

Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition Assessment

and

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program

Quarterly Meeting Summary

September 22, 2021; 10:00am – 10:50am

Zoom Conference Call

Attendees:

Lorina Dellinger – Nye County
Arnold Knightly – Nye County
De Winsor – Esmeralda County
Lisa Hanusiak – U.S. EPA Region 9
Amy Miller – Northern Nevada Development Authority (NNDAA),
Mineral County
Tabitha Hamilton – White Pine County
Bill Brewer – Nevada Rural Housing Authority (NRHA)
Donna Corey – Southwest Central Regional Economic Development
Authority (SWCREDA)
Paul Miller – SWCREDA
Erika Balderson – BEC
Stefanie Costa Rica - BEC
Eileen Christensen – BEC

Acronyms:

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant
CFAC – Centennial Fine Arts Center
DTSC – Department of Toxic Substances Control
EA – Environmental Assessment
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
ESA – Environmental Site Assessment
NNDAA – Northern Nevada Development Authority
NRHA – Nevada Rural Housing Authority
PPG – Pittsburgh Plate and Glass
RDSBC – Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition
RLF – Revolving Loan Fund
SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office
SWMP – Solid Waste Management Plan
TLE – Tonopah Library Expansion

I. Introductions and Announcements

Eileen Christensen (BEC) stated the 2022 Fiscal Year Brownfields Assessment Grants Guidelines went out as of September 21. There are different policy changes that are going to be a challenge for the way grants are currently managed. Under the current guidelines, RDSBC cannot submit a Coalition Assessment Grant. The RDSBC is still party to the 2018 awarded Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Assessment dollars have run out, but the RDSBC is coordinating with the Nevada Brownfields Program and DTSC as needed. The Economic Development Authorities and NyE Communities Coalition have been contacted about submitting a grant to complete assessment work within their respective jurisdictions. Stacy Smith from NyE Communities Coalition is currently reviewing the

application and is tentatively in agreement with moving forward with a grant. Miller is in contact for Mineral County to be a part of NNDA's existing Brownfields grant.

Entities that may not be able to apply at this time are Inyo County and the Duckwater Shoshone. RDSBC is working to get coverage for these entities under the State Brownfields Programs to open options for both Inyo (California) and the Duckwater to use the RLF for cleanups if necessary.

Hanusiak stated the DTSC is getting ready to launch a new grant program for assessment and cleanups. This will be less competitive and is available for Inyo County. Hanusiak will send a flyer with the program's informational webinars.

II. General Discussion

1. Public Outreach – Christensen stated that public postings are ongoing on Facebook. If there are any ideas/updates/stories for the Facebook posts, please let BEC know. Knightly reviews and approves these before publication.

III. Region Specific Updates

1. Duckwater Shoshone
 - a. Solid Waste Area – Christensen has the understanding that this project is underway.
 - b. Per discussions with Annette George, a new Tribal Council has been elected.
2. Esmeralda
 - a. Coaldale solar energy project – Christensen stated that there are challenges contacting the property owner. Commissioner Winsor suggested working with the solar developer that is doing a BLM environmental assessment to receive access to the private property. They may be a contact for the RLF.
 1. Christensen to follow up with Commissioner Winsor to get the contact information on point of contact for the solar developer.
 - b. Historic Building behind Goldfield Court House – Commissioner Timothy Hipp is interested in having this assessed for asbestos to be used for additional office space.
 1. NDEP will be contacted to inquire about funding for this, and other assessments in Esmeralda County.
3. Inyo
 - a. Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery – Cathreen Richards (Inyo County) is currently coordinating to see if the county or California Department of Fish and Wildlife will apply to the DTSC Grant.
 - b. California Department of Fish and Wildlife project also own a parcel of land in Inyo, near Olancho. They want to remove a very large pile of mining waste in advance of constructing boardwalks and viewing paths for public use. Richards is interested in proposing this as a second project for Inyo County.
4. Lincoln
 - a. Bill Brewer (NRHA) is working with the Lincoln County to have an old housing development from WWI with asbestos and lead taken down and redeveloped. Looking for grant funds to assist with this project.

5. Mineral
 - a. The Monte Carlo –Amy Miller stated that the county had a roundtable meeting to discuss repurposing facilities and they are pending decisions.
 - b. Boys and Girls Club – Eric Hamrey (Mineral County) stated in an email that the asbestos abatement has been completed. Kids will be able to utilize the facility soon.
 - c. Babbitt Industrial Park – Amy Miller stated cleanup has been completed for the Tire Mart that will be going in.
6. Nye
 - a. Nye County Courthouse –Hanusiak stated that they are waiting for SHPO response and a response on the Sampling and Analysis Plan. Field work should be scheduled for next month.
 - b. Pahrump Fairgrounds – This project is moving forward, but is awaiting SHPO response.
7. White Pine
 - a. Ely Hotel Bar – Back section of the bar was torn down and the Racks Bar next door has expanded their patio onto the back section of the Ely Hotel Bar. The façade is still in-tact. This has been shared on Facebook.
 - b. McGill Slag Ditch – Planning Study to be shared by Hamilton.

IV. 2014 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

1. Includes Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties, Nevada.
2. Tonopah Library Expansion and Centennial Fine Arts Center – Packages have been sent to SHPO. Awaiting response. Bid documents are ready to be developed. BEC is available to help with this if needed.
 - a. Christensen to follow up with contact to see when the 30-day period for SHPO response runs out.

V. 2018 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

1. Program includes all members of the RDSBC: Duckwater Reservation; Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine Counties, Nevada; and Inyo County, California.
 - a. New projects and ideas are needed to utilize this funding.
 - b. Potential projects from Inyo include the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery and the Olancho Property.

VI. Assessment Options

1. Community-wide Assessment Grants
2. Site-specific Assessment Grants
3. Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes
4. Other Funding Mechanisms

VII. Open Discussion

Paul Miller stated businesses have been opening up in Tonopah, Smoky Valley, and Goldfield but none are needing Brownfields services. Major events will take place in the future.

Hamilton requested more information on the Brownfields funding and eligibility. Hanusiak explained the goal of Brownfields Program is to help facilitate redevelopment through providing resources for assessments and redevelopment planning. Request for Annual Brownfield Grant Applications has just opened. Hanusiak forwarded Brownfields grant information to the RDSBC members.

VIII. Action Items

Hamilton to send Planning Study for McGill Slag Ditch.

Hanusiak to share information on the DTSC Brownfields Grants.

Stacy Smith is evaluating the option to submit a Brownfields application.

Christensen to update Hamilton once an update is provided from Sheldon Mudd (Northeastern Nevada Development Authority) regarding possible inclusion of White Pine County in their Brownfields grant (should they decide to pursue one).

IX. Next Meeting

BEC will send out a Doodle poll to the RDSBC members to schedule the next meeting.