

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Quarterly Meeting – April 15, 2014**

STATE OF NEVADA    )  
                              :SS  
COUNTY OF EUREKA )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law for their quarterly meeting on April 15, 2014, at the Crescent Valley Town Center. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chairman Jim Ithurralde, and Commissioner Mike Sharkozy, District Attorney Ted Beutel (via interactive video), and Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting. 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 Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, and EMT, Cathy Wolf, presented signs designating Eureka County as a HeartSafe County. There are two signs for Crescent Valley and two for Eureka. Eureka County was recognized by Nevada Project Heartbeat in December as being the first HeartSafe County in the State of Nevada. Mr. Sullivan added that this achievement was only possible due to the dedication of the volunteers. The Board offered their congratulations as well.

**CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

Crescent Valley Community Development Implementation Plan: CVTAB members present were Chair Vickie Etchinek, Vice Chair Dawn Gann, and Clerk Lynda Stidham. Ms. Gann reported that the Working Committee for the Crescent Valley Community Development Implementation Plan had their first meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Committee are Dan Slama, Vera Taylor, Dwight Thompkins, Lisa Wolf, Melanie Lawson, and Dawn Gann.

The Committee decided their first step should be sending a survey to the residents to find out what is important to the community. They obtained a copy of a similar survey done by the Lander County Sustainable Development Committee and will use that as a template incorporating suggestions from Rex Massey, who completed the Community Development Plan. UNCE Extension Educator, Fred Steinmann, will also be consulted. The Committee plans to have the survey ready to be handed out at the Firewise Community Day in May or the Fun Days in July. They will note who receives the survey and mail them to remaining residents. The Committee hoped the Commissioners would approve postage for mailing the surveys.

The Commissioners suggested providing postage-paid return envelopes and agreed the postage could be paid from the Public Works budget. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve postage and return postage for mailing of surveys by the Working Committee for the Crescent Valley Community Development Plan. Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The Board thanked Ms. Gann for all her hard work on this project.

Crescent Valley Town Park Re-Dedication: The CVTAB formally invited the Commissioners to the Crescent Valley Town Park Re-Dedication Ceremony scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. The Commissioners will try to attend.

## **CRESCENT VALLEY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

**Quarterly Report:** Social Activities Coordinator, Geniffer Perry, reported on recent and upcoming activities in Crescent Valley. The St. Patrick's Day dinner was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>; there was a nice turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Town Park and the Easter Bunny will be in attendance. The children will be divided into four age groups. Each age group will have a special egg and the child finding the egg will receive a bicycle and a gift card to purchase a helmet. A Town Clean-Up Day is planned on May 17<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with May Clean-Up.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Update Reports:** Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>; attended the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>; and attended the Search & Rescue meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Ithurrealde met with Public Works on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Goicoechea chaired the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting in Carson City on April 8<sup>th</sup>; attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>; attended a meeting between NACO and members of Senator Reid's and Senator Heller's staffs regarding the proposed Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation & Economic Development Act; and participated in multiple phone calls with other county officials, staff of the Governor's office, NACO, Department of Agriculture, etc., regarding the BLM gather of Cliven Bundy's cattle in Clark County.

**Resolution Honoring Ken & Barbara Dugan:** At the quarterly meeting in January, Ken & Barbara Dugan were recognized for their longtime community service to Eureka County. Former Eureka County Battalion Chief, Tom Turk, presented them with a certificate recognizing 38 years of service to the communities of Crescent Valley and Beowawe.

The Dugans were unable to attend this meeting as they were out of town, but the Commissioners were pleased to recognize them with a resolution. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt the resolution honoring Ken & Barbara Dugan for their dedicated service; Commissioner Ithurrealde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

*Eureka, Nevada*

*April 15, 2014*

**RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING KEN & BARBARA DUGAN  
FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO EUREKA COUNTY**

*WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wishes to honor Eureka County residents, Ken & Barbara Dugan, for their years of dedicated service to Eureka County and the communities of Crescent Valley and Beowawe; and*

*WHEREAS, Eureka County acknowledges the following biographical information: Ken & Barbara were married May 23, 1955, and raised three children: Linda, Darrell, and Kent. They are the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren. The Dugans moved to Crescent Valley from McClusky, North Dakota, in July 1978. They are known throughout the area for their woodcutting business, and have spent many hours over the years cutting, splitting, and delivering wood.*

