

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2021

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on February 5, 2021. The meeting was conducted telephonically pursuant to Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, which was extended by subsequent Directives through duration of the current State of Emergency. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy (via telephone); Commissioner Rich McKay; District Attorney Ted Beutel (via telephone); and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. Commissioner Sharkozy was recused from a portion of the meeting to attend to family duties. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The January 20th minutes were removed from the agenda to allow more time to edit the very lengthy first draft. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$335,416.85 for accounts payable, \$374,068.65 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions); \$747,620.41 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District; \$5,184.05 for a pass-through to the Nevada State Controller; \$3,770.00 for a pass-through to Nevada Division of Minerals; \$334.17 for a pass-through to Nevada Department of Taxation; and \$187.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab; for a grand total of \$1,466,581.13. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Xerox Copier: Ms. Todd explained that her office needs to upgrade the copy machine because of the large volume of copies they are required to make. She originally planned to budget this for the upcoming year, but has sufficient capital outlay funds to make the purchase in the current fiscal year. The existing copy machine will be given to EMS, who only has a small tabletop copier.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchasing a Xerox Altalink copy machine for a not to exceed amount of \$5,000.00; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

DIAMOND MOUNTAIN FFA

FFA Creed: FFA Advisor Leslie Zimmerman and students, Tyler Watts and Molly Zimmerman, were in attendance to present to the Board. Tyler Watts recited the FFA Creed, which speaks of faith in the future agriculture, the challenge and joy of working in agriculture, the belief in leadership and respect, and the benefits and continued tradition of working in agriculture.

FFA Speech: Molly Zimmerman presented her FFA speech entitled, "COVID-19 and the Agriculture Supply Chain." Molly spoke of the challenges, both locally and nationally, that COVID-19 has caused to the agricultural industry for producers, suppliers, and consumers. She shared

concerning statistics confirmed by the American Farm Bureau and other sources. She spoke of the millions of animals that had to be euthanized (safely and humanely) because producers had no other choice due to the severe backlog in processing and the supply chain caused by shutdowns resulting from the pandemic. Molly said consumers should be mindful and appreciative of where our food comes from, and emphasized the importance of pushing our leaders to support agriculture, which is necessary to move and work back towards the better days that we all long for.

The Board asked the students several questions and complimented them on excellent delivery of the Creed and the speech.

COMMISSIONERS

Donation Request Form: Comptroller Todd explained that there has been some confusion recently on how donations are to be properly used and reported, so she created a request form modeled after the effective process used by the Recreation Board.

The form (which must be submitted to the Commissioners' Office five days prior to a meeting) will describe what the requested funds will be used for, list other donations and funds that will be received and used for the same event/activity/purchase, and will require that all receipts and reconciliations are submitted to Eureka County within 60 days of the event.

The Board agreed that it makes sense to have a formal and accountable process for persons requesting donated funds. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to require the donation request form and formal process, as described, for persons requesting donations from the Commissioners' budget (miscellaneous grants) and the North End Activities Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CDBG Grant Opportunity: The State's Rural Community & Economic Development Division, Governor's Office of Economic Development, recently notified Eureka County of availability of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Funds Round 2 in the amount of \$28,858.00 (amounts for each county are determined by a formula).

There were several questions regarding what the funds could be used for and the public hearing process involved in determining how grant funds will be spent. Commissioner McKay, as the Board's economic development liaison, agreed to contact GOED to obtain more information concerning this grant, and this item will be placed on a future agenda.

Letter to PACE Coalition: on January 20th, Elko County District Attorney, requested clarification regarding funds donated to establish a regional Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Eureka County donated funds in the current and previous fiscal years to assist in locating or building a facility to serve as the CAC. PACE Coalition is managing the funds for the CAC that will be administered under the Elko County District Attorney's office, and Eureka County sent a letter confirming that planning and engineering costs qualify as building costs.

Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify the letter to PACE Coalition confirming that funds contributed by Eureka County for the regional Child Advocacy Center in Elko can be used for design and engineering work related to construction of the building. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Continued Legal Services: Chairman Goicoechea and Jake Tibbitts explained the County's continued involvement concerning the federal Greater Sage Grouse Land Management Plan Amendment (LMPA) and intervention in the case before the US District Court for Idaho (*Western Watersheds Project et al v. Schneider, Case No. 1:16-cv-00083-BLW*) where the court issued an injunction to halt implementation of the 2019 LMPA.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve continued engagement of Laura K. Granier, Esq., of Holland & Hart, in the federal Greater Sage Grouse Land Plan Amendment and related litigation in US District Court for Idaho. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Contract with Black Rock Resources: Mr. Tibbitts explained the County had a valuable opportunity to use the services of Stephen Walmsley, respected former official with the Nevada

Division of Water Resources, who has expert knowledge and experience related to Public Water Reserves. The County recently contracted with William Price, Black Rock Resource Services, and Mr. Walmsley is willing to subcontract under this contract.

Commissioner McKay motioned to increase the contract with Black Rock Resource Services LLC by \$25,000.00 to add professional services of Stephen Walmsley for additional expertise needed in the Diamond Valley Water Adjudication, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Genesis Home Health: Genesis Home Health Services sent a letter requesting an increase in the hospice allocation in the current fiscal year contract by \$5,000.00, and asking that an additional \$5,000.00 be budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year contract. Genesis made the request after hospice services exceeded what was originally anticipated.

County staff confirmed that the current contract contains a balance of \$17,000.00 for home health services and a balance of \$4,500.00 for hospice services. Staff will work with Genesis to audit invoices, because there were some discrepancies in billed amounts and balances.

Chairman Goicoechea reminded everyone that the contract explicitly states that patients eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, or other insurance are not covered under this contract. Genesis and County staff need to ensure that accounts aren't being erroneously billed. Additionally, when the County subsidizes a health provider, it requests that they become a preferred provider with the County's health insurance, Prominence. This may help alleviate some of the large account balances that Genesis has with other patients in the County.

Chairman Goicoechea suggested that no action be taken at this time to increase funding. He directed that a letter be sent to Genesis Home Health asking for more detailed invoices to ensure that accounts aren't being billed to the County for persons who don't qualify as indigent under the contract, and requesting that Genesis apply for preferred provider status with Prominence Health. Commissioner McKay agreed.

FY22 Library Contract: Elko County Library System forwarded the contract for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, along with a letter explaining changes in the contract. Library staff has worked hard to keep contract inflation at a minimum, but asked for a ~\$1,000.00 increase for services and ~\$8,000.00 for computer and monitor replacement at both branches (some equipment is ten years old), for a net increase of \$8,982.00. The other contract amendment was to move to quarterly installments.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 contract with the Elko County Library System in the total amount of \$115,093.00 to be paid in quarterly installments; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

Nevada Legislative Session: Chairman Goicoechea and Jake Tibbitts serve on the NACO Legislative Committee, scheduled to meet later in the day. A lot of proposed legislation is coming forward in this Session, and the Chairman is most concerned with a blockchain bill draft that would create Nevada Innovative Zones, basically creating new counties without going through the State Legislature. The open-ended language and probable future amendments in this pending legislation are concerning because of potential future impacts to Eureka County's local tax revenues.

Another bill draft of interest is Senator Pete Goicoechea's bill to add local government seats to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, giving rural counties more input.

Sheriff Watts said he has concerns with proposed legislation that would allow peace officers to sue private citizens; he supports a bill that would require headlights on all two-lane highways; and he has concerns with a change brought by the Nevada Supreme Court that would allow for extreme-risk protection orders under current Red Flag laws.

Assessor Michael Mears is following a tax bill introduced by NACO (SB10) that would protect the revenue stream from property taxes by prohibiting the tax cap from dropping below 3%. Chairman Goicoechea credited NACO member counties and NACO President Marilyn Kirkpatrick (Clark County Commission Chair and former Speaker of the Assembly) for their hard work on this

bill draft, stating NACO did not move forward until it had a concept that all 17 Nevada counties supported.

Mr. Tibbitts noted there are several proposed water bills and, at this point, he recommended that Eureka County not support any of them. Another concerning proposal (AB90) puts forth a repeated attempt to set up projects of “inter-county significance” where neighboring counties could leverage revenues from other counties. This is significant due to Eureka County’s reliance on mining tax revenues.

Mr. Tibbitts noted that the legislative process can move quickly, and COVID-19 restrictions are prohibiting in-person testimony by the public (only virtual testimony is allowed with registration 24 hours in advance). Public comment is allowed without registering, but is limited to three minutes per person. He suggested that Eureka County representatives testify consistent with established plans and policies when time constraints don’t allow time to place an item on the Board’s agenda.

Chairman Goicoechea added that even Legislative Committee members are participating virtually, and are restricted from entering the State Legislature and committee rooms without a COVID vaccination card or negative test.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In January, Eureka served 919 meals and Crescent Valley served 1,001 meals. All meals continue to be home-delivered. A total of \$8,567.00 was deposited for the month.

Ms. Oram stated she continues to hear inquiries from seniors who want the Centers to reopen. Now that many seniors are being vaccinated, she asked the Board to allow her to work with staff to develop a plan and then consider a possible reopening date of April 1st.

She also inquired about a five-mile delivery limit that has been enforced at the Senior Centers for many years, but she cannot find a policy, resolution, or Board action supporting this restriction. She is aware of seniors beyond the five-mile limit that are struggling and would greatly benefit from home-delivered meals. She would like to research the need further and come back to the Board for direction on delivery parameters.

There was a brief discussion and Public Works recommended that staff only deliver via County-maintained roads. The Board agreed and felt a somewhat larger delivery area would benefit citizens needing this service. They will consider this once Ms. Oram researches it further.

Storage Needs: Ms. Oram said the storage sheds in Crescent Valley are deteriorating and not worth repairing. She originally considered purchasing a Conex container, but Public Works crews can build a larger unit at the same cost by utilizing the surplus pavilion roof after upgrades are made at the Crescent Valley Town Park. Once cost estimates are finalized, this will be placed on a future agenda for approval.

VFW POST 8194

Veterans Memorial Park: Representatives of VFW Post 8194 were in attendance to give an update and to request a donation and future funding commitment for the John Biale Sr. Veterans Memorial Park being constructed on Main Street in Eureka. Commissioner Sharkozy recused himself from any discussion or action related to this item as he is an active member of VFW Post 8194.

Quartermaster Ralph Cuda explained the park will be constructed in five phases, at an estimated overall cost of \$239,000.00. The VFW is currently working on phase one (engineering, dirt work, some concrete work) and hopes to complete phase two this coming fall (concrete stage, commemorative stone slab, brickwork, fencing, initial electrical work).

Over the past three years, cash donations totaling \$50,000.00 have been raised and the VFW has received numerous in-kind donations valued at over \$200,000.00 (including donation of

the property from the Biale family). Mr. Cuda requested a contribution from Eureka County towards this worthwhile project.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to donate \$10,000.00 to be paid with monies budgeted for miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget and to dedicate a minimum of \$10,000.00 in the next fiscal year budget (FY 2022) for a future contribution. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

CLERK RECORDER

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification - Deputy Clerk Recorder: Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Clerk Recorder to fill the vacant position of Deputy Clerk Recorder. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Xerox Copier: Clerk Recorder Lisa Hoehne requested permission to purchase a replacement copy machine for her office. In response to a question as to why this unit was over \$2,000.00 more than the copier approved for the Comptroller, Ms. Hoehne said she believed this model had capacity for higher copy volume and speed.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve purchase of a Xerox copy machine in an amount not to exceed \$7,300.00 to be paid with monies budgeted for capital outlay in the Clerk Recorder's budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Honor Library: At the January 20th meeting, members of the Eureka Elementary School Student Council initially told the Commissioners about plans to start an Honor Library in Eureka. Student Council officers, Brooke Watts (President) and Annie Tibbitts (Sergeant at Arms), returned to this meeting with additional details about the project.

Public Works Director Rowley assisted the students and Advisor Fiona Goettle in selecting a location at the Pocket Park on Main Street (aka the Caboose Lot), and the Eureka High School shop class has agreed to build the structure. The students asked the Board for assistance in purchasing materials for the building.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to allow the Eureka Elementary School Student Council to place an Honor Library at the Pocket Park on 11 North Main Street in Eureka and to donate \$300.00 from miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget to purchase materials. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Easter Egg Hunt: Mikayla Kersey, Chair of the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board, said that Marcial and Jessica Evertsen have volunteered to facilitate the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which is tentatively planned for April 3rd, and have requested \$800.00 to purchase eggs, toys, candy, and other items for the event.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve \$800.00 from the North End Activities Fund to be used to organize and host the Easter Egg Hunt in Crescent Valley, with the check issued to volunteer Marcial Evertsen. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Ratify Out-of-State Travel: Sheriff Jesse Watts explained that, when returning to Eureka from a conference in Mesquite, he decided to travel a shorter route that took him through Utah.

Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify out-of-state travel for Sheriff Watts and Deputy Umina to travel through St. George, Utah, on January 29th; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel: Sheriff Watts will again travel through Utah to and from the Nevada Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Association in Mesquite later in the month.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel through St. George, Utah, for Sheriff Watts on February 24th and 26th related to attendance of the Nevada Association of Sheriffs' & Chiefs' meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ITS Telehealth Contract: The contract with Integrated Telehealth Services, for inmate mental telehealth services, was presented at an earlier meeting in a different contract format. It was now presented in the standard contract form for independent contractors that was approved by the Board.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the contract with Integrated Telehealth Services for inmate telehealth services for the periods of January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, and July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Update Report: Assistant Public Works Director Raymond Hodson gave an update on Road Department projects and activities. Crews in both the northern County and southern County spent several days on snow removal. Crews continue hauling out of the Green Pit in Diamond Valley and completed the gravel haul on Mustang Road, moving on to 7th Street.

The new owner of Allison Creek has agreed to let the County haul water from the creek, and operators used the new excavator with the mower attachment to clear brush and willows up to the creek. This will allow crews to access water halfway along Antelope Road. Crews then moved the excavator to Spring Valley and are clearing trees that have encroached on the roadway. Mr. Hodson said the excavator is working out very well.

A bulldozer was rented to stockpile material in the Green Pit in order to keep up with the gravel haul projects. The County's dozer is currently working in the Cottonwood Pit near Crescent Valley to assist with a gravel haul to the Dean Dann Road (required regularly due to water over the roadway). Interviews were conducted on February 3rd for the vacant Equipment Operator position in Crescent Valley, and Mr. Hodson is confident that a qualified person will be selected.

Suggested Changes to Road Map: Mr. Hodson presented an updated Eureka County Road Map, noting that it was last updated in 2010. Proposed changes include addition of roads in the Wild Balance Subdivision in Diamond Valley. The developer constructed these roads to County standards, and the County accepted them by resolution in 2013. Several other roads, that the County has maintained with gravel, were added as general roads.

Set Public Hearing: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to schedule a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on March 5th, to invite comments from the public and consider adopting the updated Eureka County Road Map. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley reported on projects and activities.

COVID Vaccines: Emergency Management continues facilitating vaccines in both Eureka and Crescent Valley, which includes first-round vaccines for individuals in lower priority tiers and booster vaccines for earlier tiers. The State has begun limiting vaccine distribution based on population. Since Eureka County was able to procure large allocations early in the vaccination process, new orders for first-round vaccines will be limited in coming weeks, but this should be resolved shortly (boosters will not be limited).

Since critical workers were not restricted by residency, contract employees at local mines (who reside outside the County) were able to be vaccinated locally. Mr. Rowley is working with the State to have those doses credited, so they don't count against the residency cap, and the State is amenable to working this out. Mr. Rowley continues to work hard to ensure that persons eligible to receive the vaccine are notified when doses are available.

Sewer Pond Project: Mr. Rowley announced that notice of completion was finally filed on the Sewer Pond Project, and the 5% retention can be paid. The State Labor Commission had

deemed that one of the project subcontractors had not complied with the Apprenticeship Utilization Act. The Commission levied nearly \$20,000.00 in fines to the subcontractor and restricted their ability to bid on Public Works projects for three years. The company appealed the decision and, eventually, all fines and restrictions were overturned.

Crescent Valley Town Park: The building maintenance crew has been in Crescent Valley as weather permits to work on park improvements. The new pavilion structure will have twice the square footage (requiring grass removal), and work is being done on the gazebo as well. As stated earlier, the pavilion roof will be repurposed for the Senior Center storage building.

Champion Chevrolet Quote: As explained in previous meetings, vehicle procurement is becoming challenging as dealers are suspending fleet orders due to impacts from COVID. Public Works budgeted for a replacement car pool vehicle and was able to obtain a quote for a Chevrolet Tahoe.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a quote from Champion Chevrolet to purchase a new Chevrolet Tahoe under State of Nevada Fleet Vehicle Contract #99SWC-S490, in an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00, utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (042-140-55010-000) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts reported on recent activities.

Sage Grouse Project: Mr. Tibbitts relayed that a habitat project was recommended over a year ago by the Adaptive Management Response Team (under the Nevada Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan) when a trigger was identified in a Sage Grouse lek. Eureka County, through the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, encouraged action by the State BLM, but there was no movement.

Mr. Tibbitts was able to speak with the BLM recently concerning this, and the agency is finally ready to take action. But, due to lack of staff, consideration is being given to providing funding to allow the County to manage the project and any contract work. This might present an opportunity for the new Weed Technician to manage projects like this - habitat projects, fuels reduction, Pinyon-Juniper projects, etc. Mr. Tibbitts will gather more information, but wanted the Board to be aware since this may affect the upcoming budget.

Humboldt River Basin: On February 4th, Mr. Tibbitts attended the Nevada Division of Water Resource's workshop on the Humboldt River Basin. NDWR has completed capture models that identify the proportion of impacts attributed to each user from groundwater pumping in the basin (level of water captured by each user that would eventually flow to the river). This has implications on many water rights holders in Eureka County, including the County because the Crescent Valley municipal wells are in the basin.

NDWR is developing an online tool for planning where an engineer or any potential water user can enter the location of a proposed well to identify potential impacts on the river. Along with the State's model, is a proposed order that would change regulations surrounding water applications within the Humboldt River Basin, including change applications on existing water rights. The hearing on the proposed order is scheduled in April, and Mr. Tibbitts will bring forth recommendations for comments at a future meeting.

Mine Permitting: Mr. Tibbitts has been participating in BLM meetings concerning mine permitting. Under the previous Administration there was an order from the earlier Secretary of Interior (Order 3355) limiting the timeframe and document length for EISs and EAs, and it is now uncertain if this is still the case, particularly for mines that have already begun the NEPA process. Mines currently in the process are concerned and are somewhat in limbo until the new Secretary is confirmed and new direction is forthcoming from the Department of the Interior.

NDOT State Rail Plan: Nevada Department of Transportation just released its proposed State Rail Plan, with comments due March 4th. NDOT will hold a virtual webinar on February 16th, and Mr. Tibbitts will place an item on the next agenda to consider the County's comments.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include a Central Nevada Regional Water Authority meeting on February 12th and a Eureka Conservation District meeting on February 17th.

US Fish & Wildlife Service Proposed Rulemaking: Litigation challenged a policy that dates back to the Obama Administration, that allows a project on BLM or Forest Service land to bypass further consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, when implemented, if that project was identified and analyzed in a Land Management Plan or a Resource Management Plan. As a result of the litigation, the US Fish & Wildlife was directed to clarify the rule. Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter providing input and outlining the County's concerns.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter to the US Fish & Wildlife Service concerning Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Regulations for Interagency Cooperation regarding consultation regulations under the Endangered Species Act pertaining to the US Forest Service and BLM and authorized the Chairman to sign the letter outside of the meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

US Forest Service Rangeland Management Directives: The deadline for commenting on proposed updates to the Forest Service's Rangeland Management Directives is February 16th. Multiple stakeholders have requested an extension of time, and Mr. Tibbitts requested authorization to send an extension request on behalf of Eureka County.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that most of the proposed updates are positive in relation to use of forest rangelands in Nevada, but there are still concerns. The Forest Service currently does not recognize third-party purchases of grazing permits. Although the updates would change this, directives would still not align with County policies. It is proposed that, upon sale, an allotment would have to be vacated until the Forest Service completes an entire analysis process. Mr. Tibbitts is working with the Chairman to prepare comments, and they are also consulting with other industry groups.

Unfortunately, the document review is cumbersome (there are over 2,000 pages). If a time extension is granted, Mr. Tibbitts will place this on the next agenda. If not, he requested approval to continue working with the Chairman to finalize comments for submission by the current deadline.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize sending a letter to the US Forest Service requesting extension of the comment deadline, and authorized Mr. Tibbitts to continue working with the Chairman to finalize a response on proposed updates to the US Forest Service Rangeland Management Directives, and authorized the Chairman to sign both letters outside of the meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

US Forest Service Drought Letter: US Forest Ranger Districts across the State are sending letters to permittees seeking grazing adjustments related to drought. Mr. Tibbitts drafted a response letter outlining the County's position, asking for a focus on permanent rangeland solutions rather than unjustified and arbitrary restrictions, and asking for close coordination with the County.

Chairman Goicoechea said he participated in a positive phone call with Tom Dunkelberger, Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and other representatives from the Regional Office. Terry Padilla, Rangeland Manager for US Forest Service in Ogden, Utah, was also on the call and favored adaptive management and a common sense approach for the permittees. The Chairman felt confident that the Regional Office is willing to work with permittees and is not in favor of the heavy-handed approach that the letter indicates.

The Chairman added there are permittees in Nye County who did not use their forest allotments last season because they are overrun with horses (with no apparent plans for gather), and then they received a letter telling them they cannot graze because of drought.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send a response to the US Forest Service concerning the industry-wide drought letter being sent to forest permittees asking for grazing adjustments due to drought. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Burgandy Nelson; Dan Stevens; VFW Post 8194; Southfork Hardware; District Attorney Ted Beutel (2); Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Elko-

Lander-Eureka County Library System; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; Pahrump Valley Times; Genesis Home Health; Rehab Services of Nevada; Nevada Div. of Water Resources; Governor's Office of Economic Development (2); US Forest Service (2); US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; National Assoc. of Counties; US Senator Jacky Rosen; White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; and US Bankruptcy Court.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

Cancel February 19, 2020, Meeting: The Chairman informed that he has a conflict with the next meeting date, due to important face-to-face meetings concerning the Forest Service and BLM proposed livestock grazing reductions in Nevada. He offered to try to call in for a portion of the meeting, if his schedule allows.

Commissioner McKay and Commissioner Sharkozy stated they preferred to cancel the February 19th meeting. A special meeting can be scheduled prior to the March 5th meeting if business deems one is necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 22nd day of February, 2021.

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

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the February 5, 2021, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

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 Administrative Assistant.

/s/ Lisa Hoehne
Lisa Hoehne, Clerk