



Nevada Shade Tree Council Board Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2011
0900 – 1530 hrs

Diamond Peak Ski Resort
1220 Ski Way
Incline Village, Nevada 89451

In Attendance:

Molly Sinnott, President
Lisa Ortega, Past President
Bill Bowers, Treasurer
Forest Schafer, Secretary
Cleto Arceo
Greg Deuley
Tony Dietz
Helen Stone
Joe Carr
John Crandell

Tina McKeand
Steven Phillips
Bill Carlos

GUESTS AND EX-OFFICIO

Margie Ewing, Ex-officio – USFS
Susan Stead, Ex-officio – NDF
Andi Kemmerer – NDF, Elko Office
Laura Eisenberg – NDF, Las Vegas Office

“→” indicates agenda items taken out of order at the discretion of the NSTC President or Nevada Division of Forestry.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Molly Sinnott called the meeting to order at 0930 hrs. Quorum established with 15 members present. Helen Stone thanked Lisa Ortega for her two years of dedication and service as president.

II. Membership Nominations

Susan Stead nominated Joe Carr (City of Elko Arborist), Bill Wolf (Ely Tree Board) and Suzanne Sturtevant (State Parks at Mormon Station) for membership. Helen Stone made a motion to approve the nominees for membership and Greg Deuley seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

III. USFS Reporting and Discussions

Marge Ewing is the Urban and Community Forestry Program Liaison for Regions 1 and 4 of the USFS State and Private Forestry Program (S&PF). S&PF manages money granted to state forestry agencies. Budget issues at the federal level are likely to affect all state Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) programs in the future. A federal budget for FY 2012 has not yet been approved, and it will be difficult to anticipate future funding because UCF is a discretionary program. Margie suggested implementing outreach and marketing programs

to build statewide awareness and support for UCF, and to pursue contingency, non-federal funding sources.

IV. NDF Urban and Community Forestry State Coordinator Report

Susan distributed a brochure summarizing the social and economic benefits of trees called "Trees Pay Us Back". The document is available for many regions, and can be viewed at the USFS Urban Ecosystems and Social Dynamics Program website at: www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/

"The Grove" (americangrove.org) is an urban-forestry centered social networking site that can be used to inform communities of projects and events, share success stories and accept donations. The Nevada regional site will be online on September 12 and content will be managed by Laura Eisenberg. *Tina McKeand volunteered to communicate with Laura and Andi to ensure that NSTC and its activities are represented on the site.*

Nevada is managing more than 1.5 million dollars from ARRA and other USFS grants for various projects, including Spanish language tree-care workshops, tree inventories, i-Tree analyses, canopy assessment and hazard tree pruning in Sparks. UCF used Western Competitive Grant funding for education and outreach in the Tahoe Basin, such as Wildfire Awareness Week and the crane workshop. Andi Kemmerer is working on Tree City USA and Tree Campus programs and emerald ash borer outreach to municipalities.

V. NEVADA SHADE TREE COUNCIL ITEMS

V.A. Approve April 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The April 7 meeting minutes were corrected to display the correct date. *Helen Stone made a motion to approve the Sept 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes as corrected. Greg Deuley seconded. Motion approved unanimously.*

V.B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

V.B.1. Treasurer's Report

Bill Bowers distributed the current Income and Expense Report. Bill asked that all members return match and reimbursement forms promptly following the meeting.

Molly Sinnott discussed the challenges she encountered organizing the crane workshop. The original crane operator for the class cancelled and a new operator had to be scheduled within three weeks of the class, incurring an additional \$1000 cost was incurred. Tina McKeand moved to reallocate \$1000 of supplemental funding from the \$2000 available for the Tahoe ISA Hazard Tree workshop to the crane workshop. Greg Deuley seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Bill stated that NSTC members generally return reimbursement and match forms promptly, so no official deadline is required. Bill reminded members that advances are available for

members who do not wish to put out of town travel expenses on their credit cards. Receipts on any advances should be turned in as soon as possible.

V.B.2. 5 Year Plan

The item was deferred until the next meeting because Dick Post was not present.

V.B.3. Nevada Shade Tree Week

Nevada Shade Tree Week (NSTW) is the last week in October, and includes two weekends. During the September 23, 2010 meeting, Bill Carlos, Teri Knight and Eric Howes were designated as the regional coordinators for NSTW projects in the Western, Southern and Northern Nevada regions, respectively. Jow Carr agreed to replace Eric Howes, who is no longer a member. Lisa Ortega volunteered to substitute for Teri Knight if she were no longer available. \$500 has been allotted for each region, and the regional representatives will select and approve the projects for funding. *Regional coordinators must submit NSTW projects to Susan Stead by August 30 to allow time for cultural resource clearance. Interested organizations should contact their regional coordinator to apply.*

V.B.4. NSTC Newsletter

Tina distributed a draft of the NSTC quarterly newsletter, and members gave suggestions for updates and revisions. Tina suggested creating a Facebook page for NSTC to improve outreach efforts. *Tina volunteered to create the page. Tammi Gaudett, Executive Secretary, will regularly monitor the page for inappropriate content. Board members who would like information posted on the page should contact Tammi. Tina requested that any additional content for the newsletter be sent to her as soon as possible to meet the distribution deadline, including any NSTW project and other events occurring prior to April, 2013.*

V.B.5. Website

There will likely be a rate increase for website hosting and maintenance. Forest Schafer volunteered to regularly update the website, and to explore solutions for easily allowing content to be added and updated. Tina moved to authorize Forest to obtain hosting, domain name registration, and site management credentials from Brian Allen (allallens.com). Greg seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

NSTC lacks a permanent mailing address. *Tina volunteered to research mail forwarding options through a private organization, which may be able to provide additional services as NSTC grows.* Forest moved to approve up to \$150 annually for a P.O. Box in the Las Vegas/Henderson area. Lisa Ortega seconded. Motion approved unanimously. *Lisa will purchase the PO box and check incoming mail.*

V.C OLD BUSINESS

V.C.1 Arbor Day Activities

Bill Carlos hosted an Arbor Day event with 50 people in attendance. Molly organized a tree planting in Carson City. Lisa hosted a 20-Year Tree City USA celebration. Over 800 4th

graders were given seedlings with planting assistance from Master Gardeners. Over 850 volunteers assisted with tree planting in Elko with Joe Carr, and Steven Phillips in Incline Village planted trees with a youth club.

V.C.2. Bumper Stickers, Desk Guide and Membership List

Tammi is waiting to print "Topping Hurts Trees" bumper stickers until a final decision is made by NSTC regarding which logos will be present on the design. In the previous meeting, the board allowed for donations of \$200 for a logo on the bumper sticker. Davey Tree Service and Southern Nevada Arborist Group have offered the required donation. Helen moved that the bumper stickers be printed with the NSTC, USFS, NDF, Davey and SNAG logos. Greg seconded. Motion approved with 14 in favor, and John Crandell against. *Tina will obtain the donation from Davey and Lisa will obtain the same from SNAG.*

Compilation of the desk guide has been taken over by Lisa and Susan. Lisa presented a draft of the guide, whose goal is to provide members with background on NSTC and its policies and procedures. *Forest volunteered to convert the desk guide to a pdf. Greg and Lisa will send him electronic copies of the guide's contents.*

V.D NEW BUSINESS

V.D.1. Northern, Southern and Western Area Updates

The majority of regional updates were covered in previous items. Lisa recommended joining the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) and posting projects on their website as an opportunity to increase exposure.

V.D.2. Grant Awards Possibilities, Match and Reporting

Lisa recommended registering for the ACT Communities and Partnerships conference in Orlando in November to learn more about grants and public education.

V.D.3. Tree City USA Update

Elko received a growth award. NV Energy is pursuing Tree Line USA status. Andi will be working with the University of Nevada to pursue Tree Campus USA.

V.D.4. Education/Conference Updates

The next session for ISA Certification is October 11-13 at the May Arboretum in Reno. Some Washoe County employees registered for the course for no fee in exchange for the use of the location. *Susan will speak to Tammi about gathering the email addresses of potentially interested organization and sending them notice of the training.*

Lisa is hosting a tree inventory training this August in southern Nevada. Registration is at maximum. Susan hopes to host a similar training in the Carson City area.

Desert Green XV is October 21-22 at Sam's Town Casino in Las Vegas. Members discussed the feasibility of providing sponsorships to allow representatives of rural communities to

attend the conference. Forest moved to allocate up to \$700 to provide two sponsorships for the Desert Green conference. The Council will solicit letters of interest from rural communities that describe how the conference will benefit the interested party's organization. A committee to be determined will select the two sponsorship recipients. The recipients will provide a summary of their experience, for possible publication by the NSTC. Lisa seconds. Motion approved unanimously. *Tammi will solicit letters of interest from rural communities.*

The crane seminar hosted by NSTC in conjunction with the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arborists was a success. There were 75 attendees.

V.D.5. New Committees

Greg Deuley, Tony Dietz and Lisa Ortega assigned to the committee to review NSTC by-laws.

Molly Sinnott and Helen Stone assigned to the committee to review Desert Green Sponsorship letters of interest and to select the recipients.

V.D.6. Other Items Brought to the Table by Members

Tony suggested providing annual awards to individuals and communities for excellence in tree care and urban forestry. The subject will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

V. Public Comment Period

No items were brought forward.

VI. Next Meeting Date and Location

A video conference meeting was set for November 9 or 10 to discuss reporting for NDF's Five Year Strategic Plan. Molly will arrange for video conferencing with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

VII. Adjournment

Molly Sinnott adjourned the meeting at 1530 hrs.

Submitted by Forest Schafer.