

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 19, 2019

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, 2019. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; and Commissioner Clerk, 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 McKay motioned to approve the agenda with the removal of the September 6th minutes; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 20, 2019: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the August 20, 2019, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$413,961.07 for accounts payable; \$316,790.56 for payroll, retiree, and related expenses; and \$92.87 in Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$730,844.50. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

COMMISSIONERS

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: Chairman Goicoechea reported that beginning at 9:00 a.m. that morning the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council was holding another workshop on the temporary mitigation regulations. The temporary regulations include a requirement for private property owners to mitigate when improvements on their land have an indirect impact on sage grouse habitat on public lands. He explained this was not the original intent and is one of the primary issues the SEC is grappling with.

As the local government representative, the Chairman is working with Jake Tibbitts, along with NACO's contractor, Jeremy Drew of Resource Concepts Inc., on proposed language changes for the October 3rd hearing where the SEC will consider adopting permanent regulations.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Director, Kenny Sanders, reported there were 27 calls for service in August, with about half attributed to standby at the County Fair and football games at the local high school. There were five transports to emergency rooms – two to Battle Mountain General Hospital and three to William Bee Ririe Hospital – and there were eight transports to MedX AirOne.

Pending Resignation: Mr. Sanders reported that, for personal reasons, the full-time EMS employee in Crescent Valley must resign effective October 5th, but will continue as a volunteer. Chairman Goicoechea asked Mr. Sanders to seek hiring approval at the next meeting and to begin recruiting efforts early to avoid a lapse in coverage.

The Board stated sincere appreciation for the hard work and all of the time that Cathy Sampson has contributed in serving the County as its primary emergency response person in the north end of the County.

ASSESSOR

Uncollectable Personal Property Accounts: Assessor, Michael Mears, came before the Board to ask that two personal property accounts, for oil and gas leases, be designated uncollectable. He explained that after three years of delinquency, NRS 361.5607 authorizes the Board to declare an account uncollectable.

During the Assessors' meeting in Ely the previous week, the Assessors discussed the cumbersome process now required to research lease information for their respective counties. To the best of their knowledge, they believe Nevada is the only state that requires that personal property tax be collected on oil and gas leases, and they plan to propose that this requirement be removed from statute during the next Legislative Session.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to designate personal property accounts OG 347, with a balance of \$359.48, and OG 343, with a balance of \$1989.20, as uncollectable pursuant to NRS 361.5607. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported on Public Works projects and activities.

Utilities & Facilities: All utility systems are in good working order. There was failure of a pump in one of the Crescent Valley municipal wells, but it is currently back in service. The pump was installed only four years earlier and the failure is attributed to the electrical service problems. A variable frequency drive will be installed to better handle the power fluctuations in the area.

Kobeh Valley Test Well Project: Prequalification requirements for the Kobeh Valley Test Well Project were published with a response deadline of September 13th. One response was received by the deadline and Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale Bugenig, will assist Mr. Damele in reviewing the prequalification packet.

Klindt Building Demolition: The Klindt Building Demolition Project started on September 16th and is going well. Once the demolition portion is complete and the materials have been removed, the contractor will dig alongside the foundation, stabilize the remaining wall (shared with the Senior Center) with a rebar mat, and will eventually backfill the entire area.

Timberline Resources MOU: Timberline Resources will soon begin drilling at its Lookout Mountain Project in Ratto Canyon. The County doesn't do snow removal on the access road to that location, so Public Works is working on refreshing a Memorandum of Understanding outlining Timberline's responsibility to do snow removal and to repair any damage associated with its activities.

Concrete Work: The concrete work, primarily around the Courthouse and in the Courthouse parking lot, finished ahead of schedule despite addition of a few more items to the project.

Devil's Gate Mainline Extension: Public Works has approached NDOT about using the State's right-of-way to complete the mainline extension in Devil's Gate GID after attempts to secure a right-of-way from private property owners in the area was unsuccessful. It will take some time to work out the details, so this project will not begin this fall as originally planned.

Future Public Works Project: Public Works is working with the County Engineer, Lumos & Associates, to develop a scope of work for a large infrastructure project. This will include water,

sewer, storm drain, and street upgrades in Eureka; street rehabilitation and new paving in Crescent Valley; and some street rehabilitation in Diamond Valley. The project may need to be phased over two construction seasons.

Airport Snowplow: The new snowplow for the Eureka Airport was delivered and some training will be initiated on that. Delivery of the other snowplow to be used County-wide is anticipated in about 45 days.

TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for August was submitted by Treasurer, Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$29,356,883.88.

Ms. Johnson explained that County Treasurers from across the State recently met and compared the financial reports that are submitted to their respective Boards of Commissioners, and she found that Eureka County's report is far more detailed than most.

Ms. Johnson reviewed each section of the current report with the Board, noting which elements are required by statute and which are not. She asked for the Commissioners' input on what they wanted to continue seeing monthly and what they might prefer to see less frequently.

The Board agreed that the report included a lot of detail that didn't need to be reported on a monthly basis (August's report was nearly 30 pages) and provided feedback on what they would like to see monthly, quarterly, and annually.

CLERK RECORDER

District Court Resolution: Clerk Recorder, Lisa Hoehne, submitted a resolution for the Board's approval. She explained that in reviewing Nevada Revised Statutes concerning District Court fees, she found that certain civil fees are to be collected and deposited into a special account for the benefit of District Court. These fees are already being collected by Eureka County, but are currently deposited into the General Fund.

The Commissioners inquired as to how much revenue these fees were generating. Chairman Goicoechea asked if the District Court Judges had seen the resolution, stating he was only in favor of creating the new fund if the Judges were supportive of it. The Chairman verified that future expenditures from the account will be made with budget authority and approval by the Judges.

Ms. Hoehne stated that these civil fees generated \$2,134.00 in revenue for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. She assured the Board that the Judges had been consulted and are in favor of creating the new account.

Commissioner McKay motioned to adopt a resolution creating a new fund, District Court Improvement Fund, pursuant to NRS 19.0302; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

September 19, 2019

RESOLUTION

OF THE BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ESTABLISH A
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR DISTRICT COURT, "*DISTRICT COURT IMPROVEMENT FUND*,"
TO COLLECT ADDITIONAL SPECIAL FEES IN CIVIL ACTIONS PURSUANT TO NRS 19.0302

WHEREAS, NRS 19.0302(1) provides for additional fees in civil actions and directs that, except as otherwise provided by specific statute and in addition to any other fee required by law, the Clerk of the Court shall charge additional special fees in civil actions; and

WHEREAS, NRS 19.0302(1) identifies the amounts of additional special fees to be charged and collected by the Clerk of the Court for each civil action; and

WHEREAS, NRS 19.0302(2) directs that these fees must be deposited into a special account administered by the County and maintained for the benefit of District Court; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 19.0302(2) these fees are to be used to offset costs of adding and maintaining new judicial departments; and

WHEREAS, when funds remain in the account in a fiscal year after satisfying the costs of adding and maintaining new judicial departments, NRS 10.0302(2) outlines other purposes these funds can be used for including acquiring land; constructing or acquiring additional facilities, renovating or remodeling existing facilities; acquiring furniture, fixtures, and equipment; acquiring technology; paying debt service on certain bonds; supporting court appointed special advocate programs for children; supporting legal services to the indigent; or funds can be carried forward to the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 19.0302(3) the Clerk of the Court may require that these special fees in civil actions be paid in advance, except as otherwise provided by specific statute; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 19.0302(4) on or before the fifth day of each month, the Clerk of the court shall make an accounting and deposit to the County Treasurer all fees collected pursuant to NRS 19.0302(1); and

WHEREAS, this fund and administration of this fund, shall be subject to all requirements set forth by federal statute, State statute, Eureka County Code, County policy, and any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt this Resolution to Establish a Special Revenue Fund for District Court, "*District Court Improvement Fund*," to Collect Additional Special Fees in Civil Actions Pursuant to NRS 19.0302.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to NRS 354.612(3) upon adoption the Clerk is directed to provide an executed copy of this Resolution to the Nevada Department of Taxation.

ADOPTED this 19th day of September, 2019.

Board of Eureka County Commissioners

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

/s/ Michael Sharkozy
Michael Sharkozy, Vice Chair

/s/ Rich McKay
Rich McKay, Member

Attest: /s/ Lisa Hoehne
Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder

HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Flu Shot Update: Joyce Jeppesen, member of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee, informed that Prominence Health has been working with William Bee Ririe Hospital to provide free flu shots for County benefited employees, dependents, and retirees during the Health Fair on September 20th. The shots will be available to the general public for a fee. Flu shots will be available at the Eureka Clinic and the Crescent Valley Clinic from September 20th through October 30th, and are free during that period to anyone with a Prominence insurance card.

CY 2020 Insurance Premiums: Jayme Halpin, Chair of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee, relayed that the HIAC has been working with contracted insurance broker, LP Insurance Services, on plans and premium rates for the upcoming calendar year.

Mr. Halpin explained that by August of the current calendar year, Prominence Health Plan was approaching a 90% loss ratio on the County’s medical plans, which will almost certainly exceed 100% by year-end. The 90% represents what Prominence has paid out in benefits versus what it has received in premiums. The insurance industry bases future premiums on loss ratio.

Despite this high loss ratio, LP Insurance was able to negotiate and hold the premium increase from Prominence to 10% on the medical plans for the upcoming year. Bids were requested for dental, vision, and life insurance and Kansas City Life was lower than the current carrier, Standard. Both companies are in the same network, so the basic plans and coverage will remain the same. The lower premiums for dental, vision, and life brought the overall premium increase down to 8.35%.

CY 2020 Insurance Plans: Mr. Halpin stated that the Committee recommends continuing with the same Prominence medical plans as in the current year and recommends selecting Kansas City Life for dental, vision, and life insurance plans.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Prominence Health Plans POS (Point of Service) Core 5, POS Core 10, and HD (High Deductible) Core 3 for Calendar Year 2020 for Eureka County employees and retirees and authorized the Chairman to sign the necessary documents outside of the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Kansas City Life dental, vision, and life insurance plans for Calendar Year 2020 for Eureka County employees and retirees and authorized the Chairman to sign the necessary documents outside of the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Insurance Premiums 01/01/2020 thru 12/31/2020 (70/30 Split)**								
Classification	\$1500 POS Core 5	Dental	Vision	Life	Total Premium	County	Employee 70/30**	
Employee	985.36	38.05	7.49	13.14	1044.04	1044.04	0.00	
Empl+Spouse	1803.13	79.72	14.99	14.70	1912.54	1651.99	260.55	
Empl+Child(ren)	1744.02	96.12	16.04	14.70	1870.88	1622.83	248.05	
Empl+Family	2374.65	137.75	25.63	14.70	2552.73	2100.12	452.61	
Classification	\$1000 POS Core 10	Dental	Vision	Life	Total Premium	County	Employee 70/30**	
Employee	935.38	38.05	7.49	13.14	994.06	994.06	0.00	
Empl+Spouse	1711.68	79.72	14.99	14.70	1821.09	1651.99	169.10	
Empl+Child(ren)	1655.57	96.12	16.04	14.70	1782.43	1622.83	159.60	
Empl+Family	2254.22	137.75	25.63	14.70	2432.30	2100.12	332.18	
Classification	\$3000 HSA HD Core 3	Dental	Vision	Life	Total Premium	County	Employee 70/30**	\$500/year Match
Employee	757.18	38.05	7.49	13.14	815.86	815.86	0.00	857.53
Empl+Spouse	1385.59	79.72	14.99	14.70	1495.00	1495.00	0.00	1536.67
Empl+Child(ren)	1340.17	96.12	16.04	14.70	1467.03	1467.03	0.00	1508.70
Empl+Family	1824.77	137.75	25.63	14.70	2002.85	2002.85	0.00	2044.52
* The HSA HD Core 3 includes a match of up to \$500 per fiscal year contingent upon minimum required monthly contributions by the employee.								
** Employees pay 70% and the County pays 30% of dependent insurance premiums.								

Sponsored Health Plan: Mr. Halpin stated the Committee recommends selecting the \$1,500.00 deductible POS Core 5 as the sponsored medical plan. Employees may select from the three medical plans offered, but the base premium rates paid by the County are calculated on the sponsored plan. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to select Prominence Health Plan POS Core 5 as the sponsored medical plan for Calendar Year 2020 for Eureka County employees and retirees; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Retiree Insurance Rates 01/01/2020 thru 12/31/2020						
Employees & < 65 Retiree	\$1500 POS Core 5	\$1000 POS Core 10	\$3000 HSA HD Core 3	Dental	Vision	Life
Employee	985.36	935.38	757.18	38.05	7.49	13.14
Empl+Spouse	1803.13	1711.68	1385.59	79.72	14.99	14.70
Empl+Child(ren)	1744.02	1655.57	1340.17	96.12	16.04	14.70
Empl+Family	2374.65	2254.22	1824.77	137.75	25.63	14.70
Retiree with Medicare A&B	\$1500 POS Core 5	\$1000 POS Core 10	\$3000 HSA HD Core 3	Dental	Vision	Life
Retiree	716.76	680.40	N/A	38.05	7.49	13.14
Retiree+Spouse (one with)	1521.26	1444.11	N/A	79.72	14.99	14.70
Retiree+Spouse (both with)	1254.28	1190.67	N/A	96.12	16.04	14.70
Retiree+Child(ren)	1257.53	1193.76	N/A	137.75	25.63	14.70
Retiree+Family (one with)	1972.97	1872.90	N/A	38.05	7.49	13.14
Retiree+Family (both with)	1604.62	1523.24	N/A	79.72	14.99	14.70

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy: The Board reviewed the subsidy rates offered to retirees who stay enrolled in the County's group insurance. This benefit is only available to employees hired before July 1, 2009. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Calendar Year 2020 health insurance premium subsidy rates for retirees hired prior to July 1, 2009. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY RETIREE - County Health Insurance Premium Plan Subsidy		
Effective January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020		
Retired on/after July 1, 2004	(\$469.58 BASE RATE)	
Years of Service		
5	\$117.40	25.00%
6	\$152.61	32.50%
7	\$187.83	40.00%
8	\$223.05	47.50%
9	\$258.27	55.00%
10	\$293.49	62.50%
11	\$328.71	70.00%
12	\$363.92	77.50%
13	\$399.14	85.00%
14	\$434.36	92.50%
15	\$469.58	100.00%
16	\$504.80	107.50%
17	\$540.02	115.00%
18	\$575.24	122.50%
19	\$610.45	130.00%
20	\$645.67	137.50%

The 2020 current premium for the County plan is more than the current premium for the PEBP plan. The proposed formula will be as follows: The County will contribute for the retiree's enrolled in the County plan as follows: 100% of the amount that was established by the State of Nevada for Non-State Retirees participating in PEBP. The minimum subsidy base of \$150 per month applies to retirees who retired from Eureka County on or before July 1, 2004. Any employee who retires after July 1, 2004, and enrolls in the County plan will receive a health care subsidy listed in the above chart up to the health care premium. If the premium is less than the health insurance premium subsidy, there will be no cash payments for the difference. Only Eureka County service credit will be used to calculate this subsidy for County plan participants. When there is a rate change, the County will consider a modification of the base rate and percentage, but will not reduce the subsidy on this chart unless, because of financial circumstances, the County eliminates a subsidy for County plan participants. Only direct Eureka County retirees hired before July 1, 2009, are eligible for this subsidy.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Natural Resources Advisory Commission: NRAC met on September 18th and took action related to several natural resource items on the Commissioners' agenda. NRAC also had a lengthy discussion concerning passage of SB316, which prohibits certain actions, particularly

those that prohibit access to public lands. This will especially affect areas of the State with checkerboard lands. NRAC is discussing a strategy to help ensure this becomes a positive process moving forward.

Humboldt River Basin Water Authority: Mr. Tibbitts and Chairman Goicoechea attended the HRBWA meeting on September 13th. The Division of Water Resources gave a couple of presentations, making it clear that it is still pursuing mitigation regulations on the Humboldt River where there are identified conflicts between groundwater pumping and the flows in the river or its tributaries.

A while back DWR drafted regulations and held some informational workshops, but received feedback from the Legislative Counsel Bureau that it didn't have authority to impose a tax. DWR presented a bill during the last Legislative Session that would grant it authority to impose a mitigation assessment, but the bill failed. The Division has now contracted various specialists to do a study quantifying the value of agricultural water, should its attempts to move forward be successful. Mr. Tibbitts noted that all of northern Eureka County, which is in the Humboldt River Basin, could be impacted, including the County because of the municipal wells in Crescent Valley.

Another item discussed at the HRBWA meeting was evaporation from pit lakes. Once a mine shuts down, the pits fill with groundwater and there are a variety of scientific methods to measure the evaporation. While Jason King was State Engineer, he sent a guidance letter to the mining industry that all new mines will have to obtain or transfer a water right to account for water lost through evaporation, and the mining industry seems to be migrating towards this practice.

Rossi Mine Expansion Project: On September 5th, the BLM signed the Record of Decision and Plan of Operations Modification for the Rossi Mine Expansion Project (Halliburton Energy Services). The mine is in Elko County, but the access road and much of its infrastructure are in Eureka County. The ROD requires the mine to mitigate impacts to sage grouse utilizing the Conservation Credit System under the State Plan, but puts the burden on the State to notify the BLM if this is not taking place.

Deep South Expansion Project: The Record of Decision on the Barrick Cortez Deep South Expansion Project (now Nevada Gold Mines LLC) was issued on September 10th. This is for a 12-year project that will expand its existing open pit and underground mining operations at the Cortez Gold Mines operations area. Eureka County participated in the EIS process as a Cooperating Agency and Mr. Tibbitts stated it was a very good project to work on. Both Barrick and the BLM were great partners to work with and addressed 99% of the County's concerns.

The ROD includes permitting from the BLM for the mine to construct RIBs (rapid infiltration basins) in both Pine Valley and Grass Valley, pursuant to two orders from the State Engineer. This will replace water removed from these basins due to pumping at the Cortez Mine.

Upcoming Meetings: The Nevada Water Resources Association Fall Symposium is scheduled for September 24th & 25th. Mr. Tibbitts will participate on a water planning panel. Desert Research Institute will be giving a presentation using historical satellite data to estimate past pumping in Diamond Valley.

On September 24th, US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, is holding an informational workshop in the Learning Center at the Administrative Facility related to its Market Facilitation Program. This is essentially a tariff relief program for tariffs that are impacting the agricultural industry. Many of these programs tend to benefit commodity crops, but the MFP includes alfalfa and triticale hay. This workshop is not to sign up for the program, but will explain what needs to be done to start the process.

Several items have been scheduled as part of, or in conjunction with, the NACO Conference in Sparks. Central Nevada Regional Water Authority is meeting on September 25th, and the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council is meeting on September 27th. As part of the Conference, there is a panel discussion on county roads on September 26th, and Mr. Tibbitts has been asked to be a standby moderator if NACO's Natural Resources Manager cannot be there.

OpenET: A new online platform is being introduced, called OpenET (evapotranspiration), intended to provide automated and widely accessible ET data as a water management tool. It is an online product developed with foundational money and other fund sources, with key partners from western agriculture and water resource management communities. Desert Research Institute is the involved entity from Nevada. The project has various test cases, many from California (this is where much of the funding is coming from), but one of its test cases is Diamond Valley. Mr. Tibbitts plans to attend a two-day workshop in Reno on October 2nd & 3rd, hosted by Desert Research Institute, regarding the OpenET platform.

Sage Grouse Issues: Legal notice was published August 2nd, beginning a 60-day objection period, for the Draft Record of Decision and Final EIS for US Forest Service Land Management Plan Amendment (for the Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Regions). Mr. Tibbitts explained that the objection process is very rigid. You can only participate if substantive comment was provided during the EIS process, comments must be specific, must relate to earlier comments, and must reference the exact portion of the document that the objection relates to.

Eureka County has participated throughout this process with NACO and its contractor, Jeremy Drew, with Resource Concepts Inc. Eureka County and NACO have both adopted the other's comments as their own. Mr. Tibbitts recommended that the County submit a formal objection, allowing him to work with Chairman Goicoechea and NACO to prepare comments based entirely upon those previously submitted.

Commissioner McKay motioned to submit a formal objection on the Draft Record of Decision and Final EIS for the US Forest Service Land Management Plan Amendment, authorizing the Natural Resources Manager to work with the Chairman and NACO to submit the objections by the October 1st deadline. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Greater Sage Grouse Adaptive Management: Mr. Tibbitts explained that the State Plan (Nevada Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan), as well as the BLM's Plan, and the Forest Service's (Draft) Plan all have an adaptive management strategy that requires the involved federal and State agencies to coordinate utilizing a method developed by the US Geological Survey. The method first identifies a trigger – either a habitat trigger or population trigger – and once the trigger has occurred, the next step is to conduct a causal factor analysis.

The Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team has scheduled several meetings across northern Nevada in October regarding the adaptive management process, and Mr. Tibbitts noted it will be very crucial to participate in these meetings. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend. The meeting that most affects Eureka County will be held in Battle Mountain on October 22nd.

Wild Horse Issues & Fish Creek HMA Gather: Mr. Tibbitts mentioned that *The Washington Post* article, "The Battle Over Wild Horses," was published September 18th and included an extensive interview with Chairman Goicoechea with references to the proposed, "*The Path Forward for Management of BLM's Wild Horses & Burros.*"

Mr. Tibbitts reported that the BLM's Fish Creek Herd Management Area wild horse gather began on September 6th and the contractor had 20 days to gather up to 600 horses. The job was completed in eight days and 558 horses were gathered. Of those, 20 were returned to the HMA – 13 studs and seven mares. The mares were treated with the immunocontraceptive, PZP22, intended to keep a mare from foaling for one year (the Chairman pointed out that it has no effect on mares already bred). All of the horses returned to the HMA had curly horse characteristics, identified in BLM documents as a genetic trait it is trying to preserve in this area.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that the gather was a model of coordination and cooperation between the BLM and the County. The County was informed and engaged throughout the entire process. He thanked Sheriff Watts and his staff for participating each day. Sheriff Watts was in control of law enforcement and the BLM deputies took direction from the Sheriff as well. The Sheriff outlined

procedures each morning for the public who came to view the operation, and at one point managed temporary closure of a County road in the interest of public safety.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter of appreciation addressed to the involved BLM officials expressing sincere appreciation to them and their staff for a successful gather. The letter notes that removal of 538 horses goes a long way towards improving resource damage and addressing conflicts. The letter urges continued expedient action by the BLM, in coordination with Eureka County, until this HMA reaches AML (appropriate management levels).

Chairman Goicoechea added that he appreciated the actions of the BLM officials, who were true to their word in regards to the gather, especially in that no horses gathered outside the HMA were considered for return. He recognized, "...*they did their part, and I thank them for that.*"

Commissioner McKay motioned to send the letter of appreciation to local, State, and federal BLM officials in response to the recently completed 2019 Fish Creek Herd Management Area gather. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Consulting Hydrogeologist Contract Extension: Dale Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, LLC, prepared a proposal for a contract extension, noting that he has contracted with the County now for nine years and considers Eureka his second home. He explained that his current contract was for a not to exceed amount of \$80,000.00, but will not exceed \$40,000.00 by the end of the one-year term. He recommended that the extension be approved for the same amount, as there are some large water-related projects and issues coming up or continuing in the next year.

Chairman Goicoechea stated his sincere appreciation for what Mr. Bugenig has done for Eureka County, adding that without him Eureka County would not have made the strides it has on water issues. The other Commissioners echoed the Chairman's sentiments.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a one-year contract extension with Dale C. Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Public Works, Ron Damele (3); Natural Resources, Jake Tibbitts; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (2); Recreation Board; Television District; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Tri-County Meeting; Kelly C. Brown, PLLC; LP Insurance Services; Kinross Bald Mountain; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Elko County Health Officer; University Center for Economic Development, Dr. Fred Steinmann; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (3); and US Forest Service (2).

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Goicoechea shared that he just received a text from a member of the group presently meeting with US Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt. The text included a shot of the front page of *The Washington Post*, with a photo of wild horses and a title that asked the question, "...*icon or pest of the West?*" The article included the interview with Chairman Goicoechea, so several joked that the title referenced the Chairman, not the horses.

On a different subject, Chairman Goicoechea noted there have been several conversations about the upcoming weekend's Wine Walk, which includes a wine tasting stop at the Courthouse Gallery Hall. The Chairman said he wanted the Wine Walk to be a success, but after carefully reviewing policy, alcohol is prohibited in most County buildings, including the Courthouse.

Commissioner McKay asked if policy had changed, because he heard of instances where alcohol was served in the Courthouse. The Chairman agreed it was true in the past for certain County-hosted events, but policy has changed because, unfortunately, times are different now.

District Attorney Beutel confirmed that whether it is a County employee or an outside group providing the alcohol, the liability falls on the County.

Commissioner McKay said he understands the need for constraint, but felt it was unfortunate since one of the main attractions for these events is the ability for visitors to see the historic buildings.

Chairman Goicoechea directed that for the upcoming Wine Walk, visitors can tour the building with a County employee present, and then be served wine on the sidewalk *after* they leave the Courthouse. If people want this to be different in the future, they can propose a policy change to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 7th day of October, 2019.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the September 19, 2019, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

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

/s/ Lisa Hoehne

Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder