

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 19, 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 September 19, 2014. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Jim Ithurralde; Commissioner Michael Sharkozy; District Attorney Ted Beutel; 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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Abby Johnson noted that the Town of Eureka was founded on September 19, 1864, making it exactly 150 years old to the day! Ms. Johnson is working on an article for the next edition of the *Plain Talk* newsletter commemorating this anniversary. Ms. Johnson joked that there were rumors that “Happy Birthday” might be sung; the Commissioners obliged by leading a round of “Happy Birthday to Eureka.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 5, 2014, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2014, 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 \$128,044.23 for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 accounts payable, \$158,876.00 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 accounts payable, \$297,646.12 for payroll, and \$647,112.41 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, for a grand total of \$1,231,678.76; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. *(Note: Vouchers totaling \$120,941.22 for certain tax refunds were held and paid later in the day following information provided by Assessor Michael Mears. This brought the expenditure grand total to \$1,355,178.14).*

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve Yucca Mountain expenditures in the amount of \$2,558.16; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Auditor’s Report: The Board reviewed the Auditor’s Report showing current fund balances.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification: A Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification form was submitted by Senior Center Site Director, Adell Panning, seeking to fill the Crescent Valley Social Activities Coordinator casual position. All Board members felt the position was necessary to complete budgeted activities for the remainder year, but will reconsider options during budget talks for the next fiscal year. This position is currently budgeted at up to 19 hours per week. In light of budget constraints, the Chairman directed Ms. Panning to complete the planned events utilizing the minimum number of hours possible.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and to authorize hiring the casual position, Crescent Valley Social Activities Coordinator; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. This job opening will be posted in compliance with the Eureka County Personnel Policy Manual.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: Chairman Goicoechea has had several meetings of the Nevada Land Action Association (on September 9th, 15th, and 19th), as well as multiple phone calls with attorneys and declarants, regarding an appeal of the Battle Mountain BLM decision related to the Argenta Allotment utilizing the Drought Management EA for justification. The Chairman also attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on September 10th; toured Midway Gold’s Pan Project with other County and fire representatives as an of emergency services reconnaissance tour; and met with US Environmental Protection Agency and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection representatives on September 18th.

Chairman Goicoechea commented on the power line extension being installed to provide power to Midway Gold. The line has already been routed around sensitive sage grouse areas and is now facing another re-route due to issues with the pygmy rabbit. The line is literally visible from the substation pad located at the minesite. This delay will result in an exorbitant cost for the mine to provide interim power; they estimate nearly a half million in power generation costs to complete their first gold pour. This serves as another example of agencies and unreasonable regulations causing harm to companies with a ripple effect to communities, employees, local governments, and others.

Commissioner Sharkozy attended a Search & Rescue meeting in Crescent Valley on September 8th; attended a Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on September 9th; visited the site of the biochar pyrolysis machine in Diamond Valley on September 16th; and attended the Senior Center Advisory Board meeting via interactive video from Crescent Valley on September 17th.

Commissioner Ithurralde participated in a teleconference with Commissioners of White Pine and Lincoln Counties and NACO staff to discuss the Annual NACO Conference which is co-sponsored by Eureka County; attended the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority meeting in Lovelock on September 12th; visited the biochar site in Diamond Valley on September 18th; and attended a Recreation Board meeting on the evening of September 18th.

Commissioner Ithurralde thanked Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg, for her input which allowed him to supply the accepted theme for this year’s NACO Conference: “*Nevada Counties Working Together to Honor the Past, Secure the Present, and Shape the Future.*” The next Central Nevada Regional Water Authority meeting will be on December 12th in Reno and will include presentations from other western states on their water future strategy plans, with the hopes that Nevada officials and legislators will attend and discuss whether Nevada should implement a water future strategy program. Commissioner Ithurralde will work with the District Attorney to bring forward a Recreation Board resolution; in researching County records and past minutes, a resolution establishing the Recreation Board (around 1968-1969) and outlining its duties could not be found.

Freedom from Workplace Bullies Proclamation: The Nevada Healthy Workplace Advocate contacted Eureka County as they are encouraging all counties and cities to proclaim October 19th-25th as “Freedom from Workplace Bullies Week.” Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to adopt the proclamation declaring October 19-25, 2014, as “Freedom from Workplace Bullies Week.” Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

<i>Eureka, Nevada</i>	<i>September 19, 2014</i>
A PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	

WHEREAS, the County of Eureka has an interest in promoting the social and economic well-being of its citizens, employees, and employers; and

WHEREAS, that well-being depends upon the existence of healthy and productive employees working in safe and abuse free work environments; and

WHEREAS, research has documented the stress related health consequences for individuals caused by exposure to abusive work environments; and

WHEREAS, abusive work environments are costly for employers, with consequences including reduced productivity, absenteeism, turnover, and injuries; and

WHEREAS, protection from abusive work environments should apply to every worker, and not be limited to legally protected class status based only on race, color, gender, national origin, age, or disability;

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Board of Eureka County Commissioners do hereby proclaim October 19-25, 2014, as FREEDOM FROM WORKPLACE BULLIES WEEK, and comment he Workplace Bullying Institute which raises awareness of the impacts of, and solutions for, workplace bullying in the US; and encourage all citizens to recognize this special observance.

HEREBY PROCLAIMED this 19th day of September, 2014.

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

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ J.P. Ithurrealde

J.P. "Jim" Ithurrealde, Vice Chairman

/s/ Michael Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy, Member

Attest: */s/ Beverly Conley*

Beverly Conley, Eureka County Clerk

Consulting Hydrogeologist Contract: A proposal was submitted by Dale Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, outlining tasks completed and a scope of work for a one-year contract extension. Mr. Bugenig explained the proposed amount was more than a 20% reduction over the previous year's contract, which had been reduced by 15% from prior years. Mr. Bugenig felt he could reduce his contract for two reasons: first, as a time and materials contract, he will only be paid for those tasks assigned which leaves the County in control of how much is expended; and second, he has become quite familiar with water issues in Eureka County resulting in improved efficiency when completing tasks.

The Commissioners commented on how pleased they have been with Mr. Bugenig's work and noted the importance of water and water issues in Eureka County. Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to approve a one-year contract extension with Dale C. Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Assistance for Counseling: Pursuant to Eureka County Code, Title 11, Chapter 30, Eureka County must provide financial assistance, limited to 1,000.00, for counseling of crime victims if an affidavit meeting the criteria is submitted. An affidavit was received by the District Attorney's office and the information was forwarded to the Commissioners; the name of the victim was withheld due to the age of the individual. Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to approve the application of an individual for financial assistance for counseling pursuant to

Eureka County Code, Title 11, Chapter 30, not to exceed \$1,000.00; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Change in Meeting Date: Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to change the November 20th meeting to November 21, 2014, in order to accommodate the Annual NACO Conference scheduled for November 19th-21st; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Activity Report: EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, reported on emergency services since his last update. Eureka had 11 calls for service (91 year-to-date) and Crescent Valley had four calls for service (40 year-to-date). Continuing education training was held in Eureka on August 25th and September 8th and in Crescent Valley on August 21st and September 18th. Upcoming classes are scheduled in Eureka on September 29th and in Crescent Valley on September 25th.

Mr. Sullivan reported on the following activities: he provided training to School District personnel on use of the EpiPen® auto injector on August 21st; attended Nevada Pool/PACT's FRISK (facts, rule, impact, suggestions, and knowledge) Documentation Model training on September 9th in Eureka; attended the 23rd Annual Rural Nevada EMS Conference in Elko on September 12th-13th; participated in a Traffic Incident Management training course on September 16th; and conducted 12-lead EKG training classes in both Crescent Valley and Eureka.

EMSC Grant Application: Mr. Sullivan sought authorization to apply for a grant from the State EMS Program to purchase equipment and supplies for the MPTV (multi-patient transport vehicle). This will require an in-kind match from the County in the form of demonstrations and information provided to other localities that may be interested in acquiring a multi-patient transport vehicle. This will involve a minimal amount of travel for the MPTV and the only cost involved will be fuel for the vehicle.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve submitting an application for a \$10,000.00 EMSC Grant (emergency medical services for children) to the State Emergency Medical Services Program to purchase medical related equipment and supplies for the multi-patient transport vehicle; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Update on Yucca Mountain Activities: Nuclear Waste Advisor, Abby Johnson, provided an update on Yucca Mountain activities. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently amended their waste confidence rule to state that nuclear waste can be stored indefinitely in above ground containers. This amended waste confidence rule means that the NRC is no longer relying on the Yucca Mountain repository as a permanent storage facility. Two documents related to the nuclear licensing application will soon be released by the NRC: the Safety Evaluation Report and an update to the EIS (environmental impact statement). Although the Department of Energy no longer supports the licensing process, a 2013 US Court of Appeals decision dictates that earmarked monies be spent on the licensing process, which encompasses completion of these reports. Once released, the reports will be reviewed by licensing attorney, Diane Curran.

Transportation Advisor, Rick Moore, continues monitoring transportation issues. He will attend a Western Interstate Energy Board High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee meeting at Lake Tahoe on October 8th-9th. Ms. Johnson will attend a portion of this meeting.

Lastly, the Department of Energy is considering a planning effort to look at transportation of nuclear waste from temporary storage sites. The transportation issue was neglected during initial nuclear waste storage plans, so many feel this is a positive step.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE & JUVENILE PROBATION

Out-of-State Travel: Undersheriff Keith Logan explained that he was approached by Juvenile Probation Senior Department Assistant, Joyce Jeppesen, regarding sending someone to training for the Youth-to-Youth International program. This program focuses on drug prevention, youth leadership, and peer pressure issues for middle school and high school students. The travel and training will be paid entirely by the PACE Coalition. (PACE stands for Partners Allied for Community Excellence). Pursuant to the County policy, Undersheriff Logan asked for approval for out-of-state travel.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to authorize out-of-state travel for Deputy Sheriff Jeri Sanders to attend the National Adult Advisory Training for Youth-to-Youth Advocate Groups in Scottsdale, Arizona, on October 9th-11th; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Airport Runway Lighting Replacement Project: This project is funded with a Federal Aviation Administration grant and the bid was awarded to Mesquite Electric, LLC. Work will begin in two weeks and will take approximately 30 days.

Robins Street Improvements & Utility Upgrades Project: The contractor is removing all equipment from the site and the landfill and conducting final cleanup. The Notice of Completion was issued on August 29th for the Robins Street Project.

Swimming Pool Energy Efficiency Upgrade: The Swimming Pool will be closed for about three weeks, beginning September 29th, while the diesel boilers are replaced with an electric boiler. This should provide a substantial reduction in utility costs for the pool.

Courthouse HVAC Project: The design for the Courthouse HVAC is nearly complete and will be submitted to a third party for design review.

Crescent Valley Town Park: The valves and controllers for the sprinkler system at the Crescent Valley Town Park have been replaced in an effort to salvage the existing system. Mr. Damele urged the Board to consider reducing the footprint of the grass at this park since water costs in Crescent Valley are high due to the arsenic treatment plant.

Firefighter Training: The Beowawe and Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Departments have expressed an interest in some additional training, so entry level firefighter training, extrication training, and SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) fit tests will be scheduled for this fall and winter.

Joint Water Conservation Plan: Mr. Damele explained that municipal water systems are required to update their water plan every five years. The joint plan for water systems in Eureka County has been accepted by the Division of Water Resources, and earlier in the day was accepted by the Board of Directors for the Devil's Gate GID. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to accept the updated Water Conservation Plan for the Town of Eureka Water System, Devil's Gate GID District 1 & 2, and Crescent Valley Town Water System; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Water Conservation Plan Resolution: Mr. Damele submitted a resolution adopting the plan. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the resolution adopting the Joint Water Conservation Plan for the Town of Eureka Water System, Devil's Gate GID District 1 & 2, and Crescent Valley Town Water System; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

September 19, 2014

RESOLUTION

TO ADOPT A JOINT WATER CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF EUREKA WATER SYSTEM, DEVIL'S GATE GID DISTRICT #1 AND DISTRICT #2, AND CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN WATER SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wish to adopt a joint water conservation plan for the Town of Eureka, Devil's Gate GID District #1 & #2, and the Town of Crescent Valley; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is dedicated to promoting water conservation through public outreach, customer education and responsible stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the water conservation plan will be provided to customers of Eureka County water systems in an effort to increase public awareness of the limited supply of water in Nevada and the need to conserve water; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County has programs in place to identify and reduce water system leakage, inaccuracies in water meters and to monitor distribution system pressures; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County acts immediately to repair leaks as soon as they are identified and water operators check each system twice a day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Eureka County Commissioners, who are also the Board of Directors of the Devil's Gate GID, that:

1. The joint water conservation plan for the Town of Eureka, Devil's Gate GID District #1 & #2, and the Crescent Valley Town be adopted.
2. The joint water conservation plan be available and distributed to users in the Town of Eureka, Devil's Gate GID District #1 & #2, and Crescent Valley Town water systems.

Adopted this 19th day of September, 2014.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea
Chairman, Eureka County Commissioners
Vice Chair, Devil's Gate GID Board

/s/ J.P. Ithurralde

J.P. "Jim" Ithurralde
Vice Chairman, Eureka County Commissioners
Chairman, Devil's Gate GID Board

/s/ Michael Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy
Member, Eureka County Commissioners
Member, Devil's Gate GID Board

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant

CLERK & TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for August was submitted by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley. Ending balance for the month was \$52,317,609.50.

NEVADA DIVISION OF PUBLIC & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Presentation on Environmental Health Services: Cynthia Ulch, Supervisor for Environmental Health, a section of the Nevada State Division of Public & Behavioral Health, gave an overview of regulatory facilities in Eureka County, including how fees for those facilities are assessed to the County. Regulated categories in the State include: food establishments, residential septic systems, septic tank pumpers, public bathing places, recreation vehicle parks, mass gatherings, schools, institutions, jails, conservation/labor camps, drug and cosmetic manufacturers, and truck wrecks.

A total of 31 facilities/activities are monitored in Eureka County; 22 of those are restaurants or bars and 9 are other activities. Fees assessed to the counties are calculated by

adding up all mandated inspections and dividing costs respectively among the regulated counties. Eureka County's assessment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 is \$8,254.00. Most facilities are inspected once a year, but some require two inspections per year. When a critical violation is found a follow-up inspection will be conducted. These extra inspections are not calculated in the assessment.

US EPA & NDEP

Lead & Arsenic Cleanup in Eureka: Representatives of the US Environmental Protection Agency and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection were present to provide an update on the lead and arsenic cleanup in the Town of Eureka. Those present were Jeff Collins (NDEP), Greg Lovato (NDEP) Tom Dunkelman (EPA), and Sarah Cafasso (EPA).

A total of 26 residential properties were cleaned up this year, bringing the grand total to 43 properties cleaned over two years. Over 200 properties have been tested in the two year period. In addition to the 43 cleaned properties, 15 additional properties have tested higher than the acceptable limits for either lead or arsenic. Funding has been exhausted for this project, but the EPA hopes to attain additional funding to return an additional year to complete these qualifying properties.

Engineering Evaluation & Cost Analysis: In the meantime, work continues on the EE/CA (engineering evaluation & cost analysis). This analysis serves to provide long-term options on how to minimize exposure from the slag piles, former smelter sites, and other areas of contamination that remain in the townsite. The EE/CA will take approximately six to nine months to complete, so a draft can be expected sometime after the new year. As part of the EE/CA, a CRP (community relations plan) will be written. There will be opportunities for the community and the County to provide input into this plan.

Chairman Goicoechea stated that in order to provide meaningful input, the County is interested in forming an advisory group of community members and County representatives. This item will be placed on the next Commission agenda for consideration.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. Mr. Tibbitts attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on September 10th; met on September 11th with representatives of the Dean Ranch who are partnering on some upcoming noxious weed treatments; and met on September 15th with members of the Duckwater Tribe who are conducting cultural surveys in the pinyon-juniper thinning areas.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Barrick Ruby Hill Community Advisory Committee meeting on September 23rd; a Eureka Conservation District meeting on September 24th; a Crescent Valley Firewise Committee meeting the evening of September 24th; a Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee meeting in Round Mountain on September 25th; and a meeting on September 26th between the BLM, the County, and affected permittees over the Willow Creek Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure.

Biochar Field Study & Demonstration Project: The biochar pyrolysis unit is on site in Diamond Valley to convert the pinyon-juniper chips into biochar. Production got off to a rough start. A new electric motor and auger had to be installed, but the machine is now running.

Frazier Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure: In August, a determination was made by the BLM to reopen portions of the JD & Roberts Mountain Allotments that were closed in December 2012 by the Frazier Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure decision. These allotments are grazed by the Diamond Cattle Company. Although notification states that portions will be reopened with the purpose of targeting dominations of cheat grass, it also states that livestock numbers will be greatly reduced due to current drought conditions. Mr. Tibbitts commented that it is contradictory to cite drought conditions since forage on these allotments is

tremendous. Additionally, if cheat grass is to be targeted it is counterproductive to reduce livestock numbers.

Response from BLM on Water Protest: Earlier in the month, the Commissioners sent a letter to Battle Mountain BLM regarding a BLM protest lodged against stockwater application 83902 filed by the Bailey Family Trust. The letter identified errors in the BLM's protest points.

A response letter was recently received from the BLM noting they will withdraw their protest but contending their files don't show authorization for development of the water. Mr. Tibbitts noted the water is an old oil exploration shot hole and was in existence prior to the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

State Engineer Ruling 6290: The State Engineer ruling on water rights for two ranches in northern Diamond Valley is being appealed by both parties: Sadler Ranch, LLC, and Daniel S. Venturacci.

Battle Mountain BLM Drought Management EA: At the last meeting, the Board discussed the BLM's decision on the Argenta Allotment. The BLM utilized the Drought Management EA to justify their action. Affected parties are pursuing legal action and the Board asked Mr. Tibbitts to bring forth a recommendation from the Natural Resources Advisory Commission regarding County support against the BLM's action. Chairman Goicoechea recused himself from this portion of the meeting, as he is the President of Nevada Land Action Association which is appealing the BLM's decision. The meeting was turned over to Vice Chairman Ithurralde.

Mr. Tibbitts reported that at NRAC's September 10th meeting, they voted to fund \$5,000.00 from their budget to support the technical and scientific aspect of challenging the BLM. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to support the legal challenge of the Battle Mountain BLM's Drought Management EA by contributing funding from NRAC's budget towards technical/science aspects; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Resolution Designating Title III Funds; Each year the County adopts a resolution outlining the spending plan for Title III funds received through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. One of the areas supported by these funds is creation and continuation of Firewise Communities. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to adopt a resolution obligating the 2014 Title III funds through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka County, Nevada

September 19, 2014

**RESOLUTION OF THE EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOCUMENTING OBLIGATION OF FUNDS UNDER TITLE III OF THE
SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF DETERMINATION ACT**

WHEREAS, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 ("SRS") was amended and re-authorized for FFY 2008-2012 and each FY since; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County elected to receive Title III funds from SRS which provides for county projects, some of which are associated with federal lands, with Title III authorizing expenditures for search, rescue and emergency services, fire prevention and planning under the Firewise Communities, USA program, and development of community wildfire protection plans; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County supported the implementation of the Firewise Communities, USA program in the County as means to expend Title III funds; and

WHEREAS, two officially recognized Firewise Communities, Crescent Valley/Beowawe and Eureka/Diamond Valley, were established within the County with County support in order to carry out activities and projects using funds from Title III of SRS and these Communities continue to be the only two currently officially recognized Firewise Communities in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, SRS contains a deadline for a county to obligate Title III funds as September 30, 2014. This deadline applies FY 2014 funding and a county's obligation of Title III funds must be documented; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 amended and re-authorized, hereby documents obligation of outstanding FFY 2014 Title III funds of \$10,170.72 as follows:

1. Not to exceed \$2,000.00; purchase and provide educational materials, through mass mailings (including

postage), to all Eureka County residences each year through 2018 to educate and promote effective practices to prevent or reduce the impact of wildland-urban interface (WUI) fires to home, lives, and property.

2. Not to exceed \$10,000.00; plan, fund, and implement hazardous fuels reduction around homes, in the home ignition zone, within Eureka County through 2018.
3. Not to exceed \$5,000.00; plan, fund, and implement wildfire awareness events including in conjunction with Nevada Wildfire Awareness Week each year through 2018. This will include the purchase of all materials, tools, displays, food, and give-away items.
4. Not to exceed \$2,000.00; make Firewise and wildfire awareness information available at community events through 2018 (e.g. County Fair, Farmer's Market, 4th of July). This will include the purchase and outfit of a cargo trailer for the purpose of storing, transporting, and displaying Firewise and wildfire education materials at community events.
5. Not to exceed \$2,000.00; hold Firewise educational workshops for homeowners in Eureka County each year through 2018. This will include the purchase of all materials, tools, displays, food, and give-away items.
6. Not to exceed \$10,000.00; assist Eureka County communities with Firewise planning, including conducting Firewise community and individual home assessments. A contractor will be funded to conduct the community and individual home assessments, enter the assessment data into a geo-database, and assist with community and homeowner outreach based on the results.
7. Not to exceed \$2,000.00; host clean-up days each year through 2018 to encourage homeowners to remove vegetation and other fire hazard materials from around their homes. This will include the purchase of all materials, tools, and labor necessary.
8. Not to exceed \$1,000.00; assist currently recognized Firewise Communities with applications for continued Firewise Communities recognition each year through 2018.
9. Not to exceed \$5,000.00; fund administrative oversight, support, and assistance, through the Eureka County Department of Natural Resources, of all the above items, through 2018.

Passed and adopted 19th day of September, 2014.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea, Chair
Eureka County Board of Commissioners

/s/ Jim Ithurralde

Jim Ithurralde, Vice Chairman

/s/ Michael Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy, Member

ATTEST: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Executive Assistant

EUREKA COUNTY ASSESSOR

Change in Assessed Valuation – Accounts TC004 & TC006: County Assessor, Michael Mears, explained in detail a recent change in valuation for two personal property tax accounts: AT&T Communications (TC004) and Nevada Bell (TC006). Assessors across the State recently learned of a change in statute that occurred in the 2009 Legislative Session that allows for local assessment (versus central assessment) of telecommunications companies that are involved in any level of video broadcasting.

Following enactment of the legislation, the Nevada Department of Taxation began a review to determine which companies were affected for Fiscal Years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Three accounts in Eureka County were affected – the two previously mentioned and Level 3 Communications. Central assessment is done by the Department of Taxation, so the counties essentially inherited assessment of these accounts with this new legislation. Central assessment and local assessment are based on completely different formulas. The Department of Taxation provided no real direction on how these properties should be assessed, but *suggested* they be treated as real property fixtures. Some counties chose to follow the suggestion; others chose to follow guidance provided in the handbook written by the Department of Taxation and approved by the Nevada Tax Commission; and others chose a

different method altogether. Each method has a different depreciation schedule, which caused a huge variation in valuation.

Eureka County chose to follow the suggestion from the Department of Taxation. This has been appealed to the State Board of Equalization by two of the three affected companies, since this method tripled or quadrupled the assessed value. The third company was not greatly affected since their equipment is newer and therefore falls earlier in the depreciation process.

In speaking with representatives of the appellant companies as well as other Assessors throughout the state, Mr. Mears has come to the conclusion that the properties in question are extremely over-valued and believes the Board of Equalization will rule in favor of the appellants. He has agreed to make an immediate refund and has signed a stipulated agreement with the companies that no interest will be sought in addition to the refunded monies. Several counties are taking this approach, while others are awaiting a ruling from the State Board of Equalization, which meets on October 9th-10th.

All 17 counties are also being appealed to the Nevada Tax Commission by the telecommunications companies affected because no abatements were considered by any of the Nevada counties since these properties were not on the locally assessed tax rolls prior to the years in question and therefore had no established value on local rolls.

Approval of Refunds: Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the personal property tax account refunds for Account TC004, AT&T Communications, in the amount of \$40,663.80; and Account TC006, Nevada Bell Telephone Company, in the amount of \$80,277.42. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The refunded amount will be apportioned from all affected tax recipients which includes a substantial allocation received by the School District.

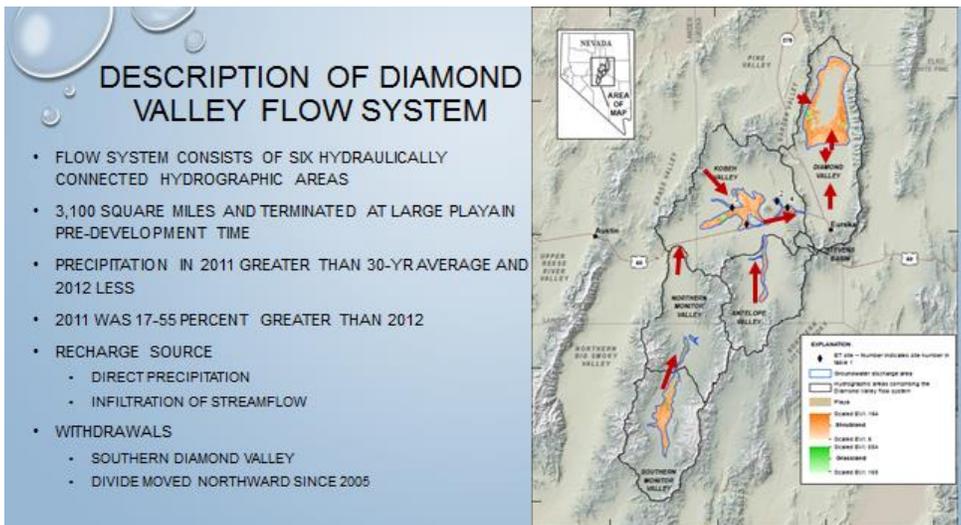
US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Presentation on Diamond Valley Flow System: Dave Berger, Associate Director of the Nevada Water Science Center with the US Geological Survey, was in attendance to present an overview of the Diamond Valley Flow System Study.

Background of Study & Reports: This is Phase 3 of a phased study that began in 2005. The main objective of the study was to identify water quality and quantity in the basins that make up the Diamond Valley Flow System. Two reports have been produced so far. The first report was a conceptual model of the flow system. The second report was a data report. This third report will be a cumulation of all studies and a look at water budgets. Authors of the Phase 3 report were credited: Dave Berger; Justin Mayers, Amanda Garcia, Susan Buto, and Jena Huntington.

Format of Phase 3 Report: The Phase 3 report, which is currently in draft form, includes: an introduction, an abstract, appendices and sections on the following topics: hydrologic setting, characterization of groundwater quality, estimation of groundwater budget components, and groundwater budgets. The appendices contain information on the following: water quality data, instrumentation and data correction and processing, satellite imagery evaluation and processing, and description of spatial datasets.

Description of Diamond Valley Flow System: The flow system consists of six hydraulically connected hydrographic areas (Southern Monitor Valley, Northern Monitor Valley, Antelope Valley, Kobeh Valley, Stevens Basin, and Diamond Valley). The report talks about inflow, outflow, discharge, recharge, precipitation, and interbasin flow. Discharge results from evapotranspiration and net groundwater withdrawals. The greatest recharge is derived from cool season precipitation. Mr. Berger explained methodology used in arriving at inflow and outflow estimates, which is well documented in the report.



Characterization of Groundwater Quality: Groundwater quality is based on 14 springs and 76 well samples. The water was found to be within acceptable drinking water standards.

Groundwater Budgets: The report includes groundwater budget estimates, both pre-development and current. It explains the methods for determining these estimates. It was noted that precipitation in 2011 was greater than the 30 year average, but precipitation in 2012 was less than the 30 year average.

ANNUAL GROUNDWATER BUDGET

Hydrographic Area	Outflow		Inflow	
	Pre-development	Current (2010-2012)	Pre-development	Current (2010-2012)
Southern Monitor Valley	13,000	14,000	13,000	13,000
Northern Monitor Valley	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Antelope Valley	4,700	5,100	4,700	4,700
Kobeh Valley	17,000	18,000	17,000	17,000
Stevens Basin	200	200	200	200
Diamond Valley	34,000	100,000	34,000	34,000

ANNUAL GROUNDWATER BUDGET—2010-2012

Hydrographic Area	Inflow	Outflow	Imbalance	Storage Change
Southern Monitor Valley	13,000	14,000	1,000	550
Northern Monitor Valley	6,500	6,500	0	0
Antelope Valley	4,700	5,100	400	420
Kobeh Valley	17,000	18,000	1,000	600
Stevens Basin	200	200	0	0
Diamond Valley	34,000	100,000	66,000	67,000
Diamond Valley Flow System	70,000	139,000	69,000	69,000

Individual HAs include interbasin flow estimates; rounded to 2 significant figures.
 Flow system total includes 61,000 ACFT/YR recharge and 9,000 ACFT/YR inflow from Garden Valley; rounded to 1,000 ACFT/YR

Final Report: The draft report will go through a specialist and technical review process and then will be submitted to Enterprise Publishing. No major changes are expected from the draft report to the final version.

Questions & Comments: Several questions regarding the presentation were asked. Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig, commented that major springs in Diamond Valley, which are part of the groundwater discharge, have ceased to flow, but this doesn't seem to be reflected in the numbers provided in the report. Decreased phreatophytes also support the declining water levels.

Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, noted that the current annual groundwater budget for Diamond Valley is shown to be 34,000 acre feet, but pointed out that the USGS states its own margin for error to be close to 6,000 acre feet, meaning the true number could be closer to 28,000 acre feet. Mr. Berger agreed and promised to consult the other experts regarding some of the questions and comments.

Joint Funding Agreement with USGS: Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to approve the Joint Funding Agreement with US Geological Survey for the Diamond Valley Flow System Study to extend the period of performance to facilitate completion of report review and publication, at no additional cost to Eureka County. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:05 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

COUNTY FACILITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Request to Purchase Mini Train: Economic Development Department Assistant, Cindy Beutel, presented a request to purchase a mini train to be used at County events. The original request was for the County and Recreation Board to share the \$15,000.00 cost by providing \$7,500.00 each. Ms. Beutel revised the request to simply ask the County to provide maintenance and storage for the train. She felt donations could be raised and advertising could be sold to supplement the portion received from the Recreation Board.

Chairman Goicoechea commented that in keeping with the department's objective of economic development, this venture was more suited to a private enterprise and he encouraged her to explore this possibility. Additionally, the Board felt that the County didn't have enough activities to justify purchase of the train.

Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to deny the request for the County to participate financially or otherwise in the purchase, maintenance, and storage of a mini train for County events; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Update on 2014 Eureka County Fair: Department Assistant, Anne Kniefel, provided information on expenses and revenues for the 2014 Eureka County Fair. Total expenses were \$91,147.42 and total revenues were \$30,992.00. In comparison to the 2013 Fair, this is \$10,000.00 less in expenses and \$6,000.00 more in revenues. In comparison to the 2012 Fair, spending was down \$45,000.00. Ms. Kniefel credited this to the dedicated work of the Fair Board.

The Commissioners agreed that the County Fair will likely never pay for itself, but concurred it is a huge draw that brings people to the community who in turn spend money at restaurants, motels, gas stations, etc. The Commissioners encouraged the Fair Board to continue working on closing the gap between expenses and revenues, and suggested that fees could be charged for certain activities. For instance, vendors that are a substantial cost to the County could be retained at a lesser cost by having the vendor charge customers a fee for their services or activities.

The Commissioners commended Ms. Kniefel and the Fair Board for their hard work in putting on the Fair and for substantially reducing the overall costs.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel (3); County Assessor, Michael Mears (2); Public Works, Ron Damele; Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg (3); Eureka County Economic Development Program; Eureka County Planning Commission; Eureka County Recreation Board; Eureka County Fair Board; MolyBits Messenger; Nona Kellerman; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Seventh Judicial District Court, Judge Steve Dobrescu; White Pine County Commission (2); Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig; Allison, MacKenzie, Pavlakis, Wright & Fagan, Ltd.; Nevada Div. of Water Resources; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Pool/PACT; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Dept. of Administration; Nevada Div. of Public & Behavioral Health; Nevada Healthy Workplace Advocate; Congressman Mark Amodei; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; US Dept. of the Interior-National Park Service; and US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of October, 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 September 19, 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