

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 4, 2023

STATE OF NEVADA)
 :SS
COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on May 4, 2023. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Marty Plaskett; Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling, and Deputy Clerk II Jackie Berg. District Attorney Ted Beutel was absent. 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

Chairman McKay noted that agenda items for the District Attorney and Sheriff would be considered earlier than the times published on the agenda. Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the agenda with the noted changes; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman McKay opened the floor for public comment, but there were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 20, 2023: Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve minutes of the March 20, 2023, Board meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented by Comptroller Kim Todd.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$538,774.90 for accounts payable; \$641,894.29 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions); and pass-through payments of \$12,681.37 in school taxes to the Nevada State Controller, \$384.12 to the Nevada Department of Taxation, \$220.00 to the Nevada Division of Minerals, for a grand total of \$1,193,954.68. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Filing Cabinets: Administrative Legal Secretary Ashley Kemp presented a quote, stating the District Attorney's office was in need of upgrading the filing cabinets in its vault.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize purchase of the filing cabinets, for a not to exceed amount of \$15,000.00, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-024-55010-000) in the District Attorney's budget. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Out-of-State Travel for Undersheriff: Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Undersheriff Tyler Thomas to attend a TASER Instructor Course in Kimberly, Idaho, July 12-14, 2023; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Invoices for Leadership Summit: Undersheriff Thomas explained that donations received for this year's Leadership Summit totaled more than \$10,000.00 and were received from i80 Gold, Kinross Bald Mountain, PACE Coalition, and others. The Summit was a great success and benefited professionals from neighboring counties, as well as Eureka County employees.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the following invoices for speakers and other services for the 2023 Leadership Summit: (a) API International Consulting Group (Pat Welsh) in the amount of \$3,995.65; (b) E-S Press Inc. (Robert White) in the amount of \$5,832.90; (c) Paul Butler Presentations in the amount of \$5,500.00; (d) Grossman on Truth in the amount of \$7,500.00; and (e) Catering by Darlene in the amount of \$3,800.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel for Search & Rescue: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel for three Eureka County Search & Rescue members to attend the 2023 International Technical Rescue Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri, November 2-5, 2023. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Annual Jail Walk-Through: Chairman McKay spoke with Undersheriff Thomas and the Commissioners are not obligated to conduct the annual Detention Facility inspection since Eureka County is not currently housing inmates. Chairman McKay suggested that Commissioner Plaskett tour the jail facility at his convenience or the entire Board could do a casual walk-through sometime when schedules allow.

COMMISSIONERS

Indigent Defense Annual Financial Status Report: Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the Indigent Defense Annual Financial Status Report for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, showing that a total of \$75,060.18 was expended by Eureka County for criminal indigent defense services in Fiscal Year 2022. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Recreation Board Appointment: The Commissioners received two letters of interest for a vacant seat on the Recreation Board. Letters were received from Natosha Clugage, General Manager of the SureStay Hotel (formerly Eureka Gold Country Inn), and Mike Popovitch, proprietor of the Colonnade Hotel.

Chairman McKay researched the room tax paid by Eureka hotels/motels from July 1, 2021, to present, as follows: \$160,000.00 paid by SureStay Hotel, \$56,000.00 paid by Sundown Lodge, and \$4,000.00 paid by Colonnade Hotel. He felt the hotel paying the largest amount of room tax warranted a voice on the Recreation Board, which is funded by room tax.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to appoint Natosha Clugage to the vacant seat on the Recreation Board representing the hotel/motel industry for the remainder of a four-year term through December 31, 2023. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Update on Dental Services in Eureka: Dr. Shannon Sena, DDS, joined the meeting by telephone to discuss dental services in Eureka. He purchased the practice from Dr. Dan Norris in February 2019 and began seeing patients in March 2019. He provided dental services in Eureka one day per week and the dental hygienist was in Eureka two days per week. A year later, the office was closed temporarily due to COVID.

When services resumed in Eureka, Dr. Sena encountered several obstacles that resulted in the decision to suspend services in Eureka and attempt to sell the practice. This included loss of Eureka staff and challenging supply chain issues.

Chairman McKay asked for advice on procuring a dentist for Eureka. Dr. Sena suggested looking into new graduates. They often leave school with a lot of debt and without the financial stability to set up an independent practice. He also urged the Commissioners to carefully consider any actions that might discourage a future prospect, such as charging rent for the facility or imposing other restrictions.

Dr. Sena concluded by saying he appreciated his time in the Eureka community. He will continue working with a broker to determine value of the practice and facilitate the sale.

Cancel July Meeting & Schedule Additional Meeting: Due to recent changes in County Code, Commission meetings will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month (effective June 1st). To avoid potential conflicts with travel schedules around the July 4th holiday, Commissioner Sharkozy

motioned to cancel the first regular meeting of July and to schedule a special meeting on July 6th beginning at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Bargaining Team for Labor Negotiations: Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple described additional duties that she and Comptroller Kim Todd will take on as the labor relation negotiating team for Eureka County. She asked that the Board consider additional compensation for the newly assigned duties.

Ms. Whimple presented calculations showing the salary levels for herself and Ms. Todd if the Board agreed to increase annual salaries by \$3,000.00 (\$1.44/hour), \$4,000.00 (\$1.92/hour), \$5,000.00 (\$2.40/hour), or \$6,000.00 (\$2.88/hour). She clarified that she was not speaking for the Comptroller, and was speaking entirely on her own behalf.

Commissioner Sharkozy wasn't in favor of a lump-sum increase, but would consider compensation tied specifically to collective bargaining tasks. He commented that he was actually surprised that the issue even came up.

Chairman McKay agreed that some level of compensation was warranted, but felt the ask was a bit high, especially in light of the Fiscal Year 2024 salary adjustments. He noted that the parties wholeheartedly volunteered for the duties with no mention of wages. He said he would agree to some level of compensation with the caveat that the Board have the latitude to re-evaluate the duties and the stipend as the year goes on.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a salary increase of \$4,000.00 annually (\$1.92 an hour) for Heidi Whimple and Kim Todd for duties associated with labor relations and negotiations, effective with the next pay period beginning May 14, 2023. Chairman McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Sharkozy voting opposed.

Waive Facility Rental Fees: Assessor Michael Mears said he was approached by the Class of 2023 and asked to facilitate the Baccalaureate ceremony for the graduating seniors and their families. The ceremony is scheduled on May 17th at the Eureka Opera House, and Mr. Mears requested that the rental fees be waived.

Commissioner Plasket motioned to waive facility rental fees for use of the Opera House on May 17th for the Baccalaureate service for the graduating Class of 2023; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Legislative Issues: Michael Mears reported that most of the bills he has been tracking, primarily related to property taxes, have failed to move forward. The elected officials' salary bill failed to make it to the Senate Government Affairs Committee and, with time running out, there are no prospects for amending it to other legislation.

Jake Tibbitts was at the Legislature on May 3rd for hearings on two bills of interest. An amendment to SB26 (loosely termed "the dog bill") will address sportsmen concerns by providing certain exceptions for hunting dogs.

He also helped present SB180, which is Central Nevada Regional Water Authority's bill that would empower County Commissions to appoint groundwater advisory boards. Mr. Tibbitts noted that further updates and recommended County positions were provided on his tracked legislation worksheet.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to affirm the recommendations of Mr. Mears and Mr. Tibbitts in relation to the County's position on current proposed legislation; Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities including installation of computers, printers, and a new Xerox copier.

Business Continuity Plan: Questionnaires for the Business Impact Analysis are being finalized. The resulting Business Continuity Plan will outline processes and steps for the County to initiate in order to resume business after an unplanned outage.

Express Internet: Above All Communications LLC (Express Internet) has informed the IT Department of its plans to implement a network build this summer. Completion, including migration from all County towers and locations, is anticipated by November 1st.

Crescent Valley Fiber: Commnet expects to have fiber lit by the end of June for the school fiber project in Crescent Valley. This includes connectivity to the library. Ms. Rowley has asked Commnet to provide a quote for fiber connection to County facilities in Crescent Valley, and is awaiting a response.

Addendum Three Service Renewal: Ms. Rowley requested authority to sign the Quest service renewal agreement outside of the meeting, explaining that each year the IT Department works with Quest to determine agreed upon rates. Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the Addendum Three Service Renewal from Quest for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and authorized the IT Director to sign the agreement outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Director Kenny Sanders reported there were a total of 23 runs in April, 11 from the Eureka station and 12 from the Crescent Valley station. A total of eight patients were transported to hospitals, and three were transferred to air medical services.

Staff and volunteers are working on their EMT recertifications and ambulance attendant license renewals. Mr. Sanders reminded everyone that EMS provides COVID testing and COVID vaccines and boosters.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Linda Gordon reported on activities at the Senior Centers. In April, Eureka served 753 meals and Crescent Valley served 710 meals. A total of \$7,935.33 was deposited for the month. On May 12th, Crescent Valley will serve a Mother's Day brunch. Eureka is planning a Mother's Day dinner on May 16th. The next senior trip is in September. The seniors will enjoy a couple of days at Lake Tahoe including a dinner show and ride on the MS Dixie.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Update on HR Activities: Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple reported on recent activities. The next roundtable meeting for department heads is scheduled on May 24th. Eureka County is currently accepting applications for Deputy District Attorney and Administrative Assistant I/II for Public Works.

Hiring Freeze Waivers: Ms. Whimple presented a Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification for three Deputy Sheriffs I/II/III (two in Crescent Valley and one in Eureka). Authorization was given recently for the Sheriff to fill two Sergeant positions (one north, one south), but he would like to convert those to Deputy Sheriffs, which will bring the vacancy total to five. Commissioner Plaskett motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize recruitment of three Deputy Sheriff I/II/III positions; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Updated Job Descriptions: Activities related to negotiation of labor contracts has been added as an essential function to the position descriptions for Comptroller and Human Resources Director. Chairman McKay questioned whether it was appropriate to add those duties, stating it might hinder future recruitment for the positions. Ms. Whimple explained it was common practice to include a 'policy' person and a 'finance' person on the collective bargaining team.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve updating the position descriptions for Comptroller and Human Resources Director to include collective bargaining duties; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Tax Delinquent Properties Auction: Treasurer Pernecia Johnson reported on the sealed-bid auction of delinquent tax parcels which concluded on April 20, 2023. Nine properties were offered for sale and earned a combined total of \$71,653.62. After deduction of taxes and fees, \$56,242.91 in excess proceeds will be held for the statutory one-year period. Funds not claimed during that time will revert to the General Fund.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to accept the Treasurer’s verified return of sale and reconciliation of trust property for the tax delinquent properties auction on April 20, 2023; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Quitclaim Deeds Resolution: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adopt a resolution directing the County Treasurer to execute and file Quitclaim Deeds with the County Recorder and to deliver said Quitclaim Deeds to purchasers of the properties sold at the April 20, 2023, auction; Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

SUMMARY: Return of Sale of Trust Property

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Eureka County, Nevada, on the 20th day of January, 2019, duly ordered the sale at public auction of the hereinafter described real property held by Pernecia Johnson, as County Treasurer and Ex-Officio Tax Receiver of Eureka County, Nevada, in trust; and

WHEREAS, after due and legal notice of the place and manner of said sale was duly given in the manner required by NRS 361.595, by publication in the *Eureka Sentinel*, a newspaper published within the County of Eureka, State of Nevada, and posted as required by NRS 361.595 and the 2019 Order of the Board of Commissioners Directing the County Treasurer to Offer All Tax Delinquent Properties for Sale, said property was sold by sealed bid on the 20th day of April, 2023, of said day in the Treasurer’s office of the Eureka County Courthouse, Eureka County Nevada, in pursuance of said Order of Sale; and

WHEREAS, at said sale the property described in the Reconciliation of Tax Auction Held April 20, 2023, attached hereto was sold to the persons or entities listed for the total sum of Seventy-One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents (\$71,653.62), which were the highest and best bids for the same and the whole amount bid and paid for said property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Eureka County, Nevada, as follows:

- 1. That the Eureka County Treasurer and Ex-Officio Tax Receiver of Eureka County, Nevada, in trust, execute and file Quit Claim Deeds for record with the County Recorder of Eureka County, Nevada, and deliver said Quit Claim Deeds for properties sold to said purchasers on the attached list.

ADOPTED the 4th day of May, 2023, by the Board of County Commissioners, Eureka County, Nevada.

/s/ Rich McKay
Rich McKay, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Pernecia Johnson
Pernecia Johnson, Eureka County Treasurer

Excess Proceeds from Prior Year’s Auction: Ms. Johnson reported that \$66,547.90 in excess proceeds was held in trust from the Tax Delinquent Properties Auction held the previous year on April 20, 2022. No claims were received by the one-year deadline, and the entire amount was transferred to the General Fund.

BATTLE BORN YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

Informational Presentation: Andre’ Ponder, Program Director for the Battle Born Youth Challenge Academy (BBYCA), introduced himself and Academic Counselor Mr. Miller, and provided an informational presentation regarding the BBYCA.

The BBYCA was established in 2019 and is a collaboration between the National Guard and the State of Nevada. This tuition-free program for ages 16 through 18 (co-ed), can help meet the

needs of at-risk or potentially at-risk youth. It is a 22-week residential and 12-month post residential program with core components that highlight academia, service, leadership, and life skills.

The BBYCA has an academic partnership with the Elko County School District, which provides administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, and other support staff. The program offers youths the opportunity to earn credits, a high school diploma, or prepare for the HiSET (high school equivalency test).

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Update Report: Assistant Public Works Director Raymond Hodson reported on Road Department activities. The southern crew has finished the Snowball Road and Fish Creek Road, and a blade is currently on the Antelope Valley Road. The crew repaired several washouts on the Willows Road; replaced culverts on Railroad Pass; repaired cracks in the Sulfur-Thompson Road; and fixed a major washout on the JD Ranch Road.

The northern crew bladed Rose Ranch Road, Corral Pass Road, Buckhorn Road, and assisted on the Tonkin Road from JD Ranch Road to the reservoir.

The Road Department is working with Rosenlund Drilling to drill a well in Antelope Valley. The Fairgrounds improvement project has begun. Equipment operators have all completed Red Card refresher training.

COUNTY FACILITIES

Facilities Update: Jeb Rowley gave an update on activities at County managed facilities.

Opera House: The Opera House had 274 visitors in January, 116 in February, 98 in March, and 540 in April. Upcoming events include the Nevada State Old-Time Fiddlers Contest, Doug Figgs, and Missoula Children's Theater.

Sentinel Museum: The Museum had 27 visitors in February, 41 in March, and 145 in April. During April, the Museum sold over \$1,500.00 in merchandise.

Eureka Landfill: The Landfill had 380 customers in February, 401 in March, and 623 in April. Recycling equipment will be set up at the Landfill later in the week, which will help with the Free Dump Days every Saturday in May.

Swimming Pool: The Pool had 207 swimmers in February; 240 in March, and 170 in April.

Eureka Clinic: Carpet at the Eureka Clinic is being replaced with commercial hard flooring.

Crescent Valley Substation: A facility needs assessment for the Crescent Valley Substation was conducted on April 26th, and Public Works is awaiting the written report.

Water Fill Stations: In April, there were 153 fill ups (694,000 gallons) at the fill station on Third Street and 18 fill ups (61,000 gallons) at the fill station on 11th Street. The commodity rate is \$2.10 per 1,000 gallons, which is very low.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Status of Flood Emergency: A Presidential declaration of disaster was issued for the State of Nevada on April 27th. Eureka County was one of five counties eligible for public assistance and hazard mitigation funding for the March flooding event (8th-19th). The damage was exacerbated by the ensuing spring thaw, and Public Works is exploring whether additional funding can be provided for the subsequent damage that occurred after March 19th.

Joint Funding Agreement with USGS: As an emergency measure, short-term rapid-deployment stream gauges were installed at Devil's Gate (under Highway 50 near Slough Creek) and at the culvert crossing under State Route 278 at the Hay Ranch in Pine Valley. Data from the gauges has proven crucial in guiding emergency management efforts. Continued measurements during the snow melt period of March to August 2023 will be extremely useful.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve signing a modified Joint Funding Agreement (JFA 23ZJJFA00133) with US Geological Survey for two (2) rapid deployment gauges for a total cost of \$22,030.00, with Eureka County's portion of \$13,664.00, to be paid utilizing funds budgeted for

flood expenses (010-040-53010-123) in the Emergency Management budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire/EMS Software from Sunridge Systems Inc.: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley consulted with the Sheriff and EMS Director regarding software that will tie into the iRIMS platform currently used by Eureka Dispatch for incident management. He believes the software will provide a lot of benefits both from the management perspective and the responders' perspective. Once implemented, information on emergencies, including maps and routing guidance, will be available to the responders on their mobile devices.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve purchase of iRIMS Fire/EMS software from Sunridge Systems, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$4,745.00 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (044-151-55010-000) in the Eureka Town Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Mr. Rowley reported on Public Works projects and activities.

Airport Operations Plan: A site-wide cultural resource survey is underway at the Eureka Airport, which will provide information needed for updating the Airport Operations Plan (AOP).

Water Meters: Mr. Rowley informed that the June water bills will include water usage charges in addition to the base utility rates (winter meter reads don't include usage).

Abrasive Pressure Blast Cabinet: Mr. Rowley explained that a sand blasting cabinet will provide capabilities that the compressor powered sand blaster does not have. The up-front cost will be offset over time by allowing components and parts to be cleaned and reused.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchase of Allsource Model 42000 Abrasive Pressure Blast Cabinet from Northern Tool for an amount not to exceed \$4,800.00 utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (020-106-55010-000) in the Road Department budget. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Air Conditioning Machine: In comparing refrigerant and other costs, Mr. Rowley felt it was practical for Eureka County to purchase an air conditioning machine (to recover, recycle, and recharge).

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve purchase of a Robinair Model R1234 YF RR&R A/C machine from NAPA Auto Parts for an amount not to exceed \$8,250.00 utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (020-106-55010-000) in the Road Department budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mindshare Console Upgrades: As part of annual radio and repeater maintenance, Mr. Rowley obtained a quote for console control units to replace end-of-life consoles that have been in service for over ten years.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the quote from Western State Enterprises for Mindshare Console upgrades for an amount not to exceed \$42,588.00 utilizing funds budgeted for radio repeater upgrades (042-140-55010-094) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Rosenlund Drilling: Eureka County has identified the need to have wells to support road maintenance in remote areas, and Public Works obtained a quote from Rosenlund Drilling LLC. Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the quote from Rosenlund Drilling LLC for drilling a quasi-municipal well under Permit 91895 for an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 to be paid with monies budgeted for capital outlay (125-247-55010-745) in the Water Mitigation Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Crescent Valley Road Rehabilitation: Mr. Rowley presented the Guaranteed Maximum Price contract with Sierra Nevada Construction (SNC) for the Crescent Valley portion of the Eureka County Road & Utility Project. He discussed project details and noted that Daniel Blanc with SNC and Jonathan Lesperance with Lumos & Associates were in attendance to answer any questions the Board may have.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price contract with Sierra Nevada Construction for the Crescent Valley Road Rehabilitation Project GMP, PWP-EU2023-346 for a maximum amount of \$4,743,823.00 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (025-110-55010-000) in the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) Fund. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka Townsite Road & Utility Improvement Project: Mr. Rowley submitted the contract for the Eureka Town portion of the Eureka County Road & Utility Project, and briefly discussed project details.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price contract for the Eureka Townsite Road & Utility Improvement Project, GMP, PWP-EU2023-346, with Sierra Nevada Construction for a maximum amount of \$8,345,659.00 utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (025-110-55010-000) in the RTC Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Lumos & Associates Engineering Services: Lumos & Associates provided a proposal for engineering services during Phase 1 of the Eureka County Road & Utility Project.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the proposal from Lumos & Associates for engineering services during Phase 1 of the Eureka County Road & Utility Project in the amount of \$1,107,700.00 (\$326,800.00 for Crescent Valley and \$780,900.00 for Eureka) to be paid with funds budgeted for capital outlay (025-110-55010-000) in the RTC Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Fallon Range Training Complex: Mr. Tibbitts reported that the Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC) met on April 24th and the Navy is moving in earnest with their implementation plan. Direct impacts to Eureka County include expansion of the military's air space and loss of grazing AUMs (Animal Unit Month).

Mr. Tibbitts informed that the IEC elected J.J. Goicoechea (former Commission chair and current Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture) as its chairman during the April 24th meeting.

CAB Meeting: The County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife met recently to make their recommendations regarding hunting tag quotas.

Sage Grouse Issues: Mr. Tibbitts participated in a strategy call with other counties and Laura Granier Esq. (counsel on sage grouse issues) in order to plan a concerted effort as the BLM moves forward with updating its 2015 Resource Management Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation.

BLM Public Lands Rule: The BLM has announced its meeting schedule for the proposed Public Lands Rule, which would elevate conservation as a permitted use on federally managed lands. There are two virtual meetings on May 15th and June 5th, and an in-person meeting in Reno on May 30th.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include Firewise Community Days (May 5th in Eureka, and May 6th in Crescent Valley); Central Nevada Regional Water Authority's legislative committee on May 5th; the local Steering Committee for the Mule Deer Enhancement Program on May 9th; the BLM's initial cooperating agency meeting on the BLM Western Programmatic Solar EIS and RMP Amendment on May 9th; the Natural Resources Advisory Commission on May 10th; the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council on May 12th; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting on May 12th; Eureka Conservation District on May 16th; and a Stagecoach Wind Energy Project EIS cooperating agency call on May 17th. Lastly, Mr. Tibbitts noted that Nevada Gold Mines is hosting a site visit of the Robertson Mine on May 23rd, and he will respond on behalf of any interested parties.

BLM Environmental Assessment – Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Habitat: The BLM Nevada State Office sent a letter inviting Eureka County to be a cooperating agency on its Environmental Assessment of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Habitat. The letter, dated April 21st but received on April 28th (barely leaving time to make it on the current agenda) asked that the signed Memorandum of Understanding be returned by May 5th. Mr. Tibbitts stated there were items in the MOU that he would

like to address, but nothing substantive – and, due to the tight timeframe, he recommended approval at this time.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to accept the cooperating agency Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM on the Environmental Assessment to analyze potential impacts of modifying grazing permits to create flexibility in livestock management to improve Lahontan Cutthroat Trout habitat in Nevada, and authorized the Chairman to sign the MOU outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EUREKA COUNTY STAR

Withdrawal of Request for Financial Support: Trina Machacek was in attendance and stated that, after further reflection, she wished to withdraw the request that she and Dana Freund made at the last meeting (asking the Commissioners to sponsor a community calendar in the newspaper for an annual cost of \$9,000.00). She thanked the Board for its comments and well wishes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence: Correspondence was received from: Connie Hicks; Television District; Elko County Commission; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Nevada Dept. of Environmental Protection (3); Rock Giants of Highway 50; UNR CABNR monthly newsletter; Nevada POOL/PACT; Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands; Nevada Div. of Child Protective Services; Governor's Office of Energy; US Dept. of the Interior, BLM; Lizzy Schwegler; Senator Jacky Rosen; National Assoc. of Counties; America First Works; and Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman McKay called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 18th day of July, 2023.

/s/ Rich McKay
Rich McKay, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Deputy Clerk II, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the May 4, 2023, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Deputy Clerk II

I, Katherine J. Bowling, 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 Deputy Clerk.

/s/ Kathy Bowling
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk