

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2022

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 6, 2022. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne asked that her request to modify employee work schedules be placed on the next agenda.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Chairman 2022: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to retain J.J. Goicoechea as Chairman for Calendar Year 2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Vice Chair 2022: Commissioner McKay motioned to retain Mike Sharkozy as Vice Chairman for Calendar Year 2022; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 6, 2021: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the December 6, 2021, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Administrative Assistant Jessica Santoyo. Expenditures included pass-through payments approved by the Nevada Grazing Board of District 1 (N1 Grazing Board) for partial refund of grazing fees to Eureka County permittees. Eureka County holds the funds on behalf of the Grazing Board.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the pass-through refund of a portion of N1 grazing fees to Eureka County permittees in the total amount of \$14,450.35. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$349,343.93 for accounts payable, \$224,623.36 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), \$14,450.35 for pass-through refunds of grazing fees as approved by the N1 Grazing Board, \$144.99 for a pass-through payment for postage on behalf of the N6 Grazing Board, \$1,260.00 for a pass-through to the Nevada Division of Minerals, and \$649.82 for a pass-through to the Nevada Department of Taxation, for a grand total of \$590,472.45. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed the report on current fund balances.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY DIRECTORS / DEPARTMENT HEADS

Annual Appointments: At-will positions that answer directly to the Board of County Commissioners are formally appointed each year. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint the following positions for Calendar Year 2022: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley; Natural

Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts; County Comptroller Kim Todd; Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple; EMS Director Kenny Sanders; IT Director Misty Rowley; Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram; and County Webmaster Michael Mears. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMITTEE, BOARD, & LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Changes and/or Restructuring: The Board reviewed a comprehensive worksheet listing members on all County committees and boards, non-County committees and boards, and liaisons appointed to various groups or representing specific issues.

Per request of committee members, Commissioner McKay motioned to return to calendar year appointments, versus fiscal year appointments, for members of the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Appointments: By motion, second, and unanimous vote of the Board, the following appointments were made.

COUNTY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

County Board of Health

J.J. Goicoechea / County Health Officer / two-year term
Kenny Sanders / County / two-year term
Jesse Watts / County / two-year term
Michael Sharkozy / County / two-year term
Rick McKay / County / two-year term

Fair Board (District #15 Agriculture Board)

Sierra Knudsen / County At Large / four-year term
Holli Else / County At Large / four-year term

Health Insurance Advisory Committee

Michaella Enzenberger / Courthouse / two-year term
Alexandra Vink / North-End Employee / two-year term
Kim Todd / Annex / two-year term
Roger Hubbard / Alternate / two-year term

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Pete Goicoechea / State Elected Official / one-year term
Mike Sharkozy / Local Elected Official / one-year term
Jesse Watts / Law Enforcement / one-year term
Jeb Rowley / Civil Defense, Emergency Management / one-year term
Jayme Halpin / Firefighting / one-year term
Kenny Sanders / First Aid / one-year term
Shealene French / Health / one-year term
Michael Mears / Community Group; Broadcast or Print Media; Alternate-Local Elected Official
Dennis Gordon Overholser / Local Environmental, EPCRA Facility / one-year term
John Schweble Jr. / Transportation / one-year term
Earl Overholser / First Aid / one-year term
Cathy Sampson / Health / one-year term
Roger Hubbard / Alternate-Firefighting / one-year term
Raymond Hodson / Alternate-Transportation / one-year term
Clara Bundy / Alternate-Broadcast or Print Media / one-year term

Medical Clinics Advisory Committee

Irma Davila / County Employee / two-year term
Jim Ithurrealde / Community Member / two-year term
Shealene French / Clinic User / two-year term (new appointment)
Rich McKay / Commissioner Liaison

Planning Commission

Robin Hicks / Commissioner District #2 / four-year term
Jim Ithuralde / Commissioner District #1 / four-year term

Regional Transportation Commission

Michael Sharkozy / Commissioner / two-year term
Philip Brown / Resident Largest Town / two-year term

NON-COUNTY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Boulder Valley Monitoring Plan

Mike Sharkozy / Liaison
Jake Tibbitts / Liaison

Central Nevada Regional Water Authority

J.J. Goicoechea / Commissioner / Member
Jim Gallagher / Farming / Member
Fred Etchegaray / Farming / Member
Jake Tibbitts / Alternate-Eureka County
Rich McKay / Alternate-Commissioner

Diamond Natural Resources

Protection & Conservation Association
Jake Tibbitts / Liaison (non-voting)

Homeland Security Working Group

Jesse Watts / Sheriff, Eureka County

Humboldt River Basin Water Authority

J.J. Goicoechea / Commissioner / Member
Carl Slagowski / Eureka County / Member
Sabrina Reed / Eureka County / Member
Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Alternate

Mt. Hope 3M Plan Tech. Adv. Comm.

Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Member
Dale Bugenig / Eureka County / Alternate

Mt. Hope 3M Plan Water Adv. Comm.

J.J. Goicoechea / Eureka County

Nevada Association of Counties

J.J. Goicoechea / Eureka County / Member
Rich McKay / Eureka Co / Alternate

Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership

Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Member

Nevada POOL/PACT Board

Rich McKay / Eureka County / Member
Ted Beutel / Eureka County / Alternate
Heidi Whimple / Eureka County / Alternate

Nevada Project Heartbeat

Shealene French / Eureka Co / Member
Kenny Sanders / Eureka Co / Alternate

Nevadaworks

Mike Sharkozy / Eureka County / Member
Rich McKay / Eureka County / Alternate

Northeastern Nevada Regional Dev. Auth.

Rich McKay / Commissioner / Member

Ruby Hill Community Adv. Committee

Rich McKay / Commissioner / Member

LIAISONS - VARIOUS GROUPS / ISSUES

Census Issues

Michael Mears

Legislative Representatives

J.J. Goicoechea

Michael Mears

Water Protest Filings

J.J. Goicoechea

Crescent Valley VFD

Mike Sharkozy

Jake Tibbitts

Jesse Watts

Water Rights

Ted Beutel

Jeb Rowley

Eureka VFD

J.J. Goicoechea

Natural Resources

J.J. Goicoechea

NDF & Rural VFDs

J.J. Goicoechea

NV Department of Taxation

Michael Mears

COMMISSIONERS

One Nevada Agreement (Opioid Settlement): District Attorney Ted Beutel explained that, although Eureka County was a non-litigating county, it can opt to accept its portion of the settlement

in the proposed One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries. To do so, the County must sign documents agreeing to the settlement, agreeing to participate in the proceeds, and agreeing to allocate 15% of its settlement portion for attorneys' fees. The amount the County will receive is not yet known, but Mr. Beutel doesn't expect it to be a large amount.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the proposed "One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries," a settlement agreement involving all Nevada counties, several Nevada cities and certain Fire Protection Districts and authorized the Chairman to sign documents outside the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Oral Healthcare Infrastructure & Workforce: The Division of Health Care Financing & Policy has applied for a grant to expand oral healthcare with necessary infrastructure and an expanded workforce to address dental HPSAs (health professional shortage areas), and has requested a letter of support from Eureka County and the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve signing a joint letter with the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee to the Division of Medicine & Dentistry, Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources & Services Administration in support of the Nevada Division of Health Care Financing & Policy's oral workforce grant application. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities.

Crescent Valley Projects: A new firewall was installed in Crescent Valley, along with Cradlepoint routers and accounts for the Fire Department and Crescent Valley Library. IT continues troubleshooting high-latency (bandwidth communication delays) for County facilities in Crescent Valley. AT&T is working on a custom wireless ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) to improve connectivity, but it will take about two months to build. In the meantime, a DS3 circuit has been ordered and should improve site to site connectivity between Crescent Valley and Eureka.

Quest will be in Crescent Valley the next week to recable the Town Center, install cellular antennas for the Cradlepoint routers, and to work with Ms. Rowley to build a new server.

Eureka Projects: New work stations were set up for District Court and the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's Office mobile radios were updated. Quest performed a health check on the database servers. Ms. Rowley met with Quest to discuss design options for infrastructure buildout. Quest recommends that the Commissioners invite Commnet to a meeting to discuss how they are spending the \$2 million received from the State to improve broadband infrastructure. Ms. Rowley worked with Syber Networks to set up GPS pucks (wireless cell+GPS antennas).

E-Rate Projects: The second round of bids for the E-Rate project in Crescent Valley resulted in a single response from Commnet (after the failed AT&T bid). The contract will be between Commnet and the Elko-Lander-Eureka Library System, but Eureka County will reimburse the E-Rate discounted portion (\$6,238.50 due July 1, 2022, and \$243.74/month for 36 months). Commnet is currently working through the BLM permitting process.

Crescent Valley Substation Cabling: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #015646 Version 2 from Quest Technology Management to recertify existing cables and provide up to 20 additional cable drops at the Crescent Valley Substation for a not to exceed amount of \$13,457.00 (\$11,213.00 with 20% contingency) to be paid with funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In December, Eureka served 733 meals and Crescent Valley served 754 meals. A total of \$7,409.00 was deposited for the month.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Lieutenant Job Description: Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple said she has been working with the Sheriff to update the Lieutenant job description. The new job description has been vetted by Nevada POOL/PACT, and Ms. Whimple recommended approving the job description at a range 128 LE on the law enforcement wage and salary scale.

Sheriff Watts stated that he wanted to reclassify the Lieutenant position from range 128 LE to range 130 LE, which he felt was appropriate for a management-level position directly under the Undersheriff. He also plans to reclassify the Sergeant position from 125 LE to 128 LE.

Ms. Whimple advised that, in January 2020, the County examined its wage and salary scale, reclassifying certain positions to create a more equitable scale. The Undersheriff was classified at range 130 LE at that time. But the current Undersheriff's salary is based on a percentage of the Sheriff's salary. This was done by the Board at the Sheriff's request. She cautioned that singling out positions and assigning higher salaries would defeat the balance and equity that the Board had achieved by adopting the new salary scales (regular and law enforcement). She added that her goal is to clarify the entire hiring and promoting process so it is fair across the board, instead of each department handling it differently.

Chairman Goicoechea reminded the Sheriff that the Lieutenant position was not currently in the budget and was, in fact, eliminated in 2016. He noted that there have been times in the past when the Sheriff's Office has been "top heavy," and the public wants to see officers on patrol, not sitting behind a desk pushing papers or posting to social media. If the Sheriff wants to reestablish the Lieutenant position, he should propose it during his budget presentation for Fiscal Year 2023, because it is not funded in the current year's budget.

Sheriff Watts maintained that he had the ability to promote from within without authorization from the Board. He contended that the Lieutenant position does exist and, therefore, promoting a Sergeant to Lieutenant was no different than promoting a Deputy I to a Deputy II.

Chairman Goicoechea stated the Board would consider a request to reinstate the Lieutenant position in next year's budget, but he didn't think there was an appetite to start moving positions around on the salary scale.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Lieutenant job description as presented and classified at range 128 LE on the law enforcement salary scale. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Lieutenant Salary Range: This agenda item was addressed with the related agenda item under Human Resources.

Pre-Payment of Per Diem: Out-of-State travel and per diem were approved at the November 5th meeting for Undersheriff Tyler Thomas to attend Staff & Command College in Alabama on January 16th-29th. Sheriff Watts now requested pre-payment of those costs so that Undersheriff Thomas does not have to pay out of his own pocket.

Chairman Goicoechea noted that there are disclosure requirements related to meals or refreshments provided at meetings, trainings, and conferences and, therefore, asked the Undersheriff to track the value of those items and make any necessary adjustments.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve advance payment of per diem, in the amount of \$658.00, for Undersheriff Tyler Thomas to attend training at Staff & Command College in Alabama on January 16-29, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Security Cameras & RFID Doors: Sheriff Watts requested authorization to spend up to \$60,000.00 (the amount budgeted in capital outlay account 010-034-55010-000) to install security cameras and four RFID (radio frequency identification) doors at the Crescent Valley Substation and one RFID door at the Sheriff's Office in Eureka. Quest is preparing a quote, so exact costs are undetermined, but are estimated to be \$3,500.00 per door and roughly \$30,000.00 for security

cameras. He explained the RFID doors are card entry and will enhance security and evidence management by tracking entry of each individual into the facility.

Jeb Rowley inquired whether purchasing procedures allowed a department head to give a ballpark budget figure rather than producing specific quotes for capital outlay purchases. The Board recently tabled a request from Public Works to purchase flatbeds because, although a quote was presented, the Board felt the agenda item lacked detail.

Chairman Goicoechea agreed that the Sheriff simply did not provide sufficient backup for the Board to take action on this request. He instructed the Sheriff to obtain the proper quotes and place this item on a subsequent agenda. The Chairman reminded everyone that County Code, Title 3, Chapter 20, Section .100(C) directs that all purchases of \$3,000.00 or more must have Board approval.

JUSTICE COURT

SMART Recovery Program: Justice of the Peace Dorothy Rowley was in attendance to discuss SMART Recovery, a program recently implemented by Justice Court with weekly meetings in Eureka which are also available via Zoom in Crescent Valley. Judge Rowley said the program is much more than a substance abuse program and can benefit community members in addition to offenders who are court-ordered to go through the program. She credited Officer Jeri Sanders for the initiative in finding the program and making contact with Jim Thornton, MHA, SMS SMART Recovery Facilitator, who was in attendance to describe the program.

Mr. Thornton stated he works primarily out of White Pine County and is contracted by PACE Coalition as a Substance Misuse Specialist. He said PACE introduced him to SMART Recovery, which stands for Self-Management & Recovery Training. He said the program, which is nothing like other substance abuse programs, is about empowerment, particularly self-empowerment, and can benefit a multitude of behavioral issues.

Mr. Thornton noted that the program is not only for adults, but can benefit children as young as nine or 10, which is often the age many are introduced to various substances. Another goal of the program is to “train the trainer,” to establish trainers within each community. Mr. Thornton concluded by offering himself as a 24/7 resource for the communities and the courts, stating he is happy to partner in this journey of bringing worthwhile recovery tools to the area.

Judge Rowley thanked PACE Coalition for facilitating the program and enabling it to come to Eureka County, and she encouraged the Board to help spread the word and invite participation in the SMART Recovery Program.

PACE COALITION

Update on Projects & Activities: Laura Oslund, Executive Director of PACE Coalition, was in attendance to update the Board on PACE projects and activities that benefit Eureka County. Ms. Oslund said PACE is known for substance abuse prevention, but brings a variety of other health and wellness options to the communities it serves. She felt it was quite timely to be on the same agenda as Mr. Thornton’s presentation, the letter supporting the grant for an oral care workforce, and participation in the opioid settlement, because these are all items that PACE is involved in.

PACE has participated in funding speakers for Juvenile Probation, is working with the Undersheriff on his leadership conference, and has funded training for Juvenile Probation, EMS, and Sheriff’s Office personnel. PACE is working with the Truckee Meadows Boys & Girls Club and local advocates to establish a daycare in Eureka. Other available resources include mental health first-aid, child car seats for families in need, training to become a certified car seat installer, and the newly implemented SMART Recovery Program. Many of PACE’s programs are grant funded and can be provided at little or no cost. Ms. Oslund invited the Commissioners to reach out with ideas or suggestions for programs they would like to see in Eureka County.

Transportation Issues: Ms. Oslund introduced Emily McMullen Hiles, Mobility Manager for PACE. Ms. Hiles said her department helps provide transportation for specialized populations:

veterans, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and individuals with low income. Ms. Hiles observed that, other than travel provided in the Seniors Program, Eureka County doesn't have public transportation.

Lack of transportation is especially challenging in rural areas. Ms. Hiles works with transportation providers, community organizations, and government entities to identify gaps in transportation services and explore ways they might be addressed. One of the first things she did, after joining the PACE team a year and a half ago, was to conduct a transportation needs assessment for Elko, Eureka, White Pine, and Lander Counties. Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram assisted in identifying people with transportation needs and distributing the survey to the target population.

Survey results showed that over 66% of respondents rely on family and friends for rides locally, and 58% rely on family or friends to travel longer distances. Lack of transportation makes it difficult to get to work and poses a challenge in getting to out-of-town medical appointments. One of Ms. Hiles top priorities is to increase travel options for seniors and veterans, particularly to access out-of-town medical care. She welcomed input and ideas from the Board and local communities.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Ray Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. Southern crews bladed Sadler Brown Road and Antelope Road, but have been busy plowing since the snow began on December 14th. The new grader was delivered December 8th and was immediately put to work.

Southern crews started the month screening materials in the Cottonwood Pit, but spent the remainder of the month plowing snow. Due to high winds and drifting, many areas required daily plowing.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley reported on projects and activities.

COVID Update: On January 5th, Public Works met with Shannon Ernst, Social Services Director for Churchill County, in preparation for setting up the weekly monoclonal antibody clinic in Eureka. Original plans were to establish a team that would travel from county to county holding clinics, but it now looks like a team may be stationed in Eureka and will share in COVID testing and vaccinations as well. Everyone is working to have this implemented by month end

Fire Suppression Rating: Correspondence was received from ISO regarding efforts to update the PPC (public protection classification) rating for Eureka County. The County received a Class 5-5X rating, an improvement from the previous Class 7-7X rating. This will lower fire insurance premiums for homeowners in the county-wide Fire Protection District.

Devil's Gate GID Mainline Extension: Engineering plans for the mainline extension down Third Street in Diamond Valley were completed by Day Engineering and are now at the State being reviewed. Public Works will begin procuring materials for the three-phase project that will start this spring.

Eureka Airport: Lumos & Associates continues working on design plans, which are at 60%, for the snow removal equipment building at the Airport.

Yucca Mountain Transportation Advisor: Richard Moore previously subcontracted under Abby Johnson as a transportation advisor for the Yucca Mountain Project, but now needs to contract directly with the County. Jake Tibbitts noted that Mr. Moore is also utilized to review documents for the Gibellini Project because there will be uranium shipments from the mine.

The Board agreed to approve the contract as presented. If review of the Gibellini documents falls outside of the scope of work, the County will request a letter agreement that expands the scope of work.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a one-year contract, from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, with Richard C. Moore, PE, for an amount not to exceed \$14,000.00 for time and materials. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

FAA Grant Offer - ARPA KW2022 Grant Program: A grant offer was circulated by the Federal Aviation Administration for signatures in December, and now requires formal approval. Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify Federal Aviation Administration Grant Offer regarding the ARPA KW2022 Grant Program (3-32-000702022) for the Eureka Airport in the amount of \$22,000.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Residential Water Application: Public Works received application for a residential water service. Mr. Rowley recommended approval, but clarified that it was for one of the Pastorino lots represented on a parcel map approved by the Planning Commission and subsequently the Board. The County agreed to install water connections to the lots represented on the map, but is not responsible for road maintenance until the streets are paved and brought up to County specifications.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water service at APN 001-012-30 in the Town of Eureka. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts reported on recent activities and meetings.

Meetings: Mr. Tibbitts continues participating in weekly mine meetings for the Cortez Goldrush Project, the Gibellini Project, and McEwen Mining's Gold Bar South Project. The N6 Grazing Board met on January 3rd. Chairman Goicoechea and Mr. Tibbitts met with Nevada Gold Mines on January 5th to continue discussing water mitigation strategies. The mine has withdrawn the two change applications and will continue meeting with the County to resolve the water mitigation issues. Mr. Tibbitts thanked the mine for its willingness to hear the County's concerns and work towards an equitable solution.

30x30 Initiative: In December, the current Administration issued an annual report on the America the Beautiful Initiative, commonly called the 30x30 Initiative, which purports to protect 30% of the nation's lands and waters by 2030. An online map, called the American Conservation & Stewardship Atlas, will be published to unveil lands and waters that meet the Administration's standard of needing protection. A public comment period has been opened through the first week in March to receive input on what should be identified in the atlas.

Wild Horse & Burro Gather Plan: On January 5th, the US Department of the Interior, BLM, announced plans to gather 22,000 wild horses and burros off rangelands in the current federal fiscal year, which ends September 30th. The breakdown by state was not announced, but the plan is to place 19,000 animals in holding facilities and treat 2,500 with fertility control to be returned to the range.

Mr. Tibbitts noted that there are roughly 90,000 animals on the range. Approximately 18,000 were gathered the previous year, and it was the first time in eight years that population numbers didn't increase.

Chairman Goicoechea was scheduled to meet with BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning on January 21st and the only topic of discussion was horses.

Upcoming Meetings: The Natural Resources Advisory Commission will meet on January 12th. On the afternoon of January 12th, Mr. Tibbitts will meet with K.C. Shedden, Fuels & Fire Lead for BLM, Battle Mountain District.

Annual Notices: Eureka County Code, Title 9, Chapter 40, Section .030 directs that, at the beginning of each calendar year, the Board is to send notices to federal agencies affirming the County's right to be actively involved in any decision-making process concerning or affecting federal lands within Eureka County.

Commissioner McKay motioned to send annual notices to relevant federal land and resource management agencies in accordance with County Code, and authorized the Chairman to sign the notices outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BLM Land Use Plans: The County recently accepted cooperating agency status on the BLM's Mining Withdrawal EIS. Mr. Tibbitts explained that the BLM is taking a dual approach towards sage grouse habitat management and is reconsidering portions of its Resource Management Plans. With input from outside counsel, Laura Granier Esq., Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter, on behalf of Eureka County, accepting cooperating agency status as the BLM revisits its land use plans to address Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter to the BLM accepting cooperating agency status for the BLM's reconsideration of its land use plans to address Greater Sage Grouse habitat. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Barrick Gold Buckhorn Project Permit Renewal: The County received notice that the State was considering renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit for the Buckhorn Project. Mr. Tibbitts and Consulting Hydrogeologist Dale Bugenig reviewed the proposed permit renewal and found no issues.

Commissioner McKay motioned to send a letter to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection supporting renewal of the Barrick Gold Buckhorn Project Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0040026. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Nevada Gold Mines North Area Leach Project Permit Renewal: The County received notice that the State was considering renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit for the Nevada Gold Mines North Area Leach Project. Mr. Tibbitts and Mr. Bugenig reviewed the proposed permit renewal and, finding no issues, recommended approval.

Commissioner McKay motioned to send a letter to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection supporting renewal of the Nevada Gold Mines North Area Leach Project Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0087065. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

E&E News: Mr. Tibbitts explained that the E&E News subscription was previously included in the contract with Abby Johnson, which is no longer in place. Mr. Tibbitts explained that E&E News has five daily publications and reports issues well in advance of the normal media. Department Assistant Shasta Blackeye-Adair has been working with Ms. Johnson and E&E News to reduce the \$8,000.00 subscription price. E&E first offered \$5,000.00, but after hearing that Eureka County is a small public lands county working to keep people informed, they reduced the price to \$3,565.00.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to renew the annual subscription to E&E News at a cost of \$3,565.00 to be paid from the Commissioners' budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Shealene French; Earl Overholser, Jared Sellard; District Attorney Ted Beutel (2); Recreation Board; Television District; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); Northern Nevada EMS Consortium; Nevada Dept. of Health & Human Services; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (2); Nevada Gold Mines; UNR CABNR newsletter; International Dark Sky Assoc. (Nevada); Nevada State Office BLM; ISO (Insurance Services Office); US Navy; Kristen Baker; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); Governing E-news (multiple); and America First Policy Institute (multiple).

Commissioner Reports: As County Health Officer, Chairman Goicoechea has been in contact with the CDC and has a scheduled call later in the day with the CDC concerning guidance it is writing for schools. There has been a bit of an uproar over the CDC reducing quarantine to five days, but Eureka County continues using established protocols for contact tracing and quarantine of COVID cases or exposure.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were no comments from the public. The Chairman said he wanted to recognize the passing of Dave Pastorino. Dave served as County Commissioner for two separate terms, served on the Television District Board for many years, was part of a longtime Eureka family, and the Chairman wanted to acknowledge him for his contributions to Eureka County.

Chairman Goicoechea also recognized the passing of Senator Harry Reid. He first met the Senator in 1991, and his last conversation with him was when he was Senate Majority Leader. Chairman Goicoechea said they often 'buted heads' on issues, but he always knew where the Senator stood. Senator Reid was instrumental in ensuring the State had funding for many important issues including pinyon juniper work, sage grouse issues, and wild horse management. Chairman Goicoechea stated Senator Reid was a good statesman and a helluva politician and he wanted to send condolences to his wife and family.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 7th day of February, 2021.

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

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the January 4, 2021, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

I, Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Commissioner Administrative Assistant.

/s/ Lisa Hoehne
Lisa Hoehne, Clerk