

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 6, 2022

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on June 6, 2022. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Administrative 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 between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments asking that everyone take a moment to remember June 6, 1944, D-Day, and those who served on this important day in history. After a moment of silence, the Chairman said he also wanted to acknowledge long-time Eureka resident Mary Tisue, stating his thoughts were with the family after her passing on June 5th. There were no further public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 6, 2022: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the April 6, 2022, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. After review, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$290,182.95 for accounts payable, \$506,616.06 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), and pass-throughs of \$6,998,350.72 to the Nevada State Controller (\$2,685.53 in general taxes and \$6,995,665.19 in school taxes), \$455.72 to the Department of Taxation, \$80.00 to the Division of Minerals, and \$184.47 to the Washoe County Crime Lab, for a grand total of \$7,795,869.92. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

NEVADA PUBLIC AGENCY INSURANCE POOL

Insurance Coverage: Marshall Smith, Risk Manager with Nevada POOL/PACT introduced Jarrod Hickman, risk management team member, and Leah Gregory of Gregory Insurance. Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool provides the County with comprehensive insurance coverage including property, casualty, and cyber security.

Member Benefits: Mr. Smith and Mr. Hickman described the benefits of being a member of POOL/PACT, which has 135 members in the State consisting of counties, cities, towns, school districts, special districts, and law enforcement agencies. In addition to the insurance coverage, members benefit from loss control and risk management programs, a variety of education and training, Human Resource management and consulting, legal updates including litigation trends, health and wellness resources, and grant programs. In the past year, the County benefited with a

grant for the aquatics facility, grants to fund training, and is currently working towards two grants for the IT Department.

Annual Renewal: Mr. Smith presented the renewal offer of \$351,423.88, a 14% increase over the previous year. He explained the proposal rate was based on an increase of \$3.7 million in insured valuation, due to acquisition of assets (primarily equipment and vehicles) and approximately \$500,000.00 in payroll for wage adjustments and added employees (such as the additional EMT position).

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the renewal proposal from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool in the amount of \$351,423.88 and authorized payment from Fiscal Year 2022-2023 funds. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

One Nevada Agreement-Amendment #2: District Attorney Beutel explained that the Attorney General's office is seeking to have all parties to the One Nevada Agreement (opioid settlement) sign an amendment by June 15th. The amendment outlines how the State will receive settlement payments and make disbursements according to the agreed-upon formula. The purpose is to ensure that the monies are used appropriately in the future (for abatement actions) when the original parties, along with their knowledge of the agreement, are no longer involved.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign Amendment Number 2 to the One Nevada Agreement On Allocation of Opioid Recoveries, which will authorize disbursements to begin. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Treasurer Disbursements: The State also requested that all parties of the One Nevada Agreement provide instructions on how they wish to receive the disbursements, which will be issued periodically in varying amounts.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize Treasurer Pernecia Johnson to provide wire or other instructions to the State of Nevada to receive disbursements from the One Nevada Agreement. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Letter to Alltel Communications: In recent review of the Communications Site Lease Agreement between Eureka County and Alltel for lease of property in Crescent Valley, it was discovered that upon renewal of the second 10-year term, the company failed to make correct payments. The renewal term, commencing September 21, 2019, triggered an increase in rent to \$300.00 a month, but only \$250.00 a month has been paid.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send a letter to Alltel Communications LLC asking for remittance of the additional \$50.00 for the previous 45 months since commencement of the renewal term on September 21, 2019, in order for the Site Lease to remain in good standing. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Credit Cards: In the last fiscal year audit, the external auditor had cautioned the Board that charges on certain credit card categories exceeded the typical or expected trend and could be an unrevealed risk to the County. This led to a detailed review of all credit card spending and some serious discussions in recent meetings.

A working group was appointed and, after reviewing policies, recommended that the Board do away with credit cards completely. The group felt the common practice of issuing a credit card to every employee was a risk to the County and a huge factor in why there were a half-a-million dollars (\$500,000.00) in credit card charges in the past two years.

Chairman Goicoechea reiterated that the Board needs to consider changes to the Internal Control Policy to gain control of credit card spending. He felt this should be addressed collectively by the Board and staff. He cautioned that the solution should remedy credit card abuse without hindering the majority of departments who use the cards properly and without creating a burdensome policy that causes redundant work for the Comptroller's office.

Commissioner McKay and Commissioner Sharkozy agreed that policy changes are needed in order to afford the Board better examination of credit card purchases, and that the current practice of approving credit card charges weeks after they are made is problematic.

Chairman Goicoechea formally proposed a change to Eureka County Code, Title 3, Internal Control Policy, Chapter 30, Purchasing Card Program, but noted that it will take time and careful consideration before the Board is ready to present a draft of what those changes may be.

Jeb Rowley suggested requiring regular reports from each department outlining all credit card expenditures. One of the problems with the current credit card statements is that the purchase is not itemized; for instance, it simply states "Amazon Marketplace" and lists a dollar amount. This would help the Board determine and focus on the departments that are not using the cards responsibly.

Misty Rowley said eliminating credit cards entirely could cause delays in the IT Department. Many of the companies she deals with will not accept a purchase order from her because Eureka County is such a small organization.

Kim Todd noted that the County's liability for fraud is higher than typical, because of the sheer number of credit cards that have been issued. Employees have mistakenly used the company card on a personal expense and have had to reimburse the County. This adds the risk of someone leaving employment before this refund occurs. The IRS requires that 1099 statements be sent to certain vendors at the end of each year. These 1099 vendors should not be paid by credit card, because it does not provide the Comptroller's office with their address and necessary information.

Settlement Negotiations: District Attorney Beutel had a phone call with the attorney representing Eureka County in the lawsuit involving the marijuana production facility. The litigating party, Eureka NewGen Farms, has requested an opportunity to negotiate a settlement, due to the impending expiration date of its license. He explained that one Commissioner needs authority to participate in the settlement negotiations and, if a decision is reached, it will be subject to approval by the entire Board.

Commissioner McKay nominated and motioned that Chairman Goicoechea represent Eureka County in settlement negotiations pertaining to Eureka NewGen Farms; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Welfare Set-Aside Program: Notification was received from Nevada Department of Business & Industry, Housing Division, that the County was eligible to accept an allocation, anticipated to be \$557.00, under the 2023 Welfare Set-Aside Program. There is a Zoom grant application that must be completed to receive these funds.

After a brief discussion concerning the amount of staff time needed to apply for the grant and potential follow-up tracking and reporting, the Board decided to forfeit the allocation by taking no action.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. Staff training continues, and the department is learning the new project management system.

Quest: Quest will be in Eureka the following week to install cameras at the Crescent Valley Town Center and to complete the fiber slicing project at the Sheriff's Office.

Broadband Grant: Quest expects to have the network design needed for the US Department of Agriculture broadband grant by the end of the week. Ms. Rowley attended a meeting with school representatives and State representatives regarding potential State funding that may supplement the broadband grant.

E911 & Phone Systems: The IT Department continues troubleshooting the Enhanced 911 system. Calls are not being routed properly and the issue may be with the AT&T VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phones. They continue to test the Cisco cloud-based phone system, which might eliminate the ongoing E911 issues.

Sheriff's Office: The IT Department has been migrating data from the Sheriff's Office to the cloud. Ms. Rowley is working to resolve the two-factor authentication at the Sheriff's Office, which lapsed due to being routed to the wrong location. This is needed to set up the T-Mobile remote workstations. A management workstation was set up at the Sheriff's Office for the IT Department.

Eaton Service Contract: Ms. Rowley explained that the UPS Service Contract with Eaton Corporation protects equipment in the Courthouse from the time that power goes out until the generator starts up. She has negotiated a reduced rate for the three-year renewal.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Quote #MA254025v2 from Eaton Corporation for a three-year renewal of the UPS Service Contract for the Courthouse at an annual cost of \$11,965.38; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Addendum to Quest Service Agreement: Ms. Rowley explained that Addendum One provides for renewal of the Service Agreement with Quest.

Commissioner McKay motioned to authorize the IT Director to sign Addendum One Service Renewal with Quest for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Per Diem Prepayment: Sheriff Jesse Watts requested pre-payment of per diem for Sergeant Miles Umina to attend Front Line Supervisor training, which is required in his job description.

Commissioner McKay motioned to authorize pre-payment of per diem in the amount of \$510.00 for Sergeant Umina to attend Front Line Supervisor Training through POST (Peace Officer Standards & Training) for the dates of June 5th-10th and June 12th-17th. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Ray Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. A blade operator is working in the Kitchen Meadows area towards US Hwy. 50. Another operator has been working the Tonkin area, from 3 Bars Ranch Road over Tonkin Summit, Tonkin Springs, McCluskey Road, and is now on the Grass Valley Road.

Everyone is pitching in to keep the water truck running to fill frac tanks on the long distance hauls, since the seasonal casual worker did not return this year. Some ranchers and farmers have offered to let the County file water rights on their wells, but the required paperwork is off-putting.

The northern crew has finished blading all Crescent Valley roads. The Barth Road and Palisades Road are done and the blade is currently on the Maggie Creek Road. A dozer operator is working in one of the private pits making some nice gravel. A blade is on the Frenchie Flat Road, and that operator runs the water truck at least once a day to keep the dust down. Mr. Hodson drove all the roads in Crescent Valley the previous week and found the dust isn't too bad if you adhere to the speed limits.

Sprinkler systems have been checked and the lawns and parks in Crescent Valley are all looking good. A new fence was installed at the Fannie Komp Senior Center, which caused a leak in the sprinkler system since exact locations are unknown, but that has been repaired.

The bathrooms at the Crescent Valley Park will now be closed to the public (like the ones in Eureka) due to repeated incidents of vandalism. Anyone holding an event may request a key and will be responsible for cleaning the bathrooms.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMISSION

SERC Grant: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 State Emergency Response Commission Grant Award #23-SERC-07-01, in the amount of \$21,450.00,

with \$17,450.00 for equipment for the decontamination tents, and \$4,000.00 for operations. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Supply Shortages: Mr. Rowley informed that parts, even common parts, necessary for water connections are in short supply and backorders can take up to a year. Public Works is monitoring this closely as new water applications come in.

Eureka Canyon Subdivision: Crews are working to move approximately 1,500 to 2,000 yards of material on a County owned parcel in the subdivision, to allow for proper reconstruction of drainage ditches. To avoid misconception by the public, he reiterated that the material is on a County lot and crews are not moving material for private parties.

Courthouse Boiler: Public Works met with Mt. Wheeler Power the previous week to review options for upgrading to three-phase electrical power into the Courthouse to support replacement of the diesel fired boiler.

Radio Network: Bill Bass with Western States Enterprises has been doing annual maintenance at the mountaintop repeater sites. The mountaintops are susceptible to lightning strikes and this year's maintenance required multiple replacements and repairs.

A lot of new equipment was discovered on the Bald Mountain tower. It's unclear who placed it there, but apparently the County's analog antenna created interference with their system and was unscrewed from the radio system. The BLM is working with the University (UNR) to install a surveillance camera at the site.

Fire Equipment: The shop crew is working to complete annual inspections and repairs readying the fire trucks for the upcoming season.

CMAR Proposals: Two proposals were received in response to the advertisement for a Construction Manager at Risk – from Q&D Construction and Sierra Nevada Construction. Interviews are scheduled for June 8th.

Eureka Airport: Lumos & Associates has prepared a statement of qualifications for the Eureka Airport planning and engineering. Public Works will coordinate with the FAA to ensure the proper process and deadlines are adhered to in order to meet requirements associated with the entitlement funds.

Devil's Gate Mainline Extension: Crews completed the first phase of the Devil's Gate mainline extension, which was looping from El Camino through El Dorado. Water samples for that section will be supplied to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water for testing. The crew has now moved on to El Paso and are working back towards Third Street.

Lease Agreement with William Bee Ririe: The annual lease agreement with William Bee Ririe Hospital & Rural Health Clinic related to provider housing is up for renewal.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the one-year lease agreement, as part of the contract for services with William Bee Ririe Hospital & Rural Health Clinic, for residences in Eureka at 351 Well Street and 381 Well Street. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Casual Town Maintenance Worker: Mr. Rowley requested extended hours, as outlined in the Personnel Policy with Board approval, for the seasonal Casual Town Maintenance Worker to ensure facility grounds and parks are properly maintained.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the Casual Town Maintenance Worker employee to work up to and not to exceed 29 hours per week, up to and not to exceed 119 hours per month, and up to and not to exceed 1,039 hours per year. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Surplus Vehicles: Public Works is working with the Senior Mechanic to ensure that as new vehicles are obtained, corresponding vehicles are taken out of service. He presented two vehicles

that meet the criteria to be declared surplus property – a 2006 Ford Expedition (VIN:1FMPU16576LA89001) and a 2004 Chevrolet Yukon (VIN:1GKEK13V24J301130).

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to declare a 2006 Ford Expedition, Property #5940 and a 2004 Chevrolet Yukon, Property #5206 surplus property pursuant to Eureka County Code, Title 13, Chapter 20, Section .130. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commercial Water Service: Public Works received application for a commercial water service for APN 001-221-08 in the Town of Eureka. Mr. Rowley explained that the County granted conditional approval to connect the northern portion of the referenced parcel to an existing downstream stormwater collection system at the subdivision. But the system will not support the parcel's southern portion with the intended increase in hard surface areas, such as asphalt, or roof canopies. Mr. Rowley recommended that the Board deny the application until a sufficient grading plan is in place and it is determined how stormwater collection on the southern portion of the parcel will be managed. This will require analysis by an engineer, similar to what occurred for the northern portion of APN 001-221-08.

Mr. Rowley reminded the Board that the resolution (adopted April 21, 2014) for Eureka County's sale of APN 001-221-08 (for economic development purposes) specifically states that the on-site stormwater system must be properly maintained consistent with its design and capacity.

Chairman Goicoechea stated that the conditions for connecting to the stormwater system were identified in a letter from Summit Engineering Corporation (April 30, 2015) and in a letter from Public Works (dated May 1, 2015), which clearly state that approval to connect to the stormwater collection system can be revoked at any time for cause. Eureka County also retained the right to impose additional conditions or restrictions or to modify the existing conditions or restrictions as warranted. Chairman Goicoechea said he supported the recommendation to deny the commercial water application until the requested assurances are provided.

Mr. Rowley informed that the County Engineer has resurveyed the parcel to confirm boundaries. The next steps for Public Works will be reconstruction of the drainage ditch and grading an appropriate backslope to prevent erosion.

Commissioner McKay noted that, from his perspective, Mr. Rowley has made every effort to collaborate with the property owners, visiting the property several times along with the County Engineer, to find workable solutions related to further development of the property. Commissioner McKay motioned to deny the application for a 3/4-inch commercial water service at APN 001-221-08 for the reasons stated. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Vet Clinic Lease Agreement: The initial three-year term of a Lease Agreement with Darla Baumann for property at 180 South Main Street in Eureka (Eureka Veterinary Clinic) expires June 30, 2022. The lease provides for one additional two-year term, after which tenancy under the lease will cease with a one-time option for Ms. Baumann to purchase the property.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve a two-year extension of the Lease Agreement with Darla Baumann for lease of property at 180 South Main Street in Eureka, through June 30, 2024; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Direction Related to Vet Clinic Property: The Lease Agreement states that the County, on or before June 30, 2022, would obtain a professional appraisal and building inspection of the leased premises. Mr. Rowley told the Board that he could not estimate when an appraisal could be obtained. Following the COVID pandemic there are not only supply chain issues, but retaining professional services can often take months.

Darla Baumann was in attendance and provided a letter to the Board explaining the vital service that her clinic provides to residents as well as surrounding areas. She had concerns that appraisal of the building in the current economy would be excessively high, resulting in her inability to exercise the purchase option and maintain profitability of the business.

District Attorney Beutel commented that an appraisal may only be valid for six months. The purpose of obtaining an appraisal would be to begin the purchase option, which is extended to

Ms. Baumann solely. He asked Ms. Baumann if his interpretation of her letter was accurate, in that she has no desire to trigger the purchase option.

Ms. Baumann replied that she did not wish to trigger the purchase option at this time, but asked if the option to purchase was in effect for the remaining two years of the lease.

Mr. Beutel advised that the Board could take action to amend the lease to move the appraisal deadline to June 30, 2024, rather than June 30, 2022.

Commissioner McKay motioned to amend Paragraph 2 of the Lease Agreement pertaining to property at 180 South Main Street in Eureka, to direct that on or before June 30, 2024, the County at its sole cost and expense shall cause to be performed a professional appraisal and building inspection, followed by one or more public hearings regarding value of the leased premises, and then offer the lessee a one-time option to purchase the premises on terms and conditions set by the Board. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Mormon Crickets: Mr. Tibbitts said he has been getting calls about Mormon cricket infestations and people seem upset that the County does not have a program. He reiterated that cricket control is not a County obligation, but falls under the US Department of Agriculture APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service). In fact, the only entity in the State that has the authority to treat crickets on BLM land is the Nevada Department of Agriculture under authority through USDA APHIS.

Mr. Tibbitts said he reports each and every call he receives to APHIS and provides the information to the individual so they can call themselves. Bait, although currently in short supply, can be purchased by people for treatment of their private property, but Mr. Tibbitts warned it is often best to let the crickets migrate through, because they become cannibalistic and will stay in an area as long as there are dead crickets to feed on. This often results in them laying eggs and causing a recurring infestation the following year.

USDA will be in Eureka County June 7th to do assessment and surveying, along with bait spreading in areas where crickets are a threat to economic enterprise (not just a nuisance).

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include Natural Resources Advisory Commission on June 8th, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority on June 10th, Eureka Conservation District on June 15th, Legislative Committee on Natural Resources on June 16th, Cooperating Agency kickoff meeting for the Greenlink North Project EIS on June 16th, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife on June 16th, i80 Gold Open House at the Opera House on June 16th, and Central Nevada Regional Water Authority on June 17th.

Little Fish Lake Joint Management Area Wild Horse Gather Plan: Mr. Tibbitts prepared a comment letter in response to the Little Fish Lake Joint Management Area Wild Horse Gather Plan Draft Environmental Assessment. The letter expresses support for reducing wild horse populations but voices concerns over the lack of water analysis and socioeconomic impacts in the EA,

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the comment letter to BLM Battle Mountain District and US Forest Service Austin-Tonopah Ranger District regarding the Little Fish Lake Joint Management Area Wild Horse Gather Plan Draft Environmental Assessment, to include input from the Natural Resources Advisory Commission at their meeting on June 8th. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SEC Proposed Rulemaking: The US Securities & Exchange Commission has proposed rulemaking, "The Enhancement & Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors." This would require climate disclosures related to Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Tibbitts explained that Scope 3 are indirect emissions and this will affect the agriculture and mining industries because the reporting requirement is true for the entire supply chain for any businesses

that supply goods directly or indirectly to publicly traded companies. This will be especially onerous for small operations and mines, who may not have the staff to meet these reporting requirements, which will dissuade companies from doing business with them.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send a response to the US Securities & Exchange Commission voicing significant concerns related to proposed climate rule, “The Enhancement & Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors,” again to include input from the Natural Resources Advisory Commission. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Solicitation of Recommendations: The Nevada Legislature Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources has issued a Solicitation of Recommendations. The County recently provided comment and a packet to this Legislative Committee’s Subcommittee on Natural Resources, but to be formally recognized must respond directly to the Solicitation of Recommendations. Mr. Tibbitts recommended resubmitting the packet in response.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send a response to the Solicitation of Recommendations from the Nevada Legislature Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

McEwen Mining Water Pollution Control Permit: Mr. Tibbitts and Consulting Hydrogeologist Dale Bugenig reviewed proposed renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit for McEwen Mining’s Gold Bar Project 2 and identified no issues that would negate the County supporting this renewal. Mr. Bugenig remembered a hazardous release under the original permit, which was remedied satisfactorily. He spoke with the permit writer at Bureau of Mining Regulation & Reclamation noting that past spills are typically mentioned in the Fact Sheet related to renewals. The permit writer agreed and felt there would be no problem amending the documentation.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send a letter to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mining Regulation & Reclamation, supporting renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit NVE2015119 to McEwen Mining for Gold Bar Project 2. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DIAMOND VALLEY GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Monitoring Program Update: Dale Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, gave a detailed update and slide presentation showing results of groundwater monitoring in Diamond Valley, which has been ongoing for over ten years. The monitoring network is comprised of data loggers installed on a dozen wells to track groundwater levels. This includes 11 wells in Diamond Valley and one at the gravel pit in Kobeh Valley added in 2020. Half of the loggers are maintained by Eureka County (installed in 2011) and half are maintained by Diamond Natural Resources Protection & Conservation Association (installed in 2013).

In general, the water levels continue to go down at similar rates, typically varying from a one foot to three feet of decline, although Mr. Bugenig hasn’t seen a three foot decline in a while. In nearly all the wells, Mr. Bugenig still sees seasonal drawdown initially, followed by some positive recharge. Data for 2021 suggests there was less pumping than in 2020, likely attributable to fairly substantial seasonal precipitation. There were three years that the rate of decline stabilized, followed with significant improvement in 2019 with “soft start” of the Groundwater Management Plan. But the last two data draws show that the current rate of water level decline in the valley is nearly back to the decline rate experienced in 2011 and 2012.

There are a few wells that vary from the general trend. Mr. Bugenig continues watching the Lloyd Morrison well with interest. This relatively shallow well initially showed water level declines, but in recent years has actually started to come back up. The datalogger failed recently and will be replaced on June 7th.

The Bailey well (furthest to the northwest) continues dropping in response to the large irrigation well in the vicinity that Sadler Ranch began pumping about four years ago, resulting in a nine feet water decline over that period of time.

The Kobeh Valley well, which is in the tight rocks of the Vinini formation, was added in the spring of 2020 and is the newest in the monitoring system. The rate of water level decline in this well has almost leveled off. With only two years of data, more monitoring is needed to understand what this means.

Mr. Bugenig concluded by thanking the Commissioners for the opportunity to continue with this valuable monitoring program.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Connie Hicks; District Attorney Ted Beutel (5); Public Works Director Jeb Rowley; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Sheriff's Office response to public records request; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; i80 Gold Corporation; Nevada Housing Division; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (3); Nevada Water Resources; Private Activity Bond Council; UNR CABNR monthly news; US Navy, Intergovernmental Executive Committee; US Dept. of Health & Human Services; American Conservation Union; EOPA quarterly newsletter; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); Governing E-news (multiple); and American First Policy Institute (multiple).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of July, 2022.

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

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the June 6, 2022, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

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

I, Kathy Bacon Bowling, 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/ Kathy Bowling
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk