

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 4, 2018**

STATE OF NEVADA            )  
  :SS  
COUNTY OF EUREKA        )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on December 4, 2018. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy; Commissioner Fred Etchegaray; and Commissioner Clerk, Jackie Berg. District Attorney, Ted Beutel, was absent. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 20, 2018: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the November 20, 2018, Commission meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**COUNTY COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller, Maureen Garner. Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$514,893.91 for accounts payable, \$287,245.26 for payroll related expenses, \$1,512.29 for a pass-through to Nevada Department of Taxation, and \$12,120.46 for Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$815,771.92. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed the Fund Balance Report and the Pooled Cash Report provided by the Comptroller's office.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Participation in Appeal of CV-1409-203: In October, Judge Gary Fairman, Seventh Judicial District Court, issued FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW; ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW in Case No. CV-1409-203 (Daniel S. Venturacci vs. Jason King, State Engineer) concerning Venturacci's claims for mitigation water. Mr. Venturacci is appealing this ruling to the Nevada Supreme Court.

Chairman Goicoechea explained that the County's water attorney, Karen Peterson Esq., has concerns surrounding this case and has advised the County to participate as this case is appealed. The Chairman suggested that he, District Attorney Beutel, Jake Tibbitts, and Dale Bugenig work with Ms. Peterson to determine the best avenue for involvement.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve Eureka County's participation in Case No. CV-1409-203 as it is appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court and authorized County staff and representatives to work with counsel to determine the manner of participation. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MOA for Networking Grant – William Bee Ririe Hospital: Matt Walker, CEO of William Bee Ririe Hospital, asked for the County’s support as they take the lead in partnering with other entities to obtain a grant that will fund development of a formal health care network for data collection, needs assessment, and planning to address health care issues, including expansion of mobile clinical services and telemedicine. No funding is required from the County related to these efforts.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve signing a Memorandum of Agreement in support of William Bee Ririe Hospital taking the lead in obtaining a Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) grant to develop a formal network to address health care issues. Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Other parties to the MOA include medical organizations, providers, and educators; and health related State agencies. The Medical Clinics Advisory Committee was named in partnership with the Eureka County Commissioners.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: The next meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council is December 11<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Goicoechea explained that release of the Final EIS for the BLM’s land use plan amendments (Nevada & Northeaster California Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment) has been delayed, but is now expected within the week. Its release will trigger the 60-day Governor’s Consistency Review, which will now span the administration of two Governors, and it is not yet clear how the transition will be handled.

**COUNTY ASSESSOR**

Resolution to Publish Tax Roll: As required by NRS 361.300, Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt a resolution directing the County Assessor to prepare and publish a list of all taxpayers and property valuations on the secured tax roll of Eureka County. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Assessor, Michael Mears, will post the tax roll on the County website and a copy will be available in his office for review by the public.

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY ASSESSOR TO PREPARE AND PUBLISH A LIST OF ALL TAXPAYERS ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL IN THE COUNTY, AND THE TOTAL VALUATION OF PROPERTY ON WHICH THEY WILL SEVERALLY PAY TAXES PURSUANT TO N.R.S. 361.300

**WHEREAS**, Nevada Revised Statute requires that the County Assessor be directed by Board Resolution to prepare and publish the secured tax roll annually.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners does hereby direct the County Assessor prepare and publish a list of all taxpayers on the 2019-20 secured tax roll in the County, and the total valuation of property on which they will severally pay taxes, pursuant to N.R.S. 361.300;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners does hereby direct the County Assessor to cause such list and valuations to be published on the Eureka County website on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year in which assessments are made and a public notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County that said list will also be printed and made publicly available at the Eureka County Assessor’s Office and available via the County website.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

THOSE VOTING AYE: Commissioner J.J. Goicoechea, DVM  
Commissioner Michael Sharkozy  
Commissioner Fred Etchegaray

THOSE VOTING NAY: None

THOSE ABSENT: None

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. GOICOECHEA, DVM, CHAIRMAN  
EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

JACKIE BERG, COMMISSIONER CLERK

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

**Report on Activities:** Assistant Public Works Director, Raymond Hodson, reported on Road Department projects and activities. Southern and northern crews have been working together to complete a couple of large projects. Installation of French drains in Gable Canyon is now complete and should significantly improve drainage in the area. The gravel hauling project on the JD Ranch Road is going well and approximately three miles of the road is finished. Crews are currently working on snow removal, but will return to the gravel hauling project by the end of the week.

## **YUCCA MOUNTAIN**

**Certificate of Expenditure of Funds:** Nuclear Waste Advisor, Abby Johnson, explained that each year the County must show that monies received from the Department of Energy were expended in accordance with Public Law 111-85 and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. These are funds that were distributed to Eureka County as an Affected Unit of Local Government in relation to the Yucca Mountain Project.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to sign the Certificate of Expenditure of Funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 for the direct payment grant from US Department of Energy for the Yucca Mountain Project; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**Nuclear Waste Program – Key Issues Report:** Ms. Johnson and Ron Damele presented a report from Eureka County’s Nuclear Waste Program entitled, “Key Issues for County Commissioners Regarding Yucca Mountain Review & Licensing Process.” Ms. Johnson explained that it is important to have a reference document that provides background information, identifies key issues, and serves as a decision-making framework for current and future Commissions.

The Issues Report talks about **transportation issues**, including the possibility that the Carlin Rail Corridor could be elevated as the preferred transportation route for shipping nuclear waste to the Yucca Mountain site. Eureka County should continue monitoring transportation developments and be prepared to take appropriate steps should this occur.

The County is an Interested Governmental Participant in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s **licensing proceeding** for the Yucca Mountain Repository, which has allowed a level of participation in the licensing and hearing process. The County may want to consider taking steps to elevate its status to a full party in the licensing proceeding.

If Yucca Mountain moves forward and the US Department of Energy restores the direct payment grants to the Affected Units of Local Government, the County should advocate for sufficient **oversight funds**. As an AULG, the County received oversight funding from 1992 to 2010 and conservatively managed those funds, which enabled the County to sustain an active Nuclear Waste Program to the present day. The Issues Report recommends that the County

continue to maintain the Program at a basic level, even if gap funding is required until federal funding is reinstated.

The Issues Report considers **existing legislation** and **proposed legislation**, which affect variables related to nuclear waste and the Yucca Mountain Program. Proposed legislation could increase the volume of waste slated for Yucca Mountain, which in turn will impact transportation. Other factors include the accelerated decommissioning of nuclear power plants and the resulting momentum for interim storage solutions.

With resumption of the licensing process virtually inevitable, Eureka County is well-positioned to continue protecting its interests and making key decisions following the guidelines of the Issues Report and the associated resolution.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the Eureka County Nuclear Waste Program Report: Key Issues for County Commissioners Regarding Yucca Mountain Review & Licensing Process; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Nuclear Waste Program Resolution: Ms. Johnson and Mr. Damele provided a resolution adopting the Issues Report and stating principles and purposes for the Nuclear Waste Program. The resolution states that the County remains neutral in its position on the Yucca Mountain Repository. Ms. Johnson noted that neutral is not a bad thing, but means that the County remains open-minded to all perspectives related to the Yucca Mountain Program.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt the Resolution Adopting the Nuclear Waste Program Issues Report and Stating the Principles and Purposes for the Eureka County Nuclear Waste Program; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

December 4, 2018

RESOLUTION  
OF THE BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING THE  
NUCLEAR WASTE PROGRAM ISSUES REPORT AND STATING THE PRINCIPLES  
AND PURPOSES FOR THE EUREKA COUNTY NUCLEAR WASTE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 set a process and time schedule for the establishment of the nation's first geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent commercial nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 1987, the Congress of the United States amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, identifying Yucca Mountain in Nye County, Nevada, as the sole site to be characterized as a permanent repository for the storage of spent commercial nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste, and designated Eureka County as an "affected unit of local government" because it is contiguous to Nye County, and

WHEREAS, Eureka County as an affected unit of local government has a responsibility to perform oversight as identified in section 116 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act as amended; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of Eureka County residents being of the highest priority, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners has been steadfast and diligent in its efforts to assess, prepare for, participate, and monitor impacts to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Carlin rail corridor beginning in Beowawe and extending southwest through Eureka County was considered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the 300 mile rail line through Nevada to facilitate shipments to the repository, and may still be considered again depending on a number of factors including the viability of the chosen route; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County has both rail and interstate highway corridors which pose public safety challenges for safe transport of nuclear material in remote areas with only volunteer emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is recognized as a “downwind” county from atomic bomb testing primarily in the 1950s and 1960s at the Nevada Test Site in Nye County, Nevada, where winds blowing away from Las Vegas delivered radioactive particles which exposed residents of Eureka County to radiation and adversely affected the health of Eureka County residents; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County has produced numerous studies and reports on the likely impacts of the repository and its transportation needs including extensive comments on Environmental Impact Statements, the County’s Impact Assessment Report to the State of Nevada, and its Report to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is an “Interested Governmental Participant” in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing hearing process to consider the application of the Department of Energy to construct a repository at Yucca Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners ensured the County’s ability to be an active participant in the NRC licensing proceeding by the certification of its document collection in the NRC’s Licensing Support Network in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners has consistently strived for public participation and full involvement by the County in the consideration of the Yucca Mountain site as the nation’s sole repository.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: the Eureka County Board of Commissioners adopts the following principles regarding its Nuclear Waste Program:

Eureka County supports bringing critical thinking and transparency to all aspects of the Yucca Mountain repository program including the management by DOE and the NRC licensing process as part of its oversight role as an affected unit of local government; and

Eureka County endeavors to assess, prepare for and monitor potential impacts to public health and safety, and other impacts to residents of Eureka County with special emphasis on concerns about transportation and emergency response and the uncertain prospect of reconsideration of the Carlin rail corridor by DOE; and

Eureka County supports full public participation in the repository program and the licensing process to encourage public involvement, transparency, and promote public trust and confidence as identified by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future; and

The Eureka County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Nuclear Waste Program Issues Report, 2018, as the foundation for this resolution, and hereby further states that based on present facts and circumstances, Eureka County remains neutral in its official position on the Yucca Mountain repository.

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

Ayes: Goicoechea, Sharkozy, Etchegaray  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM  
Chairman of the Board  
Eureka County Commissioners

Attest: Jackie Berg  
Commission Clerk

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

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

Utilities & Facilities: All utility systems continue to operate in good working order.

Mr. Damele previously reported that Silver State Elevator Company removed a portion of the hydraulic jack cylinder from the elevator at the Opera House and a new one is being fabricated. The company has now agreed to replace the pump and all lines and electronics with no increase to the quoted price, so everything will be new except for the actual elevator car. Repairs are expected to be complete shortly after the first of the year.

Road Maintenance MOU: Work continues on a Memorandum of Understanding with McEwen Mining for maintenance of the Roberts Creek Road and the 3 Bars Road.

Land Exchange: A proposal was received from Lumos & Associates for survey of parcels in Eureka for the street realignment and land exchange between Eureka County and Dennis Cunningham. This will clean up boundaries and obsolete rights-of-way. Mr. Cunningham has agreed to pay half of the survey costs.

Residential Water Service: Application was received from Don Hull for a residential water service in District #1 of the Devil's Gate GID. It was approved earlier in the day by the Devil's Gate GID Board of Directors, and Mr. Damele recommended approval by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve a 3/4-inch residential water service for Don Hull in District #1 of the Devil's Gate GID to serve APN 007-380-38; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka County Airport Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan: Mr. Damele presented a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan and the associated Overall DBE Three-Year Goal Methodology for the Eureka Airport, effective for Federal Fiscal Years 2019-2021. The documents were prepared by Lumos & Associates and reviewed by Public Works. Mr. Damele explained that a DBE Program Plan is required for the Eureka Airport to receive federal entitlement grants from the Federal Aviation Administration. The DBE Program Plan establishes a goal of awarding 4.25% of any contract funded by FAA grants to a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (minority-owned business). Mr. Damele explained that in previous years Eureka County utilized the State of Nevada DBE Program Plan, but that is no longer allowed.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept and have the Chairman sign the three-year Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan and Goal Methodology for the Eureka Airport to comply with Federal Aviation Administration requirements; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice of Hearing: Notice was given that a public hearing would be held on December 4, 2018, to hear public comments and take action on the following items: (a) a resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget of Eureka County by augmentation; and (b) an ordinance amending Title 4 of the Eureka County Code. The resolution and ordinance were proposed by the Board on November 8<sup>th</sup> and copies of the documents were made available upon request.

Background on Resolution: In October, Eureka County received \$1,494,213.00 (after escrow costs) for sale of real property, commonly known as the Eureka Canyon Townhomes, to

McEwen Mining. Since these revenues weren't contemplated in the budget, the external auditor advised the Commissioners of available options for amending the budget. The Commissioners opted to augment the budget by resolution.

Open Hearing on Resolution: Chairman Goicoechea opened the hearing in relation to the resolution to augment the budget and invited comments.

Eureka resident, Jim Ithurralde (former County Assessor and Commissioner), asked that a portion of the money being augmented to the General Fund be utilized to market the single-family lots at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision, which are currently owned by the County. Sale of the lots to private parties would generate sales revenue as well as tax revenue because the parcels would lose exempt status and be added to the secured tax roll.

Chairman Goicoechea thanked Mr. Ithurralde for his comments and noted that the Board would definitely take his suggestion under consideration. The Chairman called for additional public comments. There were no further comments on the budget augmentation.

Budget Augmentation Resolution: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt a resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget of Eureka County by augmenting the following funds with revenues in excess of those budgeted in the total amount of \$1,494,213.00: (a) General Fund #010 - \$700,000.00; (b) Capital Projects Fund #042 - \$494,213.00; and (c) Eureka Water/Sewer Utility Fund #045 - \$300,000.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**BUDGET AUGMENTATION RESOLUTION**  
**RESOLUTION FOR AUGMENTATION TO THE 2018-2019 BUDGET OF**  
**EUREKA GENERAL FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND,**  
**AND EUREKA TOWN WATER/SEWER FUND**

WHEREAS, the resources of the EUREKA GENERAL FUND were budgeted at \$35,273,543 and are now determined to be \$35,973,543 on July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the resources of the CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND were budgeted at \$3,829,508 and are now determined to be \$4,323,721 on July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the resources of the EUREKA TOWN WATER/SEWER FUND were budgeted at \$222,750 and are now determined to be \$522,750 on July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, said sources are as follows:

<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Available YTD</u>	<u>Excess Revenues</u>	<u>Augment Amount</u>
CAPITAL ASSET SALE	\$0	\$1,494,213	\$1,494,213	\$1,494,213
Totals	\$0	\$1,494,213	\$1,494,213	\$1,494,213

WHEREAS, there is a need to apply these revenues generated from previously unbudgeted sources of the EUREKA GENERAL FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, and EUREKA TOWN WATER/SEWER FUND to fund capital improvement projects for each fund; and

Now, therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED, that Eureka County shall augment the FY 2018-2019 expenditure budget for the Eureka General Fund in the amount of \$700,000.00, the Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$494,213.00, and the Eureka Town Water/Sewer Fund in the amount of \$300,000.00; and

THEREBY increasing appropriations for the Eureka General Fund from \$13,775,630 to \$14,475,630, and Capital Projects Fund from \$828,000 to \$1,322,213, and Eureka Town Water/Sewer Fund from \$1,142,300 to \$1,442,300; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Comptroller's Office shall forward the necessary documents to the Department of Taxation, State of Nevada.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

AYES: Goicoechea, Sharkozy, Etchegaray  
NAYS: None

By: /s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM  
Julian J. Goicoechea  
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: /s/ Beverly Conley  
Beverly Conley, Clerk

Background on Ordinance: County Assessor, Michael Mears, recommended that the County Room Tax Ordinance be updated to designate the Treasurer as the collector of room tax instead of the Assessor. He and Treasurer, Beverly Conley, both agreed it makes sense for one official to collect all taxes in the County. The Commissioners concurred and proposed changing the ordinance to designate the Treasurer as the tax administrator and collector of room tax.

Open Hearing on Ordinance: Chairman Goicoechea opened the hearing in relation to the proposed ordinance change and invited comments. He made two additional calls for public comments. There were no comments in response to the proposed ordinance.

Adopt County Room Tax Ordinance: Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to adopt the 2018 County Room Tax Ordinance, an ordinance amending the 2018 Eureka County Code by revising Chapter 50 of Title 4, Licenses, Permits, Fees, & Taxes, effective January 1, 2019. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported on recent activities. He is spending the majority of his time reviewing the multiple EISs, EAs, and other agency decisions that have been issued.

Upcoming Meetings: Mr. Tibbitts will attend the Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network meeting in Reno on December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. The NCCN was formed as a group of stakeholders to work collaboratively towards implementing the federal sage grouse land use plan amendments. On the afternoon of December 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Tibbitts will attend the Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management meeting where they will focus on outcome-based grazing. There will be a presentation by the Fitzwater family of the Willow Ranch regarding their experience working with the BLM on an outcome-based grazing program.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Tibbitts will attend the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council meeting in Stateline. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program is hosting a workshop on proposed mitigation regulations. The workshop will be followed by a meeting of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Department of the Navy has scheduled a public meeting at the Eureka Opera House regarding the Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization Draft EIS.

The Natural Resources Advisory Commission is meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tibbitts will travel to Carson City on December 13<sup>th</sup> for the NACO Public Lands & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Following the meeting, Mr. Tibbitts will remain in Carson City to collaborate with Jeremy Drew of Resource Concepts Inc. (who has been contracted by NACO) on the BLM's Final EIS for their sage grouse plan amendments.

Barrick Cortez Deep South Expansion Project EIS: Eureka County previously commented as a Cooperating Agency on the Preliminary Draft EIS for Barrick Cortez's Deep South Expansion Project and Mr. Tibbitts now presented comments on the public Draft EIS (with a comment deadline of December 5<sup>th</sup>). He thanked Dale Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist for reviewing all water related issues in the EIS.

Mr. Tibbitts noted that many of the earlier comments and concerns have been resolved, with much of the credit going to Barrick's willingness to work with the County throughout the process. Mr. Tibbitts stressed that the current letter does not contain any new comments and the County is not asking for anything substantive. The letter provides clarification on previous comments that may have been misinterpreted; but many of the comments are simply seeking consistency and conformance with Eureka County's policies, which the County requests on every mining project.

Chairman Goicoechea recognized Maria Anderson, Community Relations Specialist for Barrick, who was in attendance, and thanked Barrick for being a willing participant in the process. Ms. Anderson in return thanked Eureka County for its support.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to approve sending comments to the BLM on Barrick Cortez's Deep South Expansion Project Draft EIS; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

BLM Wildfire Rehabilitation & Grazing Closures: As mentioned at the last meeting, Mr. Tibbitts has received multiple fire decisions from the Battle Mountain District and Elko District BLM offices and he reported that two more have been received. As with the previous decisions, the Battle Mountain District is allowing a public consultation period, but the Elko District is simply issuing Full Force & Effect Decisions without any public comment. This leaves no opportunity for input other than appealing the decision.

Mr. Tibbitts plans to discuss the fire related decisions with the Natural Resources Advisory Commission at their December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. NRAC may feel an appeal is warranted or may recommend that a letter be written to the Elko District asking that Eureka County be coordinated with before any further decisions are issued. Based on NRAC's response, Mr. Tibbitts may return with a recommendation for the Commissioners at the next regular meeting.

BLM Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale EA: The Battle Mountain District BLM prepared an Environmental Assessment for a Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale planned for March 2019, with a comment deadline of December 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tibbitts reported that this lease sale, which includes many parcels in Diamond Valley, is very similar to one that Eureka County commented on in 2017. There is one significant difference, in that this EA identifies much of the Diamond Mountains, as well as the entire playa in Diamond Valley, as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

Mr. Tibbitts requested authorization to prepare comments, consistent with Eureka County's previous comments, to be submitted by the deadline and then ratified at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. He will also consult NRAC regarding this EA.

Commissioner Etchegaray motioned to authorize submitting comments on the BLM Battle Mountain District Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale EA by the December 19<sup>th</sup> deadline, and authorized the Chairman to sign the comment letter outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sage Grouse Issues: Mr. Tibbitts has been reviewing the mitigation regulations drafted by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program. As stated earlier in the meeting, the Final EIS for the BLM's

land use plan amendments (Nevada & Northeast California Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment) has been delayed, but is expected any day.

**SENIOR CENTERS**

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In November, Eureka served 556 meals and Crescent Valley served 468 meals. The seniors will celebrate Christmas with lunches on December 13<sup>th</sup> in Eureka and December 18<sup>th</sup> in Crescent Valley. A total of \$1,812.00 was deposited for the month.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Comptroller, Maureen Garner; Assistant Comptroller, Kim Todd; Flyer for Christmas Tree Lighting event; Eureka NewGen Farms; William Bee Ririe Hospital (2); Allison MacKenzie Ltd.; Denise Mraz, candidate for Assembly District 36; Nevada Div. of Water Resources (4); Nevada Div. of Child & Family Services; Nevada Dept of Taxation; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Dept. of Health & Human Services; Patty Cafferata, Special Asst. Attorney General; and Will & Ellie Siegel.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Commissioner Etchegaray congratulated Jackie Berg on the birth of her fifth grandchild. There were no other comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Etchegaray seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.*

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

*I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

/s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Clerk

*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 Commissioner Clerk.*

/s/ Beverly Conley  
Beverly Conley, Clerk & Treasurer