

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 5, 2015

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on January 5, 2015. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Commissioner Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; and Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the January 5th agenda as posted; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments; there were none.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Chairman: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to retain J.J. Goicoechea as Chairman for the 2015 calendar year; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Vice Chairman: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Mike Sharkozy as Vice Chairman for the 2015 calendar year; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 5th Minutes: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2014, Commission meeting; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Etchegaray abstained from voting since he was not yet serving as Commissioner for that meeting.

December 19th Minutes: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2014, Commission meeting; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Etchegaray abstained from voting.

FINANCE

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Recorder & Auditor, Sara Simmons. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$111,418.97 for accounts payable, \$442,227.69 for payroll, and \$1,091,589.16 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, for a grand total of \$1,645,235.82; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Yucca Mountain expenses totaled \$4,594.00.

Auditor's Report: The Board reviewed the current fund balances on the Auditor's Report.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: The Commissioners reported a quiet two weeks related to meetings as they enjoyed the holiday season. Chairman Goicoechea had several phone calls regarding range improvement issues in northern Eureka County.

Lobbyist Contract: Steve Walker, of Walker & Associates, explained that he has served as contract lobbyist for Eureka County for two years and his contract was up for renewal. Walker & Associates represents five counties, which is a benefit since they can often represent a position as a collation of counties. Mr. Walker's expertise is in natural resources and water and his wife Mary's expertise is in local government and finance.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to renew the lobbyist contract with Walker & Associates at \$2,000.00 per month for calendar year 2015, with an option for renewal for calendar year 2016; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Upcoming Nevada Legislative Session: Mr. Walker offered some insight on the upcoming Legislative Session. Over 900 BDRs (bill draft requests) were submitted by the December deadline. Subsequent committee and leadership BDRs will make up the remaining proposals. Education and funding for education seem to be the predominant issue for this legislature, followed by Homeowners' Associations which are primarily applicable to Las Vegas. For education, the Interim Committees are recommending that the per student funding allocation be calculated on a ratio based for enhanced services, such as English as a second language, special education, programs for poverty-level students, etc. The proposal is that the ratio paid for students receiving these enhanced services be 1.5 times the typical allocation. Nevada is one of the last states to offer supplemental funding for special students.

Eureka County's interest is focused on natural resources and water legislation. The Legislative Committee on Public Lands has sponsored two bills. BDR 481 supports creation of a statewide committee to study current and future water supply and allocations in Nevada for the purpose of creating a long-term statewide water plan. This may sound like a positive step, but it could expose some rural basins to import and export issues. BDR 482 addresses pit lakes created from mining and would require that a water right be attached to the resulting evaporation as a condition of a reclamation waiver.

The Nevada State Engineer proposed BDR 366 and BDR 367 which are now SB (Senate Bill) 65 and SB 81. SB 65 cleans up language on adjudication and would change the basis for requiring an inventory when doing an interbasin transfer. An inventory is currently required for transfers of 250 AF (acre feet) or more, and this would change it to 25% of the perennial yield. SB 81 rewrites statutes dealing with critical management areas, changing them to active management areas, but it still needs to address the acceptable petitioning method.

Other legislation of interest concerns prevailing wage, conservation districts, and continuing efforts on the transfer of federal lands to the State. With the political change in parties in the legislature, Mr. Walker expects 2015 to be a positive session for Eureka County.

COUNTY DIRECTORS / DEPARTMENT HEADS

2015 Appointments: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to reappoint Ron Damele as Public Works Director for calendar year 2015; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Jake Tibbitts as Natural Resources Manager for 2015; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Michael Mears as Budget Director for 2015; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Mike Sullivan as EMS Coordinator for 2015; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to reappoint Andrea Rossman as Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director for 2015; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Millie Oram as Site Director for the Eureka Senior Center for 2015; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Adell Panning as Site Director for the Fannie Komp Senior Center for 2015; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner

Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Michael Mears as County Webmaster for 2015; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY COMMITTEES & BOARDS

Board of Equalization: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Ken Olsen to the Board of Equalization for a four-year term; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to reappoint Jim Evans, Raymond Hodson, and Lester Porter to the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. All seats are representing 'sportsmen' and are for three-year terms.

Debt Management Board: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Terrilynn Brown (representing 'School District Board of Trustees') and Cher Hayward (representing 'finance') to the Debt Management Board for two-year terms; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to appoint Fred Etchegaray (representing Devil's Gate GID) to the Debt Management Board for a two-year term; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Diamond Valley Rodent District Board: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Sandy Green (representing agriculture) to the Diamond Valley Rodent District Board for a three-year term; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Diamond Valley Weed District Board: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Jim Gallagher (representing 'landowner/agriculture') for a three-year term on the Diamond Valley Weed District Board; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Andrew Marshall was not reappointed as he submitted a letter of resignation.

Economic Development Program Board: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Sandy Green (two-year term representing 'agriculture & ranching'), Larry McMaster (two-year term representing 'mining'), Lee Raine (one-year term representing 'County-at-large'), Earl Overholser (one-year term representing 'southern Eureka County'), Sondra Sharkozy (one-year term representing 'northern Eureka County'), and Diane Wise as an alternate member (one-year term representing 'southern Eureka County'); Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. A letter of resignation was received from Dwight Tompkins who served as an alternate member representing northern Eureka County.

Fair Board (Agriculture District #15): Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Lynn Conley (representing 'County-at-large') to a four-year term on the Fair Board; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Health Insurance Committee: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Cindy Garcia (representing 'public taxpayer'), Randy Stucki (representing 'Road Department & Public Works'), Maureen Torres (representing 'Sheriff's Office'), and Toni Wright (representing 'retirees') for two-year terms to the Health Insurance Committee; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Investment Committee: The Investment Committee is appointed by the County Treasurer and affirmed by the County Commissioners. Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, reported that a Commission representative was needed on the Committee. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to appoint Fred Etchegaray as the Commission representative to the Investment Committee; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Local Emergency Planning Committee: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to make the following one-year appointments and reappointments to the Local Emergency Planning Committee: Keith Logan (representing 'law enforcement'), Mike Sullivan (representing 'first aid & health'), Mike Sharkozy (representing 'local elected official'), Ron Damele (representing 'civil defense & emergency management'), Mike Rebaleati (representing 'firefighting'), Anne Kniefel

(representing 'broadcasting & print media'), John Schweble Jr. (representing 'transportation'), Earl Overholser (representing 'environmental & EPCRA'), Michael Mears (representing 'community group'), Cathy Wolf (alternate member representing 'first aid & health'), Michael Boharsik (alternate member representing 'first aid & health'), and Dan Green (alternate member representing 'environmental & EPCRA'). Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Medical Clinics Advisory Committee: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Jim Ithurralde (representing 'community member') to complete the remainder of a two-year term on the Medical Clinics Advisory Commission; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to appoint Commissioner Sharkozy as the Commission liaison (non-voting) to the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Natural Resources Advisory Commission: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint Paul Etzler (representing 'recreation') and Mike Protani (representing 'mining') for four-year terms on the Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to appoint Mike Rebaleati (representing 'wildlife') to the remainder of a four-year term on the Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Planning Commission: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to reappoint Hollon Moll (representing 'Commission District 1') and Carri Wright Perkins (representing Commission District 1') for four-year terms on the Planning Commission; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Recreation Board: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Giovanni Minoletti (representing the 'hotel/motel industry') to the remainder of a four-year term on the Recreation Board; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. A letter of resignation for this seat was received from Lola Sanders. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to appoint Fred Etchegaray to complete the four-year term representing County Commissioners on the Recreation Board; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Regional Transportation Commission: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to appoint Fred Etchegaray to a two-year term representing County Commissioners on the Regional Transportation Commission; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

REPRESENTATIVES TO NON-COUNTY BOARDS

American Lands Council: The Board agreed that unless new appointments were made, representatives to various non-County groups would be simply be affirmed. By consensus of the Board, Jake Tibbitts will remain as representative to American Lands Council.

Boulder Valley Monitoring Plan: By consensus of the Board, Jake Tibbitts and Mike Sharkozy will remain as representatives on the Boulder Valley Monitoring Plan.

