

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 19, 2023

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

1. Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item. *Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda, at the discretion of the Chair.* (For Possible Action)

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on September 19, 2023. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Marty Plaskett, District Attorney Ted Beutel, Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling, and Deputy Clerk II Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public comment and discussion. *Notice: No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comment may be allowed on "Action" items, in addition to the two times specified on the agenda.* (Discussion)

Chairman McKay called for public comments; there were none.

2. Consider items requiring action to be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. *Notice: The public is welcome to request agenda items for future meetings during the Public Comment period, or may consult with one or more of the Board of Commissioners to request agenda items for future meetings.* (Discussion)

Future agenda items were discussed later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the following meetings: (a) January 20, 2023 regular meeting; February 6, 2023 regular meeting; June 6, 2023 regular meeting. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the February 6, 2023. Chairman McKay seconded the motion. Commissioner Plaskett abstained, as he was not a seated member of the Board at that time. Motion carried 2-0.

The January 20th and June 6th minutes were tabled.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER

1. Payment of expenditures. *Notice: Expenditures received after action has been taken under this Comptroller section may be presented and acted upon throughout the day. (For Possible Action)*

Expenditures were presented by Comptroller Kim Todd. An invoice from Helion Software, dated February 2023, exceeded the six-month limit and required Board approval. Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling explained that the company recently re-billed the County after discovering that the original invoice had been sent to an obsolete email address.

Commissioner Plaskett inquired about travel reimbursement paid to several Sheriff's Office employees who attended the funeral of a fallen officer. He asked Sheriff Watts if there were any other related costs. Sheriff Watts replied that the funeral was work-related, so per diem, lodging, and wages were paid for the staff members who attended the funeral. There was no further discussion.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$459,897.87 for accounts payable (which included \$3,024.00 for the Helion Software invoice); \$695,595.28 for payroll and benefit related expenses; and pass-through payments of \$1,256,541.90 to the Nevada State Controller (\$1,246,572.04 in school taxes and \$9,969.86 in general taxes), \$14,320.00 to the Nevada Division of Minerals, \$1,500.00 to the N6 Grazing Board, and \$108.00 to the Washoe County Crime Lab, for a grand total of \$2,426,463.05. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Review Fund Balance Report. (Discussion)

The Board reviewed current fund balances.

PUBLIC HEARING – EUREKA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

Notice was given that a public hearing would be held on September 19, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (local time) in the Eureka Commission Chambers in the County Courthouse at 10 South Main Street in Eureka, Nevada. The reason for said hearing is to invite comments and provide clarification and/or take further action in relation to amendments to the Eureka County Personnel Policy adopted on August 1, 2023. Supporting materials can be requested from or reviewed at the Office of the County Clerk.

Personnel Policy changes were made during a public hearing on August 1st. The Board later received feedback that the process hadn't been transparent, because discussion at the hearing led to changes in addition to those originally proposed and circulated to employees.

This current hearing was scheduled by the Board as a corrective measure to allow Human Resources to distribute the additional changes to employees for comment.

1. Open public hearing and invite comments on amendments to the Eureka County Personnel Policy. (Discussion)

Chairman McKay opened the public hearing and invited comments on the latest policy updates, which were related to sick leave verification, new hires, newly budgeted positions, vacant positions, and starting salaries.

No comments were forthcoming and the hearing was closed.

2. Consider action to provide further clarification related to amendments to the Eureka County Personnel Policy. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify and adopt changes, as presented, to the Eureka County Personnel Policy; Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

1. Inquiry by the Board regarding personal expenses charged on County-issued purchasing cards, including direction by the Board on corrective action or actions, if not already initiated. *Note: Such charges are prohibited by the Internal Control Policy outlined in Eureka County Code (Title 3). A memorandum from the Comptroller, dated May 23, 2023, reminded employee cardholders of these guidelines and notified employees that the Board took action to require that any non-business charges would need to be explained to the Board at the next regular Commission meeting.* (For Possible Action)

Chairman McKay reminded employees that the Board took action in May and provided notice to employees, via a memorandum from the Comptroller, that personal charges on County-issued credit cards were strictly prohibited and would result in the employee answering to the Board at the next available meeting.

The Comptroller provided information concerning two Sheriff's Office employees who each had a personal charge on their County-issued credit cards. One instance was resolved with reimbursement from the employee, but the other remained outstanding.

Sheriff Watts said the remaining charge was on his purchasing card for lodging related to a workers' comp claim. He stated he would pay it if the Board so directed, but felt it was a County expense.

Ms. Todd explained that the County does not pay expenses related to a workers' comp case. Employees are reimbursed for those expenses directly from the workers' comp insurance company. Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple concurred, explaining that employees have 60 days to file for reimbursement under their workers' comp claim.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned that County purchasing cards cannot be used to charge expenses related to a workers' compensation claim; Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve, or deny a one-year contract extension with Dale C. Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. (For Possible Action)

The Board thanked Dale Bugenig for the valuable service he has provided Eureka County for 13 years. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a one-year contract renewal with Dale C. Bugenig, Consulting Hydrogeologist, LLC, for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00; Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

3. Discussion and possible direction related to expenditure of opioid recovery funds that will be disbursed to Eureka County pursuant to settlement agreements signed under the One Nevada Agreement. (For Possible Action)

District Attorney Ted Beutel said counties and cities are receiving inquiries on how opioid settlement funds will be spent. He recommended that the Board determine how the funds will be used and memorialize it in a resolution. Eureka County won't receive huge sums since allocations are based on population and the distribution formula extends payments out for many years, but a resolution will help ensure monies are used properly in future years.

Kim Todd noted that she created a fund for the settlement monies and added a line item for opioid expenses in the Commissioners' budget; about \$30,000.00 has been received to date.

With a motion by Commissioner Plaskett, second by Commissioner Sharkozy, and 3-0 vote, the Board agreed to maintain the opioid settlement funds in the specified account, with use to be determined after making some inquiries, including a discussion with Central Nevada Health District.

SENIOR CENTERS

1. Update report on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. (Discussion)

Senior Center Program Director Linda Gordon reported on activities at the Senior Centers for the month of August. Eureka served 829 meals and Crescent Valley served 892 meals. A total of \$2,847.50 was deposited for the month. She reported that seniors and staff enjoyed the trip to Lake Tahoe earlier in the month.

2. Discuss, approve, or deny ratifying Notice of Subaward from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Transportation Grant #07-000-10-LX-24 in the amount of \$29,577.00 with a required match of \$4,437.00. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to ratify Notice of Subaward from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Transportation Grant #07-000-10-LX-24 in the amount of \$29,577.00 with a match of \$4,437.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve, or deny adopting a resolution outlining fees for the Senior Center Program. (For Possible Action)

Ms. Gordon explained that the Senior Program meal prices haven't increased for many years. After comparing prices with neighboring counties, the \$5.00 non-senior rate is too low and she proposed an increase to \$7.00. A resolution was prepared memorializing all rates at the Senior Centers, including the new non-senior meal rate of \$7.00.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to adopt a resolution with an updated fee schedule for the Eureka County Senior Centers Program; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A NEW FEE SCHEDULE
FOR THE EUREKA COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to adopt a new fee schedule for the Eureka County Senior Centers Program; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is dedicated to reviewing income and expenses from time to time in order to make appropriate adjustments as needed; and

WHEREAS, THE Eureka County Commissioners reviewed and approved the new fee schedule on September 19, 2023, and approved implementation to begin on October 1, 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Eureka County Board of Commissioners that the fee schedule itemized below is hereby adopted for the Eureka County Senior Centers Program.

MEALS PROGRAM & COSTS

Seniors (age 60 and above)	Donation (suggested donation of \$3.00)
Non-Seniors (age 59 and below)	\$7.00

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM – *Note: Wheelchair accessible van available*

Transportation must be scheduled in advance by 3:00 p.m. one day prior to the trip
EUREKA – call (775) 237-5597
CRESCENT VALLEY – call (775) 468-0466

Week Day Trips – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- ◆ For Seniors (age 60 and above) and Non-Seniors (contingent upon space)
- ◆ Trips to clinic, grocery store, Senior Center (for meals)

Thursday Trips – 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- ◆ For Seniors (age 60 and above) and Non-Seniors (contingent upon space)
- ◆ Trips to Raines Market

Monthly Trips to Elko (weather permitting)

- ◆ For Seniors (age 60 and above) and Non-Seniors (contingent upon space)
- ◆ Doctors appointment, shopping, etc.

TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Clients within the townsite boundaries	\$0.50
Clients within a five-mile radius of town	\$0.50
Clients within a ten-mile radius of town	\$1.50
Monthly Elko trip	\$7.00

ADOPTED this 19th day of September, 2023.

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Rich McKay
Rich McKay, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Kathy Bowling
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk

AMBULANCE & EMS

1. Update report on ambulance and emergency services. (Discussion)
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EMS Director Kenny Sanders reported there were 31 ambulance runs for the month of August, 18 from the Eureka station and 13 from the Crescent Valley station. This included eight transports to hospitals and two transports to air ambulance services. EMS provided standby for the Eureka County Fair and the High School Rodeo.

EMS participated in the National Night Out events in Eureka and Crescent Valley. Training was conducted for CPR recertification of school employees and coaches. Warranty repairs were completed on one of the ambulances, and all units are currently in service. The CLIA license (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) was renewed through September of 2025. This allows EMS to do laboratory testing for Covid, blood glucose levels, etc.

Mr. Sanders spoke with a representative of MedX AirOne concerning uninsured or under-insured patients. The gentleman indicated that MedX will never send patient accounts to a collection service, but they do ask that clients call to set up a payment plan. MedX may be willing to write-off a portion or all of a bill depending on financial circumstances.

TREASURER

1. Review Treasurer's Report for August 2023. (Discussion)
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The Treasurer's Report for August was submitted by Treasurer Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$38,433,275.81. Ms. Johnson reported that the bulk of net proceeds of minerals has been received. Any outstanding amounts are from smaller, lower production mines.

SHERIFF

1. Discuss, approve, or deny authorizing Eureka County Sheriff's Office to contract with Q&D Construction to provide traffic control services for the period of October 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and authorize the contract to be signed outside of the meeting by Chairman McKay and Lieutenant Edwin Kilgore. (For Possible Action)
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Undersheriff Tyler Thomas said Q&D Construction is interested in entering into a traffic control contract similar to the one recently approved with Road & Highway Builders. The Undersheriff said the terms of the contract are the same. Deputies will have the opportunity to work overtime hours, strictly on a voluntary basis, and the County will be reimbursed by Q&D Construction.

There was a discussion related to the procedure for Eureka County to be reimbursed for the hours worked under the traffic control contracts. Kim Todd stated that no monies have been received from Road & Highway Builders under their contract, and time submissions from the deputies do not indicate which overtime hours were for Eureka County versus the contractor.

Tyler Thomas suggested that the deputies send an email to the Comptroller's office notifying when contract hours have been worked. Everyone agreed this was sufficient if done timely and consistently. The Undersheriff will notify staff of this requirement via a memorandum.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the traffic control contract between Q&D Construction and the Eureka County Sheriff's Office, with timely notification of hours worked as discussed, for the period of October 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve, or deny credit limit increase on the County purchasing card issued to Skylar Williams, in the amount of \$2,500.00 (\$3,000.00 total), needed in September to reserve lodging in Las Vegas for training scheduled October 8th-20th. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a temporary credit limit increase of \$2,500.00 on the County purchasing card issued to Skylar Williams for the month of September to reserve lodging for upcoming training in Las Vegas; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve, or deny credit limit increases on the County purchasing cards issued to Miles Umina in the amount of \$900.00 (\$1,900.00 total) and Jason Flanagan in the amount of \$900.00 (\$1,400.00 total) needed for lodging costs related to training scheduled September 26th-29th. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve temporary credit limit increases of \$900.00 each on the purchasing cards issued to Miles Umina and Jason Flanagan in order to reserve lodging in Las Vegas for training scheduled later in the month; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

1. Discuss, approve, or deny request for a \$3,650 donation from the North End Activity Fund for expenses related to the Community Christmas event in Crescent Valley on December 16th and, if approved, issue the check to Jeremy Rice. (For Possible Action)

Paperwork was submitted by the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board seeking a donation for the Community Christmas event in Crescent Valley. Other contributors to the event include Nevada Gold Mines and Truckin' Water.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Town Board's request for a donation of \$3,650.00 from the North End Activity Fund for the Community Christmas event on December 16th in Crescent Valley, with the check issued to Jeremy Rice. Commissioner Plaskett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

2. Consider recommendation from the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board to waive the facility rental fees for use of the Crescent Valley Community Center to allow the Golden Oldies to continue sponsoring monthly movies during the upcoming fall and winter months. *Note: Moves are provided at no charge to the community, but concessions will be offered as a fundraiser for the Golden Oldies.* (For Possible Action)

The Golden Oldies in Crescent Valley have been hosting monthly movies at the park, and recently approached the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board about using the Community Center and having the rental fee waived. The movies provide family-friendly fun for the community and they hope to continue them despite inclement weather.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to waive the facility rental fees and allow use of the Crescent Valley Community Center for the Golden Oldies to sponsor monthly movies during the upcoming fall and winter months. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded; motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY FACILITIES

1. Report on activities and projects at County managed facilities. (Discussion)

Opera House: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley reported on facilities for the month of August. The Opera House had 151 visitors for the month. Two weeks were blocked out on the schedule to allow resurfacing of the wooden floor (with curing time), which accounts for the lower numbers. The flooring company ended up cancelling at the last minute and the next available two-week block is in February.

Museum: The Sentinel Museum had 128 visitors in August. A blocked roof drain caused some water damage; the leak has been repaired but there are still ceiling repairs to be done.

Swimming Pool: The Swimming Pool had 56 swimmers and two private lessons for the month. An aquasize program began in September, which will boost numbers in the current month. A local swim team has been organized under the Snake River Swimming organization, part of USA Swim, with 20 students interested in participating.

Mr. Rowley noted that Brenna Rogne has been Swimming Pool Supervisor for six months and he felt it was worth mentioning that, in that time, she has obtained certification as a Pool Operator, Lifeguard, and Lifeguard Trainer. Having an in-house trainer will be both a cost savings and a convenience with the annual turnover rate as casual Lifeguards return to school. It has also enabled 10 of the 11 casuals to become certified Lifeguards and Water Safety Instructors.

Landfill: The Landfill had 974 deliveries in August consisting of 521 yards of solid waste and 4,000 yards of C&D (construction and demolition debris), much of it attributable to the construction project in town. Mr. Rowley informed the Board that the term of the contract and franchise agreement with Olcese Waste Services is due to expire on July 31, 2024, but does contain an extension clause.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Report on Public Works projects and activities. (Discussion)

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

Emergency Management: Mr. Rowley will be in Elko September 26th-28th and will attend a workshop hosted by Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM).

All projects eligible or potentially eligible for FEMA reimbursement, whether initial emergency repairs or upcoming flood repairs, have been entered and are identified and catalogued in the FEMA grants portal.

The annual training exercise for LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) is tentatively scheduled for November 7th; a representative from the Division of Emergency Management plans to attend to provide guidance.

Based on what the State saw during the 2017 total solar eclipse, DEM is cautioning counties to expect and prepare for a similar reaction for the upcoming annular solar eclipse on October 14th. A high influx of people on the I-80 corridor should be expected, including those seeking a perfect viewing site on area mountaintops.

Paving Project: Mr. Rowley said the cape seal road surfacing treatment, the final step in the Crescent Valley paving project, has been completed. The project gave Crescent Valley approximately 10 miles of new pavement.

Phase 1 paving in Eureka is still on track to be completed by week end, but may run into Saturday due to the delay caused by the heavy rain on September 18th.

Crescent Valley Municipal Water Tank: The municipal water tank project in Crescent Valley is complete. Public Works is awaiting final test results from the State and expects to have the tank back in service by October.

Devil's Gate Mainline Extension: The mainline extension on El Paso in Devil's Gate GID has been pressure tested and will be connected to the overall water system pending favorable results of the bacteria tests.

Road Maintenance MOU: Mr. Rowley, Ray Hodson, and Jake Tibbitts recently met with a representative of the Golden Lake Exploration Project to identify roads that will be impacted by the operation and to discuss what should be included in a road maintenance MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Eureka Airport: On September 20th, County staff will meet with several groups that have obtained permission to set up equipment at the Eureka Airport to monitor and record a portion of the September 24th re-entry and return mission of NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft (the Airport lies directly below the craft's flight path).

Public Works has been working with the FAA on planning efforts for the Airport. The first Eureka County Airport PAC (Public Advisory Committee) virtual meeting is set for September 21st, to work on the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update & Narrative, which will include projects slated for 2024 – the snow removal equipment building and windsocks.

Nevada Water Conservation & Infrastructure Initiative Grant: In August, with assistance from Jake Tibbitts and Lumos & Associates, Mr. Rowley submitted an application to the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources under an initiative to use ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for water conservation and infrastructure projects. The Department announced the previous week that Eureka County was granted \$2.5 million for design and engineering of the Kobeh Valley transmission main.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant: Lastly, Mr. Rowley informed that Volunteer Fire Assistance, a federal grant program, awarded \$45,600.00 to Eureka County (\$7,600.00 each for the six Volunteer Fire Departments).

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Report on current and emerging natural resource issues affecting Eureka County. (Discussion)

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

Humboldt River Meeting: On September 6th, he attended the second Humboldt River Region Conjunctive Management meeting, with multiple presentations from stakeholders (including Nevada Gold Mines) to share concepts and ideas on how to address conflicts and manage groundwater pumping that's capturing water that would otherwise flow to the river.

Nevada Water Conservation Infrastructure Initiative: In addition to Jeb Rowley's report on the County's \$2.5 million grant award under this Initiative, Mr. Tibbitts added that \$25 million has been set aside to purchase and permanently retire groundwater rights in over-appropriated and over-pumped basins. The application deadline is October 1st, and both Central Nevada Regional Water Authority and Humboldt River Basin Water Authority are moving forward with applications (\$15 million and \$10 million respectively).

Agri-Solar Study: Also related to potential water retirement – Mr. Tibbitts relayed that a representative from the Langdon Group, the consulting firm hired to facilitate the Agrivoltaics (Agri-Solar) Study in Diamond Valley, is in the area conducting interviews. The visit will conclude with a community meeting at the Opera House on September 21st.

Roberts Mountain Complex Wild Horse Gather: Mr. Tibbitts received notice that the BLM has accepted a contractor's bid and continues making progress towards the Roberts Mountain Complex wild horse gather targeted to begin October 22nd. The latest population count attributes 1,400 horses to the Complex (including those outside of Herd Management Areas). The plan is to gather 1,200 horses in order to reduce the population to AML (Appropriate Management Level), which is 110-184 horses.

Gibellini Vanadium Mine: The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Gibellini Vanadium Mine was published the previous week starting a 30-day waiting period before the BLM issues the Record of Decision (ROD) authorizing the mine to proceed. Mr. Tibbitts reminded the Board that, in addition to vanadium, this mine will produce yellow cake uranium since uranium is co-located with the vanadium. The uranium component required additional permitting by Nevada Department of Health and on the federal level, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation were involved.

Upcoming Meetings: The next Humboldt River Region Conjunctive Management workshop is scheduled on September 26th. Elko County is hosting the Nevada Association of Counties Annual Conference September 26th-28th. Mr. Tibbitts will participate on a Public Lands Panel the morning of the 28th.

2. Discuss and consider providing scoping comments to BLM Elko District for consideration in preparation of Environmental Assessment (EA) for 2024 Oil & Gas Lease Sale. (For Possible Action)
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Mr. Tibbitts drafted a comment letter to the Elko District BLM related to preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the 2024 Oil & Gas Lease Sale. Mr. Tibbitts relayed his appreciation that the Elko District was seeking scoping comments from the public and

interested parties, noting that the County typically receives notice of these lease sales after the EA is finalized.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to send scoping comments to the BLM for consideration in preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Elko District 2024 Oil & Gas Lease Sale; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss and consider response to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) proposed “Bipartisan Permitting Reform Implementation Rule” to revise regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). (For Possible Action)

Mr. Tibbitts stated that action by Congress earlier in the year amended the debt ceiling bill (Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023) to include compromise provisions for bipartisan permitting reform. Now the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has proposed the Bipartisan Permitting Reform Implementation Rule to revise regulations for implementing the changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

He explained that this is a complete rewrite of regulations and the draft showing the proposed changes is a lengthy and complex document. He recommended enlisting the expertise of Laura Granier, the attorney Eureka County has engaged for sage grouse issues. He also recommended joining the concerted effort by stakeholders to seek an extension of the September 29th comment deadline.

With a motion by Commissioner Plaskett, second by Commissioner Sharkozy, and 3-0 vote, the Board approved engaging Laura Granier, Esq., to respond to the Council on Environmental Quality’s proposed “Bipartisan Permitting Reform Implementation Rule,” and to request a 90-day extension of the September 29, 2023, deadline.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Review correspondence and place requests for action items on the next agenda. (Discussion)

Correspondence was received from: Eureka High School Rodeo Club; Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts; Natural Resources Advisory Commission; Eureka Airport Public Advisory Committee; Recreation Board; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Nevada Assoc. of Counties (2); Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; Nevada POOL PACT; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (3); Nevada Div. of Minerals; Nevada Water Resources Assoc.; UNR CABNR newsletter; Pony Express newsletter; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM; True West magazine; US Senator Jacky Rosen; National Assoc. of Counties; and America First Works.

2. Commissioner reports on pertinent correspondence or other matters. (Discussion)

Commissioner Plaskett reported that the representative from the Langdon Group will interview him later in the day related to the Diamond Valley Agrivoltaics Study.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public comment and discussion. *Notice: No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be*

taken. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comment may be allowed on "Action" items, in addition to the two times specified on the agenda. (Discussion)

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

2. Consider items requiring action to be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. *Notice: The public is welcome to request agenda items for future meetings during the Public Comment period, or may consult with one or more of the Board of Commissioners to request agenda items for future meetings. (Discussion)*

There was a quick review of agenda items for the next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjournment of meeting. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

September 19, 2023 minutes prepared and submitted by Jackie Berg, Deputy Clerk II.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of February, 2024.

/s/ Rich McKay
Rich McKay, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Bowling
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk