

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 20, 2014

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on February 20, 2014. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Jim Ithurralde; Commissioner Michael Sharkozy; Administrative Legal Secretary, Toni Wright; and Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.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

Chairman Goicoechea noted that the budget session scheduled for the afternoon was cancelled due to illness of the Budget Officer. With that change, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 15, 2014, Quarterly Meeting: Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve minutes of the January 15th quarterly meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

January 21, 2014, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the January 21st Commission meeting; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

FINANCE

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Deputy Recorder, Tina Hubbard. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$266,998.13 for accounts payable, \$283,205.96 for payroll, and \$56,486.58 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, for a grand total of \$606,690.67; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve Yucca Mountain expenditures in the amount of \$1,984.34; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

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

Posting of Budget Director Position: In addition to the elected position of County Recorder, Mike Rebaleati has served as Budget Officer for the County. After the recent announcement that he would not refile for the elected office of Recorder, Mr. Rebaleati recommended that the Commissioners appoint a Budget Director to allow for a period of training through the current budget cycle. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to implement the process of selecting and appointing a Budget Director, with the position effective January 1, 2015. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. It was noted that this will not be a paid position until the effective date. Pursuant to the Eureka County Personnel Policy Manual, the position must first be posted internally; if no candidate is found within the current employee pool, the position will then be advertised publicly.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: Chairman Goicoechea attended the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting in Winnemucca on February 7th; participated in a conference call on February 12th with Dagny Stapleton of NACO, and Elko County Commissioner, Demar Dahl, regarding the proposed legislation by Senators Harry Reid and Dean Heller (draft Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation & Economic Development Act); met with Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, on February 12th to review County investments; met with Rich Haddock, Vice President and General Counsel, Barrick Gold Corporation, regarding multiple issues of interest to Barrick Gold and Eureka County; met with Melanie Lawson, Community Relations for Barrick Gold, and SRK Consulting the afternoon of February 12th in regards to Ruby Hill Mine; had phone calls with Jill Moore, Field Manager Ely District BLM, and Christopher Cook, Field Manager Battle Mountain District BLM, regarding coordination issues; attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting the evening of February 12th; traveled to Carson City to chair the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting on February 13th; met with Bill Brewer of USDA Rural Development, Nevada Rural Housing Authority Director of Real Estate, Eddie Hult, and CFO, C.J. Manthe, on the morning of February 14th; met with Jeff Fontaine and Dagny Stapleton on February 14th regarding NACO's wild horse suit; attended the Nevada Cattlemen's Association meeting the afternoon of February 14th; and attended the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association meeting in Las Vegas on February 18th.

Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Nevada Health Centers luncheon in Eureka on February 7th to meet two new providers (one permanent and one interim) for the Eureka Clinic; attended a Search & Rescue meeting in Crescent Valley on February 10th; and attended a NevadaWorks meeting in Reno on February 14th. Commissioner Ithurrealde attended the Nevada Health Centers luncheon on February 7th and noted that the permanent physician, Dr. Michael Wells, will begin seeing patients at the Eureka Clinic on March 17th. Commissioner Ithurrealde also announced for six varsity basketball games for the high school.

Request to Lease Office Space: The Nevada Highway Patrol recently learned they must soon vacate the offices they lease locally. NHP approached Eureka County regarding the possibility of leasing office space within a County building, possibly at the Annex/Administration Building. Undersheriff Keith Logan joined the meeting via interactive video from the Crescent Valley site. He spoke with NHP representatives regarding space at the Eureka Justice Facility. Although there are advantages to being housed in a facility with 24-hour access, shared office space might not meet the security standards required for NHP's network/computer and records management systems. NHP may also consider setting up a mobile unit in the State yard. Another State office administers all leases, so NHP is working with them regarding their options and will continue communicating with the County regarding their needs and options.

Set Public Hearing: During the February 6th meeting, Commissioner Ithurrealde proposed amending the Health & Welfare Title in Eureka County Code to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries within Eureka County (due to recent changes in State law that now provide for licensing of such facilities). Amendments to County Code must be considered at a public hearing. Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to schedule a public hearing at 1:00 p.m. on March 20th to consider an addition to Eureka County Code, Title 6, Health & Welfare, Chapter 60, Prostitution, to include prohibition of medical marijuana establishments. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Nevada Rural Housing Authority Letter to Eureka County Commission: On February 6th, the Commissioners sent a letter to NRHA outlining a financing offer for the debt on the multifamily development at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. This letter served as a follow-up to a previous letter sent on November 6, 2013, that did not receive a direct response from NRHA, but resulted in conversations with Bill Brewer of USDA Rural Development. Mr. Brewer relayed that NRHA did not have the financial ability to pay the debt at current market rates until the

project matures and its revenue potential is realized. The County's follow-up letter took this into account with the offer of a 60 month term for payment of interest and principal.