Central Nevada Regional Water Authority: By consensus of the Board, Jim Gallagher, Marty Plaskett, Jake Tibbitts (alternate), and J.J. Goicoechea (alternate), will represent Eureka County on the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to appoint Fred Etchegaray as Commission representative on the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association: By consensus of the Board, Jake Tibbitts will continue as non-voting liaison to the DNRPCA.

Great Basin Regional Development Authority: By consensus of the Board, Mike Sharkozy (representing 'Commissioners'), Andrea Rossman (representing 'economic development'), and Travis Gallagher (representing 'agriculture/employer') were reaffirmed as Eureka County representatives to the Great Basin Regional Development Authority.

Homeland Security Working Group: By consensus of the Board, Sheriff Keith Logan was reaffirmed as representative on the Homeland Security Working Group.

Humboldt River Basin Water Authority: By consensus of the Board, J.J. Goicoechea, Carl Slagowski, Rita Stitzel, and Tom Tomera (alternate) will remain on the Humboldt River Water Basin Authority.

Mount Hope 3M Plan TAC: By consensus of the Board, Jake Tibbitts and Dale Bugenig (alternate) were reaffirmed as members on the Mount Hope 3M Plan Technical Advisory Committee.

Mount Hope 3M Plan WAC: By consensus of the Board, J.J. Goicoechea was reaffirmed as member on the Mount Hope 3M Plan Water Advisory Committee.

Nevada Association of County Officials: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint J.J. Goicoechea as County member to NACO; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Mike Sharkozy as alternate member to NACO; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership: By consensus of the Board, Jake Tibbitts was reaffirmed as representative to Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership.

Nevada Pool/PACT: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Mike Rebaleati to the Nevada Pool/PACT Board representing Eureka County; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to reaffirm Ted Beutel and to appoint Beverly Conley as alternate members to Nevada Pool/PACT; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NevadaWorks: By consensus of the Board, Mike Sharkozy will remain as representative to NevadaWorks.

EUREKA COUNTY LIAISONS

Census Issues: By consensus of the Board, Michael Mears will continue as liaison for census issues, including local update of census addresses and redistricting.

Crescent Valley VFD: By consensus of the Board, Mike Sharkozy will continue as liaison for the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department.

Eureka VFD: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Chairman Goicoechea as liaison to the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NDF & Rural Fire Departments: By consensus of the Board, Chairman Goicoechea was reaffirmed as liaison to Nevada Division of Forestry and Beowawe, Dunphy, Pine Valley, and Diamond Valley Volunteer Fire Departments.

Legislative Representatives: The Board reaffirmed Chairman Goicoechea, Michael Mears, and Jake Tibbitts as legislative representatives. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to appoint Sheriff Keith Logan as the fourth legislative representative; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Natural Resources: By consensus of the Board Chairman Goicoechea was reaffirmed as liaison for natural resources.

Nevada Department of Taxation: The Board reaffirmed Michael Mears as liaison to the Nevada Department of Taxation.

Water Protest Filings: The Board reaffirmed Chairman Goicoechea as liaison for water protest filings.

Water Rights Issues: The Board reaffirmed District Attorney Ted Beutel as liaison for water rights issues.

Yucca Mountain: By consensus of the Board, Chairman Goicoechea was reaffirmed as liaison for Yucca Mountain.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Site Directors, Millie Oram and Adell Panning reported on their respective centers. In December, Eureka served 917 meals and Crescent Valley served 729 meals. A total of \$7,893.87 was deposited for the month. Both centers reported good turnouts and a good time at their Christmas Parties. Ms. Oram reported the vacant cook position has been filled and the new employee is working out very well.

Barrick Gold was recognized for donating beef to all senior centers across northern Nevada, including the Fannie Komp Senior Center and Eureka Senior Center. Both centers received 640 pounds of meat each. Several representatives of Barrick Gold were in attendance and were commended for Barrick's generosity.

BARRICK GOLD OF NORTH AMERICA

Mercury Treatment & Storage Facility: Dan Lattin, Senior Environmental Engineer for Barrick Goldstrike, was in attendance to provide an update on Barrick Gold's Mercury Treatment & Storage Facility to be located in northern Eureka County near Crescent Valley. The project is the result of the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 which restricted export of mercury from the United States. The Act directs that elemental mercury, a byproduct of gold mining, will be transported to a federal repository, but the federal facility has yet to be constructed.

With passage of the ban in 2008, Barrick Gold began planning and permitting a facility in the event that the federal repository is not ready in a timely fashion. Barrick Gold completed feasibility studies, scoping, design, and obtained the necessary Resource Conservation Recovery Act permit for hazardous material storage.

Mr. Lattin showed artist's renderings of the facility which will include a storage and process facility, offices, and housing for the reagents and utilities required for the process. This above-ground storage will have the ability to store 11 years' worth of mercury (approximately 100,000 pounds of elemental mercury per year), with capacity for expansion, if needed. The facility will only house material from Barrick, primarily the Goldstrike operation.

The RCRA permit was obtained in March 2014 and the next phase will be to advance the project to a shovel ready state by 2016. This will require final engineering of construction design, completion of the Chemical Accident Prevention Program with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), and obtention of secondary permits for water and air quality.

Coordinating agencies for the project include Eureka County, the State Fire Marshall, OSHA, and NDEP. A coordination meeting is tentatively planned on January 21st in Eureka for coordination of all involved agencies. Following a question and answer period, Mr. Lattin concluded his presentation by stating Barrick would like to avoid building the facility altogether and remains optimistic that the federal government will provide the promised federal repository.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Road Superintendent, Raymond Hodson, reported on Road Department projects and activities. Roads throughout Diamond Valley were bladed in preparation for winter weather. The screening plant was moved to the Fish Creek Pit to do some screening for completion of some gravel hauls. North end crews have been blading Maggie Creek Road, Barth Road, Spa Road and began hauling gravel to the Spa Road. Snow removal was completed throughout the County in the month of December.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Projects & Activities: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on recent projects and activities. Test Wells: Approval has been obtained from the BLM for the rights-of-way application for the test well in Kobeh Valley and the test well in Stevens Basin. Roberts Creek Ranch Road Re-Route: Issuance of the right-of-way for reroute of a portion of

the Roberts Creek Ranch Road is expected from the BLM within the next couple of weeks. Eureka Landfill Review: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection conducted an inspection of the Eureka Landfill in November. At their request, the operating plan is being reviewed to ensure compliance. Courthouse HVAC Project: Building Control Services will attend the next regular Commission meeting to present plans and the cost estimate for the Courthouse HVAC Project. Eureka Airport Runway Lighting Replacement Project: Notices of completion for the Eureka Airport Runway Lighting Replacement Project have been filed and the draw request for the FAA grant funding is pending final documentation which will be submitted shortly.

Swimming Pool Report: The Eureka Swimming Pool had 221 swimmers for the month of December. Swimming lessons were offered over Christmas break and had fair attendance.

CLERK & TREASURER

Tax Delinquent Properties: Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, presented a draft order and listing of 48 tax delinquent properties for the Board's perusal. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to issue the 2015 Order of the Board of Commissioners directing the County Treasurer to offer all tax delinquent properties for sale pursuant to NRS 361.595(2); Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

County Acquisition of Properties: Mr. Damele recommended withholding a parcel near the Town of Crescent Valley as a gravel material source. A County road crosses a portion of the property making it an ideal site for a gravel pit. Ms. Conley informed that the County has the right to withhold tax delinquent parcels, but a different noticing process is required. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the County's acquisition of APN 003-034-01 pursuant to NRS 361.603; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Schedule Delinquent Tax Property Auction: Ms. Conley recommended holding the next delinquent tax property auction on Thursday, April 23rd. This will coincide with Elko County's next auction set for April 24th. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to schedule the next delinquent tax property auction for April 23, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. with registration beginning at 10:30 a.m.; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Tax Delinquent Properties List & Timeline: Ms. Conley provided the Board with the noticing and sale timeline for the tax delinquent parcels. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the timeline for sale of properties and the list of tax delinquent properties to be sold, withholding the parcel identified for acquisition by Eureka County (APN 003-034-01); Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. Mr. Tibbitts attended the N6 Grazing Board meeting in Austin on December 8th; delivered soil samples from the biochar studies to Desert Research Institute in Reno on December 11th; attended the joint water forum hosted by Central Nevada Regional Water Authority and State Land Use Advisory Council meeting on December 12th; and met with State Engineer, Jason King, and his staff on December 12th to discuss results of the survey sent out by the Eureka Conservation District and to discuss proposed water legislation.

Meeting Highlights: N6 Grazing Board: One issue discussed at the N6 Grazing Board meeting was sequestration which has been applied the last few years to grazing fees paid by permittees to the BLM. The fees are essentially a pass-through payment returned to the State and distributed to the various grazing districts for the Grazing Boards to determine use for range improvements and other items. There is now some movement to determine whether these funds should have ever been subject to sequestration.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition's Winter Weed Conference in Ely on January 8th & 9th; a Grazing Management for Fine

Fuels & Annual Grass Ranges meeting in Carson City on January 13th & 14th hosted by the Nevada Society for Range Management; hearings throughout the region held by Nevada Division of Water Resources, including one in Elko on January 15th; and conflict resolution workshops throughout the State sponsored by the BLM in conjunction with the National Riparian Service Team - representatives will be in Eureka at the Administration/Annex Building on January 21st from 10:00 a.m. to noon and will meet with individuals or groups of 3 to 5.

Oil & Gas Leasing: Mr. Tibbitts provided the Board with a map including parcels in Eureka County that have been nominated to the BLM for oil and gas leasing. The nomination period is past and the BLM will now conduct analysis to qualify the lands. There will be several opportunities to provide public comment.

Horse Canyon/Cortez Unified Exploration Project: Mr. Tibbitts reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Horse Canyon/Cortez Unified Exploration Project Plan of Operations and Reclamation Permit Modification, Addendum, and Amendment and prepared a response letter. Eureka County is supportive of the amendment but did raise some concerns. There are inconsistencies with the recently proposed State Plan for the Greater Sage Grouse Draft EIS and the Conservation Credit System. The letter asks that the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and the Eureka Conservation District be able to partner on the sage grouse mitigation. Mr. Tibbitts noted that it's interesting that the EA addresses pinyon-juniper thinning as sage grouse habitat mitigation, and restricts removal of pinyon-juniper in other areas citing it as a forest and woodland resource.

The letter asks that the County's and the Diamond Valley Weed District's statutory and regulatory weed control responsibilities be recognized. There are concerns that the EA lists a foreseeable 9,000 acres of surface disturbance, but attributes 4,313 acres of direct surface disturbance to livestock grazing; this calculation seems excessive and arbitrary. It doesn't distinguish the difference between surface occupancy and surface disturbance.

The EA attributes a change in vegetation over the last 100 years to wildfire and livestock grazing, without recognizing that many detrimental changes are due to lack of wildlife. Ecological Site Descriptions published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and specific to this region should be referenced for both pinyon-juniper and site vegetation.

The last main issue is loss of AUMs (animal units monthly). The County has a policy requiring mitigation for any loss of AUMs, regardless of how big or how small. EAs and EISs (environmental impact statements) often minimize the loss of AUMs, citing a low percentage. But even a small loss has an impact on the operator, and a series of incremental losses can have a huge impact over time.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve the response letter to the BLM on the Environmental Assessment for Barrick Gold's Horse Canyon/Cortez Unified Exploration Project Plan of Operations and Reclamation Permit Modification, Addendum, and Amendment. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mill Canyon Exploration Project: Mr. Tibbitts explained that this project is in the Elko District. The BLM is preparing the EA and is currently asking for scoping comments. Mr. Tibbitts drafted a letter that covers many of the items that are typically deficient in EAs. The letter asks for consistency with County plans and policies, and talks about sage grouse issues and consistency with the proposed State Plan and Conservation Credit System. The letter covers resource issues including noxious weeds, water, vegetation, grazing, etc. It covers socioeconomics and asks for coordination with local emergency services. One of the main issues is County Road G227, which is the main access road to the project. This road has been on County road maps for decades, and is under the authority of the County and not the BLM. The letter outlines this and requests that the road remain open and intact with no restrictions or stipulations.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and send the response letter on the proposed Mill Canyon Exploration Project as outlined; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Mount Hope Project Plan of Operation Amendment: During the last meeting, authorization was given to the Natural Resources Manager to prepare and submit comments on the Mount Hope Project Plan of Operation Amendment. Mr. Tibbitts provided the comments for ratification by the Board. He noted that it covered many of the same issues reviewed in the previous letters including pinyon-juniper, sage grouse, and erroneous categorization of grazing as a surface disturbance. Mr. Tibbitts pointed out that the Plan of Operations Amendment revises the water resource plan, yet the original EIS and the Record of Decision state that any changes to the plan would have to go through the 3M Plan Water Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify comments on the Administrative Draft EA for the Mount Hope Project Plan of Operations Amendment; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Yearly Coordination Notices: Eureka County Code, Title 9, Chapter 40, Section .030, and Eureka County Master Plan Element 6, Natural Resources and Federal & State Land-Use Element, direct that Eureka County will send yearly coordination notices to federal land management agencies performing management duties within Eureka County. Mr. Tibbitts prepared these notices for signature. The notices are sent to three BLM offices (Battle Mountain District, Ely District, and Elko District), the US Forest Service Austin Ranger District, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the yearly coordination notices to the federal land management agencies in accordance with County Code and the Master Plan and authorized the Chairman to sign them outside of the meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

National Association of Conservation Districts: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the Natural Resources Manager, as Eureka County's appointee to the Eureka Conservation District, to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts in New Orleans on February 2nd-4th, 2015; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Mr. Tibbitts noted that no costs will be incurred by Eureka County for travel, hotel, or per diem, as these will be covered by the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts.

Proposed Order on Humboldt River Basin Hydrographic Region: State Engineer, Jason King, has issued a Proposed Order on the Humboldt River Basin Hydrographic Region and has scheduled three different hearings: January 14th in Lovelock; the afternoon of January 14th in Winnemucca; and January 15th in Elko.

Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig, prepared a memo with comments related to the Proposed Order. Mr. Tibbitts and Mr. Bugenig will attend one of the hearings and asked for direction regarding providing comment on behalf of Eureka County.

The Order will require monitoring of water usage with installation of meters. Mr. Bugenig's memo addressed many of the issues, positive and negative, related to the various types of meters available and problems related to improper installation and calibration. Mr. Tibbitts noted there will be costs passed onto the user for this additional regulatory oversight.

Chairman Goicoechea agreed that the Order addresses many issues long overdue, but does have concerns related to excessive pumping in order to meet the water right duties, thus creating more of a negative impact. He felt the County's position should not be in opposition to the Order, but agreed Mr. Tibbitts and Mr. Bugenig should relay the concerns discussed. In addition to these hearings, there will be additional opportunities for comment.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to provide direction to Mr. Tibbitts and Mr. Bugenig to attend the hearings and provide the County's position related to the State Engineer's Proposed

Order on the Humboldt River Basin Hydrographic Region as discussed; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Public Works Director, Ron Damele (2); EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan (2); Cultural, Tourism & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman; Senior Center Site Director, Millie Oram; Senior Center Site Director, Adell Panning; Jim Evans; Raymond Hodson; Lester Porter; Sandy Green, Larry McMaster; Earl Overholser (3); Lee Raine; Cassondra Sharkozy; Diane Wise; Dwight Tompkins; Lynn Conley; Cindy Garcia; Randy Stucki; Maureen Torres; Toni Wright; Dan Green; Anne Kniefel; Keith Logan; Michael Mears; Mike Rebaleati (2); Cathy Wolf; Jim Ithurrealde; Paul Etzler; Mike Protani; Hollon Moll; Carri Wright Perkins; Andrew Marshall; Eureka Medical Clinic; Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig; Eureka County Planning Commission; Eureka County Fair Board; Eureka County 4H Program; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); Nye County Commission; White Pine County Commission; Nevada Div. of Water Resources (2); Nevada State Public Defender; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Connections newsletter; Holland & Hard; and Western Counties Alliance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of January, 2015.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant to the Board of Eureka County Commissioners, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the January 5, 2015, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant

I, Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Executive Assistant of the Board.

/s/ Beverly Conley
Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer