

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**March 7, 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 March 7, 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**

Per request, Chairman Goicoechea moved the Sheriff’s agenda items directly after approval of the minutes. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda with that change; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 19, 2022: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the January 19, 2022, budget meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**SHERIFF**

Updated Job Descriptions: Undersheriff Tyler Thomas presented revised job descriptions for Deputy Sheriff I, II, & III and Dispatcher I/II, but noted that POOL/PACT had issues with one of the job descriptions. The job descriptions were tabled pending final approval from POOL/PACT.

Vehicle Use & Residency: Chairman Goicoechea inquired about a conversation back in September when Undersheriff Thomas and Sheriff Watts asked if there were any policies requiring patrol staff to live in Eureka County or any restrictions about using patrol vehicles to commute to residences outside of Eureka County. The Commissioners voiced concerns at that time, but said they were willing to consider a reasonable policy proposal from the Sheriff and Undersheriff.

Chairman Goicoechea now asked if the Sheriff’s Office had come up with a proposal concerning residency requirements and vehicle limitations. Undersheriff Thomas responded that Sheriff Watts has decided that no policy is needed, believing that is an operational decision of the Sheriff. The Undersheriff added, *“That’s what he’s telling me...obviously it’s gonna have to be in policy and whatnot; and certainly, we can bring that to you guys.”*

Amended Hiring Freeze Waiver Justifications: On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Board waived the hiring freeze and authorized the Sheriff’s Office to fill a Deputy III and two Deputy II positions, with instructions that if a lower rank was selected to fill an open position, the Sheriff should work with Human Resources to place the item on an agenda to inform the Board and ensure recordkeeping is accurate. The Sheriff’s Office will do so with the Deputy III waiver, but asked that the Deputy II waivers be amended to authorize hiring a Deputy I, and a Deputy I, II, or III.

After some discussion, the Board decided to delay waiving the hiring freeze until the updated job descriptions are approved and available to post to the online application portal. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to table the pending four hiring freeze waivers (three deputy positions and one dispatcher position) until such time the associated job descriptions are finalized. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. The Chairman invited comments or discussion.

Undersheriff Thomas explained that a previous waiver had been granted for a Dispatcher position, which still has a pending resignation date. A candidate has already been vetted for the Dispatcher position related to today's hiring freeze waiver request. He asked that the previous waiver with a pending date be swapped with the one presented today, allowing them to move forward with the hire.

The Board agreed to amend the motion per the request to allow the Sheriff's Office to move forward with filling the Dispatcher position based on tying the waiver of the hiring freeze to the Dispatcher position with the earliest resignation or termination date. The Chairman called for the final vote; motion carried 3-0.

## **COMPTROLLER**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$334,313.49 for accounts payable, \$362,193.52 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), and the following pass-through tax allocations: \$1,036,370.69 (school taxes) and \$4,056.77 (general taxes) to Nevada State Controller, \$236.17 to Nevada Department of Taxation, \$250.00 to Nevada Division of Minerals, and \$126.00 to Washoe County Crime Lab for a grand total of \$1,737,546.64. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

## **FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET**

Tentative Budget Overview: Comptroller Kim Todd gave an overview of the tentative budget, with updated personnel costs (salaries, benefits), changes discussed at the last meeting, carryover items, and estimated revenues. Final revenue projections are due March 25<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Todd commented that she didn't anticipate significant changes, noting that the State's final revenue projections are typically higher than the preliminary estimates.

Ms. Todd highlighted the capital outlay items budgeted in the General Fund and the Capital Projects Fund. She explained that the budget was somewhat inflated because it included capital expenditures that couldn't be procured in the current fiscal year due to supply chain issues, and capital expenditures that must be budgeted in order to move forward for items that likely won't be delivered until the subsequent fiscal year, also due to delays in the supply chain.

Ms. Todd voiced concern that \$2.7 million was tentatively budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund, which is nearly 68% of the \$4 million balance. She identified fiber infrastructure and the Sheriff's vehicles as primary demands on this fund. Due to this, she suggested moving a portion of network costs to the General Fund, and she will work with the Sheriff to see if any of the five requested vehicles can be postponed to a subsequent budget year.

Chairman Goicoechea agreed, reminding everyone that the Sheriff had stated his intent to sell certain vehicles to Nye County (if the Board declares them surplus property). He said the Sheriff's fleet might need to be reexamined to identify any vehicles that could be utilized an additional year, allowing some of the new vehicle purchases to be suspended until the next budget year. The final budget will be adopted at a public hearing in May, and the Board indicated there may be some additional changes between the tentative and final budget.

## **GREAT BASIN OPERATING, LLC**

North Diamond Valley #1-27 Oil Well Exploration Project EA: John "Patrick" Ellbogen, Manager, and Bill Ehni, Geologist, were in attendance representing Great Basin Operating, LLC. Mr. Ellbogen said they asked to be placed on the agenda to address some of the County's concerns over the project, which were stated in a comment letter to the BLM.

Mr. Ellbogen said that Great Basin Operating became involved in the North Diamond Valley #1-27 Oil Well Exploration Project five years earlier and has been working with the BLM the past 15

months to begin the permitting process. He explained that the proposed well is in Elko County, but approximately 25% of the project's 87,000 acre land footprint is in Eureka County.

For transparency, Chairman Goicoechea disclosed that he has a ranching interest in Huntington Valley, the location of the drill site and proposed oil well.

The presentation included maps showing the drill site, roads, gravel pits, and water wells (including proposed temporary water well). Great Basin Operating has negotiated with the BLM for use of a gravel pit in Eureka County, which will involve travel on County roads. The surface use plan dictates that the proponent maintain all roads in the existing condition or better, and improvements are planned for the two-track access road in Elko County. Mr. Ehni clarified that the project is not within the Diamond Valley Hydrographic Basin.

The gentlemen again referenced the County's concerns voiced in a letter to the BLM related to this project. These concerns included lack of coordination, project location (the name North Diamond Valley is misleading because it is in Huntington Valley), County roads, sage grouse issues, and impacts to water resources, grazing, public safety, and socioeconomics.

Chairman Goicoechea noted that the comments were directed to the BLM. The County is historically heavily involved in EISs (Environmental Impact Statements) and EAs (Environmental Assessments) for projects within Eureka County and projects affecting Eureka County, and the local BLM Districts are well aware of this. It's disappointing when an EA comes out with no County involvement, and with decisions affecting County roads and other resources. The Chairman added that projects like this typically expand, and this one has the potential of expanding into Eureka County, which is why it needs to be done right from the beginning.

The gentleman again stated they were meeting with the Board as a sign of good faith and invited the County's involvement. Mr. Ehni requested that Eureka County inform the BLM, by letter if possible, that the County has met with and will be working with Great Basin Operating on this exploration project.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

FY23 Library Contract: The Board received the library contract for the upcoming fiscal year, with a cost reduction of \$1,213.00 over the previous year. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve signing the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 library contract with Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System in the amount of \$113,880.00, payable in equal quarterly installments. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Letter of Support – Duckwater Road: The Duckwater Tribe has asked White Pine, Eureka, and Nye Counties, as well as Nevada Department of Transportation to cosign a letter with the Tribe addressed to Nevada's US Senators and US Congressman seeking assistance in obtaining federal assistance and funding to improve 24 miles of unpaved road from Duckwater to Eureka, and asking the Nevada congressional delegation to work with the US Department of the Interior and the US Department of Transportation to ensure that a plan for road safety improvements is developed this year.

Chairman Goicoechea asked that Congressman Mark Amodei be included in the letter. The State redistricting following the 2020 Census has placed this part of the State in Congressman Amodei's Congressional District. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve signing the letter of support for the Duckwater Tribe's efforts to secure federal assistance for road improvements and paving of the Duckwater Road, with the requested amendment. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **IT DEPARTMENT**

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities.

Crescent Valley Projects: Quest finalized antenna installation at the Town Center in Crescent Valley, which improved latency on the cellular connection and seems to have stabilized the internet connection. The team will continue to work to improve speed issues.

EMS Safes: Ms. Rowley worked with Syber Networks to set up the Biostar program, which acts as a mini-server, on the EMS narcotic safes. Next, the devices will be connected to the network.

Sheriff's Office: Syber Networks attended a meeting on the AT&T Vestal with a company called Line 911 to determine program needs. The IT Department will now work on obtaining quotes for a server to support the program. Ms. Rowley is working with Syber Networks to upgrade the main controller at the Sheriff's Office to the latest version of Windows.

Tyler Cloud: All required installations have been completed for the Tyler Cloud. Ms. Rowley thanked the Comptroller's office for all of its help, stating it was a very big job! She continues working on the issues with payroll notifications and utility billings, and migrating more services to the Cloud.

Security Tests: Ms. Rowley met with the Department of Homeland Security to work on details related to the free cyber security penetration test.

Infrastructure Grant: Ms. Rowley continues working towards the grant submission deadline of March 9<sup>th</sup> for the broadband infrastructure grant. Preliminary estimates show design work for two completely separate broadband networks will cost closer to \$15 million, but that number has not been finalized. One network would strictly support the local government, and the other could be leased to private enterprise to serve County residents. Ms. Rowley is scheduled to work with the grant writer on March 8<sup>th</sup>, but it's still unknown if everything will line up in time to meet grant deadlines.

Courthouse Backup: The IT Department is working on obtaining quotes for a 4G failover at the County Courthouse in the event the fiber connection fails. The new phone system is providing a lot of cost savings, but there is no backup and the 4G will provide that redundancy.

Monday.com: Ms. Rowley has a meeting scheduled with Monday.com regarding options to improve operational efficiency in the IT Department through collaboration and consultation.

Hyperconverged Server: Parts for the hyperconverged server are beginning to come in.

IT Support / Helpdesk Technician I: Ms. Rowley worked with Human Resources to update the technician job description, but noted there were no major changes. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the updated IT Support / Helpdesk Technician job description; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification – Technician: The Board reviewed the Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification and Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the IT Director to fill the position of IT Support / Helpdesk Technician I. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **ASSESSOR**

Promotion Process: Before discussing the updated job description and promotion request, Assessor Michael Mears asked for clarification on the recently implemented promotion process. It has been the practice in the Assessor's Office that as an Appraiser obtains the three State certifications, he/she can advance to Appraiser II, then Appraiser III. He felt it was unfair to require an employee hired with that understanding to now apply for the position. He understood the County desired transparency, but felt that it already exists through the budgeting process, since he cannot promote to a position unless it is first included in the budget. He also had concerns that posting an Appraiser III job announcement could mislead the public that he had a vacancy.

Chairman Goicoechea assured Mr. Mears that it was still an internal process, but does provide more transparency to the public and other offices and staff, as well as creating a clearer record of government actions and promotions. He said it was time to implement an equitable process to create another layer of transparency and to ensure that all employees who qualify have a fair opportunity if an advance position becomes available.

Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple gave a brief overview of how the internal posting process will work, explaining that an internal posting is on a separate portal than the application portal available to the general public. The promotion request form has already been approved by the Board, and the promotion process has been included as an amendment in the Personnel Policy set for adoption at an upcoming public hearing.

Updated Appraiser Job Description: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the updated job description for Appraiser I, II, and III; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Promotion Request – Appraiser III: Mr. Mears submitted promotion request paperwork seeking authorization to internally fill the position of Appraiser III. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the promotion request for an Appraiser III position in the Assessor’s office; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Updated Job Description – Kitchen Aide: HR Director Heidi Whimple said she was assisting Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram, who could not attend the meeting due to work duties. She presented an updated position description for Kitchen Aide Senior Center Casual Worker. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the updated position description of Kitchen Aide Senior Center Casual Worker; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver – Kitchen Aide: Paperwork was submitted requesting waiver of the hiring freeze. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Senior Center Program Director to fill the position of Kitchen Aide at the Eureka Senior Center; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Emigrant Pass Bridge Replacement: NDOT Supervisor III, Associate Engineer Robert Thran was in attendance to update the Board and the public on the 24-hour I-80 closure scheduled in June for demolition and replacement of the Interstate 80 bridge at Emigrant Pass, originally constructed in 1967. Mr. Thran apologized for running a bit late, stating he did his duty and stopped to help a motorist on SR 278.

Mr. Thran explained that NDOT has constructed a westbound truck climbing lane and is in the process of constructing an eastbound truck climbing lane, requiring a new structure at Emigrant Pass because the current structure obstructs the eastbound lane. To accomplish this, a portion of I-80 will be closed on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. NDOT believes this overnight timeframe will interrupt less traffic. This will allow demolition of the bridge and stockpiling of the demolition material, which will be moved after the Interstate is reopened. The new bridge will be pre-constructed and ready to move into place.

There will be four closure points – two westbound and two eastbound. The first eastbound closure will be at Exit 231 in Battle Mountain, giving motorists the option to detour south down SR 305 to Austin, then to US Hwy. 50, and back up SR 278 to Carlin. The second eastbound closure will be at Beowawe Exit 261, providing a last chance to turn around. The westbound closures will be at Exit 279 at Carlin and again at Exit 271 at Palisades, giving motorists the option of turning around or detouring via SR 278, to US Hwy. 50, and up SR 305 to Battle Mountain. All closure points will have law enforcement support.

Public safety was given primary consideration in the closure decision, because once the bridge spans start coming down, there is no way to ensure the stability of the bridge. NDOT will deploy a vast network of signage (including portable signs/message boards and overhead message boards) in all directions informing and warning motorists of the closure and available options and including information on next available services. NDOT is making community tours and giving presentations in all potentially impacted counties. A public information flyer will be distributed soon.

NDOT will also be contacting Cortez Mine concerning impacts to the bus traffic that travels I-80 to and from the minesite. Mr. Thran expects to visit the Commissioners once more as the project gets closer for a final update. Chairman Goicoechea offered Eureka County’s assistance in outreach concerning the closure.

## **CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

**Possible Code Changes:** Recently, the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board asked that its meeting time, which is set by County Code, be changed. The Town Board agreed to review the entire portion of the Code governing the Town Board in order to suggest any other changes. It also requested that its meeting stipend of \$45.00 per meeting (\$90.00 per month) be increased.

Comptroller Kim Todd provided the Commissioners with revenue and expenditure statistics for Crescent Valley Town over recent years, commenting that the town earns about \$33,000.00 annually in tax revenues but spends more than double, or about \$73,000.00 annually.

A CVTAB representative was not available at meeting time, and the Town Board later informed the Commissioners that its members had decided no changes were needed at this time.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

**Report on Activities:** Ray Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. Both southern and northern crews continue working on the gravel haul to Barth Road. The screening plant is running in the Cottonwood Pit and a large amount of material has been stockpiled there. The screening plant will be moved to the Cortez Pit shortly. A culvert was installed north of Venturacci's. The southern crew had a snow plow and sander out on February 21<sup>st</sup> (Mr. Hodson commented that it always snows for the younger boys' wrestling tournament!). The northern crew had some snow removal around Barth and Maggie Creek. A culvert was installed on the Barth Road. A blade has been working in the town of Crescent Valley. The Dean Dann Road, Spa Road, and Cortez Road were also bladed.

The buildings and grounds crew has been working on the dugouts at the Crescent Valley ball field. Once the chain link fence is installed, the project will be complete and ready for Little League season. The dugout project is the latest of several projects at the Crescent Valley Town Park, where the County has invested a lot of time, effort, and money.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

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

**FEMA Team:** The FEMA EMT team wrapped up its COVID work (vaccinating, testing) the previous week. They worked out of the local clinic and eventually moved to the Eureka Airport. The Resource Liaison Jonica Gonzalez remains at the Airport.

Churchill County is sending a registered nurse to Eureka one day per week. He will continue some of the COVID work and will visit the Senior Center for general care, such as blood pressure checks, and hopes to visit the Senior Center in Crescent Valley as well.

**Fire Management:** Tim Howell is the new BLM Battle Mountain District Fire Management Officer and will travel to Eureka on March 9<sup>th</sup> to visit with Mr. Rowley and review the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and Annual Operating Plan, which are due for renewal shortly.

Mr. Rowley is working with Nevada Division of Forestry to schedule Red Card wildland firefighter refresher training. Training will be done in Eureka on April 5<sup>th</sup> with a morning and an afternoon session. NDF will work directly with the other Volunteer Fire Departments (Pine Valley, Crescent Valley, Dunphy) to schedule training times and locations.

**Airport Grant Projects:** It appears the snow plow storage building, part of the Airport Capital Improvement Plan, may need to be bumped to the next federal fiscal year. With the amount of federal grant money available, the process has bottlenecked. The cultural survey of the Eureka Airport was submitted months ago, but Mr. Rowley doesn't anticipate environmental review and approval in time for the current grant deadline.

Public Works met with the Phoenix ADO (Airline Dispatch Office) to update the five-year Airport Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Rowley will give an updated report at a future meeting.

**McEwen Mining:** Mr. Rowley continues meeting weekly with Todd Sylvester of McEwen Mining regarding utility and road improvements needed to support construction of a temporary man

camp at the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. McEwen Mining is still evaluating costs and hopes to have a proposal ready for the next meeting.

Beowawe Library Building: Public Works traveled north to assess County buildings, including the Beowawe Library building, the Search & Rescue building, the old road maintenance facility, and the Volunteer Fire Station. The latter three have no water or restroom facilities, and the Beowawe Library is beyond salvage. Floor beams have rotted away; the walls are rodent infested; and it would require structural, electrical, water, sewer, and HVAC improvements to make the facility usable.

Road Project: Lumos & Associates will meet with Public Works in Crescent Valley on March 10<sup>th</sup> to identify a scope of work related to utility work needed before any paving can begin.

Rose Ranch Road Speed Limit Designation: Mr. Rowley and Ray Hodson have been working with Jim Wilkin Trucking on a road maintenance Memorandum of Understanding for 3.5 miles of the Rose Ranch Road, from SR 306 to the cattle guard near the gravel pit at Pioneer Pass. All parties have recognized that a speed limit reduction would decrease the amount of maintenance required on the road. Public Works worked with County staff to draft a resolution.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a Resolution designating a 35 mph speed limit on a portion of the Rose Ranch Road in northern Eureka County; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

March 7, 2022

**RESOLUTION**

**DESIGNATING A 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON A PORTION OF ROSE RANCH ROAD, IN NORTHERN EUREKA COUNTY, FROM STATE ROUTE 306 TO RUSTY LANE**

WHEREAS, N.R.S. 244.357 empowers the Board of County Commissioners to regulate all vehicular, pedestrian, and other traffic within the unincorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, Rose Ranch Road (M-136) a County-maintained gravel road within such an unincorporated area of northern Eureka County; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County Code, Title 6, Chapter 100, Section .030 authorizes the Board to adopt resolutions designating speed limits upon the public highways, roads, or streets or sections thereof within the County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners hereby pronounces the following speed limit for the stated portion of the following road within Eureka County:

Road: M-136, Rose Ranch Road, a Main County road, from State Route 306 to Rusty Lane, approximately 5.08 miles                      Speed Limit: 35 mph

ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

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

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Administrative Asst. II  
to the Board of Commissioners

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

**Mine Permitting:** Mr. Tibbitts has been busy reviewing several mining projects currently in the permitting stage with BLM, and is having weekly or biweekly meetings with BLM. Nevada Gold Mines' Goldrush Project is moving forward and the EIS is expected any day. The County recently signed the Cooperating Agency MOU on Nevada Vanadium's Gibellini Project EIS.

**South Railroad Project:** A new project starting in earnest is Gold Standard Ventures' South Railroad Project on the Pine Mountain Range just across the County line into Elko County. Mr. Tibbitts attended the BLM's kickoff meeting the previous week, and commented that it will be a substantial project with two open pits and a dewatering program. The last Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting revealed that this project will create around 22,000 debits for impacts to sage grouse under Nevada's Conservation Credit System.

**Golden Lake Exploration:** Golden Lake Exploration has been around Eureka doing a lot of drilling in the Jewel Ridge area. The company is moving forward with an EA for a large exploration project.

**Ormat Nevada – Crescent Valley Geothermal Project:** In late 2021, the County provided comments to the BLM on Ormat's Crescent Valley Geothermal Project. In a phone call with BLM the previous week, Chairman Goicoechea and Mr. Tibbitts were surprised to learn that the BLM is allowing Ormat to move forward with an EA rather than an EIS. Public scoping is not required on an Environmental Assessment. Mr. Tibbitts obtained an advance copy of the draft EA from the Elko District BLM, and it did not incorporate the County's comments or address its concerns.

**Drought Letters:** Mr. Tibbitts also learned that the Elko District BLM plans on sending drought letters to all grazing permittees, and he expects to hear from some of the ranchers once that occurs.

**Diamond Valley Adjudication:** The Diamond Valley Adjudication hearings will resume on March 8<sup>th</sup> in District Court. Next week, the court will hear testimony concerning the BLM's claim of public water reserves (PWR 107).

**Upcoming Meetings:** The Humboldt River Basin Water Authority will meet on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and the recent water applications filed by Gold Standard Ventures are bound to be a topic of discussion. The County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife will meet on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**America the Beautiful / 30x30 Initiative:** The current administration's 30x30 Initiative is intended to protect 30% of the nation's lands and waters by the year 2030. As part of the Initiative, a mapping tool is being built called "American Conservation & Stewardship Atlas." The entire movement is concerning because it is rather vague and fails to define what it means to 'protect' or 'conserve' the land and water. The comment deadline is March 7<sup>th</sup> and, if approved, Mr. Tibbitts will submit comments by the end of the day.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to submit comments in response to the Request for Information on development of the American Conservation & Stewardship Atlas as part of the America the Beautiful/30 x 30 Initiative. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Connie Hicks (2); District Attorney Ted Beutel; Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts; HR Director Heidi Whimple; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; Elko City Manager Curtis Calder; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Nevada Dept. of Agriculture; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; a joint letter from multiple groups and agencies to BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning; US Senator Jacky Rose, Economic Development Administration; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); and Governing E-news (multiple).

**Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner McKay reported that he attended a meeting in Ely with Mt. Wheeler Power, Nevada Vanadium, and Hitachi regarding a potential upgrade to the electrical delivery lines in order to support the Gibellini Project.

In his role as County Health Officer, Chairman Goicoechea worked with the School District to create a COVID mitigation plan, required to support the decision that masks are not mandatory for children at school or on the bus. This decision came after the latest CDC recommendations. The plan was submitted last week with no response as of yet, which is probably a positive sign.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner McKay motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m.; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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 March 7, 2022, 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