

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

STATE OF NEVADA    )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law for their quarterly meeting on October 15, 2014, at the Crescent Valley Town Center. Present were Vice Chairman Jim Ithurralde, Commissioner Mike Sharkozy, District Attorney Ted Beutel (via interactive video), and Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg. Chairman J.J. Goicoechea was absent. 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.

Vice Chairman Ithurralde noted that Chairman Goicoechea was unable to attend due to a conflicting meeting with the BLM. It is important that Eureka County be represented at this meeting. Notification that the National Deputy Director of the BLM would be in Nevada for this meeting was not received until after the quarterly agenda was posted.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Vice Chairman Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chairman Ithurralde called for public comments. He asked that an email from the Chairman be read to provide more details regarding the meeting with the BLM. The following was read for the record:

*“On Friday October 10<sup>th</sup> I was contacted by the State Office of the BLM. It was a call confirming my attendance at a meeting with the National Deputy Director, Steve Ellis, for Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. This was the first I had heard of the meeting and on further questioning I was told the DC office was supposed to have invited me and they wanted to know who else would be attending with me.*

*“I learned the environmental community, horse advocates, and mining companies would all be represented at the meeting and if I had a conflict it was unfortunate, but they understood. With the continued pressure we have put on the BLM to come to the table and set a different course going forward, I feel it is imperative that Eureka County have representation at this meeting. Had I known in advance about it, I would have asked to reschedule the quarterly meeting, but agendas are set and Deputy Director Ellis is in route to Nevada. I have asked Eureka County Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts and State Senator Pete Goicoechea to both attend this meeting as well.*

*“I apologize for not being able to move the meeting schedule around. Eureka County’s future is tied to our natural resources and this is a meeting to hopefully start working on a process of improved relations with the federal agency.”*

**CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

Call to Order: The Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board called their meeting to order; present were Chair Vickie Etchinek and Clerk Lynda Stidham. Vice Chair Dawn Gann was unable to attend.

Upcoming NACO Conference: The CVTAB requested authorization for Lynda Stidham and Secretary, Nona Kellerman, to attend the NACO Conference in order to participate in the POWER (Public Officials Workshop: Education & Resources) training. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve travel costs for Lynda Stidham and Nona Kellerman to attend the Annual

NACO Conference in Ely beginning November 18<sup>th</sup> to attend the POWER training and other activities; Vice Chair Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Crescent Valley Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015: Chair Etchinek referenced the stove/oven that was approved in the budget for the Rodeo Grounds. The CVTAB inquired whether it should be ordered now since there was a possibility of the Town Board being sunsetted in January 2015. Vice Chair Ithurralde assured them that Public Works would make sure this was purchased and installed as budgeted.

Community Development Implementation Plan Working Committee: Ms. Stidham stated there was a question regarding who this Committee would report to if the Town Board is sunsetted. Lisa Wolf suggested it would be appropriate for them to work with the Economic Development Program Board. This will ultimately be decided by the seated Board of Commissioners in January following the election.

CVTAB Adjournment: Being no further joint business, CVTAB adjourned their meeting.

## **UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA - CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

2014 Crescent Valley & Beowawe Community Assessment Survey: Fred Steinmann, Assistant Research Professor with the University of Nevada, presented the 2014 Crescent Valley & Beowawe Community Assessment Survey. This is an ongoing assessment that UNR has been working on in partnership with the Crescent Valley Community Development Implementation Working Committee and the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board.

A 43 question survey was developed and distributed throughout the Crescent Valley and Beowawe areas. Questions were generally divided into four categories: demographic and employment; perceptions regarding the community and the County; civic engagement; and recycling. Response rate on the survey was nearly 15%, which is relatively good in comparison to typical survey response rates.

Dr. Steinmann gave a brief synopsis of survey results: the population is stable; residents travel long distances for groceries and other purchases; the economy is very dependent upon mining; there is a need to diversify by adding other industries/businesses in addition to mining; a sustainable economy should be developed; there is a need for quality affordable housing; community involvement is moderate; many do not support Crescent Valley's CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions); and there is a high level of support for recycling.

Crescent Valley Community Development Implementation Plan: The Implementation Plan identified five primary tasks for the near term: forming a working committee; residential/housing opportunities; marketing efforts to encourage business relocation; development of a community store; and community aesthetics and appearance. In addition to these there were a series of long term tasks. Dr. Steinmann and other University personnel are willing to provide assistance in certain tasks as the County and community moves forward with the plan. The University also suggests partnering with groups that can offer assistance, often at no cost, such as the American Planning Association and USDA Rural Development.

Community Needs Assessment – Eureka County: In 2013, while working as Extension Educator for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Dr. Steinmann completed an updated Community Needs Assessment for the entire County incorporating demographic, economic, and socioeconomic data. The Community Needs Assessment identified four primary needs: water management, natural resources management, youth development, and community and economic development. It outlined prospective programs to address these needs. Dr. Steinmann provided copies of the draft Community Needs Assessment, which is currently undergoing peer review and is expected to be published within the next month or two.

Eureka County Citizens Institute: The community involvement issue was raised in the aforementioned studies and several topics of interest were identified. This led to development of the Eureka County Citizens Institute as part of the University's Nevada Leadership Institute. Dr.

Steinmann is working with the communities to schedule this two-day seminar, with one day in Crescent Valley and one day in Eureka. He hopes to broadcast to both locations so that residents at each end of the County can attend both days. This will likely be scheduled after the first of the year.

Biochar Field Trial in Diamond Valley: Dr. Steinmann presented the following report from Desert Research Institute: DRI ASSESSMENT FOR THE EUREKA BIOCHAR EXPERIMENTS, MODIFICATIONS TO TASK 2 – PERFORM SOIL & PLANT GROWTH STUDIES. Problems with the pinyon-juniper chipper and the pyrolysis machine caused a reduction in the amount of biochar that will be available. Due to this, DRI has modified the scope of work for this task from using mobile weighing lysimeters to using five gallon nursery pots to grow alfalfa.

The Biochar Field Trial in Diamond Valley and the Biochar Reclamation Project at Barrick Ruby Hill Mine are funded in part by a Conservation Innovation Grant and co-funded from the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension cash reserve/rollover fund.

### **KLONDEX GOLD & SILVER MINING COMPANY**

Update on Mining Activities: Mike Isaak, General Manager for the Fire Creek Project, gave an update on Klondex Gold & Silver Mining Company. The Fire Creek Project is located in Lander County near the Eureka County line and Crescent Valley. Fire Creek is operating under a bulk sampling project status, which limits the quantity of ore that can be produced. Klondex is in the process of submitting an EA (environmental assessment) to the BLM, which will allow them to transition from a bulk sampling project to full scale mining project. The EA involves 11 base case studies including species, air quality, water quality, noise, etc. The studies should be completed and ready for submission by the end of October. A nine month process is anticipated for issuance of the permit.

Under the current permit approximately 160 tons of ore are produced each day. Under full scale mining, Fire Creek will produce 330 tons per day. The ore is currently trucked from Fire Creek to the Midas Mine, approximately 100 miles. Current manpower is made up of 52 Klondex employees and 30 contractors. Maintenance and security are performed by contracted employees. When Fire Creek reaches full production, staff will increase to around 100 employees.

The rapid infiltration basin project has been completed and pipeline testing is currently underway. This will provide the ability to discharge water, meeting drinking water quality standards, should underground natural water be encountered as mining expands. Testing for the basin includes up-gradient wells and down-gradient wells that are fully commissioned. At current production rates a five year mine life is established.

Mr. Isaak welcomed questions and Vice Chair Ithurralde opened the floor. Angie Black commented that there are still problems with the ore trucks exceeding the speed limits and not stopping at posted signs. Mr. Isaak responded that there are ongoing discussions regarding this and he will speak to the supervisor. Klondex is working on putting measures into place to control traffic speed, especially around residential areas. Electronic radar speed limit signs that display vehicle speed and take a date/time stamped photograph have been purchased. These will be installed on the outbound and inbound side of 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Crescent Valley.

The Board thanked Mr. Isaak for his update and he promised to return as the mine progresses.

### **CRESCENT VALLEY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

Quarterly Report: Senior Center Site Director, Adell Panning, reported on upcoming activities in Crescent Valley. She is currently in the hiring process for the Social Activities Coordinator, but is getting assistance from volunteers. The next event will be the Spook Walk on October 25<sup>th</sup> with some ghoulish things planned for this year including a haunted house,

costume contest, and games. A jack-o'-lantern contest is also planned. Different organizations will be handing out candy for the kids.

Planning for the Harvest Festival is underway and Barrick Gold has graciously offered to sponsor the dinner again this year. As in past years, this will involve several rounds of bingo and craft tables with all kinds of homemade goodies for sale.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: Commissioner Sharkozy attended a Search & Rescue meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> and a Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Ithurralde stated he was going to forego the regular report and in its place he offered the following: *“As you know this is my last Commission meeting in Crescent Valley as a County Commissioner and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of this community. There are no words to express my gratitude for the support that you have given me as an elected official for nine terms in Eureka County. I’ve been honored, privileged, and humbled to serve you folks for the past 39 years; and again, thank you very much.”*

The audience applauded and Commissioner Sharkozy offered his personal thanks for Commissioner Ithurralde’s service.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Eureka Fire Department: The written report from Eureka Volunteer Fire Department was not received in time for the meeting.

Crescent Valley Fire Department: Chief Rick Harding provided a written report for the quarter comprising July, August, and September. Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department responded to five calls consisting of one structure fire and four wildland fires. After action reviews were conducted following each incident. There are currently 14 members and one applicant member. Training consisted of foam usage and operation, firefighter safety training, PPE fitting and SCBA usage, radio communications, and a review of lessons learned from several grass fires.

## **EUREKA COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY REPORT**

Detention Facility: Undersheriff Keith Logan provided a written Detention Facility report. The Detention Facility had a total of 35 inmates and 456 inmate days for the quarter. The facility is in good condition with no issues to report. A patrol statistics report was included and showed a total of 3,155 incidents for the quarter. This included calls, traffic stops, citations, accidents, criminal offenses, building checks, animal calls, etc.

## **JUSTICE COURT QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Eureka Justice Court: Eureka Justice Court provided a written report and collected \$138.00 in fees for the quarter.

Beowawe Justice Court: Beowawe Justice Court provided a written report and collected \$117.25 in 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 \$4,902.13.

## **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. In July, Larcan, a Canadian longtime television and radio transmitter manufacturer ceased operation. A news article reported

that attempts to contact Larcan's majority owner, Sumavision, based in China were unsuccessful. This could be a potential problem as the majority of equipment owned by the Eureka County Television District was manufactured by Larcan, some of which is still under warranty. The National Translator Association is attempting to gain some answers as this affects many translators across the country.

In September, the Television District sent out an updated flyer to all County residents with television channel and radio station information. The flyer gave residents the opportunity to make an appointment with a technician, free of charge, if they were having trouble with television reception.

At the end of September, KUNR Radio, which is broadcast in the Crescent Valley and Eureka areas, changed receiving signals to a new satellite position in order to avoid a disruption of service.

### **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 704 in Eureka and 176 in Crescent Valley. Dr. Michael Wells' last day of employment with NVHC was September 19<sup>th</sup>. NVHC is actively working to recruit a replacement physician. Jason Rusk, Physician Assistant and current NVHC provider, will be transitioning to the Eureka Clinic in mid-October.

Rehab Services of Nevada: A written report was received from Greg Barker, Physical Therapist and Director of Rehab Services of Nevada. There were 23 clinic days and 141 patient visits in Eureka for the quarter.

Eureka Dental Care: Dan Norris, DDS, submitted the following statistics for Eureka Dental Care: there were 39 clinic days and 300 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: District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg (2); Eureka County Economic Development Program (2); Eureka Owl Club; Eureka Business Network (2); MolyBits Messenger; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Walker & Assoc. (5); Nevada Deferred Compensation Program; White Pine County Commission; White Pine County Community & Economic Development; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (2); University of Nevada College of Business; Desert Research Institute; Nevada 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, Pony Express pickup; McEwen Mining; Allison, MacKenzie, Pavlakis, Wright & Fagan, Ltd. (2); Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc.; Nevada Div. of Water Resources (2); Nevada Pool/PACT; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Council for Prevention of Domestic Violence; Food Bank of Northern Nevada; and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Vice Chair Ithurralde discussed correspondence received from Nevada 150<sup>th</sup> and White Pine County Community & Economic Development. As part of Nevada's Sesquicentennial celebration, White Pine, Lander, and Eureka Counties have adopted proclamations signifying Nevada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, an authentic Pony Express rider will visit the front steps of the County Courthouse in each of these counties and pick up the official proclamations to be delivered to the Capitol in Carson City. Eureka's proclamation includes recognition of the Town of Eureka's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well. Commissioners Ithurralde and Sharkozy will present the proclamation on behalf of Eureka County.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Ithurralde called for public comments; there were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice Chair Ithurrealde seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 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 October 15, 2014, quarterly 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