

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 21, 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 October 21, 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

The Recreation Board item was removed from the agenda. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda with that change; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 7, 2019: Chairman Goicoechea contacted staff earlier to clarify that the minutes should reflect that a wild horse activist, and not a member of the Danish film crew, spoke with Senator Cortez Masto alleging Eureka County officials were bullies during the Fish Creek HMA horse gather.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the October 7, 2019, meeting with the correction noted; 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 \$483,604.36 for accounts payable; \$379,047.07 for payroll, retiree, and related expenses; \$19.98 for a pass-through tax allocation to the Nevada Department of Taxation; and \$79.95 in Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$862,751.36. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

COMMISSIONERS

Request for Variance: The Commissioners received a request for a variance to Section 6.(e) of the Development Agreement for a recently purchased lot in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. In a letter, Tyler Thomas explained that the manufactured home he purchased will not meet the current side setbacks listed in the Development Agreement.

Public Works Director, Ron Damele, informed that the lot is 90 feet wide and 100 feet deep and the manufactured home is 76 feet wide, leaving 14 feet, or approximately seven feet on each side. Setbacks are intended to provide adequate emergency access to the back of the lot, and Mr. Damele felt placement of this home would not hinder access in the event of an emergency.

Commissioner McKay motioned to grant a variance to the owner of Lot #7, located at 140 Mt. Hope Street in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision, specific to side setbacks described in Section

6.(e) of the Development Agreement. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SkyFiber Internet: During the October 7th meeting, David Peisner and Brady Chambers, of SkyFiber Internet, approached the Board to request space on the Crescent Valley Town Hall transmission tower to install a dish antenna to provide service to their customer, Cortez Mine. They were directed to work with County staff and to prepare a rental agreement for the Board's consideration at this meeting.

Prior to the day's meeting, the men met with Ron Damele and were informed that the County has a Site Lease Agreement with Alltel (AT&T), whereby the County granted an easement for a cellular tower in the Crescent Valley area. Mr. Damele suggested that SkyFiber contact AT&T to rent tower space.

Mr. Peisner agreed that they will explore this opportunity and are also looking for a site to erect a SkyFiber tower in the area, as they are interested in providing internet service to the Crescent Valley community.

Commissioner McKay asked if the County had suitable land and could enter into an agreement with SkyFiber similar to the Alltel agreement. Mr. Damele agreed that an easement could be granted in the same general area as the Alltel tower. This would require SkyFiber to obtain a survey of the site and work out the details of a long-term agreement with the Board.

Mr. Peisner indicated that SkyFiber would be very interested in leasing a site from the County. In the meantime, he asked that the County consider a short-term lease on the Crescent Valley Town Hall transmission tower to allow time for SkyFiber to work on the other proposed options.

After some discussion, everyone agreed to a temporary 90-day rental. A small portion of rack space is required and the Chairman clarified that SkyFiber will only have access to the equipment building during County employee's working hours. Mr. Damele clarified that the temporary agreement is for a single dish antenna on the tower and nothing more.

Mr. Chambers asked about extending the period if difficulties or delays are encountered with the other options. The Chairman said an extension could be considered, but he urged SkyFiber to work diligently to get off the County's tower by the end of the 90 days.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a temporary agreement for SkyFiber Internet to rent space on the Crescent Valley Town Hall transmission tower to install a single dish antenna for 90 days through January 20, 2020, and authorized the Public Works Director to sign the agreement once the appropriate changes are made. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. During this 90-day period, the Chairman directed Mr. Peisner and Mr. Brady to work with Public Works in locating a tower site and obtaining the necessary survey. Motion carried 3-0.

Class-Action Opiate Litigation: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, explained that Eureka County (along with numerous other governmental entities) falls under a class identified in a federal case before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio entitled, *National Prescription Opiate Litigation*. The County has until November 22nd to opt out of the class. Failure to opt out will bind Eureka County to whatever amount of recovery may result from this case. The concern is that a nationwide settlement will result in a limited benefit for the smaller populations.

The State of Nevada is planning to pursue its own litigation and the County may fare better if it aligns with the State but, unfortunately, there is no way to predict which case will result in the better outcome for Eureka County. Reportedly, several major parties to the federal lawsuit reached a tentative settlement early on October 21st, but details are not yet known.

Chairman Goicoechea stated this case was discussed during the NACO meeting the previous week and NACO strongly recommends that the counties opt out of the national lawsuit.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned that Eureka County opt out of the class identified in *National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, before the US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, 1:17-md-2804 (DAP). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Travel to Washington, DC: Chairman Goicoechea was invited, along with a handful of other elected officials, to meet with President Trump at the White House on October 9th where the President signed two Executive Orders on transparency in federal guidance and enforcement, intended to reduce regulatory overreach.

Chairman Goicoechea relayed that it was a great experience and an opportunity for Eureka County to be represented on the national level as historic action was taken. The Chairman returned from DC with a couple items of value – he was able to make some new connections with officials who may prove helpful in making progress on certain issues important to Eureka County, and the President gifted him with the pen that signed one of the Executive Orders.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify Chairman Goicoechea's out-of-state travel to Washington, DC, for a meeting at the White House with President Donald Trump on October 9th; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: Permanent mitigation regulations were adopted by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council at its October 3rd hearing and forwarded to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for final changes. Chairman Goicoechea voiced concern because the Nevada Legislative Commission is not scheduled to meet before the temporary regulations expire, so it is unclear whether they will remain in effect until the permanent regulations are adopted by the Commission.

On October 16th, US District Court Judge B. Lynn Winmill granted an injunction blocking implementation of the BLM's Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments (issued March 2019). This affects several western states because it essentially reinstates the BLM's 2015 plan, which does not require alignment with the different state plans (for Nevada, the Nevada Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan and the Conservation Credit System). Eureka County was party to the US District Court case in 2017 that caused the BLM's Record of Decision for its 2015 plan amendments to be partially remanded back to the BLM to prepare a Supplemental EIS. Judge Winmill's injunction negates all of the hard work done by Eureka County and its counterparts on this issue, as well as the hard work done by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council on the 2018 amendments to the State Plan.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Director, Kenny Sanders, reported there were 19 calls for service in September, including some standby for football games at the High School. The majority of runs were in the Eureka area (14). There were three transports to Elko, two to Ely, and three transfers to MedX AirOne. Mr. Sanders noted that ambulance runs for October have already exceeded September's, with 25 so far, and ten days still remain in the month.

Mr. Sanders relayed that a qualified individual is interested in the full-time EMT position in Crescent Valley, but is currently certified in California. The person is working to gain certification on the National Registry in order to work in Nevada.

Quarterly Report: The quarterly report on federally mandated write-offs of Medicaid and Medicare account balances showed zero write-offs for July, \$1,750 for August, and zero for September.

SHERIFF

Employee of the Quarter: Sheriff Jesse Watts stated that Deputy Tyler Thomas was away on training, but is recognized as Employee of the Quarter. He was nominated by three Sheriff's Office employees who commented on his leadership during response to the August 24th bus crash on State Route 766, his leadership in the Field Officer Training Program, and his overall initiative and willingness to help wherever needed.

Quarterly Reports: Sheriff Watts provided a quarterly report showing Patrol, Detention, Communications/Dispatch, and Civil Service statistics for July, August, and September. There were 2,286 patrol incidents with 23 arrests, 80+ citations, and 3,288 communication incidents for

the quarter. The Sheriff noted that citations are under-reported by as much as 10 due to issues with downloading data when the Brazos E-Ticket program was first implemented.

There were 26 new jail bookings and 27 inmates housed during the quarter, for a total of 258 inmate days. There were 12 mental health consultations for inmates utilizing the telehealth connection now available.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In September, Eureka served 739 meals and Crescent Valley served 560 meals. A total of \$10,769.00 was deposited for the month.

On October 19th, approximately 25 seniors from Crescent Valley and Eureka traveled to Ely to ride the Ghost Train, visit the museum, and have lunch. A great time was had by all. Due to traveling distance, the Crescent Valley group stayed in Ely Saturday night and returned home on Sunday.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justifications – Casual Worker III: Ms. Oram submitted two Hiring Freeze Waiver Justifications. The first was for a Casual III at the Eureka Senior Center who has given notice. The second was prepared in the event someone transfers internally into the vacant position, creating a subsequent vacancy.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Senior Centers Program Director to fill the vacant position of Casual Worker III, as well as a subsequent vacancy that may occur if an existing employee moves laterally into the first position. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Desk Audit Reports: Grants received from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division are audited annually. The Board reviewed Desk Audit Reports for the following nutrition grants for the period of October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2018: 07-000-04-24-18, 07-000-07-1X-18, and 07-000-57-NX-18; and the following transportation grant for the period of July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018: 07-000-10-BC-18. Ms. Oram reported that all monies were found to be expended in accordance with the grant guidelines.

HEALTHY PAWS

Donation Request: Healthy Paws of Eureka is affiliated with a State-licensed organization that helps control over-population of cats and dogs through wellness programs, spay and neuter incentives, and a variety of proactive efforts.

Cindy Beutel provided an update on recent efforts and noted that Maddie's Pet Project is assisting Healthy Paws of Eureka in obtaining 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, which will open up more funding avenues for grants and donations. In the meantime, she requested a donation of \$10,000.00 from the County explaining that Healthy Paws' bank account has a balance of only \$200.00 and owes the local veterinarian about \$3,000.00. Other fundraising efforts include a silent auction at the Holiday Bazaar, sending letters to area mines and businesses, and individual donations (which account for \$1,200.00 raised since March).

Ms. Beutel described the work involved in trapping cats, testing them for feline leukemia and feline AIDS (which is rampant in the Town of Eureka), spaying/neutering and finding homes for healthy animals, and euthanizing the ones that can't be saved. Ms. Beutel houses and cares for cats and kittens until they are old enough or healthy enough to be adopted. She uses her own vehicle and fuel and does multiple loads of laundry with no reimbursement.

Currently she is focusing on several large colonies of cats – approximately 50 at one location in Diamond Valley, 20 in the Sharrow Circle area, and an indeterminate number on Spring Street in Eureka. She responds when residents ask for help. She was recently contacted by Barbara Dugan in Crescent Valley who is feeding at least 25 feral cats.

Ms. Dugan was in attendance via the interactive video and explained that she spays and neuters her own pets, but neighbors move away leaving cats behind, and it has exploded into a huge problem. She is spending over \$200.00 a month to feed feral cats so they don't starve.

The Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion with Ms. Beutel regarding the feline overpopulation problem and possible strategies that might make the Healthy Paws program more effective. The Chairman said he doesn't want to see the program taken advantage of by people who should, and can afford to, take care of their own pets.

Ms. Beutel said that many of the cats are truly feral, but often there are instances where the owners have allowed populations to get out of hand. The Sheriff joined the conversation and agreed with the Board that these are instances where the Sheriff and his staff need to hold people accountable to the County ordinance that limits the number of cats or dogs a person may own.

The Board considered the extensive costs and protocols involved if the County were doing the work that Ms. Beutel has undertaken. The Sheriff interjected that the County no longer has an animal control position, but animal control has not gone away – it is just more cost-effective for the Deputies to do it. Eliminating the animal control position saves the County over \$30,000.00 annually. Unfortunately, the County is limited because it does not have facilities to house cats and even the dog pound may be somewhat inadequate.

Commissioner McKay offered to speak with the local veterinarian to see if she would be willing to offer a one- or two-day clinic to spay and neuter pets of local residents at a reduced rate. The Sheriff suggested that the County might even consider a subsidy to help make this happen.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to fund \$5,000.00 as a bridge to keep the work going, asking that Ms. Beutel concentrate on animals in the specific areas she is already addressing or has committed to. Chairman Goicoechea stated his schedule is full for the next couple of weeks, but offered to work with Ms. Beutel after that to find a more strategic and long-term solution for this problem. Ms. Beutel stated she would welcome his help and expertise.

Commissioner McKay motioned to make a \$5,000.00 donation to Healthy Paws from miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget, with the understanding that there will be further conversations regarding a comprehensive feral cat strategy. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

JUVENILE PROBATION

40-Ft. Storage Unit: Juvenile Probation Officer, Steve Zimmerman, provided a quote from Pac-Van in Elko for a 40-ft. storage unit (Conex box). Juvenile Probation is taking on new programs, including children's soccer and baseball, and is finding that supplies and equipment are stored all over in people's houses and garages. The small Juvenile Probation office is already jam-packed with materials for the existing programs, so a storage container is sorely needed.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchase of a 40-ft. container from Pac-Van in Elko for the quoted price of \$6,900.00, which includes delivery, to be paid with capital outlay monies budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Server & Related Software: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, explained his office has a server that handles data for the case management software and all of the criminal cases. The server is approximately 11 years old and in need of being replaced. The IT Director is working on obtaining quotes for a new server and software, and the overall cost will be close to \$10,000.00.

Commissioner McKay motioned to authorize purchase of a new server and software for the District Attorney's office for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 to be paid with capital outlay monies in the District Attorney's budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for September was submitted by Treasurer, Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$29,956,160.89. Ms. Johnson is speaking with an investment consultant as she considers investment options. Before making changes, she is reviewing statutes enacted during the 2019 Legislative Session that affect investments by local governments. She plans to discuss legislative updates at a future meeting.

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. The pump, motor, and variable frequency drive for the Crescent Valley municipal well, that recently failed, have been delivered and will be installed in the next 30 days (the well is currently operational, but this will upgrade it).

Klindt Building Demolition: By the end of the day, Olcese Construction will complete rebar installation on the remaining wall that was shared by the Klindt building and the Eureka Senior Center. The shotcrete crew will begin spraying concrete on October 28th, which will take a week, followed by a 14-day cure. Then a waterproof sealant will be applied, followed by a three-day cure. The area will be backfilled, regraded, and the project should be complete by the November 15th deadline.

Kobeh Valley Test Well Project: Bid specifications were sent to Boart Longyear Drilling Services and the response is due back to Public Works by November 1st. Boart Longyear is the only company that pre-qualified to bid on the Kobeh Valley Test Well Project.

Devil's Gate Mainline Extension: The BLM is reviewing the County's application for a right-of-way along Highway 50 to complete the Devil's Gate mainline extension. A permit will also be obtained from NDOT.

2020 Road & Utility Improvement Project: Surveyors are currently in town for about two weeks to begin work on the large infrastructure project that will begin in the next fiscal year.

Landfill Casual Employee: A Casual Equipment Operator I was hired to work at the Eureka Landfill while a regular employee is off on maternity leave. Mr. Damele asked that this employee be granted extended hours, up to allowable limits, which will enable the Landfill to operate at near full capacity without the need to hire additional staff or pull workers from other areas.

Commissioner McKay authorized the Casual Equipment Operator I at the Eureka Landfill to work up to and not to exceed 29 hours per week, up to and not to exceed 119 hours per month, and up to and not to exceed 1,039 hours per year. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Pickup Truck Purchases: Mr. Damele requested authorization to purchase two pickups – one will be a replacement for the Assistant Public Works Director, and the second heavier-duty pickup will be used to pull a trailer to haul light equipment without having to use the transport truck.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchase of a new 2020 GMC Sierra 2500 Double Cab Flatbed Pickup Truck, not to exceed \$35,685.25, utilizing capital outlay budgeted in the Road Department Fund, with purchase made under the State of Nevada Fleet Vehicle Purchasing Agreement #8475. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchase of a new 2020 GMC 3500 Crew Cab Flatbed Pickup Truck, not to exceed \$49,198.25, utilizing capital outlay budgeted in the Road Department Fund, with purchase made under the State of Nevada Fleet Vehicle Purchasing Agreement #8475. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ELKO DISTRICT BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Update on Elko District BLM: Melanie Peterson, Tuscarora Field Office Manager, was in attendance to give an update on the Elko District BLM office.

Targeted Grazing Program: The Elko District is participating in a national pilot program, called a demo project, with three permittees north of Interstate 80 to test the effectiveness of targeted grazing. The permittees are doing flash grazing, either in the spring or in the dormant fall season, to create fuel breaks for fire prevention. The area is prone to fire and the fuel breaks have already proven effective in slowing down a 2017 fire and allowing it to be extinguished with only 2,500 acres burned. The Elko District is working on a Programmatic EA to authorize additional targeted grazing within the District.

Outcome Based Grazing: The Elko District is managing two of the national outcome-based grazing projects (five of the 11 national projects are in Nevada). These are also demo projects and are being done at the Horseshoe Scott's Gulch and the Winecup-Gamble Ranch. The BLM and permittees work cooperatively on these projects with a focus on creating a healthy landscape. This may include reseeding with non-native seed mixtures and other efforts to achieve high-quality wildlife habitat and healthy rangelands.

New Mine Projects: The NEPA process (National Environmental Policy Act) has begun for Copper One's proposed expansion to its Vanadium Exploration Project south of Carlin. The Elko District BLM expects to receive exploration plans soon for two or more other mining projects.

New Field Manager: Ms. Peterson informed that Gerald Dixon will fill the vacant Wells Field Manager position starting in mid-November.

Fire: With the fire season not quite over, Ms. Peterson was pleased to report that only 38,000 acres burned in the Elko District this year, a vast improvement over last year's season when 700,000 acres were lost to wildfire.

In the News: Ms. Peterson concluded her update by briefly mentioning two items that have been in the news. First, the injunction granted by the US District Court judge blocking implementation of the BLM's Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments (discussed earlier in the meeting), has caused the BLM to suspend the November and December Oil & Gas Lease Sales pending further direction. And second, the BLM whistleblower has been reinstated as part of a settlement in his whistleblower complaint against the BLM and will be working out of the Elko District Office.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

CABNR & Cooperative Extension: On October 10th, Mr. Tibbitts was in Reno to attend meetings of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources and the Cooperative Extension Advisory Board. The Boards discussed the recent sale of 104 acres of the University's Main Station Farm/Field Lab. Ten million dollars from the sale will go to CABNR and a portion of that will be used towards development of a field station in Eureka County. Cooperative Extension funds were earmarked in Eureka County's current budget towards the field station.

The Board of Regents has decided to place a conservation easement on the Main Station Farm's remaining acreage and is discussing the best outcome for the high-value water rights attached to the property so they aren't all tied to the conservation easement.

American Wild Horse Campaign: Following the University meetings, Mr. Tibbitts met with representatives of the American Wild Horse Campaign regarding their interest in doing PZP treatments (immunocontraceptive) in the Fish Creek Herd Management Area. The group's views on wild horses differ from Eureka County's and, therefore, it had the perception that the County would oppose its involvement. Mr. Tibbitts clarified that Eureka County supports this effort and is interested in the level of success of the treatment. He asked that political issues be set aside

during this time and also asked that the group be cognizant of the grazing permittees. Mr. Tibbitts invited the group to introduce themselves at a future Commission meeting.

Pinyon Juniper Events: The Pinyon-Juniper Partnership conducted a field tour of the work in Eureka on October 14th with about 15 people in attendance. About 20 people were at the Opera House for the presentations and dinner later that evening. Mr. Tibbitts felt there was a good cross-section of people including locals, agency folks, and others from outside the area.

Quicksilver Contracting will be back in Eureka starting October 28th to clear 80 additional acres in the Diamond Mountains and to do maintenance on up to 1,000 acres of previous cleared areas. Quicksilver plans to have a large crew in town to complete the work in 4-5 days.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting on the afternoon of October 21st. Mr. Tibbitts will be in Winnemucca October 22nd through 24th for the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts meeting. The Eureka Conservation District will meet on October 29th. Natural Resource staff will travel to Crescent Valley on October 31st for a meeting of the Crescent Valley Firewise Committee.

On November 4th, the Natural Resources Conservation Service will host a Local Work Group meeting at the Administrative Facility. Local Work Groups are established through the Farm Bill to allow communities to develop local resource priorities. NRCS uses the recommendations when awarding grants or loans funded by the Farm Bill.

General Moly, Inc.: General Moly received a \$300,000.00 payment from AMER International Group to extend the arbitration period between the two companies to November 15th. General Moly claims that AMER is in default of a \$10 million tranche payment, which was due under an Investment Securities Purchase Agreement once General Moly obtained its water rights.

Ely District BLM: Mr. Tibbitts received a message from the Ely District BLM inviting Eureka County to participate as a Cooperating Agency on the Robinson Mine Expansion. Mr. Tibbitts informed the Board that he plans to decline the invitation since the expansion will not have much impact on Eureka County.

Proposed Federal Legislation: Several bills are coming before Congress with proposed changes to 1872 Mining Law. There is currently no federal tax or royalty on minerals and one significant proposal is to implement a federal royalty similar to those imposed on oil and gas. In Nevada, the State receives net proceeds of minerals tax, of which the counties receive a portion. In a royalty system, the mining companies would be able to write off the royalties, reducing the amount of proceeds to the State and to the counties where the mines are operating. Mr. Tibbitts feels this litigation may have some success in the House, but doesn't expect it to get any traction in the Senate.

Chairman Goicoechea cautioned that another bill, sponsored by Representative Raul Grijalva, is expected any day that would prohibit ranchers from buying grazing allotments once they are voluntarily relinquished by the current holder. The same legislation will allow environmental groups to purchase the allotments in order to permanently retire them.

FRTC Modernization Final EIS: Mr. Tibbitts explained that the State Legislature passed a resolution opposing the Fallon Range Training Complex expansion. Churchill County is taking the lead on developing a document, called the State of Nevada Consolidated Request, which will be signed by the Governor's office, involved counties, and involved agencies. The document has a dual purpose – it will serve as comments on the FRTC Modernization Final EIS and will become an agreement with the Navy regarding the expansion, outlining steps the Navy needs to take and steps that Congress needs to take in directing, authorizing, and providing necessary funding and tools to the Navy on other actions that should be taken.

Release of the public Draft Final EIS now isn't expected until after the first of the year. Mr. Tibbitts explained the County is participating as a Cooperating Agency and as such has signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement, so documents cannot be shared at this time; but he informed that the

Consolidated Request contains many items based on comments provided by Eureka County throughout the EIS process for the naval expansion.

SLUPAC Nomination: Mr. Tibbitts has served as the County’s representative on the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council for quite a few years and is current Chairman of SLUPAC. His current term expires at the end of the year and counties have been asked to get their nominations in early.

Commissioner McKay motioned to submit a letter formally re-nominating Jake Tibbitts to the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council for a new three-year term beginning January 1, 2020. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Tyler Thomas; Healthy Paws; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (2); Sheriff’s Office flyer for blood drive; Natural Resources, Jake Tibbitts (2); Medical Clinics Advisory Committee; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Television District; Crescent Valley VFD; Nevada Aging & Disability Services Div. (2); Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (4); White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Smith, Currie & Hancock; National Assoc. of Counties; and US Navy.

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Goicoechea reported that during the October 18th meeting of Nevada Association of Counties, NACO voted unanimously to support “*The Path Forward for Management of BLM’s Wild Horses & Burros.*” This is the plan that Chairman Goicoechea has been highly involved with on behalf of Eureka County. A letter of support from NACO has been sent to the Congressional Delegation.

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 12:09 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of November, 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 October 21, 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