

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 6, 2020

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on October 6, 2020. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea; Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy (via telephone); 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 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

Two items were removed from the agenda: update on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, pending an upcoming meeting, and one of the proposed equipment purchases under Public Works.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda with those changes; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Senior Centers: Commissioner Sharkozy said there are questions in Crescent Valley because people are hearing that senior centers in neighboring counties are beginning to open.

Chairman Goicoechea has made inquiries across the State and senior centers are not opening. He confirmed that the centers in Carlin and Elko are not open and are operating similar to the centers in Eureka County with home-delivered meals. The Chairman understands the value of social interaction for the senior population and he is working with Chair Kirkpatrick in Clark County to put together a plan for reopening, but implementation of any plan is going to be different depending on the unique situation in each county. The decision to reopen in Eureka County will be made in conjunction with Emergency Management and the Board of Health.

Commissioner Sharkozy thanked the Chairman for clarifying the issue.

Election Questions: Chairman Goicoechea has been fielding questions and calls concerning the 2020 General Election ballots, which are now being received by mail. Candidates for the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board appear on ballots for all four precincts in the County, but only votes from Precinct 4 (Town of Crescent Valley) will be tallied for the CVTAB candidates. The Clerk Recorder is working on a mailing to voters to clear up any confusion.

Chairman Goicoechea asked that questions concerning ballots or elections be directed to the Clerk Recorder’s office. The Commissioners will canvass final results of the election, but are not involved in ballots or the election process in any other manner.

Halloween & Trick-or-Treating: The officials monitoring and managing COVID-19 in Eureka County don’t foresee any reason to cancel trick-or-treating this Halloween. Chairman Goicoechea asked everyone to use reason, be careful, and consider others’ safety and health. For instance, don’t share Halloween treats or masks, don’t trick-or-treat in groups, and stay home or stay in if you’ve been sick or exposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 18, 2020: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the September 18, 2020, meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTROLLER

Quill Invoice: Comptroller Kim Todd explained that one of the departments received an invoice that was over two years old (the original invoice was never received). Staff tried to work with Quill to have the amount written off, but Quill responded by freezing the account.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Invoice #9207312 from Quill in the amount of \$154.88, to be paid with funds from the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Ms. Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$451,140.04 for accounts payable; \$353,454.06 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions); \$101,015.12 for a pass-through tax allocation to the School District; \$717,960.55 for a pass-through to the Nevada State Controller; \$704.89 for a pass-through to the Nevada Department of Taxation; \$157.00 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab; and \$3,030.00 in Yucca Mountain expenses, for a grand total of \$1,627,461.66. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

KINROSS GOLD – BALD MOUNTAIN MINE

Introductions: Josh Roderick, Environmental Services Manager, and Tayla Thompson, HR Generalist, were in attendance to give a presentation regarding the proposed Juniper Project to expand the Bald Mountain Mine.

Background: In 2016, Kinross Gold acquired Bald Mountain Mine, an open-pit, heap-leach operation that produced 188,000 gold equivalent ounces in 2019. The mine is located in White Pine County and is one of the largest mines in operation in the US. Mr. Roderick explained the current operation is permitted with the BLM through 2029, but the business model predicts it can operate at current levels through the end of 2023.

Areas of Focus: Mr. Roderick said that corporate responsibility is part of every facet of their operation with five key areas of focus: (1) putting people first; (2) managing the environmental footprint; (3) empowering local communities; (4) generating socioeconomic value; and (5) engaging the workforce.

Socioeconomic Benefits: Ms. Thompson reviewed socioeconomic benefits in more detail for the period of 2016 thru 2019. During that time, Bald Mountain paid ~\$300 million in wages and benefits; has spent ~\$500 million with Nevada suppliers (39% spent locally in Elko, Ely, & Eureka); has paid \$38.5 million in public taxes (\$9.2 million locally); has contributed \$2.6 million locally in cash and in-kind donations (over \$150,000.00 cash to Eureka County programs/projects); expending a total of \$633 million in local cumulative benefits since 2016.

Proposed Juniper Project: Mr. Roderick gave an overview of the Juniper Project, which will be focused in the north operations area, expanding on existing pits and facilities, with a potential of extending operations to 2040. It will increase the footprint of the mine by about 3,900 acres, a 27% increase. Concurrent reclamation will continue as the expansion is built and operated.

When conducting an exploration program and resulting mine plan, Mr. Roderick said different things are considered by mine planners and engineers. This includes the best economic scenario and impacts to the environment. The final plan is adjusted to eliminate impacts to environmental resources and, for this project, the following were considered: water quality, wildlife habitat, mule deer migration, cultural resources, and visual impacts to the landscape. Mr. Roderick said very few impacts or concerns were found. The elevation of a

waste rock facility was adjusted to decrease visual impacts to the landscape, and it was determined that sage grouse mitigations already in place through the State's Conservation Credit System were sufficient to mitigate sage grouse impacts.

Production & Employment: Mr. Roderick indicated that production levels, with the expansion, will continue to be around 200,000 gold equivalent ounces a year. Employment levels will also remain fairly constant. The expansion will simply allow production to be extended for additional years.

Emergency Responses: Bald Mountain has a robust safety and training program, along with onsite emergency response capabilities including a licensed ambulance. Mr. Roderick agreed that emergency response beyond their capabilities would come off US Highway 50, and he will contact Emergency Management Director Jeb Rowley following the meeting to ensure that all parties have current emergency contact names and numbers.

Permitting Process: Timeframes for the environmental review process have been reduced, and Mr. Roderick expects the Notice of Intent for the Juniper Project EIS to be published in the Federal Register in mid- or late-2021, with issuance of the BLM's Record of Decision one year after that. With the shortened permitting timeframe, they are proactively reaching out to local communities in advance of the NEPA process to speak with stakeholders, hear feedback, and address any questions or concerns up front.

Cooperating Agencies: Mr. Roderick expects the Ely District BLM to be reaching out to Cooperating Agencies in the next few months, including Eureka County, in preparation for the formal review process, which will be followed by the public review process.

Conclusion: Commissioners Sharkozy and McKay thanked the mine for its presentation. Chairman Goicoechea applauded the mine for approaching the County early in the process and for continuing to be a good partner stating, *"we always support mining done right."*

ELKO MINING GROUP – RUBY HILL MINE

Introductions: Tim Crowley representing Elko Mining Group, along with Director of Environmental Affairs Joseph Martini, and Regional Operations Manager Randy Hassen, joined the meeting by telephone.

Mining Update: Mr. Hassen informed that a new geomonitoring hub and new radar geotechnical system were installed at the Ruby Hill Mine this year and are both actively monitoring the south pit wall and scarp (site of the November 2013 highwall failure) on a 24/7 basis. A safety berm was constructed according to specifications on the east wall. Mining operations began on August 10th, Monday thru Friday (and some weekends), during daylight hours only. Mining of the first operational bench started where prior operations stopped. Drilling and blasting on the second operational bench were completed with no issues, and with no significant movement detected along the south wall or scarp. Ore material is being hauled from the pit to the heap leach facility. Waste rock is being hauled to existing permitted waste facilities.

Blasting & Vibration Monitoring: Mr. Martini said 10 blasts have been conducted to-date and typically occur between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. dependent on weather and site conditions. Two calibrated seismic monitors were placed inside structures at the County yard and the Opera House and are manually checked after each blast. No blasts have registered on either meter.

Current Water Use: Two months of data show water usage is fairly consistent. Around 300 gpm are pumped from the pit dewatering wells, with about 80 gpm being used in the heap leaching process and to keep roads watered, and the remaining amount going to the rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) in Diamond Valley. As more ore is placed on the leach pads, the Collingwood Wells will be used for supplemental water. No new water rights will be required.

Dust Control: Ruby Hill is using best management practices for dust control with application of water and additives, traffic speed controls, and use of calibrated dust monitors to

measure particulate matter in the air. Monitoring to-date shows levels below regulatory limits, although the monitors are demonstrating detection of regional smoke.

Chairman Goicoechea warned that fugitive dust was an issue in earlier years as mining advanced in the pit because of its close proximity to the Town of Eureka. He asked that the mining officials remain cognizant of that issue.

Pit Layback Analysis: Elko Mining Group is looking into constructing a pit layback in the area of the slide to safely excavate material and access the ore underneath. A stormwater drain was established a couple years ago and that is helping reduce water infiltration and increasing stability in the pit wall. The group is in early analysis of the layback proposal, with data being collected and evaluations ongoing related to geology of the pit, the geotechnical aspect, mine design, adequacy of processing facilities, environmental baseline studies (wildlife, biological, cultural), and hydrology and water conditions.

Community Advisory Committee: Ruby Hill Mine is reactivating the Community Advisory Committee and the first meeting is scheduled October 13th. Commissioner McKay and Jake Tibbitts will participate in the meetings.

Questions: Commissioner McKay asked if project timeline had changed and if Ruby Hill or the mining contractor are still looking for new hires.

The representatives responded that the project is still anticipated to last roughly nine to 14 months. They believe the mining contractor has completed initial hiring. Ruby Hill is looking for a few more hires, but with specific skills, such as geologists and surveyors.

Jeb Rowley asked for updated contacts related to emergencies or hazardous materials; Mr. Hassen will follow-up with Mr. Rowley through the Public Works office.

Conclusion: The Commissioners thanked the gentlemen for the update. Natural Resources Manager thanked the mine for continued close coordination and open communication. Chairman Goicoechea, as County Health Officer, thanked Mr. Hassen for working through some recent COVID issues.

COMMISSIONERS

Assistance for Counseling: Pursuant to State law and Eureka County Code (Title 11, Chapter 30), Eureka County must provide financial assistance, up to \$1,000.00, for counseling of certain crime victims. The District Attorney's office received an application which met the criteria for this assistance.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application of an individual for financial assistance for counseling up \$1,000.00 in accordance with County Code and State law; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. Ms. Rowley attended a project management seminar and is reviewing all database servers to ensure they are set up according to best practices. The AS400 backup system is complete. Point-to-point wireless internet connection was installed at the Fannie Komp Senior Center in Crescent Valley.

Election Security: Work continues on the Secretary of State project for elections. IT staff has been working on virtualizing desktops as part of this project. IT staff will spend a day working with the State on setting up the two-factor authentication. Ms. Rowley is researching security requirements to create a new security policy that the Secretary of State is requiring.

E-Rate Options for Crescent Valley: Ms. Rowley continues communicating with the School District (Elmer Porter, Technology Director) and the Governor's office concerning status of the E-Rate Program. This program helps reduce costs for schools and libraries to improve internet and telecommunication technology. The plan is to bring fiber from I-80 to the school and library in Crescent Valley. Mr. Porter will know more following the next meeting of the School

District Board. Ms. Rowley will follow-up with the Governor's office to confirm whether the library's application was also approved and, if so, what timeframe the discounts will apply.

Dispatch Center: Syber Networks and Western States Enterprises will be in Eureka October 11th-12th to assist with moving the Dispatch Center at the Sheriff's Office.

Fiber Project: The new fiber has been patched into the Opera House. Quest will be in Eureka the following week to terminate (joint/connect) the new fiber installed at the Administrative Facility and the Eureka Clinic.

County-Wide Assessment: Technical engineers from Quest Media completed the County-wide broadband assessment. The County is currently reviewing results and preparing follow-up questions.

SkyFiber Internet: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve renewal of a one-year contract with SkyFiber Internet to provide a 50 Mbps broadband connection in Crescent Valley for a monthly recurring cost of \$2,796.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COVID Purchases: Ms. Rowley explained that certain technology and equipment are needed to provide flexibility and remote capabilities in the workplace in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, and she requested authorization to make the purchases.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchasing laptops, software, and related peripherals, utilizing COVID relief funds (010-040-53010-122), in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Obtain Quotes for Videoconference System: COVID-19 has prompted entities to organize virtual meetings, and this platform will continue to be used beyond the pandemic as savings in cost and time are realized with remote attendance. The Administrative Facility ("Annex") is not equipped to handle the various meeting applications and Ms. Rowley requested authorization to seek quotes for a videoconference system.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize the IT Director to obtain quotes for the purchase and installation of a videoconference system in the meeting room at the Administrative Facility, to be paid utilizing COVID expense funds. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Centers Program Director, Millie Oram, reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In September, Eureka served 1,025 meals and Crescent Valley served 995 meals. All meals continue to be home-delivered, and some of the homebound seniors are requesting freezer meals for the weekends. A total of \$8,969.02 was deposited for the month.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Request: Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze to allow the Program Director to fill a vacant Casual Worker III position at the Eureka Senior Center. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION HONORING BRUCE HARLAND

Resolution: Bruce Harland recently retired as Utility Worker II in Crescent Valley after many years with Eureka County. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution honoring long-time employee, Bruce Harland. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION
HONORING BRUCE A. HARLAND FOR TWELVE (12) YEARS
OF SERVICE TO EUREKA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to honor employee, Bruce A. Harland for twelve years of service to the County of Eureka; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County acknowledges the following biographical information: Bruce A. Harland was born on July 31, 1956 in Atwater, California to George and Priscilla Harland. Bruce married Linda Evans in 2012; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from High School, Bruce enlisted in the Navy in August 1974 and served as a Radio Operator until August 1978. Bruce also served in the Navy Reserves from 1978-1980. Eureka County takes this time to thank and honor Bruce for his service to our Country; and

WHEREAS, Bruce worked various jobs prior to settling in Crescent Valley, including working for Foster Farms, UPS, and as an over-the-road truck driver for a furniture company; and

WHEREAS, Bruce was hired by Eureka County in January 2008 into the Road Department in Crescent Valley as an Equipment Operator. In December 2008 he transferred to Water Operator/Building Maintenance, and in August 2010 he was promoted to Crescent Valley Utility Worker II, where he maintained the Arsenic Treatment Plant, water system, and County buildings, until his retirement on September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 Bruce was awarded the Water System Operator Specialist of the Year by the Nevada Rural Water Association; and

WHEREAS, County officials, co-workers, and friends celebrate with Bruce as he retires and embarks on the next adventure in his life; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognizes Bruce A. Harland for twelve years of service and dedication on behalf of 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 6th day of October, 2020.

*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/ Lisa Hoehne

Lisa Hoehne, County Clerk

RESOLUTION HONORING RONALD DAMELE

Resolution: Ronald Damele recently retired as Public Works Director after a long career with Eureka County. Chairman Goicoechea said that Ron has been great to work with over the years, commenting that he is a personal friend and has been a great asset to Eureka County.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt the resolution honoring long-time employee Ronald Damele for 36 years of dedicated service to Eureka County. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Upon adoption of the resolution, staff and others present stood to applaud Mr. Damele's exemplary service.

RESOLUTION
HONORING RONALD DEE DAMELE, JR. FOR THIRTY-SIX (36) YEARS
OF SERVICE TO EUREKA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to honor long time employee, Ronald (D2) Damele for thirty-six years of service to the County of Eureka; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County acknowledges the following biographical information: Ronald Dee Damele was born on July 28, 1962 in Elko, Nevada to Ronald Dee, Sr. and Arlene (Weatherford) Damele. He graduated from Eureka High School in 1980, where he was active in Basketball and Football. Ron married Kathy Burbrink in October 1995, and together they raised three children, Patrick, Michael, and Emma Grace, who all graduated from Eureka High School; and

WHEREAS, Ron was hired in October 1984 as Truck Driver for the Eureka Road Shop, and in October 1985 was promoted to Lead-Off Man in Beowawe, and subsequently promoted in November 1986 to an Operator. In January 1988 he left the County to work at Little Dynasty, where he worked until, upon the advice of his father to find a job with good benefits and security, returned to work at the County in February 1989. In August 1991 he was promoted to a Lead-Off Man II position and progressed from there to Road Foreman/Assistant Public Works Director, until his final promotion in July 2004 to Public Works Director, where he remained until August 22, 2020. As Public Works Director, Ron wore many hats including District Fire Chief, Flood Plain Manager, and Emergency Management Director; and

WHEREAS, Ron takes great pride in his time as Public Works Director and the changes and advances that he was able to bring about. Ron believed his job as Public Works Director was made easier by the people that he was able to bring into his Departments; and

WHEREAS, County officials, co-workers, and friends celebrate with Ron as he retires and embarks on the next adventure in his life; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners recognizes Ronald D. Damele for his thirty-six years of service, dedication, and leadership on behalf of 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 6th day of October, 2020.

*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/ Lisa Hoehne _____
Lisa Hoehne, County Clerk*

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Report on Activities: Jayme Halpin, Road Equipment Operator III, reported on Road Department activities. During September, crews worked to stockpile gravel in the Cottonwood Pit on the northern end of the County, and then the screening plant was moved for some screening on the southern end.

Crews have bladed the following roads: Third Street, Desert Street, Frontier Street, Collingwood Lane, Sirrah Way, County Road 101; and outlying roads including Tonkin Road, Willows Road, JD Ranch Road, and Grass Valley Road. Magnesium chloride was applied to Roberts Creek Road and roads where the Devil's Gate water mainline extension was installed. Crews also worked on the drainage issues on the Dean Dann Road.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Road Shop: The Mechanic I position was filled and the shop is back at minimum staffing levels.

Free Dump Days: Free Dump Days are being offered every Saturday in October at the Eureka Landfill and Crescent Valley Laydown Yard during regular operating hours – October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excluding lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.). Items that qualify for free dumping are organic waste, appliances, scrap metal, tires, car bodies, construction debris, and furniture.

Speed Limits & Signage: Mr. Rowley and Sheriff Watts have been reviewing and driving streets in Eureka and Crescent Valley to determine appropriate signage. This is turning into quite a project to ensure consistency throughout the County. Signage needs will be addressed before recommending speed limit changes, and signage for school zones and roads adjacent to schools will be given top priority. Each placement will require 'call-before-you-dig' requests and clearance. Assessor Michael Mears has agreed to document this project on the GIS mapping system for the towns of Eureka and Crescent Valley, so going forward there will be a clear record of what was done. Mr. Rowley will update the Board on this project as it progresses.

Street Maintenance Project: All chip sealing and micropaving is complete in Eureka and Crescent Valley, with a small punch list for some striping and raising manholes/utility boxes. Mr. Rowley expressed gratitude for the cooperation shown by the contractor, Sierra Nevada Construction, on this project.

Sewer Pond Remediation: The sewer pond liner was delivered and the crew finished welding the liner in on October 5th, so that pond is nearly ready to place back into service.

Residential Water Service Application: As approved earlier in the day by the Devil's Gate GID Board of Directors, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a 3/4-inch residential water service in Devil's Gate District #2 for APN 007-395-04; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Radio Communication System: Mr. Rowley presented a proposal from Galena Group for a technical and operational assessment of the County's two-way radio communication system. Stu Cronin of Galena Group will work with Bill Bass of Western States Enterprises and Mr. Rowley to tour the County in order to measure and document signal strength for the purposes of evaluating existing equipment performance and to develop a plan to resolve coverage issues.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a proposal from the Galena Group Inc. to identify and resolve recent two-way radio coverage and operational issues within Eureka County, for an amount not to exceed \$5,300.00, utilizing funds budgeted in the COVID expense account (010-040-53010-122). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Caterpillar Excavator: Mr. Rowley acknowledged that this is a very expensive piece of equipment, but pointed out that the cost is discounted by \$215,000.00 by utilizing Sourcewell Contract #032119-CAT. He explained that County equipment is on a replacement schedule to

optimize future trade-in value while getting the best years of service out of the machine. The rotation schedule also reduces unnecessary insurance costs for broken-down or obsolete equipment with no future value to the County.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve purchase of a new 2021 Caterpillar Motorgrader with walk and roll attachment, for an amount not to exceed \$398,328.86, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (020-106-55010-000) in the Road Department budget.

Hiring Freeze Waiver – Utility Worker I, II, III: The Board reviewed the Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification for the vacancy created with Mr. Harland’s retirement.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Director to fill the position of Utility Worker I, II, or III in Crescent Valley; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Parcel Map: Assistant Public Works Director-Administration Joyce Jeppesen, who serves as secretary to the Planning Commission, presented a parcel map to the Board for approval. Ms. Jeppesen relayed that the Planning Commission approved the map once water rights for the parceled off portion were identified.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a parcel map for Aaron (Tom) & Ethel Buffington for division of property in Diamond Valley, as approved by the Planning Commission on July 13, 2020, and authorized Chairman Goicoechea to sign the mylar map outside of the meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Legislative Committee: On September 22nd, Mr. Tibbitts attended a work session of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands. The Committee has agreed to move forward with some of Eureka County’s requests, including submitting a bill draft request to the Legislature for an Open Meeting Law exemption for Cooperating Agency meetings. This would allow more than one Commissioner to attend and participate in Cooperating Agency meetings (with all formal action still occurring in an open and public Commission meeting, as is done now).

Unfortunately, some media outlets have misinterpreted the intent of the exemption, and the *Reno Gazette Journal* published an Associated Press story with a misleading headline (headline provided by RGJ) purporting that Eureka County wants to bar the public from talks when mining projects are under review. But the Legislative Committee understands the intent and voted 7-1 in favor of supporting a bill draft request.

Another Eureka County request that the Committee agreed to support is “*The Path Forward for Management of BLM’s Wild Horses & Burros.*” This is the plan that Chairman Goicoechea has been highly involved with on behalf of Eureka County. The Committee will develop a resolution to be presented to the Legislature for passage.

Mr. Tibbitts also wanted the Board to be aware of another item (not proposed by Eureka County) that the Legislative Committee agreed, by split vote, to take to the Legislature. It proposes to broaden the qualifications required to be State Engineer and candidates would no longer have to have a professional engineering license.

Diamond Complex Wild Horse Gather: Mr. Tibbitts reported that the BLM’s Diamond Complex Wild Horse Gather resulted in 1,139 horses being removed from the range. A total of 1,196 were gathered, with 43 horses returned to the range. Of those, 21 were mares treated with a fertility control drug and 22 were older studs.

Mr. Tibbitts felt the gather was very successful and should serve as a model for future gathers. The contractor was exceptional and the BLM worked openly with landowners, permittees, and Eureka County.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared a thank-you letter to the BLM for the Board's consideration. In addition to expressing the County's sincere appreciation for the recently completed gather, the letter notes the County's desire to reach and maintain AML (appropriate management levels) in the Diamond Complex, and references the working group formed in the late 1990s involving a diverse group of stakeholders working with the BLM to determine proper AML for the Complex, together with commitments from permittees and the BLM in order to achieve this.

During discussion of the letter, the Board and Mr. Tibbitts made some minor changes. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve sending a thank-you letter to the BLM regarding the recently completed wild horse gather in the Diamond Complex, and authorized the Chairman to sign the letter outside of the meeting after the edits are made. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Administrative Draft EIS on BLM's Grazing Regulations: Mr. Tibbitts spent a massive amount of time reviewing the Administrative Draft EIS for revision of the BLM's grazing regulations (43 CFR 4100). He noted that in all his years reviewing EISs and EAs, this was the most difficult document he has ever worked with. Since review is in the administrative phase, and not the public phase, he cannot share pre-decisional information with the public, but wanted the Board to know that the County's comments, as Cooperating Agency, were submitted by the October 5th deadline.

Chairman Goicoechea, who provided some assistance reviewing the EIS, concurred that it was a challenging document, and he commended Mr. Tibbitts for the extensive time and hard work spent on this EIS.

State Engineer Proposed Orders on Hydrographic Basins: Mr. Tibbitts explained that the State Engineer has issued multiple proposed orders for designation of 57 basins in the State of Nevada, including three that are in or adjacent to Eureka County – Stevens Basin (152), Little Smoky Valley-Northern Part (155A), and Newark Valley (154). State water law allows a higher level of management in a designated basin.

Having experienced the over-appropriation problems in Diamond Valley, the County agrees in principle that the State Engineer should have the full suite of management tools, but opposes portions of the proposed orders and feels other portions should be revised or clarified. For instance, two of the proposed orders affecting Eureka County state that the State Engineer will deny all change applications from other uses asking to move to irrigation. This is not the only concerning language that makes it apparent that agricultural uses will be given the lowest priority in the eyes of the State should these orders be adopted.

All of the proposed orders would curtail new water rights, since all basins are either fully appropriated, over appropriated, or would become fully appropriated based on existing water applications currently before the State. But the proposed orders provide exemptions to this curtailment and the County has concerns over some of the proposed exemptions.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter with the County's concerns and comments on the three proposed orders affecting Eureka County. Hearings are scheduled on October 13th for the proposed orders on Stevens Basin and Newark Valley Basin, and a hearing is scheduled on October 26th for the Little Smoky Valley Basin.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve submitting the comment letter on the proposed orders to Nevada State Engineer Tim Wilson, with Eureka County reserving the right to either amend the comments or submit an addendum to the comments following the public hearings on the three basins in or adjacent to Eureka County, and authorized the Chairman to sign the letter outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney Ted Beutel; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (3); Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); Nevada Div. of Water Resources; Nevada Div. of

Environmental Protection (3); Nevada Div. of Mineral; Nevada Dept. of Health & Human Services; Guinn Center for Policy Priorities; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; National Assoc. of Counties (2); US Senator Jacky Rosen (2); 2020 US Census (2); US Treasury; White House Officer of Intergovernmental Affairs; and Governing newsletter.

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Goicoechea received an email from Jori Martin in Crescent Valley concerning traffic and speed limits. Since the Public Works Director addressed this earlier in the meeting, Chairman Goicoechea will respond to Ms. Martin to let her know she can expect minutes of the meetings discussing traffic speeds and signs, once minutes of the current day's meeting are approved (on October 20th).

He received another request concerning the speed limit on SR-306. Being a State Route, Highway 306 is under the purview of NDOT. The Chairman will respond to this party as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

EMS Director Kenny Sanders stated he has been working with Emergency Management Director Jeb Rowley to successfully schedule a flu vaccine POD (point of dispensing) on October 29th at the Eureka Fairgrounds, weather permitting. These are free vaccines provided through the State of Nevada and 100 vaccines will be issued to Eureka County.

This is separate from the flu vaccines provided at the Eureka Clinic by William Bee Ririe, which are free to Eureka County employees in cooperation with the County's health insurance provider. Because of this, Eureka County employees are encouraged to get their flu vaccines at the Clinic, allowing residents who aren't insured (or have other insurance) to take advantage of the free vaccines at the POD.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of October, 2020.

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

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the October 6, 2020, 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 Recorder