

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**September 20, 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 September 20, 2021. 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 and utilized 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 asked for a moment of silence honoring Dwight Tompkins, longtime resident of Eureka County and friend to many, who passed away on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Chairman wished Commissioner McKay a happy birthday and opened the floor for public comments.

Sheriff Jesse Watts asked for a moment of silence for the 13 service members who died in August while fighting for our freedoms in Afghanistan.

Sheriff Watts said he requested that an agenda item be placed on the June 21<sup>st</sup> Commission agenda to consider a resolution declaring Eureka County a Constitutional County. When the agenda was posted on June 16<sup>th</sup>, the request did not appear on the agenda. The Sheriff emailed Commissioner Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg who confirmed, by return email, that the item was pulled before the agenda was posted. Sheriff Watts indicated he was making this statement to “set the record straight” concerning statements made during public comment at the Board’s August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Steel Raine, speaking on behalf of Raines LLC, proprietor of Raines Market, said their company is interested in purchasing three parcels in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision for further commercial development, adjacent to the property where Raines Market is located. Mr. Raine presented a written request to the Board and asked that this be added to a future agenda for consideration.

**COMPTRROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$302,261.13 for accounts payable, and \$366,590.22 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), for a grand total of \$668,851.35. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

**COMMISSIONERS**

County Health Officer Update: Chairman Goicoechea, as County Health Officer, provided an update on testing and reporting related to the COVID pandemic. Eureka County confirmed seven new cases over the weekend (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>) and, regrettably, one death. Twenty-one cases were resolved over the weekend, leaving 31 active cases. Three residents remain hospitalized,

down from seven two weeks ago. The four northern counties – Elko, Lander, Humboldt, and Eureka – are coordinating on reporting to ensure accuracy and to manage the recent surge in cases.

The team in Eureka is working aggressively and Chairman Goicoechea publicly thanked Emily (Damele) Carrasco, who came on board as school nurse and has been testing 150 to 200 students per week (student athletes are tested weekly). Once she realized the massive reporting that had to be done, she took it upon herself and is entering school statistics into the reporting system and working closely with the State lead epidemiologist. Chairman Goicoechea said this has been a tremendous help to him over the last couple weeks, commenting that the school and community are fortunate to have such an intelligent and knowledgeable young lady on the team.

The Chairman continued that they have been able to adjust quarantine times based on CDC guidance, dependent upon vaccine status, signs and symptoms, alternative testing options, etc. Ms. Carrasco is providing major assistance with this task as well.

Jeb Rowley, in his Emergency Management role, has diligently ensured that the County and school have maintained an adequate number of tests, which is not the case for many counties. Deputy Health Officer Kenny Sanders has been in daily communication to assist in stepping-up communication and reporting protocols. Local healthcare providers are now providing daily and timely reports on testing results, rather than routing data to the hospital and State first. Chairman Goicoechea is going to work with local providers to improve vaccine reporting, after learning that some vaccinated patients are being told they are not categorized as vaccinated.

Hospital space has become challenging again. Elko notified Eureka County it is full and not accepting patients from other counties. Idaho is currently not accepting out-of-state patients. Utah, dependent on available space on any given day, will accept emergency cases from out-of-state. An urgent care clinic in Elko, A+ Total Care, had to close because staff is out with COVID. The hospital in Battle Mountain is working to obtain a waiver to allow positive-tested staff to work in the laboratory with no patient contact.

Local schools and those in neighboring counties have been experiencing low attendance numbers due to students being sick or under quarantine. In conclusion, the Chairman cautioned staff and residents to stay home when they are sick, and particularly encouraged parents to continue to keep sick children home and follow quarantine protocols.

Consulting Hydrogeologist Contract Extension: Consulting Hydrogeologist Dale Bugenig has worked with the County for over 10 years on water resource and other water related issues. Contracts in recent years have had a not-to-exceed amount of \$80,000.00, to ensure there is a buffer to address unforeseen issues, but actual costs have not surpassed the \$40,000.00 range.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a one-year contract extension, October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, with Dale C. Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist LLC, for an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Express Internet: In 2020, Eureka County entered into a Tower Lease Agreement with Above All Communications dba Express Internet, which was due to expire on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Kyle Moore was in attendance and requested a two-year extension of the lease, noting that the current economy has promising grant opportunities for broadband infrastructure that Express Internet would like to explore.

Chairman Goicoechea acknowledged that Congress is currently working on an infrastructure bill that will likely provide additional opportunities. He felt a two-year extension was reasonable as long there was an agreement to work diligently over the next 24 months to secure infrastructure funds that would allow Express Internet to continue as an independent service provider (ISP) without further reliance on the County's infrastructure.

Commissioner McKay voiced support of a two-year extension in order to avoid leaving Crescent Valley residents without internet service.

District Attorney Ted Beutel advised that the lease should be revised to reflect minor changes going forward and to remove Express Internet's exclusive access to publicly available

unlicensed channels on the County's tower. Additionally, he recommended that the County and Express Internet meet no less than every 90 days to avoid any miscommunication or discord.

Mr. Moore indicated that Express Internet was agreeable to the suggested changes.

The Board agreed to move forward with the lease as discussed, to be presented for formal approval at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting after the District Attorney has made the necessary revisions.

Road Maintenance Wells: During the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board took action to allocate \$394,109.00 in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 towards development of a municipal water source outside of the Diamond Valley Basin. The County has received one of the two \$197,000.00 installments, with the second installment expected in May 2022.

The Chairman suggested there might be another equally important need – the need to identify and develop water sources for road maintenance. The County already hauls a tremendous amount of water for roads, and with several new exploration and mining projects, the outlying roads are getting more and more use all the time. If the County can work out agreements with landowners to drill wells on private land, the costly and lengthy NEPA process could be avoided. The Chairman felt this could be done, because Elko County worked with a mining entity on a similar arrangement. He recommended allocating half of the funds for road maintenance water sources that could also serve as an emergency water source for fire suppression. The other half of the funds will remain dedicated for the municipal water source.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reallocate \$197,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds towards identifying and developing wells as a reliable water source for road maintenance and as a backup water source for fire suppression. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Genesis Home Health Services: Commissioner McKay explained that the final proposed contract with Genesis Home Health Services contains an added benefit to supplement home health services for an additional class of residents. Prior to this, the contract was only intended to finance health care for residents who meet indigent guidelines per NRS 428.015 (household income of \$438/month for one person; \$588/month for two persons). Residents meeting this income threshold will continue to receive assistance under the contract, paid with indigent funds as budgeted.

The additional benefit proposed in the contract – limited services for residents who meet the US Poverty Guideline (\$1,986/month for one person; \$2,686/month for two persons) – cannot be paid with indigent funds. Since monies were not budgeted to support these added services, Commissioner McKay proposed moving \$40,000.00 from miscellaneous grants in the Commissioners' budget to the D&T (diagnostic and treatment) Center budget, which is the source of funding for other medical contracts.

Services covered by medical insurance or Medicare are not eligible for assistance under this contract, and Genesis will collect payment directly from those patients.

District Attorney Beutel explained that once a health care provider has identified a person as in need of home health care, a verification process will begin to determine eligibility. An assessment will be done by a Genesis representative in conjunction with the Senior Center Program Director, and an income statement application will be completed and provided to Eureka County. The contract stipulates that covered services cannot be initiated until Genesis receives email confirmation of approval from Millie Oram or her designee. In turn, Genesis must notify Ms. Oram within two business days once treatment has commenced.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the contract with Genesis Home Health Services as presented with two sets of indigent criteria, effective for the remainder of the fiscal year through June 30, 2022, including transfer of \$40,000.00 from the Commissioners' budget to the D&T Center budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The new contract has a not to exceed amount of \$40,000.00. Covered services, up to the contract limit, will be paid with indigent funds for residents meeting income criteria per State law, and will be paid with D&T Center funds for residents meeting income criteria per US guidelines.

Interest in Eureka Canyon Subdivision: Ryan Molino said he is a Champion reseller (manufactured mobile and modular homes), and his company would like to build homes in Eureka, specifically at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. But they have encountered obstacles because lenders are hesitant to invest in areas with lower populations, reasoning that this impacts the housing market. To address this financing obstacle, he had two proposals that he wanted the Board to consider.

Mr. Molino met with Commissioner McKay earlier and shared a PowerPoint presentation that depicted how each option would work in connection with 40 lots in the subdivision.

In the first option, the County would retain ownership of the lots, but a lien would be placed upon the lots during construction. The County would be reimbursed for the lot once the house is completed and the property is sold (or rented). Mr. Molino indicated this would protect the County's interest in the property.

In the second option, the County would discount the price on an initial sale, of two lots for example, which Mr. Molino stated would allow his company to "prime the pump" and proceed with construction and home sales. Then subsequent lots could be sold at an inflated price allowing the County to recoup the discount on the first lots.

The Board asked several questions and had several comments and concerns. If liens aren't satisfied, the property will be returned to the County. Chairman Goicoechea noted this has happened to the County before and, therefore, wasn't an appealing option. Commissioner McKay said others asking for discounted lots have been turned down, so any scenario would have to be fair and equitable to all. Commissioner Sharkozy felt there were no guarantees that additional lots would be purchased after the initial lots and, therefore, no guarantee that any discounts would be redeemed. The Board will continue examining options and asked Mr. Molino to leave contact information should more questions arise.

## **SENIOR CENTERS**

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In August, Eureka served 865 meals and Crescent Valley served 875 meals. Total deposits for the month were \$4,152.54.

Desk Audits: The Board reviewed the Desk Audit Report from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Transportation Services Grant #07-000-10-BC-20 for the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021. Utilization of each grant was found to be in compliance with federal regulations and the Division's requirements and procedures.

Senior Center Advisory Board: The Board reviewed a letter of interest from Kay Holloway. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to appoint L. Kay Holloway to the vacant seat on the Senior Center Advisory Board representing the County-At-Large for the remainder of a three-year term through December 31, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **SECRETARY OF STATE / ELECTIONS**

Voter Outreach Campaign: Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections, joined the meeting by telephone as part of the Secretary of State's voter outreach campaign. Mr. Wlaschin explained that the atmosphere surrounding elections has changed and voters, who never gave much thought to the election process, are now discussing and scrutinizing the way elections are done.

Problems surrounding the 2020 election highlighted the need for voters to receive factual and non-biased information concerning all aspects of the electoral process. This led Secretary Barbara Cegavske and her staff to launch the voter outreach campaign. This campaign will inform the electorate of the following: (a) recent legislative changes, both State and federal, that will impact voter and election processes; (b) improvements to voter and elections integrity; and (c) opportunities for citizen involvement leading up to and during the 2022 election cycle. Additionally,

this campaign will enable the State to achieve a higher level of awareness pertaining to local constituents and their specific concerns.

Mr. Wlaschin will coordinate closely with Eureka County Clerk Lisa Hoehne over the next 18 to 24 months. He would like to schedule time after the first of the year to come and speak in person with the Commissioners.

### **AMBULANCE & EMS**

Report on Activities: EMS Director Kenny Sanders reported there were 33 calls for ambulance service in August, 16 from the Eureka station and 17 from the Crescent Valley station. Of those, 12 were transferred by ground ambulance to hospitals and eight were transferred to air medical services.

Mr. Sanders said three applicants were interviewed for the new Advanced EMT position in Crescent Valley, and they are close to selecting the successful candidate. EMS continues working with Emergency Management to administer vaccines, including the third shot which is available to certain individuals six months after receiving a booster shot.

### **ASSESSOR**

2020 Census & Redistricting Process: Assessor Michael Mears reported that the 2020 Census summary data was available in late August. The County's population following the previous Census in 2010 was 1,987; but the 2020 Census summary data shows a County population of 1,855. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Census was primarily an online exercise and estimates indicate a low response rate of only 76-78%.

The demographic track level data, needed to begin the redistricting process, was available September 16<sup>th</sup>. In previous years, Mr. Mears had to download and manipulate the data, a very laborious process. But the new redistricting software suite introduced by Esri, and approved by the Board at an earlier meeting, will streamline this process, and the company has already begun compiling and reformatting the necessary data.

Redistricting will alter the boundary lines of the three Commissioner Districts in order to provide Districts with substantially equal populations. In past redistricting, Mr. Mears has proposed combining the Town of Eureka into a single District. He will consider this when making boundary and geographical changes as he works to create three uniform Districts, and invited the Commissioners to provide input as he works through this process.

### **TREASURER**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for August was submitted by Treasurer Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$42,738,837.81. The first quarterly installments for property taxes were due in August and contributed to the increase in fund balance.

### **OLCESE WASTE SERVICES**

Update on Waste Services: Rick Lake, Operations Manager for Olcese Waste Services, gave an update on residential and commercial waste collection in Eureka County over the past quarter. Four 96-gallon residential services were added to the route in July; four residential and two commercial three-yard containers were added in August; and four more residential services were added in September. People are not dropping the services, other than those moving from the area, and Mr. Lake was pleased to report that the customer base continues to grow at this fairly steady rate.

### **COUNTY FACILITIES**

Facilities Update: Joyce Jeppesen, Public Works Assistant Director-Administration, gave an update on activities at County managed facilities.

Eureka Opera House: In August, the Opera House had 162 tourists and 58 attendees for meetings or events. Eureka Restoration Enterprise held its annual Wine Walk on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Opera House sponsored a comedian that evening, with good attendance and comments that people really enjoyed the show. Upcoming events include Senior Center bingo and the Lions Club raffle on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. A flu shot clinic for County employees is scheduled on September 21<sup>st</sup>. "The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet," has been booked in October, and the Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of November.

Sentinel Museum: The Museum, which was closed for one week during the month, had 194 visitors in August.

Swimming Pool: The Pool had 180 swimmers in August. The lower number reflects the two-week closure for boiler repairs. Seasonal lifeguards have returned to college or high school. Pool hours were adjusted to avoid scheduling conflicts with other activities now that school has resumed. Juvenile Probation had its back-to-school swimming party and 87 students participated. To allow for smaller groups, the party was split into two days, August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jeppesen is applying for a POOL/PACT risk management grant to install security cameras at the Pool. The position announcement for a Swimming Pool Supervisor has been posted and published.

Eureka Canyon Subdivision: Ms. Jeppesen reported no changes at the subdivision.

Eureka Airport: In August, avgas sales totaled \$1,733.46. There were no Jet A fuel sales. The poker run that Ms. Jeppesen was organizing had to be cancelled because it conflicted with an event at the Lincoln County airport. Quotes for security cameras at the Airport are being solicited. Lumos & Associates completed the cultural study and preliminary topographic study, as part of the project to construct a building for the snow plow and to install additional windsocks.

Eureka Landfill: The Landfill had 118 municipal customers and 89 commercial customers in August. It received 110 tons of municipal waste and 228 tons of construction and demolition debris. A representative from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection visited on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The agency is working on a statewide recycling collection program, which will streamline the process and reduce costs to local jurisdictions. A drone is surveilling the Landfill to gather data for the volumetric study being completed by Lumos & Associates. Ms. Jeppesen is applying for a \$22,000.00 grant to cover costs to update the Airport Master Plan.

## **RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRING EMPLOYEE**

Resolution for Kelly Strain: A resolution honoring Kelly Strain, upon his retirement from the County after 13-plus years, was read into the record. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt the resolution honoring long-time employee, Kelly Strain; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

*Eureka, Nevada*

*September 20, 2021*

### ***RESOLUTION HONORING KELLY STRAIN FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO EUREKA COUNT***

*WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wishes to honor long-time employee, Kelly Strain for over 12½ years of faithful and dedicated service to Eureka County and the community of Crescent Valley; and*

*WHEREAS, Eureka County acknowledges the following biographical information: Kelly was born in Denver, Colorado, to James & Winona Strain on November 19, 1964. He graduated from Austin High School in 1983. He moved to Crescent Valley 13 years ago and shares his life with Kathy Kinkade, who retired from Eureka County in 2020.*

*WHEREAS, Eureka County recognizes Kelly's strong work ethic. Before becoming an Equipment Operator for Eureka County, he worked for the Nevada Department of Transportation, Lander County, the New Mexico Department of Corrections, and Round Mountain Gold. Kelly joined Eureka County's workforce on January 5, 2009,*

as Equipment Operator I. In July 2010, he was promoted to Equipment Operator II, the position he is retiring from. Kelly has always liked operating equipment and he enjoys people, so he truly enjoyed his work for

WHEREAS, Kelly enjoys hunting, fishing, and the great outdoors; but he spends endless hours doing what he has a true passion for – hunting with his exceptional hound dogs! He has been a member of several houndsmen organizations and is a current member of the Nevada Houndsmen Association

WHEREAS, Kelly was honored and recognized throughout life having received the Austin Bronco Award, being listed in Who's Who in America, and being a member of the Athletics Association. He attained numerous awards and recognitions for the work with his hounds in Nevada and neighboring states of California, Utah, Idaho, and Oregon.

WHEREAS, County officials, co-workers, and friends celebrate with Kelly, who has been an exemplary and invaluable member of our workforce, as he retires and embarks on the next adventure in his life (we have a suspicion that it might involve hunting!).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognizes Kelly Strain for his dedicated service to Eureka County and the citizens who reside here.

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

ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

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

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Michael Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy, Vice Chairman

/s/ Rich McKay

Rich McKay, Member

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Admin. Assistant

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

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

**COVID Vaccines:** In response to recent inquiries, Mr. Rowley notified the Board and the public that Pfizer and Moderna are the only vaccines currently in the County's inventory.

**Loader Rebuild:** The shop crew is rebuilding the 966F Loader originally purchased in 1995. The Board will be seeing invoices as parts and components are purchased to complete the rebuild. Doing these repairs in-house will save the County substantial money.

**Water Utilities:** Crews have been busy completing water hookups for numerous service applications throughout the County. Other recent work included a fire hydrant replacement and installation of two meters in Crescent Valley and repairs to a leaking water mainline on 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Ditch/Drain Cleanup:** An industrial vacuum truck was in Eureka for four days earlier in the month. Three days were spent working on bridges, culverts, and drain inlets in Eureka; and one day was spent cleaning cattle guards and doing other work throughout the County.

**Water Quality:** The annual water quality reports (Consumer Confidence Reports) were received and no issues were found.

Tabletop Exercise: Mr. Rowley is working with the Department of Public Safety to schedule a tabletop exercise for the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Free Dump Days: Mr. Rowley reminded everyone that Free Dump Days will be offered every Saturday in October both in Eureka and Crescent Valley. A flyer will be sent out notifying residents what can or cannot be accepted during Free Dump Days.

Water Service: Application for a residential water service in Devil's Gate was received and Mr. Rowley recommended approval. The application was approved by the Devil's Gate GID Board earlier in the day. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water service in Devil's Gate GID District #1 for APN 007-380-49; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

Firewise Events: The Firewise Events scheduled on September 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> in Eureka and Crescent Valley were cancelled after COVID travel restrictions prevented partner agencies from attending. Mr. Tibbitts hopes to reschedule the events in May 2022.

Ruby Hill Mining Company: Matt Gilley, Chief Operations Officer for I-80 Gold, will be in Eureka on September 21<sup>st</sup> for a meeting to provide information on the pending purchase of Ruby Hill Mine.

Gibellini Project: A meeting is scheduled on September 22<sup>nd</sup> between the BLM, EIS contractor, and Gibellini Mine representatives to discuss outstanding issues related to the Preliminary Draft EIS for the Gibellini Project.

SRS Projects: Mr. Tibbitts provided a list of projects, explaining that the County receives funding through the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act, which provides payments to counties to replace lost revenues from tax-exempt forest lands. The Act is typically reauthorized depending on availability of funding. It is currently unclear whether it will be reauthorized this year, but the Forest Service recommended moving forward with approval of projects.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve initiation of projects using Title III funding supplied by the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act, including publication of the project proposals in a local newspaper for 45 days, and submission of the project proposals to the appropriate Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Governor's Executive Order 2021-18: The Governor's Executive Order was briefly discussed during the Commissioners' September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Tibbitts reviewed the Order with the Natural Resources Advisory Commission at its September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and incorporated all comments and concerns into a letter, which was now presented for Board approval.

Mr. Tibbitts relayed that the letter addressed the following issues concerning the Order: complete lack of consultation and coordination; attack on the agricultural industry; erroneous conclusions concerning sage grouse habitat; lack of recognizing appropriate entities for involvement in various programs proposed in the Order; and numerous other concerns.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the response letter regarding Governor Sisolak's Executive Order 2021-18 Creating the Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework, and authorized the Chairman to sign the letter outside of the meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Nevada Gold Mines Permit Renewal: Consulting Hydrogeologist Dale Bugenig assisted Mr. Tibbitts in review of the draft renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit for the Nevada Gold Mines Pipeline Infiltration Project. A comment letter was prepared supporting the permit renewal and citing County policies that mandate Eureka County's participation in these processes.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the letter to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in support of renewal of the Water Pollution Control Permit (NEV0095111) for Nevada Gold Mines Pipeline Infiltration Project. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Wild Horse Issues: During the last meeting, Mr. Tibbitts discussed the Environmental Assessment being done for the proposed wild horse holding facility in Paradise Valley. A comment letter was prepared and submitted to the BLM by the comment deadline. Mr. Tibbitts explained that the letter was consistent with County policies and previous comments. The letter addressed socioeconomic issues including impacts on the local market and economy, and stated that a short-term processing facility should not turn into a long-term holding facility for the horses.

Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify the letter sent to the BLM on the Winnemucca Off-Range Corral Environmental Assessment; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands: The Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands prepared a letter to US Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland calling for action related to the overpopulation of horses and burros and the resulting destruction to habitat. The Coalition is seeking other organizations and groups to sign onto the letter.

Mr. Tibbitts said the County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife took action to sign the letter. The Eureka Conservation District will consider signing at its next meeting. Chairman Goicoechea noted that the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council signed on to the letter, and Nevada Association of Counties plans to sign.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to sign onto the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands letter to Department of the Interior Secretary Haaland requesting assistance in reducing wild horse numbers and impacts to Nevada's lands. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Planning Commission; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Recreation Board; Television District Board; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (3); Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (2); Lincoln County; Rural Nevada Regional STEM Network; Nevada Secretary of State; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Transportation (2); UNR College of Agriculture; Nevada Dept. of Indigent Defense Services; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (2); National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); Governing E-news (multiple); and America First Policy Institute (multiple).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Tim Green stated he is opening a mobile home dealership in Ely, Nevada, and is interested in servicing Eureka County as well. He wanted to introduce himself and inquire concerning local policies or permissions he may need to attain before selling in Eureka County. Chairman Goicoechea responded that there were no special restrictions concerning home sales in the County and invited him to leave contact information.

Ryan Molino referenced his request earlier in the meeting, concerning lots at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision, and asked that his request be placed on a future agenda. Chairman Goicoechea responded that the Board will take his proposals under consideration.

Daniel Venturacci referenced Board action concerning wells for road maintenance. He asked that all water rights holder within 10 miles of any proposed well location be notified to ensure there are no existing water rights that might be impacted.

Levi Shoda stated that Sadler Ranch has filed permit changes to allocate water from its wells for use in road maintenance on the entire Sadler Brown Road. He asked that the County help resolve any outstanding concerns so that road maintenance can resume.

Sheriff Watts stated State Route 306 will be closed on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup>. He recommended that northern residents use alternate routes including Rose Ranch Road, JD Ranch Road, or Transfer Site Road.

Assistant Public Works Director Raymond Hodson responded that he did not recommend travel on Rose Ranch Road or Rocky Canyon Road at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.*

/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 September 20, 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