STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Joe Lombardo, *Governor*
James A. Settelmeyer, *Director*
Denise K. Beronio, Administrator

AGENDA -- MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON OUTDOOR RECREATION

Date and Time: March 26, 2025

2:00pm – 4:30pm

* This meeting will be held in person with a virtual option*

Physical Location: 901 S. Stewart St., Bonnie Bryan Room
1st Floor, Carson City, NV 89701

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1. **CALL TO ORDER –** *Stavros Anthony, Chair 2:00P.M.*

2. **ROLL CALL OF THE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS –** *Denise Beronio, Administrator*

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER	REPRESENTATION
Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony, Chair	Office of Lieutenant Governor
Amy Berry, Vice Chair	Conservation
Mauricia Baca	Education
Alex Baccus for Tom Burns	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Alan Jenne	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Staci Emm	Nevada Indian Commission
Robert Mergell	Nevada Division of State Parks
Greg Juhl	Public Health
Rafael Villaneuva for Brenda Scolari	Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
James A. Settelmeyer	Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Debra Strickland	Nevada Association of Counties
Chad Taylor	Outdoor Recreation Industry

Ex Officio Advisory Board Members

Cheva Gabor	US Forest Service
Tammy Owens	Bureau of Land Management

Present: Stavros Anthony**,** Mauricia Baca, Robert Mergell, Amy Berry, Tammy Owens, Debra Strickland, Staci Emm, Greg Juhl, Chad Taylor, Cheva Gabor, Alex Bacchus, Alan Jenne, and Rafael Villanueva

Absent: James Settelmeyer

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* -** *Stavros Anthony, Chair*.

   Chair asks if there is a motion to approve the minutes for Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation (NOER) Grant Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting minutes from November 12, 2024, motion to approve Robert Mergell, second Mauricia Baca, motion passes.

   Chair asks if there is a motion to approve the minutes for the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation (ABOR) meeting minutes June 27, 2024. Motion to approve Amy Berry, second Mauricia Baca, motion passes.

   Chair asks if there is a motion to approve the minutes for NOER TAC Grant meeting minutes for Nov 13, 2023, motion to approve Amy Berry, second Debra Strickland, motion passes.

   All minutes were passed without corrections, errors, or changes.

4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*–** *Stavros Anthony, Chair.*

   Chair asks if there is a motion to approve the agenda today, motion to approve Amy Berry, second Robert Mergell, motion passes.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

   Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person. The public may request that items be added to a future agenda. No action will be taken on any matter raised during the public comment period that is not already on the agenda. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating and spelling their name for the record.

   Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comments that may be reasonably limited.

   No public comment.

6. **ADVISORY BOARD WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR *FOR DISCUSSION* –** *Stavros Anthony, Chair*

   New members: Alex Bacchus - Governor's Office of Economic Development, Staci Emm - Nevada Indian Commission, Greg Juhl – Public Health, Rafael Villanueva – Travel Nevada

   Chair: Access to outdoor recreation can have a significant positive impact on health outcomes for people, including physical, cognitive, and mental health. There are still many barriers that hinder access

which includes the cost of entry, lack of transportation, and access to information. While state investments in Outdoor recreation has been building in recent years, it is still not sufficient to address the barriers and challenges outlined above. We are dealing with public health when it comes to this board.
Everyone was provided with a copy of the new Travel Nevada Magazine.
Robert Mergell: Cave Lake update - Has been under construction since 2019 to prevent the lake from having a catastrophic failure. Since then, the reservoir has been drained. It is now finished. The lake was projected to fill in the spring but filled quicker. The re-opening will be on June 7th.
Chair: AB 53 – The first part mandates 20 minutes of outdoor recreation for children in grades K-5. The second part authorizes school boards to come up with outdoor recreation activities that kids can complete to get school credit to graduate.
Debra Stickland: If you were a high school rodeo participant, could you get credits for graduation with this bill?
Chair: It's up to the school board.

7. **DIVISION UPDATES *<u>FOR DISCUSSION</u>*–** *Denise Beronio, Administrator, Elisabeth Jonhson, Deputy Administrator, * Kendal Scott, Outdoor Education Lead, Jasmina Sekanovich, GIS Mapping Analyst, Chelsea Kincheloe, Program Officer & Comms Lead, Kaden Barmore, OHV Program Manager and Katy Huneycutt, Management Analyst*: may provide updates as they apply regarding division activities, partnerships, opportunities, challenges, initiatives, collaborations, relevant public lands updates, state legislative updates, accomplishments, as well as ongoing and upcoming projects. * Discuss NOER Grant feedback from TAC

Denise Beronio: Has been working with Cheva Gabor on Tahoe Meadows Project. The goal is to address critical winter safety concerns at Tahoe Meadows due to overcrowding. Currently reaching out to partners and stakeholders for initial feedback. Hoping to move to a request for proposal (RFP) to hire a master planning contractor. The goal is to have the master plan in motion by early next year, 2026.
Legislative session - SB 21 will expand the NOER Grant Program to create a second bucket for the public to create grant opportunities outside the K-12 realm. It will now also include infrastructure. AB165 creates a council that expands the advisory working group. AB108 will fund the NOER Grant. SB104 makes an appropriation for green school yards. AB501 authorizes certain people to receive academic credit for completing certain outdoor recreation activities.
Has met with Anna Cannon, from NV State Clay Target league, working to get schools in Nevada to participate. No cost to the school and a great fit for an extra circular activity. Currently no schools in Nevada participate. Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact study should be finished by end of April.

Elisabeth Johnson: Enrolled in the Certified Public Manager program, which includes doing a capstone project. This project will be a collaboration effort with Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to promote Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) registration to enhance the OHV Grant program. Also working on the Boulder City Lighting retrofit project, replacing all municipal bulbs to use less energy and light pollution.

Jasmina Sekanovich: Just completed her portion of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Previously her position had been grant funded, DCNR is changing the position to IT Enhancement to support NDOR, to be filled in October. Until then she has applied for the OHV Grant fund to cover her position until October. Trail Finder is getting about 150 views a day. Challenge badges launched last year. This month is the ranger badge. Next update to Trail Finder is trail side services that should be launched by summer. She has created six kiosk maps since starting.

Amy Berry: Is there a marketing budget or social media? Can you see the metrics of where visitors are coming from?

Jasmina Sekanovich: No marketing budget, we have created rack cards, had ads in magazines and tabling at events. We have a global distribution map to see where visitors come from.
Chad Taylor: Has received comments some of the best maps Hollywood has ever used.

Chelsea Kincheloe: Trails news – Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) has a private funder that wants to fund three years of a trail certification program. This would provide skills for nonprofit groups and trail professionals. We are currently developing the curriculum and hoping to launch in Spring of 2026. We are growing followers on Instagram and Facebook, from 600 to 1,100. Changed from Listserv to Mailchimp for our newsletter.

She oversees the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grant. She currently has four grants closed out.

NV Starry Skies – Launched the program in October 2024, working mostly with outreach. This program came from SB52, and Nevada is the first state to pass a certification for lighting. Cosmos in the Desert is the first ever Dark Skies Festival in NV to be held on April 26, 2025.

Astronomical Society of Nevada will be there with telescopes, as well as Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) with kayaks and nocturnal lead walks. Working on a Dark Skies tool kit with Travel Nevada. NDOR has a new website.

Mauricia Baca: Is there a connection with the Dark Skies license plate and your work?

Chelsea Kincheloe: Currently working on it, the funds go to Friends of NV Wilderness. Monitoring Astro Tourism, outreach and education.

Amy Berry: Do you have an estimated amount of event attendance?

Chelsea Kincheloe: The current visitation for Lahontan in April is around 250 people and the reel that was posted has over 4,000 views.

Stavros Anthony: Who can apply for certification and examples of how do they get certified?

Chelsea: Reducing overall lighting of the location, and retro fitting with dark sky compliant lighting. It must be 3000 kelvins or lower. You create a lighting plan, and once fully implemented then you get the certification and submit a yearly report. People who can get certified are schools, parks and open spaces, businesses, HOAs, municipalities, or an entire area.

Kaden Barmore: Currently in our second and final grant round for the fiscal year. Have 29 applicants and have been awarded 7 grants so far. Working to modernize and update the program. Organizing to make an accessible program, doing a complete rebrand of the program, updated the logo, and updating with a new website. Doing lots outreach and education.

Debra Strickland: Announcing a soft opening on Saturday of a new track in Pahrump with OHV Grant funds, will be offering vin inspections and registration.

Kendal Scott: The Outdoor Education Advisory Working Group (AWG) was tasked with coordinating better integration of outdoor recreation into school systems. NDOR applied for a national program called Nature Everywhere, and we are the first state to be selected for that program. It allowed us to conduct a survey with focus groups of students and teachers with over 50 participants. The AWG then took all that information and made a report. The report

centers around content, integration, capacity building, outdoor learning infrastructure and policy. Proposed in AB 165 is the opportunity to expand the work of the AWG and create a new council.

NOER Grant Awards – First project wrapped up last week that was an Urban Beekeeper project. There are 21 new projects for the 2025 grant round. Working with other grant managers to standardize forms and establish metrics. The NOER Grant impact report talks about how many people applied, projects able to fund and number of participants. We reached more participants than the estimated goal. Requesting feedback from the last TAC grant round.

Debra Strickland: This grant round was her first time and found it easy.

Robert Mergell: The changes in the scoring made the scoring fairer.

8. **PRESENTATION FROM** Gregg Berggren and Lyndsey Boyer of Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space. They will speak about the city's strategic plan for open space and outdoor recreation, with a focus on conservation and stewardship during the planning process. (45 MINUTES).
   Cheva Gabor: Would like to see this presented to neighboring jurisdictions to improve connectivity.
   Mauricia Baca: Thinks other jurisdictions could really benefit from this presentation.
   Stavros Anthony: Is the ¼ of 1% from sales tax? Yes.
   Amy Berry: Would love to see a revenue chart.

9. **PRESENTATION FROM** Brandon Bishop, Program Manager for the Conserve Nevada Program, will give an overview of Conservation and Recreation Bonds in Nevada. This will include a brief historic overview of what has been done, statewide impact of this funding source, historic projects, active projects, Conserve Nevada funding opportunities moving forward, the grant round for 2024, and long-term program goals and questions.

   Mauricia Baca: Appreciates the presentation and this type of work.

10. **CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING(S) *<u>FOR DISCUSSION</u>*–** *Stavros Anthony, Chair* – Advisory Board Members may at this time recommend agenda items, dates, and locations to the chair for the next meeting. No deliberation or action will be taken on any information presented until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

    Denise Beronio: Next meeting is October 9th in Boulder City, highlighting the lighting project and railroad museum. In June we will try to go to the Reno Rodeo. I would like to have the June meeting in Fallon and highlight opportunities for outdoor recreation there. NOER Grant presentations will be in November.

    Robert Mergell: The Valley of Fire's new visitors center will be opening in late October and maybe we could have the meeting there.
    Cheva Gabor: For the Capital Christmas tree project, we could make ornaments at the next meeting.

11. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
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Brandon Bishop: Conserve Nevada bond meeting has been moved to Wednesday at 8 AM.

12. ADJOURNMENT *<u>FOR POSSIBLE ACTION</u>*- *Stavros Anthony, Chair*

NOTICE: Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed, combined for consideration, or removed from the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

Motion to adjourn Robert Mergell, second Mauricia Baca, motion passes

Notice of this meeting was also posted on site at the Nevada State Library and Archives at 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701, The Bryan Building, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 901 S. Stewart St., Lobby, Carson City, NV 89701, and the Nevada Legislature Office Building, 7230 Amigo Street, Las Vegas, NV 89119. The agenda is also posted at the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation Website at: https://ndor.nv.gov/ and https://notice.nv.gov/

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Please contact Denise Beronio at: 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5001, Carson City,Nevada 89701; dberonio@ndor.nv.gov; or 775-684-2716 to obtain support material for the agenda. Materials will also be posted on the NDOR website.