

RANGELAND RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
May 2, 2007
Reno, Nevada

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Deloyd Satterthwaite, Chairman
Benny Romero, Vice-Chairman
Tim DeLong
Hank Vogler
Hank Combs

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Carl Slagowski
Bert Paris
Sam Parriott
Preston Wright

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Chairman Satterthwaite welcomed Hank Combs to the Commission. Introductions were made.

Chairman Satterthwaite discussed the agenda. Chairman Satterthwaite explained the letter written to Joe Guild regarding Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). Joe Guild has said that he will take the letter to the SNWA.

Chairman Satterthwaite discussed the funding of the EIS consultant. The committee hired John Balliette however he has had some health issues and has been unable to work. The committee asked if the Commission would put some articles on the Commission's website but nothing has been received since the initial materials were received. The committee has not spent much money. The grant agreement expires December 31, 2007. At this time the Commission will need to decide if they are going to extend the time frame or get the money back.

Chairman Satterthwaite informed the Commission that the Range Monitoring handbooks grant was paid to Gary McCuin and not the University of Nevada as previously voted on. The University could not get the handbooks printed in time for the Cattlemen's College so Carl's Printing did the job. The printing cost less than previously estimated.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for acceptance. Chairman Satterthwaite made a change to the minutes. Joel Twitchell was not present but Hank Vogler filled in for him. Hank will get Connie to send in a nomination letter.

Tim DeLong moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Hank Vogler seconded. Motion approved.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Tim DeLong moved to reelect Deloyd Satterthwaite as Chairman of the Commission. Benny Romero moved to have the nominations ceased. Motion approved.

This meeting was Benny Romero's last meeting as a member of the Range Commission.

Tim Delong moved to elect Hank Vogler as Vice-Chairman of the Commission. Benny Romero moved to have the nominations ceased. Motion approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Deloyd Satterthwaite presented the financial statement.

Hank Combs asked what the fiscal year was. Jennifer Bartlett replied that it ran from July 1 to June 30.

Benny Romero moved to revert the \$1,030.00 savings from the Range Monitoring Handbook printing job back to the balance. Tim Delong seconded. Motion approved.

Available funding is now at \$96,508.90

Benny Romero moved to receive and file the financial statement as presented. Tim Delong seconded. Motion approved.

BILLING STATISTICS

Chairman Satterthwaite discussed the billing statistics. A discussion followed on different options regarding unpaid accounts. There was also a discussion on who the SNWA has bought out. The Commission reviewed the whereabouts of several permittees.

Gary McCuin discussed the new regulations that would allow the Bureau of Land Management to share permittee information with state agencies. Gary is hopeful this will ease some of the problems in gathering the information needed for the Commission billing.

Benny Romero reported that William Weaver is deceased and the permits have been transferred to the Hilton Corporation. Hank Vogler stated that Mount Wheeler (?) Power Company is buying out permits in Eastern Nevada.

Chairman Satterthwaite discussed the collection process. Delinquent accounts will be handed over to the Attorney General's office. Thirty days after the letters go out any remaining delinquent accounts will be turned over to collections.

Hank Vogler moved to go forward with the collection process as presented by Chairman Satterthwaite. Tim Delong seconded. Motion approved.

A discussion of leases and who is ultimately responsible for payment followed.

Ed Foster asked if anyone who did not pay shared with the Commission as to why they are not paying their bill. Chairman Satterthwaite said no. Hank Vogler feels permittees just blow off their bill. Rick Gimlin discussed a previous program that had the same set-up as the

Commission. That program dealt with the same issues as the Commission in regards to trying to get payments.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS CONTRACT

Chairman Satterthwaite informed the Commission that they needed to decide if they wanted to keep the contract for administrative services with the Department. The current contract expires at the end of June.

Hank Vogler asked how the Commission could do it any cheaper.

Chairman Satterthwaite presented several options for the Commission to consider. Option 1 was to try to contract with someone outside of state government to provide administrative services. Option 2 would be to go under the Department of Administration. Anytime Administration wrote a check it would cost the Commission \$9.00 and they really do not want the Commission under their umbrella. Option 3 is go on as the Commission currently is operating. There is a new Director coming on board and the Commission could give her a try. Things could possibly get better regarding administrative services with a new direction.

Gary McCuin reminded the Commission that they have to be recognized as a state entity in order for the BLM to share permittee information.

Hank Vogler asked if there would be any cost savings if the Commission left the Department of Agriculture. Chairman Satterthwaite stated that he has not taken it that far. It costs the Commission \$13,500 per year for administrative services. Chairman Satterthwaite does not know if the Commission could hire someone for that. Hank Vogler also said that the Commission would need to equip an office.

Hank Combs asked about the Commission's cost per year. Chairman Satterthwaite said the Commission pays the Department \$13,500.00 a year.

Ed Foster stated that this amount covers a portion of Jennifer Bartlett's salary. If the Commission pulls out the Department will have to come together to finance the remaining portion of Jennifer's salary.

Chairman Satterthwaite read over the Administrative Assistant's duties. Rick Gimlin said that the scope of work was laid out four years ago. It is a good scope of work with the milestones clearly laid out. For the amount of money the Commission pays they are getting a good deal as there are many times where more than 20 per week are given to the Commission. Rick reiterated that there is a new Director with a new direction coming on board. This could create a better working relationship between the Commission and the Department. Rick offered the option of extending the contract for one year at \$13,500 at which the Department is only recovering 10 hours a week at Jennifer Bartlett's current rate. This would allow the Commission to try the Department out under new direction.

Benny Romero feels the Commission needs to realize that this is a very complicated process with lots of information to track. As far as Benny see it the Commission should go for another year and let the new Director get her feet wet. If the Commission leaves the state the federal agencies will not cooperate with the Commission. Rick reminded the Commission that they need to be an entity of the state to receive permittee information.

Ed Foster stated that Jennifer Bartlett is working under a new organizational structure and is fine tuning her schedule. Ed believes that Jennifer is capable of doing the job. Good communication is the key. Chairman Satterthwaite agreed that Jennifer is capable of doing excellent work. Chairman Satterthwaite reminded the Commission that the contract is with the Department and not Jennifer. Rick Gimlin suggested closer coordination between the Department and the Commission. Issues need to be at a departmental level.

Rick Gimlin again suggested a one year trial run. Rick reminded the Commission that there is a clause that would allow the Commission to terminate earlier if they so choose.

Hank Vogler moved to renew the administrative assistant contract for two years at \$27,000.00. Tim Delong seconded. Motion approved.

Chairman Satterthwaite asked if the Department was going to use the same contract. Rick Gimlin asked if the Department could work directly with the Chairman to make changes to the scope of work. Chairman Satterthwaite replied yes.

PROJECT UPDATES

Chairman Satterthwaite informed the Commission that newsletters went out and the next newsletter is already paid for.

Chairman Satterthwaite asked if anyone had anything to go on the website to please send it to him.

Dennis Golden will update the Commission on his performances when he gives his proposal.

The EIS position has no update except for the previously mention information.

Gary McCuin gave an update on the Rancher's Monitoring Handbook. Gary stated that it was an uphill battle but was a success.

Benny Romero acknowledged Gary McCuin for a job well done.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS

Chairman Satterthwaite stated that the Cattlemen's proposal and the Range Magazine proposal would be crossed off due to no proposals

Chairman Satterthwaite presented a letter from Ag in the Classroom requesting \$500.00. The Commission has already obligated \$2,500.00 for Ag in the Classroom and this amount would be taken out of those obligated funds.

Hank Vogler moved to fund \$500.00 for Ag in the Classroom. Benny Romero seconded. Motion approved.

Dennis Golden gave an update on his performances and presented a proposal for more performances.

Dennis Golden asked if it would be possible to set aside money for performances not included in his proposal. Chairman Satterthwaite said no because an executive committee has to be handled under the open meeting law.

Ed Foster suggested appropriating money to Golden Marketing and giving Dennis Golden the authority to spend the money as Dennis sees in the best interest of the Commission. The Commission could appropriate money above what Dennis is proposing.

Chairman Satterthwaite feels the money the Commission has granted to Golden Marketing has been money well spent.

Ed Foster said the Commission may want to give Dennis Golden the ability to realign his schedule to get the most out of the Commission's funding.

Tim Delong moved to fund \$1,800.00 for six performances with the flexibility to rearrange the performances if necessary. Hank Vogler seconded. Motion approved.

Chairman Satterthwaite suggested the Commission members get together for a barbeque and entertainment by Dennis Golden.

A discussion followed regarding the possibility of doing a Nevada poster similar to the one done by the Idaho Range Commission. Chairman Satterthwaite and Jennifer Bartlett will work on the costs of doing a poster. Gary McCuin offered his help.

Benny Romero moved to fund \$300.00 to cover administration costs. Tim Delong seconded. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Benny Romero thanked the Commission for the enjoyable time he had working with the Commission. Chairman Satterthwaite thanked Benny for his great service and excellent support of the industry.

Chairman Satterthwaite mentioned an e-mail he seen from Tony Lesperanse inquiring on behalf of the Governor on the workings of the Commission. Chairman Satterthwaite discussed the make-up of the Commission per statute.

Hank Vogler discussed the selling of the ranches in eastern Nevada.

Dennis Golden discussed articles in the Reno Gazette written by Dave Rice regarding predator control. A discussion followed.

Ed Foster discussed the make-up of the Department of Wildlife. Chairman Satterthwaite asked how the new Director was doing. Ed stated his opinion was that the Director was very busy but seemed to be even keeled, straightforward and organized.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be tentatively set for August 24th in Winnemucca.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Others in Attendance

Dennis Golden
Gary McCuin
Ed Foster
Rick Gimlin
Jennifer Bartlett