



Elko County Board of Commissioners

Commissioners

Demar Dahl

Glen Guttry

Charlie Myers

Warren Russell

R. Jeff Williams

Elko County Manager

Robert K. Stokes

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF ELKO) ss.

JUNE 1, 2011

The Board of Elko County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at 1:30 p.m., in Suite 102 of the Nannini Administrative Building at 540 Court Street, Elko, Nevada.

There were present: County Commissioners Demar Dahl, Chair
Glen Guttry
Charlie Myers
Warren Russell
Jeff Williams
County Manager Robert Stokes
Deputy District Attorney Kristin McQueary
Deputy County Clerk Marilyn Tipton
Planning/Zoning/NRMAC Randy Brown
Road Supervisor Otis Tipton
Library Director Jeanette Hammons
Sheriff James Pitts

Chairman Dahl called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Commissioner Guttry led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dahl commented upon the multiple housing foreclosures throughout the State but had heard the housing market was strong in Washington D.C.

1:33:15 PM

I. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

Kristin McQueary introduced Brian Riekkola who would be her summer intern. She stated Brian had been a Spring Creek student who just finished his first year of law school in Oregon.

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II. NEVADA BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION:

Discussion and consideration of a request to assist local radio and television stations in the cost of implementing the new federally mandated Emergency Alert System that requires new equipment be placed in every broadcasting facility in Elko County.

Robert Fisher, President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcaster's Association, gave a historical overview of the federal warning system wherein the broadcasters volunteered to be the voice of public warning. He stated the Broadcaster's Association started a national summit of the Emergency Alert System which replaced the Emergency Broadcasting System and the annual summit was held in Washington D.C. He stated the government was taking interest in a national emergency alert system and there would be a Common Alerting Protocol "CAP" with all emergency and alert systems to be CAP compliant by December 30, 2011. He stated CAP would allow broadcasters to speak directly to first responders, and to law enforcement. Mr. Fisher stated the primary station that starts the daisy chain, KELK, Lp1, had equipment originally purchased by the County Commission. He requested the Commission fund the equipment of four radio groups at \$2,085 totaling \$8,340. He stated to fund one TV operator it would be \$2,952 so they requested a total of \$11,292 from the County Commission. Mr. Fisher said Elko County was able to receive FEMA reimbursement by following the example of the State of Washington.

Commissioner Russell inquired why Homeland Security did not fund this equipment. Robert Fisher replied they did not have sufficient funding.

Commissioner Myers questioned why the \$2,952 for the TV operator could not come from the TV District. He inquired what percentage of the \$8,340 would be reimbursed from FEMA. Robert Fisher understood Elko could apply to FEMA for reimbursement but was unsure of the amount of reimbursement. Commissioner Williams questioned the federal government mandating private companies to comply. Robert Fisher stated some were public but all were licensed through the federal government.

Commissioner Guttry inquired about the refund from the TV District. Cash Minor stated \$158,000 was a miss apportionment of the Net Proceeds of Mines Tax and that money was reallocated to the entities that it belonged to; the County General Fund did not receive any of that funding. Commissioner Guttry understood this system, in an emergency situation, would allow the County Manager to go on line to provide emergency information or warning to the residents of the County. Commissioner Russell inquired if all the radio and TV stations in Elko County equipped with backup generating capacity in case the

power went out. Robert Fisher could not answer that. Commissioner Russell questioned if there was competition between the different stations and if different information would be broadcasted. Robert Fisher stated there was a specific protocol. Commissioner Guttry inquired if he had been to the other counties. Robert Fisher replied no. Commissioner Guttry inquired if the other stations were funding this equipment rather than it being funded by a government entity. Robert Fisher stated the appointed Chairman of the Emergency Alert System had mentioned this to the local broadcasters in Elko because Elko County has more radio stations. He stated the other stations heard of CAP regulations but the rural broadcasters were in a different position than the larger companies.

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Commissioner Russell suggested the \$8,340 come from the 2010/2011 budget. Commissioner Myers stated the funding request for the TV operator should be sent to the TV District agenda.

Paul Gardner, Elko TV District member, stated there was unofficial conversation supporting this issue especially for KENV and this could be put on the agenda. Paul Gardner stated the original legislative intent in 1950 for TV Districts was for emergency broadcast into the rural areas of the State.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to approve the request of the broadcasting system for \$8,340 with a request being sent to the TV District asking they fund the TV operator portion of this request in the amount of \$2,952, and that they submit their FEMA request for reimbursement of the \$8,340. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Russell inquired if he would amend it to include the funding source of Contingency.

Commissioner Myers amended his motion that funding to come from the Contingency Fund. Commissioner Russell seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Fisher stated Senate Bill 210 had passed the Senate yesterday and the Governor had taken an active role in Homeland Security.

Commissioner Russell recognized they had a representative present from the local Television Station NBC, Lori Gilbert, and a representative from the local radio station, Ken Sutherland.

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III. RES AMERICAS – CHINA MOUNTAIN WIND PROJECT:

Discussion and consideration of comments regarding the BLM Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the China Mountain Wind Project to be located on the Nevada / Idaho border northwest of Jackpot, Nevada.

Commissioner Dahl commented that Suzanne Leta Lei said it would have cost \$1,000 for an airline ticket to attend this meeting and she had inquired if they had any questions. Commissioner Myers had gone to the DEIS hearing and submitted comments. The Commissioners voiced support for the project.

Meghan Brown, Nevada Cattlemen's Association and NRMAC, stated Lori Lickley gave her presentation to the Natural Resource Management Advisory Commission and that Commission supported it. She recommended they seek the proposed alternative which would decrease the AUMs by 86 for the footprint of the turbines. Meghan Brown stated NCA was asking that there be no net loss and hopefully through mitigation they could find those AUMs within other areas. Commissioner Myers stated there were five alternatives. Meghan Brown stated Alternative B-1 was the preferred Alternative and only 9.5 acres would be impacted. She reviewed the formula for the reduction of the AUMs to the Bracketts, Guerrys and the Y3 Ranch. Meghan Brown stated there was concern at the NRMAC meeting with the language in the Sage Grouse Conservation Plan regarding removal or limiting livestock density and they put a price per AUM. She stated they requested the AUM price be a negotiated price. Meghan Brown commented there was a red circle on the map around the project area for mitigation. She had requested the red circle be removed and that they have a mitigated goal of a specific number of acres rather than a geographic boundary. She stated RES did not think that could be removed because it was within the Draft Environment Impact Statement. Meghan Brown noted that was in the same area as the Jarbidge RMP. She stated the DEIS was referenced to the 1985 RMP and making the land management plan change to that RMP so there was a dual timeline. She stated there was concern with the road through the Y3 Ranch which was originally a haul road but they were negotiating with the ranch. Commissioner Dahl inquired what the amount would be that RES Americas was expending for mitigation. Meghan Brown replied there was a 15 million dollar fund that the Technical Advisory Committee would have access to and explained the possible mitigation per unit. Commissioner Dahl inquired if the mitigation was similar to the mitigation with Ruby Pipeline. Meghan Brown was unaware of any companies being given any specific amount. Commissioner Dahl inquired what would happen if WWP goes to RES Americas for funding. Meghan Brown understood Western Watersheds Project would have to apply to the Technical Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Dahl inquired about exclusion of the major wind area in the project. Meghan Brown stated that depended upon what decision they make on the Jarbidge RMP because that wind area was in the RMP boundaries.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved that they support the China Mountain DEIS Alternative B-1 with the County Manager selecting the letter that best fits the direction of the Commission, and that we ask the following changes be instituted or considered: 1) no net loss of AUMs; 2) the acreage be considered, as a goal, rather than a geographical location for mitigation. Commissioner Guttry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC Continued:

Meghan Brown stated the Secretary of Interior sent a memo to Bob Abbey regarding the wildland designation.

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IV. CITY OF ELKO:

Discussion and consideration of a report by City Councilman Jay Elquist on issues and activities of interest to the City of Elko.

Jay Elquist stated the City Council adopted the Master Plan in their last meeting inclusive of their goals, objectives, and best practices for the future. He stated the new plan further addressed land use, transportation, arts and culture. He stated the downtown area was their next focus. Jay Elquist said their plan addressed regional areas and sets goals in those transitional areas.

Jay Elquist gave an update on the improvements to Idaho Street.

Jay Elquist stated their City election was underway and they had submitted a legislative bill to the State to move their next election to coincide with the County's election.

Jay Elquist stated the Boys and Girls Club would be moving to a new location across from Flag View.

Jay Elquist stated there was a proposal in front of the City Council on a recycle program within the City from Elko Sanitation. The city residents would be reduced to once a week pick-up and there would be another container for recyclables. Commissioner Myers inquired if it would be mandatory. Jay Elquist stated it would not be mandated it was just a proposal through Elko Sanitation.

Jay Elquist discussed the municipalities and counties consolidating some services such as the landfill, jail and the airport which could be regionally funded.

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V. ELKO COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Report and review of Board of Trustees activities and minutes including issues related to the continuing operation of the County Library. Library Minutes and Law Library Minutes were previously submitted.

Jeanette Hammons reported there was nothing to report on the Law Library. She stated 267 children, teens and infants registered for the Summer Reading Program. She reviewed the early literacy program. Jeanette Hammons stated this Saturday they would hold an Open House for senior gaming from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to check out the Wii and Connect games. Jeanette Hammons stated the next Job Connect series would be held on the 20th through the 22nd of June. She stated they have submitted for the opening collection of the overdrive, down loadable audios. She stated they would train the patrons when those become available within the next two months. Jeanette Hammons stated the Garden Club had planted several plants on the outside of the building. She reported that Friends of the Library had donated \$10,000 from their fund raising efforts. Commissioner Williams commented that the Supreme Court had ruled the State could not sweep their memorial or private accounts.

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VIII. BLM WILDHORSE MANAGEMENT ISSUE:

Presentation, discussion and consideration of issues related to the Bureau of Land Management and Department of the Interior management of wild horse populations on public lands.

Ken Miller, Elko District Manager, submitted a map of the herd management areas in Elko County. He stated the gathering in 2011 was a funding issue. Ken Miller noted the tentative gather schedule was driven by numbers and an inventory may change the gather schedule. He stated Director Abbey wants healthy horse herds, healthy burros and healthy rangelands. He noted there was a short summary of the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act in the attachment. He stated they attempt to remind people the BLM was to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance in combination with other multiple uses which was a big ticket item. Ken Miller stated they want to get down to a minimum feasible management level to eliminate them having to feed the horses by hand. He stated they do haul water periodically during drought conditions. Ken Miller stated they do have instructions to destroy those for which no adoption demand exists within the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act. He stated BLM has been reminding people that the BLM does not destroy horses just because they were not adoptable. He stated the only time a horse was put down was when that horse was sick and injured with no likelihood of recovery.

Commissioner Myers commented the 1971 Act actually states that if they were not adoptable then the horses could be put down. Ken Miller stated that was within the law but the BLM was not destroying animals at this time despite the fact that they could. Commissioner Dahl commented the BLM was not following the Act. Ken Miller stated they had horses in holding and they could

follow the Act and put them down but it did not say when they have to put them down. Commissioner Dahl inquired how many HMAs were over the AML higher number. Ken Miller stated they had 179 HMAs which have Appropriate Management Levels set. He stated if they were at approximately 38,500 horses and burros on public lands and if they were at Appropriate Management Level there would only be 26,600 horses. Commissioner Myers noted they were over by approximately 12,000 horses and burros. Ken Miller stated they were significantly over the AML in the bulk of the Horse Management Areas. Commissioner Dahl inquired if it was possible to maintain ecological balance unless the HMAs were within their AML. He stated the Conrad-Burns Amendment to the Wild Horse and Burro Act said that if they were not able to dispose of the horses through adoption then they were to sell them at local auctions, etc. He stated if the BLM was following the Act they would be selling the excess horses. He stated putting them down was a waste of resource and suggested they follow the act and sell them on the market regardless of who rides them, etc. Ken Miller stated they do not adopt out all that they gather so selling them was allowed under the Act. Commissioner Dahl commented Congressman Moran (8th District of Virginia) introduced an amendment to the Agriculture Bill to not fund the inspections for slaughter plants for horses. Meghan Brown stated that Bill passed 24 to 21 out of committee and it was the same language not to fund USDA inspectors for those facilities. Commissioner Dahl noted it was not illegal to slaughter but there was no funding for the inspection for export or consumption. Ken Miller stated that was for all horses and not only BLM horses. He stated they were over AML in most of the HMAs in Nevada and they gather in the HMA which was in the worst shape where springs were beat out and where herds might put them into crisis.

Commissioner Myers inquired if the numbers in the proposed gathers on his handout would bring the levels down to appropriate levels. Ken Miller replied no. He stated they were moving forward with the gathers. Commissioner Dahl stated he was familiar with a lot of the areas where damage was being done by the horses specifically to the White Sage Flats. He inquired if that damage was being done by livestock would BLM consider that a crisis situation. Ken Miller stated they work hard to manage the horse herds to maintain the health of the land. Ken Miller stated they work with the industry and the public to see livestock permits were managed in a similar fashion. Ken Miller stated if the horse gathers stopped tomorrow they would be in a crisis situation very quickly and the same with the livestock industry.

Commissioner Williams stated the local BLM people had to deal with laws coming down from their superiors but they should recognize this Board sees the

suffering out there with people trying to pay their bills and make their house payments yet the federal government was still paying all this money for horses in longer term and short term holding facilities. He commented the horse numbers would keep increasing and asked what they saw for the future because they would either have to pay more for the horses' sustainability or were they eventually going to euthanasia.

Ken Miller stated Bob Abbey understood their concerns and they would probably agree that what they were doing now was not sustainable. He stated they had approximately 41,700 horses in short and long term holding with 38,500 still on the public land which was costly. Ken Miller stated the Office of the Inspector General did a review of the Wild Horse and Burro Program within the United States, BLM specifically. They found that the gathers were justified, BLM care and handling was humane but unchecked horse population and rising holding costs were not sustainable. Ken Miller stated the recommendations from the Inspector General was to focus on research and testing of improved population growth control and to balance adoption demand with removals and reduced numbers removed. He stated they assume 20% reproduction per year so every four years they double the herd. He noted the Inspector General also recommended reduction of the need for long term and short term holding and confirm that best science was being used through the National Academy of Science Study. Ken Miller stated the proposed strategy was to increase population suppression activities, reduce the number of horses removed from the range to what they estimated would be born to allow the National Academy of Science to do a two year study on how to manage population and herds.

Commissioner Myers commented they were proposing to gather 7,600 rather than 10,000 then there would be 2,400 horses not gathered and they would double every four years so they would see half of that back on the range after two years. Ken Miller stated the intent was to give NSA time to perform their study. Commissioner Myers inquired how long it would take the range to rehabilitate after horses were upon it for a lengthy period doing a considerable amount of damage. Ken Miller stated that depended upon the amount of rain received and the range's conditions. He noted when a fire happens sometimes it takes years. Commissioner Myers stated leaving 2,400 more horses on the range would do more damage to the range and require more feed. Ken Miller stated the Inspector General proposed they develop a Comprehensive Animal Welfare Plan. He stated the BLM would formalize their plan to reduce the concern of the stakeholders. Ken Miller stated the Inspector General proposed advertising for Partnership Opportunities for Eco-Sanctuaries that would allow for the long-term care of animals. He stated BLM was working toward partnerships

that utilized both private and public lands rather than putting them in long-term care in Kansas or Oklahoma.

Commissioner Dahl had read that the BLM would not pay individuals to graze federal horses on federal lands. He inquired if Madeline Pickens was still requesting \$500 per horse to keep the horses on the sanctuary. Ken Miller stated the Request for Proposals on private lands closes on June 14th and the Request for Proposals that involves both public and private land would close June 21, 2011. Ken Miller said any rancher could propose to use their permit to feed wild horses then they would not be paid in the same fashion or same amounts. He stated they would be paid for building fences on public lands, providing access to the public, and care for the horses.

Commissioner Dahl commented under their listing for potential eco-sanctuaries it said that grazing permit relinquished, BLM was not going to pay individuals to graze federal horses on federal lands. Ken Miller stated the BLM would not pay them to utilize that forage on federal lands. Commissioner Myers clarified they could get reimbursed for fencing, shelter, etc. to make up for the forage.

Commissioner Dahl noted the Wild Horse and Burro Act stated they could not fence to control wild horse movement. He believed that fencing would be contradictory to the Act. Commissioner Myers inquired if advertising for eco-sanctuaries was in violation of the Taylor Grazing Act. Ken Miller replied no, the Requests for Agreements would be written in a do-able fashion so private entities could do them under current law and regulation.

Commissioner Myers inquired about water rights. Ken Miller stated that was a State issue and they would follow the State of Nevada Law.

Commissioner Williams commented in the pamphlet submitted by the BLM to the Natural Resources Management and Advisory Committee it stated some advocacy groups contend that BLM's management of wild horses were inhumane and they want more wild horses and burros left to roam on a greater percentage of the BLM managed lands in the west. Commissioner Williams understood that where they now have livestock with people who were paying for AUMs could be replaced by horses and burros. He stated the herd management areas would be extended to carry more horses but fewer cattle. Ken Miller stated that was what some stakeholders believe and the BLM had not proposed to go in that direction. He stated the BLM hoped the National Academy of Science study would put more facts in front of the public.

Ken Miller stated point six of the Inspector General's proposed strategy was to increase adoptions. Commissioner Myers asked why they were not doing that now. Ken Miller stated they were doing that now and the amount of horses

gentled was growing. Commissioner Dahl felt the economy was impacting the adoption rate. Ken Miller stated they were promoting volunteerism for the program which helped educate the public. Commissioner Myers commented upon the amount of damage done upon the range by a herd of horses which was never seen by the out-of-state groups.

Ken Miller reviewed the Inspector General's request for Agreements to be solicited including private land eco-sanctuaries and private land/public land eco-sanctuaries. He stated it would be a 200 head of horses minimum. Commissioner Myers asked what the maximum number of horses could be on the potential eco-sanctuaries. Ken Miller stated there was no maximum stated. Commissioner Myers inquired if there was a number formula for horses similar to AUM's for livestock. Ken Miller stated the HML was specific to a certain area. Commissioner Myers voiced concern that horses could be trucked in from another area. Ken Miller stated the proposals would be reviewed by wild horse specialists and scientists. He noted they would be in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and would involve land use plan amendments if it was upon public lands. Commissioner Myers inquired if an EA or EIS was required before an eco-sanctuary was allowed.

Commissioner Williams questioned the BLM's control over the horses once they were upon private land. Ken Miller stated they would be under an agreement and monitored for results of healthy horses.

Ken Miller stated the BLM goals were to eliminate the need for additional holding by 2014. Commissioner Dahl asked if that was for long-term or short-term. Ken Miller stated especially for long-term. He noted short-term was where they prepare horses for adoption. Commissioner Dahl inquired what they would do with the excess horses because their sterilization would not keep up mathematically with the number of horses on public lands. Commissioner Williams noted if they did not take any horses off the federal lands there would be no need for holding facilities. Ken Miller stated they hoped to see program costs stabilize and decline by 2019.

Commissioner Russell commented upon the parallel of Ken Miller's presentation to the Congress discussing debt. He stated AML's was equivalent to the Congresses debt limit and maintenance of horses was comparable to the entitlement programs they don't want to dismantle or destroy. He stated with BLM's current management philosophy there would be damage to the land which would hurt other multiple users and none of these programs were sustainable. Ken Miller stated the County Commission would be involved in the Wildlands issue which would be the chance for a real solution. Commissioner Dahl asked if Ken Miller was participated in making the BLM goals. Ken Miller stated a lot of

the goals came from their national office. Commissioner Dahl inquired if the intent was to leave the horses on the range to obtain the goal of no more holding in 2014. Ken Miller had not heard it stated how they would meet those goals. He stated the BLM intent was to stop shipping and yet maintain healthy range lands. Ken Miller stated the administration affects their goals. Commissioner Dahl understood the BLM would get the cattle off the range and turn them into wild horse refuges. Ken Miller stated eco-sanctuaries would eliminate the need to move more horses into holding facilities.

Ken Miller introduced their new Fire Management Officer, Shane McDonald, who replaces Jeff Arnberger. Shane McDonald stated he had been the superintendent in 2001 of the Ruby Mountain hotshots. He had recently been in the Twin Falls District for four years.

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RECESS

Chairman Dahl called a recess at 3:20 p.m.

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RECONVENE

Chairman Dahl reconvened the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

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VI. BOARD OF COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS:

Highway Chairman Russell called the Highway Board to order at 3:33 p.m.

A. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

No public comments were submitted.

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B. RUBY PIPELINE ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT:

Discussion and consideration of approval of the Ruby Pipeline Road Maintenance Agreement between Elko County and El Paso Gas for road services.

Kristin McQueary and Otis Tipton had reviewed the Agreement. She noted there had been changes made to the Agreement.

Commissioner Dahl commented under number seven it stated "all repairs would be mutually agreed upon by Ruby Pipeline and the County". Otis Tipton stated they would go through every road at the end of the project to look at all the structures and the differences would come out at that time. Commissioner Dahl questioned Ruby's intent to agree on the repairs. Kristin McQueary stated this was the basic road maintenance agreement. She commented Ruby Pipeline had done previous work before the Agreement and they had not refused their prior request. Commissioner Dahl questioned the ability to negotiate the repairs. Commissioner Williams commented Ruby Pipeline still had pipe in the ground.

Otis Tipton stated Ruby Pipeline had a facility being manned on the Mountain City Highway and there would be local offices.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to approve the Ruby Pipeline Road Maintenance Agreement between Elko County and El Paso Gas for road services. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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C. DEER CREEK GRADE ROAD REPAIR PROJECT:

Discussion and consideration of the status of the agreement and plans with the US Forest Service to effect repairs on the Deer Creek Grade Road.

Commissioner Russell stated Randy Brown had worked with Simplot but did not get the right of way easement to work on the road. Randy Brown had suggested a Commissioner speak to the landowner but the landowner stated he was not interested in speaking to the Commission and the road was not a priority with them. Commissioner Russell suggested a letter from the Chairman of Board explaining the need for repair on the road as emergency access to Jarbidge. Otis Tipton commented Deer Creek Grade ran through the middle of the ranch and the ranch may not want that to be public access. He stated the County had to have the right of way to invest tax money into the road. Commissioner Williams noted the Forest Service Engineer, Mike Balen, had stated they would have to move back their schedule because of the snow which would allow for more time to obtain the right of way. Robert Stokes stated Mike Balen's concern was additional mobilization costs if this project was delayed. Commissioner Russell suggested sending Simplot a letter.

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to send a cordial letter to Simplot regarding the need of the road for safety issues for the people of Jarbidge and ask for their reconsideration of the issue. Commissioner Guttry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Stokes stated Dot Creechley had called yesterday and if the Deer Creek Grade was not available, Charleston was not available that left one way in and out if flooding.

Robert Stokes stated the Jarbidge Community Association voted to pay \$500.00 for the dust suppression costs previously discussed for Jarbidge. He stated Dot Creechley was concerned that the Meadow Creek Road was washed out. Otis Tipton stated the Meadow Creek Road had six foot snowdrifts when they were looking for the missing man from Canada. He reported that the Bruneau River was at capacity and the Meadow Creek Road was washed out in several places. He stated they would not enter the area until the snow came off

and they could get in. He stated there was a road closed sign on the highway. Commissioner Russell suggested Otis Tipton call Butch to discuss their concerns. Otis Tipton stated if the water starts rising they could get a couple of vehicles to the Diamond 'A' Ranch and travel back and forth on four wheelers down to Jarbidge. Commissioner Williams inquired how the Jarbidge residents could get out with Meadow Creek washed out. Otis Tipton replied they could cut off through Rolland which takes them to Grasmere or they could take the other fork which comes out by Wild Horse Lake.

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HIGHWAY BOARD ADJOURNMENT:

Highway Chairman Russell adjourned the Highway Board at 3:52 p.m.

[3:52:47 PM](#)

Chairman Dahl reconvened the County Commission meeting at 3:53 p.m.

VII. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Discussion and consideration of approval of an Interlocal Contract between the Nevada Department of Health And Human Services and Elko County for the administration of the Medicaid program.

Cash Minor stated this was an annual contract for the past twenty years wherein 50% of long term care residents were paid for by the State and the State used it for the Medicare match. He stated the costs would double if the County did not sign the contract and additional personnel would be required. He recommended approval. Cash Minor stated over the last five years the direct service costs for long term care had rose significantly.

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to approve an Interlocal Contract Agreement between the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and Elko County for administration of the Medicaid program. Commissioner Guttry seconded the motion. Commissioners Williams, Guttry, Myers and Dahl voted aye. Commissioner Russell voted nay. The motion passed by majority vote.

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IX. USFS MOUNTAIN CITY, RUBY MOUNTAINS AND JARBIDGE DISTRICT TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROJECT:

Discussion and consideration of issues regarding the Mountain City, Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge District Travel Management Project.

Commissioner Dahl stated Tom Montoya was being relocated to an Oregon District. He commented that Tom Montoya told them they were abandoning the idea of closing the roads off of private land at the hearing but that did not come from Tom's supervisors. Robert Stokes stated in the past they combined the

Districts during the interim. Commissioner Dahl reviewed verbiage in the draft Ordinance regarding the Forest Service's management practices.

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X. ELKO COUNTY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES:

Discussion and consideration of water resource management and water rights issues that may impact Elko County including possible discussion related to the Southern Nevada Water Authority pipeline project and the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority activities and issues.

Commissioner Russell stated there were some water bills in the Legislature. He stated their next meeting was on June 10th to be held in Austin.

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XI. ELKO COUNTY BUDGET / STATE BUDGET / LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

A. Great Basin College (GBC) "TEAM GBC" Committee:

Discussion and consideration of issues related to the financial impacts of proposed State Budget cuts to the continued operation of GBC programs.

Commissioner Dahl stated they were waiting for the legislature to close.

[4:00:00 PM](#)

B. UNR Cooperative Extension Program / UNR Proposed Budget Reductions:

Discussion and consideration of issues related to the financial impacts of proposed State Budget cuts to the continued operation of the Cooperative Extension Program and other UNR proposed budget reductions.

Commissioner Russell stated the reduction was still at 70% and they were waiting for the final word.

[4:00:06 PM](#)

C. Discussion and consideration of issues related to the Governor's State Budget, Legislative action, potential State actions on the Elko County Budget.

Robert Stokes stated there was a briefing at 2:00 p.m. Cash Minor had received an e-mail from Jeff Fontaine, of NACO. He stated B.J. Selinder had attended the briefing.

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D. Discussion and consideration of general issues related to the FY 2011/2012 Elko County Budget including possible action to amend the Adopted FY 2011/2012 Budget due to State Budget actions.

Commissioner Dahl stated they were waiting for the State budget passage.

[4:01:22 PM](#)

XII. COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Reports from Commission members regarding various committee, liaison or agency issues.

Demar Dahl, District 1 Commissioner:

Commission Chair, Liquor Board Chair Wells, West Wendover, Jackpot, & Montello Liaison – He stated the Budget Review Committee made 16 recommendations and one was dissolving the Jackpot Justice Court. He was told by Justice Black that the Court makes more money than it cost. Cash Minor would review that. Commissioner Russell noted the same amount of revenue would accumulate in Wells as it did in Jackpot. Commissioner Dahl stated if the Court was supporting itself he asked they consider the distance between Wells and Jackpot.

Commissioner Dahl stated a car can't go on the Deeth Road into the Post Office. He stated they had pulled cars out because have to build up the road so they can get through. He suggested it be a budget consideration next year.

Charlie Myers, District 2 Commissioner:

Elko County Economic Diversification Authority (ECEDA) – He stated some companies were looking at Elko. They hoped to market the middle part of the railport but they had a lack of access. He stated there were issues between Pacific Steel and Savage.

Nevada Commission on Economic Development – He stated during the last month only one company wanted abatement.

Auditorium Authority Board (ECVA) – He stated the Mining Expo starts next week. He noted the guest speaker Wednesday night was James Stefanic who came up with the rescue plan for the trapped Chilean miners.

Nevada Division of Wildlife Liaison – He received information packets from Ken Mayer and asked that they schedule a presentation from NDOW.

Nevada Division of Forestry Liaison – He stated their main focus was on the budget.

Sheriff Department Liaison – They meet today.

Budget Committee – Commissioner Myers stated he had not met with Mike Pedersen from Juvenile Probation regarding his budget.

USFS-RAC – There was meeting on this Friday and the County Road Department had submitted a reimbursement request of \$100,000. Commissioner Guttry inquired about weed abatement. Commissioner Myers understood that would be through the Conservation Districts.

Glen Guttry, District 3 Commissioner:

Elko City Liaison – He understood the \$5,000 contribution to the EATS bus was still within the City's budget.

Elko Senior Activity Programs Board Liaison – He stated they were replacing the concrete in front of the building.

Nevada Fire Safe Council – He stated they were in jeopardy of losing the council depending upon the budget.

Fire Science Academy Liaison – He commented their budget was in the black but that did not include payment for any loans.

Hospital Board – He stated no meeting was held within a month.

Recreation Board – He stated they just held a meeting.

Humboldt River Basin Water Authority – He stated there was a meeting scheduled in August.

Regional Railport Committee Member – No meeting was held.

R. Jeff Williams, District 4 Commissioner:

Commission Vice-Chair Highway Board- He stated they discussed the Deer Creek Grade Road and flooding. He commented at the last two meetings the Road Services Advisory Committee had lacked a quorum. Robert Stokes stated the Chairman was suggesting another meeting time later in the afternoon. Commissioner Myers noted there was no budget and questioned if there was a benefit when no funding was available. Kristin McQueary stated the School District representative had retired so some of the people would have to be replaced. Robert Stokes stated Bill Hassett was still interested but the Manager's office had a bad contact number. Commissioner Williams stated they held the meetings but the committee could not take any action.

Carlin, Mt. City, Midas, Owyhee, Jarbidge & Tuscarora Liaison – He attended a meeting with Lynn Forsberg regarding the restroom next to the Tuscarora Hall. He had not heard if the Mountain City Post Office was removed.

California Trails Center Board Liaison – He stated they completed the Trail Days with good participation.

Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Board (Alternate) – He requested an opportunity to attend a meeting with Commission Dahl.

Juvenile Department Liaison – He was scheduled to meet with Mike Pedersen in the morning. Commissioner Myers would meet with him concerning the budget next week.

Sheriff Department Liaison – He stated the Sheriff was staying within his budget even though there were significant emergencies such as the missing couple from Canada.

Library Board of Trustees Liaison – He stated they were doing well.

CIS – Communities in Schools - He stated the new Director would be with him on Elko Live next month.

Warren Russell, District 5 Commissioner:

Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA) – He had a meeting in Austin and inquired if anyone could attend the Nevadaworks meeting being held the same day.

Commissioner Russell stated the hospital had just opened the new physic ward.

[4:24:08 PM](#)

XIII. COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR:

June 15, 2011 -- 1:30 p.m. – Elko – Nannini Admin Bldg, Suite 102

July 6 & 7, 2011 -- Elko – Nannini Admin Bldg, Suite 102

July 20, 2011 – Midas, Tuscarora & Mt. City

All Times Pacific Time

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to approve the Commission Meeting Calendar. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[4:24:40 PM](#)

XIV. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Presentation and review of claims for approval.

B. Approval of minutes: May 4, 2011

C. Consideration of the closure of County Offices at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2011 for the Annual County Picnic.

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[4:25:22 PM](#)

XV. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY STAFF COMMENTS:

Commissioner Williams inquired if the Supreme Court ruling on Thursday would impact the County. Robert Stokes stated the Governor's original budget had a \$1.6 million dollar impact to the County's budget and that transfer of services may still be in the budget. Cash Minor stated the nine cent property tax appeared to be off the table for all seventeen counties. Commissioner Russell suggested a Budget Review Committee meeting be scheduled upon receipt of budget report. Cash Minor stated it would be after June 6, 2011. Robert Stokes stated the Supreme Court ruling would impact the County budget.

Commissioner Myers commented upon an invitation received from the Nevada Health Center in Carlin. Robert Stokes stated the City was helping them. Commissioner Myers stated the Veterans Administration would move into the old Sears building leaving the NHC in the old clinic.

Kristin McQueary stated there were some bills being passed that amended the Open Meeting Law.

[4:30:33 PM](#)

XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED,

DEMAR DAHL, Chair

ATTEST:

MARILYN TIPTON, Deputy Clerk