NRHA responded with a letter which was hand-delivered to Chairman Goicoechea when they (NRHA Director of Real Estate, Eddie Hult, NRHA CFO, C.J. Manthe, and Mr. Brewer) met in Carson City on February 14th. The letter stated NRHA was working on a repayment plan they felt was equitable to both parties.

Mr. Hult and Mr. Brewer were now in attendance at this Commission meeting (February 20th). Mr. Hult outlined NRHA's counter offer which provides for regular payments, an interest rate with incremental increases, and opportunity to apply additional principal for early payoff. Mr. Brewer commented that he felt this was as good a deal as could be worked out between the two entities.

The Commissioners were open to the proposal, but noted they will engage a real estate attorney to review the offer and, if acceptable, to prepare appropriate documents. Mr. Hult asked that the County consider a short extension of time to the maturity date (March 2014) that was approaching under the existing agreements, to allow for preparation of legal paperwork. Chairman Goicoechea responded that an extension could be considered, but the County would like to have counsel in place before any decisions are made.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to continue moving forward towards an equitable plan between Nevada Rural Housing Authority and Eureka County for repayment of debt for the multifamily development at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision; to solicit legal counsel for the purpose of reviewing proposals, providing direction to Eureka County, and preparing documents; and for Chairman Goicoechea and Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, to communicate with the appropriate parties to facilitate progress. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Crescent Valley Activities Program: The Commissioners were asked to provide clarification on protocol for the Crescent Valley Activities Program related to activities, events, and coordination with the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board. In response, the Commissioners referred to the January 13, 2013, budget meeting where they decided to move forward with a casual employee under supervision of Senior Center Director, Adell Panning, rather than a volunteer program under direction of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board. It was clarified at that time that the CVTAB would still have input and involvement in the activities, but would no longer manage the program.

CVTAB Chair, Vickie Etchinek, would like the Town Board to continue receiving event reports for informational purposes and as a means of making them readily available to the public. Ms. Etchinek stated that backup for an event done in January didn't balance, therefore she had concerns that a full accounting of monetary receipts and expenditures was not being provided. The Board responded that oversight of expenditures is now under the authority of Ms. Panning, but promised to consult Mr. Rebaleati to ensure that all monies are being properly accounted for. Ms. Panning commented that all expenditures are public record and can be requested from the Recorder's office.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to table this item pending discussion with the Budget Officer. At request of the Chairman, Commissioner Ithurralde amended his motion to have Commissioner Sharkozy work with Mr. Rebaleati to get clarification on the financial reporting process for the Activities Program. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BARRICK GOLD CORPORATION – RUBY HILL MINE

Operations Update: The Board welcomed Barrick Gold representatives, Steve Yopps, General Manager of Ruby Hill Mine, and Melanie Lawson, Community Relations. Barrick Gold is working diligently towards a safe and economical plan to resume mining at Ruby Hill Mine. The area where the highwall failure occurred last November has a 300 ft. alluvium layer atop a 20-40

ft. layer of intrusive material. Further geotechnical studies will be conducted to determine stability of the rock and alluvium layers before a plan can be determined. Geotechnical holes will be drilled throughout the failure area to gather data for a three-dimensional model to determine what method is best: excavation of highwall material or blasting the scarp to achieve a safe angle. The preliminary estimate to carry out this project is between \$600,000.00 and \$1 million. Drilling will commence once a safe drilling protocol is developed, funding is approved, and permits are secured. Should the study determine a restart plan is feasible, mining could resume in late 2014 or early 2015. If the study determines these options are not feasible at today's gold prices, then a final option would be moving forward with closure of the site. Barrick Gold continues to evaluate other projects at the Ruby Hill site, including Mineral Point, with a team in place working on the scoping phase and operations could resume with these alternative projects.

PUBLIC WORKS

Update on Projects & Activities: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported that all departments under Public Works have been working on their Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budgets, including the various Fire Departments. This year will have some changes due to the Fire District no longer being administered by Nevada Division of Forestry. SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) and compressors are being certified for the Fire Departments throughout the County. Public Works has been working with Lumos & Associates on the CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk) process for the Robins Street Project.

