

Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition Assessment

and

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program

Quarterly Meeting Summary

June 9, 2021; 10:00am – 10:45am

Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Lorina Dellinger – Nye County
Samantha (Sam) Kramer – Nye County
Arnold Knightly – Nye County
Commissioner De Winsor – Esmeralda County
Amy Miller – Northern Nevada Development Authority (NNDA),
Mineral County
Tabitha Hamilton – White Pine County
Jeff Fontaine – Lincoln County
Annette George – Duckwater Reservation
Erika Balderson – BEC
Eileen Christensen – BEC

Acronyms: CDBG – Community Development Block Grant
CFAC – Centennial Fine Arts Center
EA – Environmental Assessment
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
ESA – Environmental Site Assessment
NNDA – 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 2021 Brownfields Conference would be in Oklahoma but was postponed until December 8 through 11. Call for Ideas was submitted by Clint Quilter of Inyo County to present, but no update on if it was selected. More information will be sent to the Coalition as we receive updates.

General Discussion

Christensen stated the Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition (RDSBC) did not win the Assessment Grant, and Lisa Hanusiak (EPA Region 9) held a debrief meeting with Christensen, Sam Kramer, and John Klenke (Nye County). Hanusiak provided direction for improvements for submission of the next grant application at the end of September.

Nye County was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Workforce and Job Training Grant.

Public Outreach was moving forward with the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant, along with the Centennial Fine Arts Center (CFAC) and the Tonopah Library Expansion (TLE).

Christensen introduced Tabitha Hamilton, grant writer for White Pine County. Hamilton participated on behalf of James Beecher.

Coalition members were encouraged to share the RDSBC Facebook page and provide input for what they may like to see on the website and Facebook.

II. Region Specific Updates

1. Duckwater Reservation
 - a. Solid Waste Area – Project was still underway.
 1. For funding, Duckwater needed to show the plan was addressed through a Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Duckwater would be incorporated into the latest version of the Nye County Public Works SWMP.
 2. The RLF may assist cleanup for this project in the future.
 3. Annette George (Duckwater Reservation) stated a Tribal Council meeting would take place 6/9/2021 to discuss the new location for the Solid Waste Area.
2. Esmeralda
 - a. Christensen informed the Coalition a company was interested in building a 500-megawatt solar field project on or close to the Coaldale property, and one in-between Tonopah and Coaldale.
 1. Need to obtain information on property owners to take advantage of this opportunity.
 - b. No new updates on the Silver Peak property.
3. Inyo
 - a. Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery – There were no new updates on the Hatchery via GeoTracker. Property was still in possession by California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - b. Pittsburgh Plate and Glass (PPG) – The contractor implemented the approved Work Plan and submitted the lab results. They were reviewing options for disposal.
 - c. Wye Road Project was still in development – Grocery Store built, and Multipurpose Community Facility being built.
4. Lincoln
 - a. No new updates for this quarter.
5. Mineral
 - a. The Monte Carlo – Pending confirmation from Cassie Hall (Mineral County) to move forward.

- b. Boys and Girls Club – Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) authorized an asbestos assessment and a lead-based paint assessment that was underway at the time.
 - 1. Amy Miller (NNDA, Mineral County) stated Mineral County planned to transfer ownership of the building to the Boys and Girls Club.
- 6. Nye
 - a. Lathrop Wells – Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was complete. Christensen stated a No Further Action Letter was issued by NDEP for this property and she would distribute this letter to Lorina Dellinger, John Klenke, Sam Kramer (Nye County), and the property owner.
 - b. Nye County Courthouse – Dellinger stated a Phase II ESA was underway. This was performed under a separate grant.
 - c. Pahrump Fairgrounds – Phase I ESA was complete with no hazards noted, and the Environmental Assessment (EA) was underway.
 - 1. EA was being reviewed by the County and the Committee. It will go out as a public draft for comment following the internal review.
- 7. White Pine
 - a. Plaza Hotel – No new updates.
 - b. Ely Hotel Bar – Back section of the bar was torn down and the Racks Bar next door has expanded their patio. The façade was still in-tact.
 - c. McGill Ball Park – Erika Balderson (BEC) stated the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Section 106 Consultation package was with Jessica Sanders (Governor’s Office of Economic Development) to submit to SHPO since they are the designated responsible entity.
 - d. McGill Slag Ditch – New potential project. Was once used to transport mining waste.
 - 1. Hamilton stated White Pine applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the McGill Slag Ditch (deeded to the County). CDBG stated the project was not “shovel ready” and would not be funding it. They recommended Hamilton talk to the Coalition to assist in the project.
 - 2. NDEP and the responsible entity (Kennecott, a division of Rio Tinto Group) was contacted by the County.
 - a. NDEP was doing an Environmental Study on the land above the ditch, which may affect the ditch’s contamination.
 - b. County reached out to Kennecott and are working on a Planning Study through CDBG to be completed June 2021.
 - c. NDEP and Rio Tinto had interest in helping but will first review the Planning Study before making a decision.
 - 3. Hamilton stated she would provide the Planning Study to BEC once complete, so it may be reviewed to see if the Coalition may assist.

III. Financial Status by Task and Cumulative Expenditures to Date

IV. 2014 Revolving Loan Fund

1. 2014 funding is being allocated to projects that are moving forward.
2. Kramer stated there were no new updates.
3. Kramer stated Nye County was requesting an extension on the RLF to complete the projects and was awaiting EPA response.
4. Status of the CFAC
 - a. Balderson stated the CFAC was awaiting the Section 106 Consultation to be completed in July for submittal to SHPO.
 - b. Christensen stated the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternative will be in review with Klenke within a few days.
5. Status of the TLE
 - a. Christensen stated the EPA will be conducting the SHPO coordination.
 - b. Chris Mulkerns (Tonopah Library District) was reviewing TLE documents.

V. 2020 Revolving Loan Fund

1. This RLF was a priority because funding needs to be spent to complete the grant.
 - a. Program includes all members of the RDSBC: Duckwater Reservation; Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine Counties, Nevada; and Inyo County, California.
2. Project possibilities:
 - a. Christensen stated Caroline Macintosh (White Pine) recommended Lyman's junk yard property as a potential brownfields site and she would contact Hanusiak. Owner passed away and land was pulled from auction. Hamilton stated she would do research on this property.
 - b. Duckwater Solid Waste Area in Duckwater, Nevada.
 - c. Boys & Girls Club in Hawthorne, Nevada.
3. Christensen stated tracking process for Coalition member participation will be done by BEC and those participating would sign off on the participation summaries.

VI. Open Discussion

Kramer reminded the Coalition that requirements under the 2018 RLF entailed issuing four loans and one subgrant.

VII. Action Items

Christensen will follow up with Hamilton on the Planning Study for McGill ditch.

Christensen contacting Macintosh regarding the Lyman Property with Hamilton on distribution.

Christensen and George to have a teleconference with MaryEllen Giampaoli (Environmental Compliance Specialist) to discuss the Solid Waste Area.

Christensen and Kramer to meet and discuss the Pahrump Fairgrounds.

Winsor stated the County will be cutting back on projects. One in Goldfield (street paving) was close to complete.

VIII. Next Meeting

BEC will send out a Doodle Poll for availability to schedule the next meeting.