

Churchill County Mosquito, Vector and Noxious Weed Abatement District
Board of Trustees
Churchill County, Nevada
7400 Reno Highway
Fallon, NV 89406
Meeting Thursday, August 14, 2025
OPEN MEETING SESSION

1. Call to Order

Chairman Grondin called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard Grondin, Chairman
David Brown, Vice-Chairman
Marion Jonte, Trustee
Barry Stewart, Trustee
Kevin Porteus, Trustee

Joe Sanford, Legal Counsel
JD MacKay, District Manager
Kori Meyer, Board Secretary

Public Present

NONE

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment:

NONE

4. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Review and Adoption of the Agenda:

Trustee Jonte made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Chairman Grondin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2025:

Chairman Grondin noted that the term "Chairwoman" needs to be corrected on the last page of the minutes template. Trustee Jonte made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2025 meeting. Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

6. Certificate of Posting:

District Manager MacKay noted that the agenda was posted in accordance with N.R.S. Statutes.

7. Correspondence:

7-2-25 Katie Dineen – GASB 75 – OPEB Actuarial Report

Mr. MacKay explained that this was a prompt email reminding us that the OPEB risk assessment report for insurance costs accrual for retired employees is due. The District does not have any retired employees that we pay insurance costs for, but we still have to fill out the paperwork to certify that status.

7-2-25 Katie Dineen - Engagement Letter

Mr. MacKay explained that this is the notification letter from Sciarani & Co., CPAs that they are going to continue to do our audits. The inventory was done on July 1, 2025 and Sue Pruitt is compiling the information. The District also put together a compilation of inventory numbers from the last five years for comparison. While we have reduced our inventory the numbers will show that the value of what is on hand has gone up. Once Ms. Pruitt has formalized the inventory the District will present that at a future Board meeting.

7-7-25 Hannah Romo (CDPH) – Sentinel chicken blood testing laboratory information

Mr. MacKay explained that the District has not had a contact with a lab for the testing of our chickens for a number of years. He established contact with Hannah Romo of the California Dept. of Health, Vector-Borne Disease Section. The District will send tests off weekly. The District ordered 160 test kits – enough to test for 10 weeks. Chickens are located off of Soda Lake Rd. (Zone 1) and on Lenore St (Zone 2). The District also has the birds at the facility on Reno Hwy. The District has not placed chickens in other locations due to the manpower issues. Approximate costs is around \$10 a test. The District will confirm and report on this at the next meeting. It was also noted that with some areas preparing to get water soon we will see more activity in the next 10 days or so. The District hopes to do more trapping in the next week.

7-10-25 LGIP - June 25 Rate 4.3186812

Mr. MacKay noted that this is the notification for the current rate of the state investment pool.

7-9-2025 Dante Sanguinetti NDOT – Revised Invoice for NDOT / State Roads treated in Churchill County July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Mr. MacKay explained the background behind the NDOT grant and the guidelines for it. The District performs pre- and post-emergent treatment for weeds on all state roads throughout the county. Trustee Brown noted the labor rate charged and asked if we charge for equipment use. Mr. MacKay said that we have not in the past because tracking and isolating the daily mileage from state to county work hasn't been split out on the dailies due to the manner in which we transition from a county to a state road while fogging at times. The District will work on integrating a cost for equipment usage into the invoicing and reports for next year.

7-30-2025 WCCD/CTWCD – July 30, 2025 – Request for additional funding

Mr. MacKay gave the background and explained that retired District Manager Nancy Upham submitted invoicing in April, which was before the end of the grant cycle and also before the optimal white top treatment time, which is in June. The District also contracted Desert Oasis spray to treat Derby Dam, so we sent CTWCD a request for additional funding to try to recover

some of those costs, which should have been included. At this time, it is unknown whether they will agree. Trustee Porteous asked why we treat Derby Dam since it is outside the County. Mr. MacKay explained that the District treats it because the water is packing seed that ultimately ends up in Fallon and Churchill County. Treating Derby is a proactive rather than a reactive measure.

7-31-2025 – CWSD – CWSD Grant Funding and Reimbursement

Mr. MacKay explained that this grant helps cover the cost of chemicals used to treat county roads that aren't covered under the CTWCD grant. The weed classes and chemicals given out at the weed classes are also included in this funding. To date, there have been 13 classes. Attendance was not as high this year, as is common in drier years.

7-31-2025 – Pam Moore – Indebtedness Letter and Report

Mr. MacKay explained that this is just a certification that the District has no debts or liabilities.

8. Appointments:

NONE

9. Old Business:

NONE

10. New Business:

- Discussion and possible action re: increasing uniform clothing allowance for District staff for 2026

Mr. MacKay presented an invoice from the uniform supplier that was used in the past by the District to use as a comparison to the stipend that the District has provided.

Annual costs for five employees using a uniform service was \$1700.00 a year, breaking down to \$81.70 a week. The current yearly stipend of \$350.00 a year per employee comes out to \$1750.00 per year for five employees. This does not include the purchase of new boots or waders, as those are purchased as they wear out.

Trustee Porteous stated that the employees need to wear clothing that identifies them as District staff. Other Board members agreed. The Board members determined that the District should provide similar suitable shirts with District logos to the employees for identification purposes and also provide a stipend for pants. Trustee Porteous suggested providing both short and long sleeve shirts suited to the various working conditions. Addressing comments that employees would prefer not to wear identifiable clothing after they leave work to avoid being approached in their off Trustee Brown asked if the District facility had a clothes washer and dryer, which it does not. Trustee Brown made a motion to approve an increase in the employee clothing stipend from \$350.00 to \$450.00 for the purchase of pants and for the District to purchase 5 short sleeve and 5 long sleeve shirts with the District logo for all full-time field technicians. Chairman Grondin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition. The District Manager has discretion on the shirts and costs associated with them.

- **Discussion and possible action re: increasing stipend to Board members**
Counsel Sanford noted that there are regulations related to maximum salaries for Board members. Any increase does not become effective until January 1, 2027 if it is voted on today. Counsel recommended that the Board talk about what they would like to do. Trustee Jonte asked if any other boards in the county are paid a stipend. Counsel noted that the Planning Commission receives a small (\$40 per meeting) stipend, and the Library gets one, but the amount isn't known. Counsel recommended setting the stipend as an amount to be paid "per year" versus "per meeting". Trustee Porteous made a motion to add an agenda item to the next Board meeting to increase the Board members' stipend from \$100 per meeting to \$2600 per year, to be paid monthly. Chairman Grondin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

- **Discussion and possible action re: approval to plan sale of unused inventory items**
Counsel Sanford discussed the guidelines that would need to be followed for this type of sale. The sale would have to be public. The District can use its website, eBay, or any other similar public forum. Trustee Brown made a motion to allow the Churchill County Mosquito, Vector, and Noxious Weed Abatement District to work with Counsel Sanford to plan the sale of the unused inventory items. Trustee Porteous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition.

11. District Manager's Report and Operations Review:

- District Manager MacKay noted that the District has been much more aggressive about releasing (mosquito) fish throughout the area. They eat up to approximately 135 larvae a day. Employees have distributed an estimated 7,500 to 10,000 fish throughout the County. While some of the fish will not survive predators, they are capable of overwintering and, once established, they will just continue to work.
Mr. MacKay discussed the areas covered and the chemical used by Frey Spray when they covered parts of Zone 2 in early July.
Two weed classes were held in July. There were 5 attendees total. Weed abatement efforts have largely subsided at this time.
Mr. MacKay noted that service requests dropped substantially in July, with Zone 4 bringing in the most service requests.
- Mr. MacKay gave the background on the workers' compensation incident involving Doad Hext. He confirmed that there wasn't anything that could have been done differently, nor did Mr. Hext do anything wrong. Trustee Jonte asked about his current status. Mr. MacKay confirmed that he has not returned to work and that he is being paid through Worker's Compensation.
- Trustee Porteous asked about the District's use of Methoprene. Mr. MacKay explained that we are rotating it but have not eliminated it. We are leaning towards treatments that are naturally occurring microorganisms or bacteria. We are still using Methoprene, but it is not our go-to this year. The District is also using a "middle of the road" treatment called VectoPrime. Right now, using the

long-term products makes sense because we are short-handed, but they are more expensive. Costs per acre for various treatments were also discussed.

- Trustee Jonte asked if the District was still making its own dry ice for trapping. Mr. MacKay explained that we are buying over the counter. The District hasn't been trapping as much this season due to manpower constraints, so it didn't make sense to spend the money on the nitrogen tanks, which are only good for a few weeks.

12. Board Member's Reports:

NONE

13. Any Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Discussion and possible action regarding purchasing a new weed truck.

Discussion and possible action regarding purchasing a washer and dryer

Discussion and possible action regarding increasing the stipend to the Board members to \$2600 per year.

14. Expenditures:

15. Public Comment:

NONE

16. Adjournment:

Chairman Grondin adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm



SIGNATURE:

Chairman or Vice Chairman

DATE:

