

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 6, 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 November 6, 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

Two items were removed from the agenda: the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee and minutes of the October 15th quarterly meeting. With those changes, Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the agenda; 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

October 6th & October 20th Minutes: Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve minutes of the October 6, 2014, and October 20, 2014, meetings; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

FINANCE

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Recorder & Auditor, Mike Rebaleati. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$509,241.48 for accounts payable, \$433,340.86 for payroll, and \$101,926.01 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District, for a grand total of \$1,044,508.35; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve Yucca Mountain expenditures in the amount of \$5,201.99; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

It was brought to the Board’s attention that an invoice from Suburban Propane in the amount of \$206.87 was previously submitted to the County and erroneously paid. This should have been billed to Amaron Energy. The Board asked Mr. Rebaleati to contact Suburban Propane to resolve this matter.

Auditor’s Report: The Board reviewed the Auditor’s Report. Mr. Rebaleati noted that the ‘old’ Yucca Mountain account, which is inactive and has a zero balance, must remain on the books for two more years for auditing purposes. It will be removed in Fiscal Year 2016.

COMMISSIONERS

Update Reports: Commissioner Ithurralde participated in a conference call on October 23rd with White Pine County, Lincoln County, and Nevada Association of Counties staff regarding planning for the NACO Annual Conference later this month, and attended the NACO meeting in Carson City on October 31st.

Commissioner Sharkozy attended the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Conference in Reno on October 17th; participated in the Spook Walk in Crescent Valley on

October 18th where he helped man the Search & Rescue table; attended the Red Ribbon Week events at the Crescent Valley Elementary School on October 28th; and participated in extrication training for the Crescent Valley and Beowawe Fire Departments on November 1st.

Chairman Goicoechea chaired the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting in Carson City on October 27th where work continued on a strategic action plan for the approved 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan; participated in a conference call with members of the NACO Public Lands & Natural Resources Subcommittee on October 30th; represented Eureka County at the funeral for Elko County Commissioner, Aaron Grant Gerber, on November 1st, which was attended by nearly 1,000 people; attended the National Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention in Elko on November 3rd-5th; and while in Elko chaired the Nevada Land Action Association meeting, attended the Nevada State Grazing Boards Central Committee meeting, and attended the Nevada Rangeland Resources Commission meeting.

Nevada Division of Minerals: Nevada Division of Minerals oversees the Abandoned Mine Lands Program. They recently sent a letter to the Commissioners notifying of two mine claimants in Eureka County who had not responded to notification of possible hazardous conditions at their claim sites. Statute dictates that the County Commission is responsible for conveying this information to the County Sheriff to pursue any additional notifications. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to transmit information from Nevada Division of Minerals to the Eureka County Sheriff, pursuant to NRS 455.030, in regards to nonresponsive mine claimants in Eureka County who have claims with unsecured hazardous mine features. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

State Demographer Projections: Two reports were received from the Nevada State Demographer for review by the Board: (1) Nevada County Population Projections for 2014 to 2033, and (2) Nevada County Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin Estimates & Projections for 2000 to 2033. No discrepancies were noted in the information provided.

Holiday Appreciation: After a brief discussion regarding holiday recognition of employees and volunteers, the Board agreed to give gift cards. In addition to employees, the Board decided to recognize the following groups and volunteers: EMS; Volunteer Fire Departments; Search & Rescue; Firewise Committees; Board of Equalization; Diamond Valley Rodent District Board; Diamond Valley Weed District Board; Economic Development Program Board; Fair Board; Juvenile Probation Committee; Local Emergency Planning Committee; Medical Clinics Advisory Committee; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Planning Commission; Recreation Board; Regional Transportation Commission; Senior Center Advisory Board; and County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Committees made up solely of County employees did not require inclusion. Elected boards and inactive boards were excluded.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to give \$20.00 Visa gift cards to employees and volunteers as a token of appreciation during the holiday season; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION HONORING VICKI DRENON

Retirement of Long Time Employee, Vicki Drenon: The Board welcomed Vickie and her husband, Tom Drenon. The resolution honoring Ms. Drenon was read into the record. Commissioner Ithurralde stated he was proud to make the motion to adopt the resolution honoring Vicki Drenon; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. The Board congratulated Ms. Drenon and thanked her for her years of service. A hearty round of applause began at the Crescent Valley site and continued in Eureka.

Eureka, Nevada

November 6, 2014

**RESOLUTION
HONORING VICKI DRENON
FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO EUREKA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wishes to honor longtime employee, Vicki Delan Drenon, for twenty years of dedicated service to Eureka County; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County acknowledges the following biographical information: Vicki was born in Odessa, Texas, to JoAnn & Delbert Free. She graduated from McKinleyville High School in McKinleyville, California, in June 1970. She married William Thomas Drenon on November 6, 1971. Vicki and Tom raised two children, Matthew Thomas Drenon and Toni Delan Drenon, and are the proud and loving grandparents of Brianna, Kail, Baylee, and Katelynn. Vicki's love of family makes time with her children and grandchildren one of her favorite activities, but she also enjoys her community, friends, gardening, home decorating, and home improvement.

WHEREAS, Eureka County hereby recognizes the contributions Vicki has given. Vicki began working for Eureka County in November 1994 as Crescent Valley Town Secretary. In January 1999, she was promoted to Senior Department Assistant and took on additional duties including Public Works functions. On January 2013, Vicki was promoted to Public Works Administrative Assistant II, which more accurately suited the vast responsibilities she had and the supervisory duties that she performed; and

WHEREAS, Vicki is knowledgeable, resourceful, possesses a warm personality, and brought a lot of class to her job. She fostered a good working relationship with the public, fellow employees, and other County departments. Vicki became the "go to" person in the Crescent Valley area when anyone had a question or needed information, especially related to Town or County services; and

WHEREAS, in twenty years of service with the County, Vicki has seen many changes and improvements in the Crescent Valley area: a new Justice Facility, a new Community Center, a new Road Shop & Maintenance Facility, and an improved Crescent Valley Town Park.

WHEREAS, County officials, co-workers, and friends celebrate with Vicki, who has been a significant member of our workforce, as she retires and enters the next phase of her life.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognizes Vicki Drenon for her longtime service and commends her for her dedication to Eureka County.

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

ADOPTED this 6th day of November, 2014.

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

*J.J. Goicoechea
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman*

*J.P. Ithurrealde
J.P. "Jim" Ithurrealde, Vice Chairman*

*Michael Sharkozy
Michael Sharkozy, Member*

*ATTEST: Beverly Conley
Beverly Conley, Eureka County Clerk*

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Site Director, Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center. Site Director, Adell Panning, was unable to attend and provided a written report on the Fannie Komp Senior Center. In October, Eureka served 954 meals and Crescent Valley served 672 meals. A total of \$7,298.00 was deposited for the month.

Both centers were recently assessed by the Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division resulting in a favorable report with some minor recommendations.

Crescent Valley Activities Program: Karen Bowser was hired to fill the Crescent Valley Social Activities Coordinator position. Her first event was the Spook Walk in Crescent Valley.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Road Department Superintendent, Raymond Hodson, reported on Road Department projects and activities. Jayme Halpin, Operator III, was also in attendance. He will assume the supervisory duties for part of December while Mr. Hodson is gone. Crews have finished blading Mustang Road; several roads in Diamond Valley including 7th Street and 14th Street; JD Ranch Road from the County line to SR 278; Cortez Road including all side roads; and Rose Ranch Road. When time allows, the operators mow and sweep in areas throughout the County. Water trucks are working to keep dust down on several roads, including Collingwood Lane.

Crews transported cars donated by Tim & Sandy Halpin and Todd Hubbard to be used for extrication training for the Volunteer Fire Departments. Additional cars for this training were on loan from Atlas Towing.

The summer casual employee is gone, but 390 casual hours remain so that the Road Department can utilize them in instances of severe weather.

PUBLIC WORKS

SLAG Working Group: The first meeting of the SLAG Working Group will take place on November 10th at the Administration Building/Annex in Eureka.

Eureka Airport Runway Lighting Replacement Project: The contractor for the Eureka Airport Runway Lighting Replacement Project will return on November 24th for a few days to complete the remainder of the lighting project.

Courthouse HVAC Remodel Design Project: Design plans for the Courthouse HVAC Remodel Project are complete. A quote is being obtained from Ainsworth Engineering to conduct a peer review of the plans. The review will be completed shortly after the first of the year.

Fire Department Extrication Training: Extrication training was held in Crescent Valley on November 1st and in Eureka on November 2nd for the Volunteer Fire Departments. Another round of training will be scheduled in early spring. Fit testing for the SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) will be done in Crescent Valley on November 6th for both the Crescent Valley and Beowawe Volunteer Fire Departments.

Hay Fire: County resources, including a loader and transport, responded to a hay fire at the Tomera Ranch in Pine Valley very early on the morning of November 1st. Eureka, Pine Valley, Diamond Valley, and Beowawe VFDs all responded along with Carlin VFD and an engine out of Elko. Unfortunately, the hay was a total loss, but there were no injuries to people or damages to equipment.

Arsenic Treatment Plant: The arsenic treatment plant in Crescent Valley is scheduled for media change in March. This will be the first media replacement since the plant was placed into service approximately 3½ years ago. March is an optimal time to conduct this change since water consumption is low.

Roberts Creek Ranch Road: A right-of-way application was submitted to the BLM in October 2012 in order to relocate a portion of Roberts Creek Ranch Road. The application was for less than one mile of roadway and should take no longer than two weeks to build. Mr. Damele plans to draft a follow-up letter to the BLM as there is no justification for the two-year delay in permitting.

CLERK & TREASURER

Canvass Returns of the 2014 General Election: The Abstract of the 2014 General Election was presented by Clerk & Treasurer, Beverly Conley, and Elections Administrator, Vera Baumann. Ms. Conley began by thanking Clerk staff, pollworkers, Counting Board, and Ms. Baumann. Ms. Baumann reported that Eureka County had 79.80% voter turnout, one of the highest in the State, second only to Lander County by a mere 2%. The Commissioners complimented the quick reporting on Election night.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the canvass and abstract of the vote for the 2014 General Election held November 4, 2014; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

CANVASS and ABSTRACT OF THE VOTE FOR EUREKA COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA <u>2014 GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014</u>			
TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS		881	
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST		703	
NUMBER OF VOTERS AT POLLS ON ELECTION DAY		186	
MAILING PRECINCTS		203	
NUMBER OF ABSENTEE VOTERS		46	
NUMBER OF EARLY VOTERS		268	
PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT		79.80%	
EUREKA COUNTY SUMMARY REPORT			
<u>Registration & Turnout</u>		870	Voters
Election Day Reporting Turnout		389	44.15%
Absentee Reporting Turnout		46	5.22%
Early Vote Reporting Turnout		268	30.42%
Total...		703	79.80%
<u>Rep in Congress, District 2</u>	4/4	100.00%	
REP – AMODEL, MARK E.	531	76.62%	
IAP – HANSEN, JANINE	106	15.30%	
DEM – SPEES, KRISTEN	56	8.08%	
Total...	693	100.00%	
<u>Governor</u>	4/4	100.00%	
DEM – GOODMAN, ROBERT “BOB”	53	7.57%	
REP – SANDOVAL, BRIAN	533	76.14%	
IAP – VANDERBEEK, DAVID LORY	69	9.86%	
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	45	6.43%	
Total...	700	100.00%	
<u>Lieutenant Governor</u>	4/4	100.00%	
DEM – FLORES, LUCY	75	10.78%	
HUTCHISON, MARK	521	74.86%	
IAP – LITTLE, MIKE	60	8.62%	
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	40	5.75%	
Total...	696	100.00%	
<u>Secretary of State</u>	4/4	100.00%	
REP – CEGAVSKE, BARBARA	492	70.59%	
DEM – MARSHALL, KATE	131	18.79%	
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	74	10.62%	
Total...	697	100.00%	
<u>Assessor</u>	4/4	100.00%	
REP – MEARS, MICHAEL A.	635	100.00%	
Total...	635	100.00%	
<u>Clerk/Treasurer</u>	4/4	100.00%	
REP – CONLEY, BEVERLY	628	100.00%	
Total...	628	100.00%	
<u>District Attorney</u>	4/4	100.00%	
REP – BUETEL, THEODORE “TED”	577	100.00%	
Total...	577	100.00%	
<u>County Recorder</u>	4/4	100.00%	
REP – SIMMONS, SARA	585	100.00%	
Total...	585	100.00%	
<u>Supreme Court Justice, Seat B</u>	4/4	100.00%	
NP – PICKERING, KRISTINA	441	79.90%	
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	181	29.10%	
Total...	622	100.00%	
<u>Supreme Court Justice, Seat D</u>	4/4	100.00%	
NP – GIBBONS, MARK	489	74.68%	
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	159	25.32%	
Total...	628	100.00%	

State Treasurer	4/4	100.00%	Sheriff	4/4	100.00%
IAP – CAVE, KRESS K.	64	9.28%	NP – CANTRELL, SHANE	225	32.70%
REP – SCHWARTZ, DAN	483	70.00%	NP – LOGAN, KEITH A., II	463	67.30%
DEM – WALLIN, KIM	85	12.32%	Total...	688	100.00%
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	58	8.41%			
Total...	690	100.00%	School Board Trustee, Seat 2A	4/4	100.00%
			NP – BICE, V. CHUCK	169	24.85%
State Controller	4/4	100.00%	NP – HICKS, ROBIN	511	75.15%
IAP – JONES, TOM	83	11.98%	Total...	680	100.00%
REP – KNECHT, RON	477	68.83%			
DEM – MARTIN, ANDREW	67	9.67%	School Board Trustee, Seat 2B	4/4	100.00%
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	66	9.52%	NP – BAUMANN, DARLA R.	464	69.46%
Total...	693	100.00%	NP – OSBURN, JAMIE	204	30.54%
			Total...	668	100.00%
Attorney General	4/4	100.00%			
IAP – JONES, TOM	83	11.96%	State Question No. 1	4/4	100.00%
REP – LAXALT, ADAM PAUL	475	68.35%	YES	211	30.58%
DEM – MILLER, ROSS	111	15.97%	NO	479	69.42%
NP – NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	38	5.47%	Total...	690	100.00%
Total...	695	100.00%			
			State Question No. 2	4/4	100.00%
State Assembly Dist. 33	4/4	100.00%	YES	98	14.16%
REP – ELLISON, JOHN	614	100.00%	NO	594	85.84%
Total...	614	100.00%	Total...	692	100.00%
County Commissioner District 2	4/4	100.00%	State Question No. 3	4/4	100.00%
REP – ETCHEGARAY, FRED	378	54.47%	YES	74	10.69%
DEM – REBALEATI, MICHAEL N.	315	45.53%	NO	618	89.31%
Total...	693	100.00%	Total...	692	100.00%
County Commissioner District 3	4/4	100.00%			
REP – BAILEY, RAY W.	267	39.09%			
REP – SHARKOZY, MIKE	416	60.91%			

COUNTY FACILITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification: Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, Andrea Rossman, presented a Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification form to request authorization to fill a casual position. Recently, two casual employees resigned – one from the Sentinel Museum and one from the Opera House. Ms. Rossman proposed combining the duties and replacing these two positions with one casual employee. Museum Director, Ree Taylor, was also present to attest to the need for this position.

Job Description – Casual Assistant: Ms. Rossman provided the proposed job description for the Casual Assistant for Eureka Opera House and Sentinel Museum. The Board clarified several items: that this casual position will work no more than 19 hours per week; that this single position will replace two prior casual positions; and that ‘daily’ tasks means the casual will perform the tasks only on scheduled work days.

Commissioner Ithuralde motioned to waive the hiring freeze in order to fill this combined casual position and to accept the job description for the Eureka Opera House and Sentinel Museum Casual Assistant. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Update on Ely District: Jill Moore, Field Manager for the Egan Field Office, provided an update on management activities in the BLM Ely District, which borders Eureka County. Ms. Moore introduced Nathan Chilcott, Resource Assistant, and Ben Martin, Land Law Examiner. Ms. Moore gave an overview of activities and projects as follows.

Wild Horse Gather: A small scale horse gather, to remove approximately 120 horses, is planned in November and will encompass two HMAs (herd management areas) – Triple B HMA and Silver King HMA. The gather is termed a nuisance gather because the horses are damaging private property, harassing domestic horses, and wandering onto US Route 93. AML (appropriate management level) for the Triple B HMA is 215-250 horses; the current population is 1,311 wild horses. AML for the Silver King HMA is 60-128 horses; the current population is 452 wild horses.

Overland Pass Habitat Improvement Project: This is a fuels reduction project being conducted in cooperation with the US Forest Service. The Preliminary EA (environmental assessment) is currently out for public review and comment.

Newark & Huntington Watershed Restoration Plan: A vegetation treatment plan was developed for Newark Valley and Huntington Valley and includes a fuels component and riparian improvements. It was protested by Western Watersheds Project and the BLM is in the process of responding to the protest.

Mining Projects: Two major mining projects are currently undergoing the EIS (environmental impact statement) process – Barrick Gold Corporation's Bald Mountain Mine Expansion and Midway Gold Corporation's Gold Rock Project. The EISs for both of these projects are expected to be published in the Federal Register sometime in December.

The BLM issued the ROD (record of decision) for another mining project, Midway Gold Corporation's Pan Mine Project, in December 2013. The decision was appealed, but the petition for stay was denied, so construction on this project has begun. Mt. Wheeler Power recently received the notice to proceed for construction of a power transmission line to the site. A circuitous route has been selected for this power line to avoid sage grouse habitat.

Drought Conditions: Ms. Moore noted that the State continues to be in a widespread drought. Enough moisture was received this last season to advance Ely District's management area to a moderate level as opposed to a more severe categorization. The Ely District utilizes many tools to help manage lands under drought conditions. They work collaboratively with ranchers and have succeeded in addressing problems with voluntary measures. The Ely District has not implemented restrictions from their Drought EA and has not issued any Full Force & Effect decisions, nor do they anticipate the need to do so.

Chairman Goicoechea agreed that much of the State is in a hydrologic drought, but with the timing of precipitation this past year, local areas are not in a vegetative drought. Ms. Moore agreed, noting that vegetation has improved in the western half of the Ely District.

Drought Management Review: Ms. Moore informed that the Nevada State BLM Office is conducting a drought management review across the State. This study will address policies, compliance with policies, adequacy of policies, field surveys, and consistency between districts. This effort is being led by Raul Morales, BLM Nevada Deputy State Director, and will take place over the next six months.

Staffing Levels: The Ely District is currently operating with limited staff after losing five Range Cons in the past six months. They are working diligently to fill those positions.

Range Improvements: Chairman Goicoechea asked how the Ely District addresses water developments in light of the controversial issue of agencies holding water rights. Ms. Moore stated the District is sensitive to using taxpayer monies for new improvements since it is not the water rights holder, but staff works with permittees and mining companies to accomplish new developments and to maintain existing range improvements.

Categorical Exclusions: Ms. Moore discussed applicability of categorical exclusions. More flexibility is allowed once an area has already been disturbed. Categorical exclusions can be used to repair a fence or pipeline, for example. Chairman Goicoechea asked about a categorical exclusion to install a water project where the disturbance is due to a road and not a fence or pipeline. Ms. Moore responded that in these instances she would have a conversation with the permittee and would address each request on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Moore concluded her update by thanking the Board for inviting her to speak. The Board thanked Ms. Moore and her staff for a very informative discussion.

EUREKA COUNTY ASSESSOR

County Room Tax: County Assessor, Michael Mears, explained that there have been numerous federal employees in Eureka recently who are claiming a tax exemption when registering at local motels/hotels. The proprietors are calling Mr. Mears for direction on whether this exemption is applicable in Eureka County. The only room tax exemption in Eureka County Code is for tenants who rent a room for 28 days or more. Nevada Revised Statutes does not outline room tax exemptions because this authority is left to the local governing body.

Mr. Mears requested that the Board propose an ordinance to amend the room tax section of County Code to either identify or exclude this exemption. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to begin the process of proposing an ordinance amending Eureka County Code, Title 4, Chapter 50.040, to clarify that the only room tax exemption shall be for tenants renting for 28 days or more; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. A draft ordinance will be presented at the next meeting.

Limited Term Parking in Front of Courthouse: Mr. Mears explained that due to the numerous meetings, classes, and events at the Opera House, attendees are infringing on the minimal parking in front of the County Courthouse. This affects citizens who have business to conduct at the Courthouse and also affects Assessor staff who must conduct DMV inspections on vehicles. Mr. Mears requested that the Commissioners propose an ordinance to make the area directly in front of the Courthouse a limited term parking zone.

The Board contemplated the specifics and felt that 30 minute parking directly in front of the Courthouse would be sufficient for parking needs during business hours. Since this parking is along US Highway 50, a request will have to be submitted to Nevada Department of Transportation. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to direct the Public Works Director to submit a written request to Nevada Department of Transportation to establish limited term parking on US Highway 50 directly in front of the County Courthouse from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on activities since his last report a month earlier. Mr. Tibbitts attended the Nevada Conservation Commission meeting on October 7th; attended the Eureka Conservation District meeting on October 8th; attended the meeting with BLM National Deputy Director, Steve Ellis, and various stakeholders in Battle Mountain on October 15th, followed by a meeting with Congressman Mark Amodei; attended conflict resolution facilitator training co-sponsored by Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Nevada in Elko on October 22nd-23rd; attended the NEPA kickoff meeting for McEwen Mining's Gold Bar Project at the BLM Mount Lewis Field Office in Battle Mountain on October 27th; attended the Technical Committee meeting on the Joint Land Use Study for the Naval Air Station in Fallon on October 28th; attended the Humboldt River base flow workshop sponsored by Humboldt River Basin Water Authority in Winnemucca on October 29th; attended the Nevada Weed Management Association meeting on October 30th; attended an Executive Committee meeting of the Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership on November 4th; attended the Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association meeting the evening of November 4th; and attended the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife on November 5th.

Meeting Highlights: **Nevada Conservation Commission:** The Eureka Conservation District was found to be in good standing and will receive their State grant funds of just under \$4,000.00. The NCC approved a letter to the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Corps of Engineers citing concerns over the proposed rule, WOTUS (Waters of the US). **McEwen Mining NEPA Kickoff:** This is the first time the BLM has included Eureka County in a

NEPA kickoff meeting and Mr. Tibbitts and the Board voiced their appreciation. Naval Air Station Joint Land Use Study: This meeting revealed that the military may assert more pressure subject to their protected air space, which in part covers a large portion of Eureka County. Humboldt River Base Flow Workshop: The State Engineer discussed models developed by the US Geological Survey that will help determine impacts from individual groundwater pumpers within a basin. Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership: The Executive Committee is pursuing a wood utilization grant, of which the bulk will benefit Eureka County because of the active pinyon-juniper work being done here.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Eureka Conservation District Annual Dinner & Elections on November 6th; a meeting with the BLM, Nevada Department of Agriculture, and representatives of the Dean Ranch in Crescent Valley on November 7th; the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting in Winnemucca on November 14th; a Crescent Valley Firewise Committee meeting on November 18th; and a Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on November 19th. Mr. Tibbitts will also participate on the Public Lands Panel on November 20th during the NACO Annual Conference in Ely.

Conservation District Survey to Water Users in Diamond Valley Basin: Mr. Tibbitts reminded everybody to get their surveys in by the November 7th deadline. The survey went out to all Diamond Valley Basin water users (irrigators, domestic users, municipal users) and simply asked whether the user supported or did not support the State Engineer designating Diamond Valley as a critical management area. As of November 4th, 13.85% of the surveys have been returned with the majority favoring the designation.

BLM Grazing Decisions: A meeting was held on September 26th with the BLM and affected ranchers over the Willow Creek Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure. Mr. Tibbitts followed up with the BLM and, as of this week, the staff member who came to Eureka for the meeting has not yet been given the opportunity by BLM management to brief them and receive direction related to this closure.

In relation to the Frazier Fire Wildfire Management & Livestock Closure, the BLM replaced their Full Force & Effect decision with a Temporary Modification of the Roberts Mountain Allotment grazing permit. This is a somewhat positive step by the BLM, but the same concerns and issues still apply – the BLM is utilizing generalized information from the US Drought Monitor to impose restrictions when all other indicators demonstrate that the area is extremely moist and the forage is in good condition. These favorable conditions are supported by VegDRI (drought response index), the US Geological Survey monitoring that is being conducted in the area, and simply by the existence of above record forage. The BLM's Temporary Modification decision was received on October 27th with a 30 day appeal deadline.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Undersheriff Keith Logan; EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan; Senior Center Director, Adell Panning (2); Executive Assistant, Jackie Berg (2); Medical Clinics Advisory Committee; Eureka County Planning Commission; Eureka County Television District; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; Owl Club; MolyBits Messenger; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (3); White Pine County Commission; White Pine County Community & Economic Development; Tri-County Meeting; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); Nevada Div. of Minerals; Nevada State Demographer; Nevada Aging & Disability Services Div.; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (3); Nevada Dept. of Health & Human Services; Nevada Pool/PACT; Nevada 150; McDonald-Carano-Wilson; Colorado River Commission of Nevada; and Nevada Assemblyman, Ira Hansen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. Lisa Wolf requested a copy of Vicki Drenon’s resolution as well as a photograph of her accepting the resolution. Electronic copies will be sent to Ms. Wolf by email.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

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