*Upon arriving in Crescent Valley, the Dugans became active in the community and began volunteering in many aspects, especially those pertaining to health and safety. Almost immediately they began serving on the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department and Barbara joined the Crescent Valley Ambulance Service. They retired from the Fire Department in 2013, but Barbara recently became recertified and still serves as an EMT. Ken & Barbara have served on the Crescent Valley Division of the Eureka County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue since its inception in January 2008. Barbara was a member of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board from 1987 to 1996, has been a member of the Senior Centers Advisory Board since 1992, and was instrumental in starting the Crescent Valley Historical Society.*

*It is a challenge to fund and staff fire departments, ambulance services, search and rescue, and other such organizations in small rural communities. Therefore volunteerism is not only commendable, but is vital to the health and safety of the residents who might not otherwise have these services. It is impossible to enumerate the countless hours Ken & Barbara have given to their community, much less the lives they have touched with their service. For this reason, their commitment and contributions are hereby acknowledged.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognizes and honors Ken & Barbara Dugan for their spirit of community service, for their lifetime accomplishments, and for their contributions to Eureka County and its citizens.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be published in the minutes of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners to remain a part of the permanent and historical records of Eureka County.*

*ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.*

*BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF EUREKA, STATE OF NEVADA*

*/s/ J.J. Goicoechea*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman*

*/s/ Jim Ithurrealde*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*J.P. "Jim" Ithurrealde, Vice Chairman*

*/s/ Michael Sharkozy*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Michael Sharkozy, Member*

*ATTEST: /s/ Beverly Conley*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Beverly Conley, Eureka County Clerk*

**Future of CVTAB:** A discussion was held regarding options for the future of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board due to the impending lack of membership which will occur on January 1, 2015. All three seats expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> and are up for election in the 2014 election, but only one person filed for candidacy.

First, Chairman Goicoechea thanked Dawn Gann for filing and for her continued support of her community. The Commissioners reviewed history of membership on the CVTAB over the past several years and were concerned over the multiple vacancies and resulting appointments that had to be made by the County Commissioners. Chairman Goicoechea noted that when the Commissioners make the appointments, the community is not shaping their own representation, and he did not want to continue this pattern of appointing to an elected board.

Commissioner Ithurrealde agreed, stating that the Commissioners act as Town Board for Eureka and with this lack of participation, they should consider acting as Town Board for Crescent Valley as well. Commissioner Ithurrealde referenced the survey conducted in 2009 (issued to registered voters in the Town of Crescent Valley) to consider reducing the number of seats on the Town Board from five to three or dissolving it altogether. The survey received 116 responses and of those there were 36 votes to dissolve the CVTAB.

Commissioner Sharkozy stated he understood the discouragement of his fellow Commissioners, but he felt representation for this community was very important and worthy of preserving.

All of the Commissioners invited input, stating they are available in person or by phone to anyone who wishes to share their concerns and suggestions related to the future of the Town Board.

Public comment was invited from those in attendance. Lisa Wolf felt the level of interest and participation would be higher if jurisdiction of the Town Board was expanded beyond the boundaries of Crescent Valley, to include Beowawe and the entire area. Chairman Goicoechea replied that Town Boards are defined in statute, so this likely wouldn't be possible unless the Commission set up an informal committee and he was not in favor of this approach. He added that the citizens now have the benefit of the interactive video and the quarterly meetings, neither of which were available when the Town Board was first formed.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned that the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board conduct a survey or questionnaire notifying the citizens of Crescent Valley that only one person has filed and asking the citizens what they want to do regarding the future of the CVTAB, specifically whether they would be in favor of sunseting the Town Board effective January 1, 2015. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation & Economic Development Act: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, prepared a response to the discussion draft of the Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation & Economic Development Act, the legislation proposed by Senator Dean Heller and Senator Harry Reid. Mr. Tibbitts noted this is a positive letter, stating that Eureka County appreciates the effort in trying to address the sage grouse issue, but that focus should be on streamlining the ability to actively and adaptively manage our landscapes in a way that brings management closer to home and protects multiple use and pre-existing rights. Portions of the Master Plan and Eureka County Code are referenced in the letter.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to send the letter to Senator Heller and Senator Reid in response to the Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation & Economic Development Act; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Goicoechea added his appreciation for the Senators' attempts to find a legislative fix to this huge problem, but didn't feel this approach was right for the sage grouse, the habitat, or the rural economies of Nevada.

Consider Response to BLM Actions: Mr. Tibbitts stated he placed this item on the agenda to discuss and consider a response regarding efforts of the BLM to impose grazing restrictions and gather unpermitted cattle in Nevada, including law enforcement issues. It was prompted by the Bundy gather, but it was not an attempt to debate whether or not Mr. Bundy has the right to graze cattle without a permit and other related issues. It was to discuss the tenuous times that Eureka County and the State are facing with the uses of federal lands under attack.

Mr. Tibbitts continued that there are four main points that are ongoing, that have been brought to the forefront with this gather: (1) there are valid existing rights on federally administered lands that are being impaired and are not being recognized; (2) there has been a general failure on the part of the federal land management agencies to meet their own obligations, while at the same time imposing heavy-handed restrictions on other uses; (3) there is concern over the BLM exercising law enforcement authority, as demonstrated in the closure of non-BLM roads; and (4) there is concern regarding the overall culture of conflict within the federal land management agencies, rather than working with the users to find solutions and create working relationships.

In support of the 4<sup>th</sup> point, Mr. Tibbitts cited a Natural Resource Advisory Commission meeting where the District Manager of the Battle Mountain District BLM participated by telephone. The following day Mr. Tibbitts sent an email thanking him for attending and stating the desire to work towards solutions. The response email received from the District Manager had some worrisome comments including, "... *the culture of resistance needs to change,*" and "...*they all need to be progressive; if they did they'd never get an adverse grazing decision from my*

office,” and most troubling, “...as for the wild horses, dealing with them is a choice they made when they bought or leased the ranch.”

Regarding the issue at hand, Mr. Tibbitts did not recommend taking action today. Although it is not over, the situation has been diffused for now with the BLM turning the cattle back out. Rather, Mr. Tibbitts feels the Board needs to develop a response that focuses on what's best for the resource and what's best for the rights that exist on the public lands. Something should be drafted and presented to the congressional delegation and the Director of the BLM in Washington, DC.

Chairman Goicoechea agreed, stating that the economic base in the rural counties is eroding for the very reasons outlined by Mr. Tibbitts. The Chairman has a meeting at the State BLM Office on April 17<sup>th</sup> and these issues will be discussed. He is fearful that in 10-20 years Eureka County will be facing the same type of situation that occurred in Southern Nevada, but it will be over the sage grouse. He agreed that the County should work over the next several weeks to draft the letter recommended by Mr. Tibbitts.

Public Comments; Chairman Goicoechea invited comments on the issue being discussed. Undersheriff Keith Logan stated that on behalf of himself and Sheriff Jones, the Eureka County Sheriff's Office takes the position that federal law enforcement, and the BLM specifically, is not recognized in Nevada Revised Statutes. They do not have the authority to close local roads and the ECSO would not allow it to happen. Undersheriff Logan added that he received a call from the Ely District BLM to “check the temperature” of Eureka County on what was taking place in Clark County, and Mr. Logan quickly explained to him that nobody was impressed with how they were handling the situation.

George Parman of Eureka stated he was very concerned over the gather and how the BLM had advanced the situation into a ‘police state’ limiting where citizens could engage in free speech and limiting firearms in the area even though they were all fully armed.

Angie Black of Crescent Valley commented that similar gathers had happened in the past, for instance with the Dann family, and it had not risen to the level and garnered the national attention that the Bundy gather has.

Chairman Goicoechea responded that one of the main differences is that the BLM blocked access to 1200 square miles of public lands, which has not been the case in other gathers. This gather was done under a court order, and Eureka County does not yet have all the information on the basis for that decision.

George Parman added that up until the time of the Inger Casey cattle gather in Winnemucca, all gathers were conducted without a court order, wherein the BLM acted as court, jury, and prosecutor.

Kim Russell of Eureka commented that ever since the spotted owl debacle in Oregon and Washington, it seems like elected officials in Washington, DC, have used endangered species across the west to take control of land. She feels Eureka County may be facing it a lot sooner than 20 years in the future.

Chairman Goicoechea agreed, stating that environmental groups are very successful at suing federal agencies and getting a court order that forces a decision date on species they have petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. That is exactly the reason for the push on the sage grouse – the court ordered deadline is next fall and a determination will be made.

There were no further public comments.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Eureka Fire Department: A written report was submitted by Chief Dan Brown for the quarter ending March 31, 2014. Eureka Volunteer Fire Department responded to four calls consisting of a patient assist, oven fire at a residence, and two automobile accidents. Training

was done on hydrants, ladders, hoses, ventilation tools, and on rescue truck operations including controls, tools, and pump. SCBA donning, refills, and fittings were done.

Crescent Valley Fire Department: Chief Rick Harding provided a written report for the quarter. Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department responded to two calls consisting of a patient assist and a false alarm. There are currently 12 members and one applicant member. Training consisted of firefighter safety training and PPE usage, SCBA donning and usage; familiarization with the town hydrant system, engine pumping operations, and structure fire behavior.

### **EUREKA COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY REPORT**

Detention Facility: Undersheriff Keith Logan reported that the Detention Facility had 19 inmates and 160 inmate days for the quarter. The facility is in good condition and there are no issues to report. A patrol statistics report was included, showing a total of 2,185 incidents for the quarter. This includes calls, traffic stops, citations, accidents, criminal offenses, animal calls, registration checks, etc.

### **JUSTICE COURT QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Eureka Justice Court: Eureka Justice Court collected a total of \$392.25 in court fees for the quarter.

Beowawe Justice Court: Beowawe Justice Court collected a total of \$87.75 in court fees for the quarter.

### **CLERK & TREASURER QUARTERLY REPORT**

Clerk Quarterly Report: A written report was submitted by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley. Clerk and court fees collected for the quarter totaled \$2,687.83.

### **EUREKA COUNTY TELEVISION DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT**

Quarterly Report: A written report was submitted by Dave Pastorino, President of the Television District, and Department Assistant, Annie Kniefel. Members attended a meeting of all Nevada Television Districts on February 24<sup>th</sup> in Elko. As-built drawings were received for the Tank Hill Improvement Project which completes the work at that site. The Television District entered into a joint agreement with Eureka County and Midway Gold Corporation to provide rack and tower space needed to provide phone and internet service to the Pan Mine site.

### **MEDICAL PROVIDER QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Nevada Health Centers, Inc.: Nevada Health Centers submitted an update on the Eureka and Crescent Valley Clinics. Patient visits for the quarter were 711 in Eureka and 260 in Crescent Valley. Blood lead level testing began at the Eureka Clinic last October; to date seven patients have been screened. Dr. Michael Wells, DO, began his employment with Nevada Health Centers on March 5<sup>th</sup> and began seeing patients at the Eureka Clinic on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Nicola Bain, APRN, ended her locum tenen assignment on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Three Eureka providers will now rotate to provide coverage at the Crescent Valley Clinic.

Rehab Services of Nevada: A written report was received from Greg Barker, Physical Therapist and Director of Rehab Services of Nevada. There were 24 clinic days and 124 patient visits in Eureka for the quarter.

Clay Poplin, LCSW, LLC: Clay Poplin, LCSW, reported that he had 12 clinic days and 60 client sessions (with 70 individuals) for the quarter.

Eureka Dental Care: Dan Norris, DDS, submitted the following statistics for Eureka Dental Care: there were 41 clinic days and 311 patient visits for the quarter. Dr. Norris receives no County subsidy for his services. He has a lease agreement with the County for space at the Eureka Medical Clinic.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Bruce Branscomb; Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg (2); Eureka County 4-H Program; Economic Development Program (2); Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (3); Nevada Northern Railway Museum; White Pine County Commission; Allison, MacKenzie, Pavlakis, Wright & Fagan; NV Energy; Nevada 150 Foundation; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Pool/PACT; Nevada Colorado River Commission; Nevada Connections newsletter; and USDA Forest Service & USDI BLM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. Lisa Wolf thanked Melanie Lawson of Barrick Gold for stepping forward and participating on the Working Committee for the Crescent Valley Community Development Plan, and she also thanked Dawn Gann for her energy and ideas on this project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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 April 15, 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