

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**January 4, 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 January 4, 2021. 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. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. In-person attendance was limited; other County staff and members of the public were able to attend the meeting via a toll-free conference call number.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Diamond Valley groundwater monitoring presentation was removed from the Natural Resources section of the agenda and will be presented at a future date. 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 no comments from the public.

Commissioner McKay stated he is working with local businesses on a draft resolution and, once it is prepared, he would like his fellow Board members to review and consider it.

**APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

Chairman 2021: Commissioner McKay motioned to retain J.J. Goicoechea as Chairman for Calendar Year 2021; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Vice Chair 2021: Commissioner McKay motioned to retain Mike Sharkozy as Vice Chairman for Calendar Year 2021; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

December 21, 2020: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the December 21, 2020, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd and included a late invoice from Quill. Recently this has been happening frequently with Quill, so Ms. Todd will contact employees and ask them to check their Quill accounts to ensure there aren’t any delinquent invoices.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to pay the delinquent Quill invoice in the amount of \$79.57, using current fiscal year funds. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$748,704.21 for accounts payable and \$218,650.25 for payroll related expenses (including employee paid deductions), for a grand total of \$967,354.46. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

### **APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY DIRECTORS / DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Annual Appointments: At-will positions that answer directly to the Board of County Commissioners are formally appointed each year.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to reappoint the following positions for Calendar Year 2021: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley; Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts; County Comptroller Kim Todd; HR Director Heidi Whimple; EMS Director Kenny Sanders; IT Director Misty Rowley; Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram; and County Webmaster Michael Mears. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

### **COMMITTEE, BOARD, & LIAISON APPOINTMENTS**

Changes and/or Restructuring: The Board reviewed a comprehensive worksheet listing members on all County committees and boards, non-County committees and boards, and liaisons appointed to various groups or representing specific issues. The Board agreed there was no need to change or restructure any of the committees.

Appointments: The Board reviewed the worksheet and selected appointees and representatives. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to make the following appointments as reviewed by the Board; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

### **COUNTY BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

#### **Board of Equalization**

Ralph Cuda / Business / four-year term

#### **County Advisory Board (CAB) to Manage Wildlife**

Jim Evans / Sportsman / three-year term

Trent Gordon / Public Interests / three-year term

Joe Luby / Sportsman / three-year term (new, mid-term appointment)

#### **County Board of Health**

J.J. Goicoechea / County Health Officer / two-year term

Kenny Sanders / County / two-year term

Jesse Watts / County / two-year term

Michael Sharkozy / County / two-year term

Rick McKay / County / two-year term

#### **Diamond Valley Rodent Control District Board**

Jim Gallagher / Agriculture / three-year term (new appointment)

Vickie Buchanan / Agriculture / three-year term (new, mid-term appointment)

#### **Fair Board (District #15 Agriculture Board)**

Mindy Filippini / County At Large / four-year term

Darla Baumann / County At Large / four-year term

#### **Health Insurance Advisory Committee**

Jaymie Halpin / Road Dept., Public Works / two-year term

Marcial Evertsen / Sheriff's Office / two-year term

Tina Hubbard / Retirees / two-year term

#### **Local Emergency Planning Committee**

Pete Goicoechea / State Elected Official / one-year term

Mike Sharkozy / Local Elected Official / one-year term

Jeb Rowley / Civil Defense, Emergency Management / one-year term

Jesse Watts / Law Enforcement / one-year term

Jayme Halpin / Firefighting / one-year term

**Local Emergency Planning Committee (continued)**

Kenny Sanders / First Aid / one-year term  
Shealene French / Health; Alternate-First Aid / one-year term  
Michael Mears / Community Group; Broadcast or Print Media; Alternate-Local Elected Official  
John Schweble Jr. / Transportation / one-year term  
Earl Overholser / Local Environmental, EPCRA Facility / one-year term  
Roger Hubbard / Alternate-Firefighting / one-year term  
Misty Rowley / Alternate-Broadcast or Print Media / one-year term

**Natural Resources Advisory Commission**

Jerry Todd / Farming / four-year term  
Carl Slagowski / Ranching / four-year term  
Chad Bliss / Wildlife / four-year term  
Joe Luby / Wildlife / four-year term (new appointment)

**Planning Commission**

Russell Conley / Commissioner District #2 / four-year term

**Recreation Board**

Robin Hicks / Commercial Interests / four-year term  
Elmer Porter / County-At-Large / four-year term

**Regional Transportation Commission**

Rich McKay / Commissioner / two-year term

**NON-COUNTY BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

**Boulder Valley Monitoring Plan**

Mike Sharkozy / Liaison  
Jake Tibbitts / Liaison

**Central Nevada Regional Water Authority**

J.J. Goicoechea / Commissioner / Member  
Jim Gallagher / Farming / Member  
Fred Etchegaray / Farming / Member  
Jake Tibbitts / Alternate-Eureka County  
Rich McKay / Alternate-Commissioner

**Diamond Natural Resources**

**Protection & Conservation Association**

Jake Tibbitts / Liaison (non-voting)

**Homeland Security Working Group**

Jesse Watts / Sheriff, Eureka County

**Humboldt River Basin Water Authority**

J.J. Goicoechea / Commissioner / Member  
Carl Slagowski / Eureka County / Member  
Tom Tomera / Eureka County / Member  
Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Alternate

**Mt. Hope 3M Plan Tech. Adv. Comm.**

Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Member  
Dale Bugenig / Eureka County / Alternate

**Mt. Hope 3M Plan Water Adv. Comm.**

J.J. Goicoechea / Eureka County

**Nevada Association of Counties**

J.J. Goicoechea / Eureka County / Member  
Rich McKay / Eureka Co / Alternate

**Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership**

Jake Tibbitts / Eureka County / Member

**Nevada POOL/PACT Board**

Rich McKay / Eureka County / Member  
Ted Beutel / Eureka County / Alternate  
Heidi Whimple / Eureka County / Alternate

**Nevada Project Heartbeat**

Shealene French / Eureka Co / Member  
Kenny Sanders / Eureka Co / Alternate

**Nevadaworks**

Mike Sharkozy / Eureka County / Member

**Northeastern Nevada Regional Dev. Auth.**

Rich McKay / Commissioner / Member

**Ruby Hill Community Adv. Committee**

Rich McKay / Commissioner / Member

## LIAISONS - VARIOUS GROUPS / ISSUES

### Census Issues

Michael Mears

### Legislative Representatives

J.J. Goicoechea

Michael Mears

### Water Protest Filings

J.J. Goicoechea

### Crescent Valley VFD

Mike Sharkozy

Jake Tibbitts

Jesse Watts

### Water Rights

Ted Beutel

### Eureka VFD

J.J. Goicoechea

### Natural Resources

J.J. Goicoechea

### NDF & Rural VFDs

J.J. Goicoechea

### NV Department of Taxation

Michael Mears

Remaining Vacancies: The following vacancies still exist and the Board will accept letters of interest at any time from parties who are willing to serve:

#### Health Insurance Advisory Committee

VACANCY / Public Taxpayer / two-year term

#### Planning Commission

VACANCY / Alternate-County At Large / four-year term

#### Senior Center Advisory Board

VACANCY / County At Large / three-year term

## COMMISSIONERS

Standard Form Contract: The District Attorney advised the Board to adopt a standard form contract (fashioned after the State of Nevada's contract for services of independent contractors) to promote consistency and ensure that proper liability protections are in place. Mr. Beutel explained that additional contract language may appear in attachments, but may not change the liability of Eureka County. After reviewing the form contract, Commissioner McKay commented that the new format may initially cause issues for some vendors, but all Commissioners agreed it was prudent to adopt a standard contract.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt the standard form contract for independent contractors hired by Eureka County and all departments and entities with budgets funded by the Eureka County Commissioners. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Expert Assistance in DV Adjudication: Jake Tibbitts recommended engaging William Price, a licensed public lands surveyor and water rights surveyor who has the expertise needed to provide assistance related to Public Water Reserves (PWR 107) in the Diamond Valley Adjudication. Mr. Price has expressed willingness to use the County's standard form contract.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve contracting with William F. Price, PLS, for expert assistance related to the Diamond Valley Adjudication for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract outside of the meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2021 NACO Membership Dues: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve payment of annual membership dues to Nevada Association of Counties for 2021 in the total amount of \$15,210.00, which includes a public land assessment of \$1,906.00 (0.5% of the PILT distribution to Eureka County). Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In December, Eureka served 1,144 meals

and Crescent Valley served 1,071 meals. All meals continue to be home-delivered. A total of \$13,020.15 was deposited for the month.

Nutrition Grants: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify Notice of Subaward from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Nutrition Grant #07-000-66-2X-21 for provision of equipment for congregate and home-delivered meal services in the amount of \$4,425.30 with no match required. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Ms. Oram explained that the grant funds will be used to replace the industrial refrigerator in Crescent Valley.

## **SHERIFF**

Resolution Honoring Sandra Eastwood: Sheriff Jesse Watts fondly recalled that Sandy Eastwood was the first person he spoke with on the phone when inquiring about a job in Eureka County, and now it was bittersweet for him to see her retire after many years of dedicated service.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution honoring long-time employee Sandra Eastwood for 31-plus years of service to Eureka County; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

*Eureka, Nevada*

*January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

**RESOLUTION**  
**HONORING SANDRA EASTWOOD**  
**FOR 31 PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS AND VISITORS OF EUREKA COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wishes to honor longtime employee, Sandra Eastwood for 31 years, 9 months of dedicated service to Eureka County; and

**WHEREAS**, Eureka County acknowledges the following biographical information: Sandy was born in Artesia, New Mexico, to Fay & Lenda Wilcox on July 26, 1957. She graduated from White Pine High School in 1976. Sandy moved to Eureka over 33 years ago and raised two children, Derrick Mariluch and Lacie Mariluch. She is now blessed with two grandchildren, Davin Brown and Trent Mariluch. Sandy married David Eastwood in Fallon, Nevada, on December 23, 2013, but David had already been a part of the family for 18 years.

**WHEREAS**, Eureka County recognizes Sandy's strong work ethic. She began working as Dispatcher at the Eureka County Sheriff's Office on April 4, 1989. Through the years she proved her capabilities and was promoted to Communications Supervisor in 1997, earning the title of Sergeant in January 2003. Somewhere along the way, she earned the affectionate title of "mother-hen" of the Sheriff's Office, as the person who made sure everything got done and who took care of loose ends so everyone else could do their jobs with more ease and effectiveness. In 2019, Sandy began her latest role as the Records/Technical Support for the Sheriff's Office, where she was in charge of all reports, records, and video footage, which always helped victims of criminal acts in Eureka County.

**WHEREAS**, the successful deployment and smooth operation of the Sheriff's Office Report Management System, RIMS, can be accredited to Sandy's involvement. She was always willing to lend a helping hand around the office, at special events (such as Cops N Kids picnics and National Night Out events), and even outside Eureka County (she is also retiring her Secretary hat after 15 years of continuous service for the Fraternal Order of Police).

**WHEREAS**, Sandy's life exhibits a love for her family and friends, and time spent with them is one of her favorite pastimes. Endless hours spent quilting, cooking, playing bunco with friends, and fishing with Davin and Lacie will no doubt remain a part of her life. Her passion for travel has led her to many beautiful destinations via cruise ship, and we suspect there may be more in her future!

*WHEREAS, County officials, co-workers, and friends celebrate with Sandy, who has been an exemplary and invaluable member of our workforce, as she retires and embarks on the next adventures in her life.*

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

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

*ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.*

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

*/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman*

*/s/ Michael Sharkozy*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman*

*/s/ Rich McKay*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman*

*ATTEST: /s/ Jackie Berg*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Jackie Berg, Comm. Admin. Asst.*

Recognition of Search & Rescue Efforts: Sheriff Watts said that Bill Belcourt and the people, technology, and expertise he brought to the search efforts for James “Kiwi” Johnston were invaluable and contributed to the success in locating the downed paraglider, who unfortunately did not survive. The parapilot went missing on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Sheriff Watts stated that discovery of his body a month later gave Mr. Johnston’s family and the searchers a measure of closure.

Arnold Pena, Search & Rescue Southern Division Commander, said he has worked in emergency services for over 30 years and cannot recall working with somebody more professional than Bill, especially as a civilian not affiliated with any agency. Mr. Pena also recognized his SAR officers, Lisa Clark and Heather Mears, noting that they ended the year with over 700 volunteer hours, much of that time for their work on the “Kiwi” search.

Mr. Belcourt responded that he appreciated the recognition for the search crews, but felt that Eureka County had it “backwards”. He said this very challenging search would have never been resolved without the efforts of the local people and professionals. He commented, “*I’ve been on a lot of rescues across the world and for a really small town you’ve got a couple of ringers here in terms of their competence, their vision, and how well they put their teams together; I’m blown away by the capabilities that exist here in this little town.*” Mr. Belcourt spoke of the team’s care and respect in handling Mr. Johnston’s body, “*It was like he was one of their own and I was truly touched by the compassion and professionalism of the team.*” Mr. Belcourt added,

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution honoring Bill Belcourt and the civilian volunteers who assisted with the search and rescue efforts for James “Kiwi” Johnston, along with a Certificate of Appreciation for donation of \$10,000.00 worth of equipment and gear to Eureka County Search & Rescue. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Commissioners thanked all parties for their efforts on the search. Commissioner McKay thanked Mr. Belcourt for his positive comments, saying, “*This is one of those days that makes you proud to be from Eureka; good job you guys and your teams.*”

**RESOLUTION**

**HONORING WILLIAM “BILL” BELCOURT AND THE CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS WHO ASSISTED WITH THE SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION OF JAMES “KIWI” JOHNSTON**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wishes to honor William “Bill” Belcourt and the dozens of volunteers who assisted with the Search and Rescue Mission of James “Kiwi” Johnston; and

**WHEREAS**, Eureka County acknowledges the following information: On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the Eureka County Sheriff’s Office was contacted about a missing Paraglider, James “Kiwi” Johnston; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eureka County Sheriff’s Office and Eureka County Search and Rescue activated a large-scale search on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with SAR members and were assisted by dozens of civilian volunteers, who were coordinated by Bill Belcourt; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Belcourt was instrumental in mission planning, coordination, ground search efforts and technology coordination; and

**WHEREAS**, without the dozens of volunteers, technology, private aircraft, private drones, private ATVs, UTVs and, most importantly, the hard-working ground crews this search area would have been impossible to complete with our current SAR members; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, observant civilians discovered the paragliding chute and immediately reported it to the Eureka County Sheriff’s Office. These citizens went well out of their way to make sure this discovery was reported and wanted no recognition or accolades; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, civilian volunteers were instrumental in the recovery of James “Kiwi” Johnston, which helped bring closure to James “Kiwi” Johnston’s family and this extensive search; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognizes Bill Belcourt and the civilian volunteers for their exemplary service and sacrifice to Eureka County, and commends them for their dedication to Eureka County.

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

ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

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

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

/s/ Michael Sharkozy  
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Rich McKay  
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Comm. Admin. Asst.

Integrated Telehealth Services: Sheriff Watts explained that Integrated Telehealth Services continues working to transition to the new form contract approved earlier in the meeting and, pending formal approval, services will continue under terms of the previous contract. The Sheriff wanted the Board to know that the contractor provides this same service to other entities, but stated that this was the most difficult thing it has been asked to do in relation to one of its contracts.

## **TREASURER**

Tax Delinquent Properties: Treasurer Pernecia Johnson provided a list containing 20 tax delinquent parcels that are scheduled for sale by sealed-bid auction on April 29, 2021, unless redeemed by the deadline.

Consider Acquisition of Delinquent Parcels: Prior to the meeting, Ms. Johnson reviewed the list of tax delinquent properties with Public Works Director Jeb Rowley to determine if the County might have interest in acquiring any of the parcels, as permitted by NRS 361.603. Mr. Rowley informed that none of the parcels would be beneficial to Eureka County, and the Board concurred.

Proceed to Sale: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to direct the Treasurer to proceed with the April 29<sup>th</sup> auction, pursuant to 2019 Order of the Board and NRS Chapter 361, to sell all tax delinquent properties listed if not paid in full by the deadline. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Report on Activities: Ray Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. Southern crews finished blading Antelope Road, spent several days on snow removal, and spent a lot of time in the Green Pit screening and stockpiling material for projects, including the gravel haul on Mustang Road. The new snow plow had to be hauled to Reno for repairs.

All traffic control signs have been placed. The neighborhood that concerned parents approached the Board about (in the area of Sheridan Street, Archimedes Street, and Nob Hill Avenue in Eureka), is now posted as a 15-mph zone. The landing strip at the Crescent Valley Airport is in rough shape, so signs have been placed there to deter public access.

Northern crews finished blading Barth Road, Palisade Road, and made a good start on Maggie Creek Road, pausing to plow snow. They are working on the belly dump trailers in preparation for a gravel haul project on the Dann Road.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

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

Equipment Delivered: The much-needed new wheel loader/compactor was received at the Eureka Landfill

Emergency Management – COVID Vaccines: Mr. Rowley reported that booster shots, for the tier one group who received the Pfizer vaccine, are tentatively scheduled to be given on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The first round of Moderna vaccines should be administered on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Moderna vaccine does not require a booster and has a longer, more stable shelf life, so is the preferred vaccine for rural populations. Mr. Rowley continues working closely with the State to coordinate vaccine orders and to schedule immunizations according to the priority tiers.

Hiring Freeze Waiver – Equipment Operator: Mr. Rowley said he greatly appreciated Chanlie Auch's hard work, service, and dedication to the County over the past nine years, but she has decided to take those resources home for her family, a decision that he supports. Mr. Rowley requested approval to fill this pending vacancy.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Public Works Director to fill the position of Equipment Operator I at the Eureka Landfill. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.



## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

**Fish Creek Wild Horse Gather:** Mr. Tibbitts said the Fish Creek HMA Wild Horse Gather concluded on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and was a successful gather. A total of 198 horses were gathered and 63 were returned to the range (30 fertility-treated mares and 33 studs). The remaining 135 were shipped to a BLM facility in Idaho. The BLM estimates that 105 to 107 horses now occupy the Herd Management Area, which is low-end AML (appropriate management level). This is the first time this horse population has been within AML since 2006. Mr. Tibbitts reminded the Board that the County agreed to support the BLM's fertility control efforts if an HMA is at low AML.

Mr. Tibbitts publicly and sincerely thanked the BLM for the close coordination rendered during this and other recent gathers. Chairman Goicoechea echoed thanks to the BLM, specifically the Battle Mountain District, stating the BLM officials did everything they could to ensure this gather happened and he appreciated them honoring the commitment to the County.

Chairman Goicoechea thanked NDOT as well, explaining the contractor's trucks encountered some difficulty getting on US Highway 50. The Chairman made a phone call and NDOT immediately responded with a plow and a sander and opened the approach.

**NDWR Workshop:** Mr. Tibbitts informed that Nevada Division of Water Resources has scheduled a workshop on January 13<sup>th</sup> to solicit comments on proposed regulations pertaining to NAC 533. He reminded the Board that Eureka County commented on these regulations during the draft stage. Mr. Tibbitts is working with the water attorney to evaluate how previous comments were addressed and to consider what might need to be resubmitted.

**Water Quantity Issues:** Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter to the Natural Resources Conservation Service outlining Eureka County's concerns in response to its request for public input concerning water quantity issues in the western US.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send the comment letter to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service concerning water quantity issues in the west; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**Annual Notices:** Eureka County Code, Title 9, Chapter 40, Section .030 directs that, at the beginning of each calendar year, the Board is to send notices to federal agencies stating the County's right to be actively involved in any decision-making process concerning or affecting federal lands within Eureka County.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send annual notices to relevant federal land and resource management agencies in accordance with County Code. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Connie Hick; Arnold Pena; Healthy Paws of Eureka; District Attorney Ted Beutel; Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts (2); Comptroller Kim Todd; Public Works Director Jeb Rowley; IT Director Misty Rowley; HR Director Heidi Whimple (2); Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram; Great Basin College; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (3); Nevada Dept. of Sentencing Policy; Nevada Aging & Disability Services Div.; Nevada Div. of Water Resources; Nevada State Demographer; Nevada Health Foundation; Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition; US Dept. of Agriculture; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; National Assoc. of Counties; County News Now; and Phil Nendel.

**Commissioner Reports:** Noting the spike in COVID cases in Eureka County, Chairman Goicoechea urged everyone to be cautious and to comply with all restrictions and recommendations. As Chairman and County Health Officer, he is working with Emergency Management to do everything possible to keep local businesses and schools open. But, observing that compliance has waned, he said the community is going to have to do its part. He publicly recognized Tate Else, Superintendent of Schools, and the school principals for their proactive efforts to keep schools open. The Chairman

thanked Ray Hodson and Jeb Rowley for their assistance in facilitating testing during the current outbreak.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 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 January 4, 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