. Marlee stated that the wording in the NRS suggests it needs to be from time to time and that it would be good to discuss it at the next meeting.*

**Item 14: Public Comment**

*Kevin Piper thanked the board for emailing the agenda. District Manager Austin Lemons mentioned they were planning to attend Legislative Day to talk to supervisors and revamp the line of communication for what resources are needed.*

**Item 15: Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:36PM.*