COUNTY ENGINEER

Recommendation for CMAR: Tom Young, Lumos & Associates, explained the process utilized by the Selection Panel in evaluating, interviewing, and ranking the candidates for the Robins Street Project CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk). A total of six submittals were received and Legacy Construction & Development, Inc. was ranked as the most qualified company. Per recommendation of the Selection Panel, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept Legacy Construction & Development, Inc., as Construction Manager at Risk for the Robins Street Project. Commissioner Ithurrealde seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CMAR Preconstruction Contract: Mr. Young explained the preconstruction services, which include constructability review, field investigations, potholing of existing utilities, prequalifying of subcontractors, bidding processes, and establishing/negotiating a guaranteed maximum price.

To expedite the process, Mr. Damele was authorized to negotiate with the top-ranked CMAR candidate for the preconstruction contract. Mr. Damele explained that negotiations led to an increased scope of services rather than a reduction in price and he was satisfied with the resulting terms. Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to approve a preconstruction contract with Legacy Construction & Development, Inc., for the Robins Street Improvements & Utility Upgrades Project, not to exceed \$44,850.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Update Report: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, reported on emergency services since his last update in January. Eureka had seven calls for service (12 year-to-date) and Crescent Valley also had seven calls for service (12 year-to-date).

Continuing education training was held on January 27th and February 3rd in Eureka and on January 30th and February 13th in Crescent Valley. The next classes are scheduled for February 24th in Eureka and February 27th in Crescent Valley.

Mr. Sullivan delivered the Diamond Valley ambulance to Reno on February 11th for chain installation. For mechanical reasons, the OnSpot tire chains cannot be installed on the 2003 International ambulance.

Ambulance Bill Write-Off: Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to write-off uncollectible ambulance account #2006780 in the amount of \$90.86; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Update of Business Associate Agreements: Agreements are in place with the software provider for the electronic run reporting system for each ambulance service, Eureka and Crescent Valley. Due to recent changes in legislation, the agreements need to be updated to remain compliant with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act). Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to approve signing the Business Associate Agreements with Med Media, Inc., as amended for HIPAA compliance, at no cost to Eureka County. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY FACILITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Update Report: Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman, reported on activities at the Opera House, Sentinel Museum, and Economic Development. The dinner theater event put on by Murder Mystery Company at the Opera House on February 14th was a sold out event with 84 attendees. Utah Shakespeare Festival is scheduled to perform at the Opera House on March 14th. Plans are gearing up for the annual car show and drag races in May and letters have been mailed to prospective sponsors. Department Assistant, Cindy Beutel, prepared a cost breakdown for upcoming events through the end of the year, including projected contributions from fundraising and sponsorships. On February 21st, Ms. Rossman will be interviewed by Jimmy Johnson, host of the *Leading Edge* radio series, regarding economic development in rural areas.

Ms. Rossman is working on the annual grant application to Nevada Commission on Tourism for submission by the April 18th deadline. The next meeting of the Economic Development Program Board is February 21st. She is advertising for the vacancy on the ECEDP, and hopes to present letters of interest by the next meeting. She provided the Commissioners with a progress report from Mike Baughman, Intertech Services Corporation, on the Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Commissioner Ithurrealde requested the Ms. Rossman incorporate Nevada's Sesquicentennial (150th birthday) into the events this year. Chairman Goicoechea added that September 2014 is the 150th anniversary of the first strike in Eureka.

CLERK & TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for January was presented by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley. Ending balance for the month was \$51,010,480.82. Ms. Conley noted that they are working to standardize reporting of investments, so all investment accounts will be reported on a cash basis rather than an accrual basis. Realized gains and losses, including interest, will be booked as they occur. This change will appear on the February report.

Tax Delinquent Properties Auction: Ms. Conley reported on the tax delinquent properties sealed-bid auction conducted on February 6th. Out of 13 properties listed for sale, two were paid in full and reconveyed to the assessed owner prior to the redemption deadline, and 11 were sold resulting in \$5,209.00 in proceeds. Amended title reports were received on two patented mining claims not included in this sale, and they will be offered for sale on May 17th. Chairman Goicoechea complimented Ms. Conley on the great job she has done with these trust properties.

Verified Return of Sale, Reconciliation of Tax Auction, & Quit Claim Resolution: Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to accept the Tax Delinquent Properties Sealed Bid Auction Verified Return of Sale and Reconciliation of Trust Property for the February 6, 2014, sale, and

to adopt the resolution directing issuance of the quit claim deeds. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SUMMARY: Return of Sale of Trust Property

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Eureka County, Nevada, on the 6th day of September, 2012, duly ordered the sale at public auction of the hereinafter described real property held by Beverly Conley, as County Treasurer and Ex-Officio Tax Receiver of Eureka County, Nevada, in trust; and

WHEREAS, after due and legal notice of the place and manner of said sale was duly given in the manner required by NRS 361.595, by publication in a newspaper published within the County of Eureka, State of Nevada, and posted as required by NRS 361.595 and the Amended 2012 Order of the Board of Commissioners directing the County Treasurer to offer all tax delinquent properties for sale, said property was sold at public "sealed bid" auction on the 6th day of February, 2014, beginning at 4:00 o'clock p.m. of said day; and

WHEREAS, at said sale the property described in the Reconciliation of Tax Auction held February 6, 2014, attached hereto was sold to the persons or entities listed for the total sum of Five Thousand Two-Hundred Nine Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,209.00), which were the highest and best bids for the same and the whole amount bid and paid for said property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Eureka County, Nevada, as follows:

1. That the Eureka County Treasurer and Ex-Officio Tax Receiver of Eureka County, Nevada, in trust, execute and file Quit Claim Deeds for record with the County Recorder of Eureka County, Nevada, and deliver said Quit Claim Deeds for properties sold to said purchasers on the attached list.

ADOPTED the 20th day of February, 2014, by the Board of County Commissioners, Eureka County, Nevada.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Beverly Conley

Beverly Conley, Eureka County Clerk

HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Update Report on Community Health Fair: Kim Todd, Chair of the Health Insurance Committee, reported that due to the Health Care Reform Act, St. Mary's can no longer provide community health fairs.

St. Mary's Health Plan Wellness Check: St Mary's can offer wellness checks for their plan members and dependents. The Committee recommended that the wellness check take place in October in conjunction with the flu/pneumonia shot clinics sponsored by St. Mary's. The wellness check requires a minimum of 20 participants and the Committee felt this was more achievable by combining the events which will be scheduled in both Eureka and Crescent Valley. Ms. Todd noted that the flu/pneumonia shot clinic is open to all residents.

The Health Care Reform Act also addresses employer provided wellness programs. The wellness check could serve as a first step towards possible implementation of a wellness program for Eureka County employees. Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to authorize St. Mary's Health Plans to conduct a wellness check for members and dependents in conjunction with the community flu/pneumonia shot clinic to be held in October. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Recommendation for Health Fair: The Committee would like to see Nevada Health Centers offer community health fairs at both clinics in the County. The Committee recommended that the Commissioners encourage and possibly partner with NVHC to provide

community health fairs. Garney Damele, Chair of the Medical Clinic Advisory Committee, has already contacted NVHC and they are looking into the possibility. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to pursue the recommended options including encouraging and possibly partnering with Nevada Health Centers to host community health fairs in Eureka and Crescent Valley. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MEDICAL CLINIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Resolution Memorializing Formation of Committee: The draft resolution was reviewed by the Medical Clinic Advisory Committee and the final draft incorporated comments from the Committee members, the District Attorney, and the Commissioners. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to adopt the Resolution memorializing formation of the Medical Clinic Advisory Committee. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

RESOLUTION

February 20, 2014

TO RECOGNIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, DEFINE THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR,
AND LIST THE DUTIES OF THE MEDICAL CLINICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OR MCAC

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2012, without utilizing a written resolution or ordinance, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners (the Board) determined it would be beneficial to create the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee or MCAC; and

WHEREAS, the MCAC was tasked by the Board with several duties to help the Board MANAGE THE County subsidized medical clinics and providers, including but not limited to: reviewing contract compliance, reviewing financial reports and audit information, reviewing services provided by current and prospective health care providers at the clinics, summarizing data, compiling summaries of other relevant information, and providing regular reports to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined it is necessary and proper to clarify in writing the establishment, purpose and duties of the MCAC;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognize the establishment of, define the specific purpose for, and list the duties of the advisory board known as the MCAC until further action of the Board to amend, modify, or discontinue the MCAC:

- A. There shall be no more than seven (7) persons appointed by the Board to serve on the advisory board to be known as the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee or MCAC. Interested persons are required to submit a letter of interest to the Board for consideration, and MCAC members shall be appointed by the Board to serve two (2) year terms following staggered initial appointments to provide for continuity on the MCAC. At least three persons selected by the Board shall serve an initial one (1) year term to maintain continuity on the MCAC.
- B. The MCAC shall be made up of a combination of community members, a Eureka County Medical Facilities user, and Eureka County employees *and* shall include a *minimum* of one (1) Crescent Valley resident, *minimum* of one (1) Eureka or Crescent Valley Medical Facility user, *minimum* of two (2) Eureka County employees, and three (3) Eureka County community members chosen from anywhere within Eureka County.
- C. The Board reserves the right to appoint or remove MCAC members for any reason that is in the best interests of the residents of Eureka County.
- D. Each calendar year the MCAC shall select a member to be the Chair and a member to be the Vice Chair.
- E. Meetings of the Committee shall occur in the Commissioners chambers of the Eureka County Courthouse at the call of the Chair or Vice Chair in the Chair's absence, and be performed in accordance with the

Open Meeting Law, and in a way that ensures the continued confidentiality of medical information that may come to the attention of MCAC members. Access to the meetings for persons in Crescent Valley shall be accomplished through the use of interactive audio/video, unless there are technical difficulties; in which case a speaker phone will be made available during the meetings.

- F. The MCAC shall report to the Board upon invitation to do so or at the MCAC's request.
- G. The MCAC shall provide the Board with information about financial reports and audit information regarding the clinics and their operation, review medical-related contracts for services, act as a liaison between the Board and medical providers at the clinics, report information to the community, prepare and solicit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for medical services and providers, review funding and budgeting, and other relevant information at the request of the Board.

ADOPTED this 20th day of February, 2014.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

Chairman of the Board

Eureka County Commissioners

ATTEST: /s/ Jackie Berg

Executive Assistant

CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Appointment to CVTAB: The Commissioners reviewed letters of interest for the vacant seat on the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board. It was noted that this appointment is for the unexpired term which concludes on December 31, 2014. Anyone interested in filling this seat for the next two-year term must file their candidacy with the County Clerk during the filing period of March 3rd through March 14th. After reviewing the letters, Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to appoint Lynda Stidham to the unexpired term on the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ELKO-LANDER-EUREKA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Library Contract: Upon reviewing the proposed contract for library services during the February 6th meeting, the Board invited representatives from the Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System to attend this meeting to discuss a 10% to 15% decrease in the dollar amount of the contract.

Jeanette Hammons, Director, and Kassie Antonucci, Assistant Director, were in attendance to provide information and discuss an adjusted contract. Ms. Hammons and Ms. Antonucci provided detailed information over the past ten years on the three library branches in Eureka County (Eureka, Crescent Valley, and Beowawe). Information included statistics on patrons, circulation, internet usage, library programs, and operating costs. Three options were presented for reducing the contract amount. Option A focused on cutting supplies and materials; Option B focused on cutting staff time and hours; and Option C considered closure of the Beowawe branch.

The representatives explained that Option C was added due to lower usage in relation to operating costs of approximately \$9,800.00 annually for the Beowawe Branch. The Commissioners agreed this may be the most feasible option, noting that it would not be a consideration except for the close proximity of the Crescent Valley branch which ensures the residents will still have access to library services. The Board asked Mr. Damele about operation, maintenance, and utility costs for the Beowawe branch; he responded that the costs were substantial and agreed to provide information before the next meeting.

Before making a final decision where the cuts would occur, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to table action regarding the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 library contract until more

information could be provided regarding building costs for the Beowawe branch. Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. He attended the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council meeting in Las Vegas on January 21st; attended the Eureka Conservation District meeting on February 12th; attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on the evening of February 12th; and attended the Crescent Valley Firewise Committee meeting via interactive video on February 19th.

Predator Management: Trevor Walch, owner of a predator management company, gave a presentation to the Natural Resources Advisory Commission at their February 12th meeting regarding his contracted predator control work, which targets predators of mule deer, sage grouse, and also livestock. NRAC requested more information related to a proposal for work in Eureka County. They may present a recommendation to the Commissioners at a future date regarding pairing predator control with habitat work accomplished through the pinyon-juniper thinning projects.

Firewise Committees: The Firewise Committees are preparing for the Wildfire Awareness events – May 2nd in Eureka and May 3rd in Crescent Valley. BLM is partnering with the Committees on some new events planned this year to include hot air balloon rides and visits from Smokey Bear.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include a special meeting of the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife on February 24th; an Ely District BLM teleconference meeting on February 25th to review alternatives for the Midway Gold Corporation Gold Rock Project EIS; the State Engineer meeting in Eureka in the Courthouse District Courtroom at 1:00 p.m. on February 25th regarding Diamond Valley waters; and a Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association meeting on March 4th. Mr. Tibbitts reminded everyone of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection public hearing scheduled in Crescent Valley on March 25th regarding the draft permit issued to Previous Metals Recovery LLC, for the proposed mercury storage facility in northern Eureka County.

Mr. Tibbitts strongly encouraged attendance at the State Engineer's meeting regarding a proposed management plan for the waters of Diamond Valley. Considerations include possibility of designating this area as a critical management area which places several requirements on the State Engineer, including eventual limitation on groundwater withdrawals, including irrigation wells, domestic wells, and municipal systems.

AB 239 – Renewable Energy: Assembly Bill 239, passed in the 2013 Nevada Legislature, requires local governments to implement a permitting process for construction of certain utility projects. Nevada Association of Counties has drafted a model ordinance which will be distributed to the Board for review. Commissioner Ithurralde suggested placing this on a future agenda for proposal of the ordinance in order to comply with AB 239.

Comment on BLM Battle Mountain District Resource Management Plan Update: Comments on Chapters 1-3 of the Resource Management Plan Update Administrative Draft EIS are due on February 28th and Mr. Tibbitts requested authorization to prepare and submit comments. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to authorize sending comments to the Battle Mountain District BLM on the Resource Management Plan Update Administrative Draft EIS, Chapters 1-3, and authorized the Chairman to sign the comments outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The prepared comments will be presented at the next meeting for ratification.

BLM Elko District Revised Drought Management EA: As a follow-up to an earlier email, Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter to Jill Silvey, District Manager of the Elko District BLM, regarding the revised Management & Mitigation for Drought Impacted Rangelands Environmental

Assessment. The letter reaffirms the County's position and concerns over lack of cooperation with Eureka County on this process.

Mr. Tibbitts explained that a letter from the BLM notifying Eureka County of the revision to the Drought Management Plan was dated February 3rd but wasn't received until February 6th and notified of a comment period ending on February 17th. Mr. Tibbitts' response email requested an extension of the comment period to March 21st to allow the Natural Resources Advisory Commission time to review the Drought EA. The County later learned, through a press release on February 18th, that the comment period was extended to March 3rd.

This follow-up letter, now before the Board for approval, refers to substantive comment that the County provided a year ago that was basically disregarded. Those same comments are attached to the letter with a request that they be adequately addressed and a repeated request to extend the comment deadline to March 21st.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to send the response letter to the BLM Elko District on the Management & Mitigation for Drought Impacted Rangelands EA as presented by the Natural Resources Manager. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Response to NDOW Letter to BLM on Greater Sage-Grouse Draft EIS: There has been much talk State-wide regarding a letter sent to the BLM from an authorized employee (Wildlife Staff Specialist, Shawn Espinosa) of Nevada Department of Wildlife regarding the Nevada & Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment & Environmental Impact Statement. The NDOW letter basically supported the BLM's plan rather than the State plan which is being prepared by the Governor through the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council.

With input from the Natural Resources Advisory Commission, a letter was prepared and signed by the Chairman to be sent to Tony Wasley, Director of Nevada Department of Wildlife, expressing the County's disappointment and concerns over the NDOW/Espinosa comments submitted to the BLM on the Nevada & Northeastern California Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment & EIS, and asking Director Wasley to take appropriate action to clarify that these statements are not the official position of NDOW.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to ratify the February 14th letter to Nevada Department of Wildlife Director, Tony Wasley, in response to the NDOW/Espinosa letter submitted to the BLM on the Greater Sage-Grouse Draft EIS. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Lynda Stidham; Robert Riddle; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (4); Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts; Justice of the Peace, John Schweble; Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg (3); Economic Development Program Board; Health Insurance Committee; Eureka County Fair Board; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Fred Steinmann; Perdiz Sport Shooting, Inc.; Eureka Business Network (2); Eureka Moly MolyBits Messenger; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Intertech Services Corp.; Lumos & Associates; Allison, MacKenzie, Pavlakis, Wright & Fagan, Ltd.; Nevada Health Centers, Inc.; Nevada Rural Housing Authority (3); Nevada Aging & Disability Services Div.; Nevada Div. of Water Resources (2); Nevada Div. of Minerals; Nevada Pool/PACT; Nevada Dept. of Transportation (2); Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (2); Western Counties Alliance (2); Med Media, Inc.; and NTA Translator newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. Undersheriff Keith Logan thanked the Commissioners and County staff for the well wishes extended to the Deputy that was recently involved in a serious vehicle accident.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of March, 2014.

/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 February 20, 2014, 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