

Reno and Sun Valley which may be represented from someone in the Reno area. John Carpenter stated west of Winnemucca currently was represented by Senator Gustavson who lives in Sun Valley. He suggested a Senatorial District Representative and two Assemblyman for the Elko, White Pine, Eureka, Lincoln, Humboldt and Pershing Counties. He requested they send letters of that recommendation to Judge Russell and send a copy to the Governor because rural representation would be diluted with the current proposal. He stated the attorney representing retaining the rural representation was Daniel Stewart from a ranching family in Lincoln County.

Janine Hansen, State President of the Nevada Eagle Forum, supported the protection of their rights to keep and bear arms. She had lobbied at the State Legislature and spoke upon the Second Amendment bills sponsored during the last legislature. Janine Hansen spoke upon the foreign countries that severely restrict firearms and spoke upon the importance of firearms for liberties and protection of those liberties.

Thomas Jefferson stated there was a Nevada Concealed Carry Law but suggested they follow the Vermont Law. He stated the Vermont Law referred to the Constitution and there was no prohibition of concealed carry at all. He hoped everyone would support Commissioner Russell's Second Amendment Proclamation and encouraged them to approve it.

Leslie Brown, POW-MIA Director for Elko, Nevada, presented a POW-MIA flag that had been flown at Washington, D.C. during the National 42nd annual meeting. He asked that they fly it at the front pole on Veterans' Day. Commissioner Myers accepted the flag on behalf of the County Commission.

Michael Smith stated he was from the mining community and supported Commissioner Russell on the Second Amendment Proclamation. He encouraged Nevada to pass the right to carry law similar to Vermont's Law. Commissioner Russell stated the Proclamation was supported by the board.

[1:49:20 PM](#)

Susan Elliott introduced herself as the Acting Forest Service District Ranger for the Jarbidge, Ruby Mountain Ranger District during Gar Abbas' absence. She stated her permanent position was as a forest geologist and mineral programs manager.

Marla Criss, Republican Party Chairman, stated it was in their By-Laws and in their platform to support the Constitution. They thanked the Commission for adopting the Proclamation.

Kay Dawn Jenkins, Independent American Party Treasurer, stated they support the efforts of Commissioner Russell and his stance with the Second Amendment and the right to carry.

Sheriff James Pitts voiced support of the Proclamation. He stated the Nevada Sheriff's and Chiefs Association had submitted written comments upon the concealed carry legislation to ATF and the Clark County Sheriff traveled to Washington D.C. to speak with Senators Heller and Reid to have the Brady exemption.

Sheriff James Pitts stated Len Van Natter was coming back to work, light duty, on Monday.

Dave Gregersen supported the Board and the Second Amendment Proclamation. He voiced support of the Board upon their opposition to road closures. He commented in the Ely area roads were being closed that had been there before he was born and he was 63 years old.

Assemblyman Ellison encouraged the Board to send letters to the Governor regarding the redistricting and rural representation. He and Commissioner Myers over fifteen years held a Second Amendment rights hearing at the Convention City when they sat upon the Elko City Council. Assemblyman Ellison stated the legislature had passed various bills regarding the right to carry, and sell of long guns to out-of-state people.

Commissioner Russell stated Commissioner Ellison had provided cake for the meeting participants on this occasion.

Grant Gerber stated during World War II England was the last to enter into the war because Americans had gathered their private guns and shipped them to the English people because their government had previously took their guns away.

Dennis Marsh, of the Northeastern Nevada Rifle and Pistol Association, stated their association supported the Commissioner's actions on the Second Amendment rights.

Commissioner Russell stated a miner by the name of John gave him the trophy that was displayed at the back and Dale at Elko Trophy had put a special plaque on it. He encouraged the meeting participants to view the trophy.

Lana Noland, Elko Tea Party, stated their party supported the Second Amendment Proclamation. She stated their party would like to see a "Constitution Day". Commissioner Russell stated the date had passed for 2011 but recommended they hold one in 2012.

Marvin Churchfield voiced support of the Board's action and spoke upon the turmoil of today due to the economic decline and the need for protection.

[2:02:36 PM](#)

II. ELKO COUNTY SECOND AMENDMENT RECOGNITION DAY:

Discussion and consideration of the approval of **Proclamation 2011-M** proclaiming October 19, 2011 as **Elko County Second Amendment**

Recognition Day to commemorate the principles of the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Commissioner Russell read the Proclamation into the record.

MOTION: Commissioner Russell moved to approve Proclamation 2011-M proclaiming October 19, 2011, as the Elko County Second Amendment Recognition Day to commemorate the principles of the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution as read. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[2:08:52 PM](#)

RECESS

Chairman Dahl called a brief recess for the participants to enjoy a piece of cake brought for the Second Amendment Day commemoration.

[2:26:42 PM](#)

RECONVENE

Chairman Dahl reconvened the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Commissioner Myers stated he had sat upon the Commission for 10 years and this was the first time their Sheriff openly supported the right to carry. He thanked the meeting participants on behalf of the Board for their statements in support of the Board's actions.

Assemblyman Ellison commented that Sheriff Pitts gathered support from the other counties in support of the AB 289 gun legislation.

[2:28:25 PM](#)

III. ELKO COUNTY ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AUTHORITY (ECEDA):

Discussion and consideration of current ECEDA activities and events.

Pamela Borda, ECEDA Director, gave a six month overview inclusive of their strategic planning effort, and implementation of their plan. She stated some of the major issues were to resolve the skilled workforce shortage, the housing shortage, retail leakage out of County and State, and economic diversification from dependency upon mining and gaming. She stated their goals were workforce development, marketing collateral, open source economic development, the entrepreneur program and establishing and targeting industries for each of the communities. Pamela Borda reviewed the statewide Dream It – Do It Program wherein they identify the current employer base needs and collaborate with the local schools to provide the needed curriculum that would provide skilled workers in the community. Pamela Borda stated the State selected Elko County as the main pilot program to be continued out into the other counties. Pamela Borda had been selected to sit upon the State Department of Education a statewide committee for revamping the curriculum to the local career needs. Pamela Borda stated they have developed a survey that would be going

to all the employers to identify a data base for the skills needed. She stated they had redesigned their website and it was available late in August to site selectors. She commented that Commissioner Myers had participated in one of their video interviews that they were gathering for a virtual tour of the county and each individual City. She stated the production company was in the process of editing those videos. They hoped to have the project completed and the videos on the website by the end of November. Pamela Borda stated they had also developed a resource guide that could be distributed to the local hotels and businesses. She reviewed the composition and duties of the lead development committee. Pamela Borda stated the entrepreneur committee had secured a grant for training to develop a plan for their program. She stated they would refine their target industries and top priorities for each city or area in the County. Pamela Borda reviewed the results from the economic impact study reporting 21.5 million dollars through the railport but since the report SAS Global had hired more employees. She stated NOV was currently under construction at the railport and they anticipate finishing their first phase of the facility in the spring. Pamela Borda reported the China Mountain Wind Project would bring 18.8 million dollars in tax revenue. The Ruby Pipeline would be a 7.5 million dollar impact. She stated Ormat Technologies had built a geothermal plant near Tuscarora. In Carlin, there was a major housing development seeking funding. She stated at the Carlin Industrial Park there were two companies going in, the North American Service Group and Ahern Rentals. Pamela Borda stated in the City of Elko the Marriott Extended Stay opened this summer. She stated JoAnn's opened six weeks ago and Ross Dress for Less and Famous Footwear will open next month. Pamela Borda stated multifamily housing projects were on the table but securing financing was an issue. In the City of Wells, the opening of the Long Canyon Mine will affect their growth. She stated a recycling company was looking to relocate to the Wells Industrial Park. Pamela Borda spoke upon the benefits of holding the National Summit of Mining Communities in April and the future IQ partners formed at that summit. She stated they have a proposal from them and would be seeking funding for that plan in the future. The plan included social networking with the County and all cities. Pamela Borda encouraged community support for economic development and impact from local coordination of their resources.

[2:50:28 PM](#)

IV. ELKO COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD:

Chairman Dahl called the Liquor Board to order at 2:50 p.m.

Discussion and consideration of approval of a Liquor License for Larry Elias Goicoechea doing business as the Lone Mountain Station located approximately 32 miles north of Elko, Nevada on the Mountain City Highway.

Sheriff James Pitts stated a background check had been performed and recommended approval of the Liquor License.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to approve a Liquor License for Larry Elias Goicoechea d/b/a the Lone Mountain Station. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[2:51:26 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT :

Liquor Chairman Dahl adjourned the Liquor Board at 2:51 p.m.

[2:51:47 PM](#)

V. WILDFIRE ISSUES AFFECTING ELKO COUNTY:

Discussion and consideration of issue related to wild land fires on public and private lands in Elko County including a potential future summit to review wild land fire frequency, size and management.

Elko County appreciates the dedicated service by federal, state and local fire response agencies and departments as well as the response by ranchers, miners and the local public during the recent wildland fires north and west of Carlin, Nevada. It was stated during the recent wildfire event that portions of the area burned had been burned 4 times in the past 18 years. Elko County may review and consider land management practices to address recurring wildland fire events.

Commissioner Dahl had attended the briefings with the BLM during the fires and was informed that the Izzehood Fire area had burned more than once. He suggested they figure out what had changed from the past to eliminate the big fires. He noted they have always had fires but the fires were now huge. Commissioner Dahl recommended they put a fire summit together and invite other counties to attend. He suggested that John Carpenter Chair the Fire Summit. Commissioner Russell supported the idea and chairman selection but stated the focus should not only be upon Elko County because the fire district was multicounty. Commissioner Myers stated they had previously spoken upon this several years ago and suggested they notify the public of that meeting date. He volunteered himself and Commissioner Guttry to aid John Carpenter with the organization of the Fire Summit. Commissioner Myers recommended they look at participation from the NDF and the fire management officers at the other agencies. He encouraged more grazing and more fuel management upon public lands. Commissioner Williams supported the summit and commented upon the impact the noxious weeds have upon reoccurring wildfires. Commissioner Guttry suggested holding the summit at the convention center. Commissioner Dahl suggested holding group meetings prior to the summit.

John Carpenter stated in the past they had fires but not as big as over the last few years. He accepted the chairmanship and solicited Commissioners Myers and Guttry's help to organize the summit. He requested secretarial aid. Commissioner Russell suggested they form a committee to look at budgeting for the fire summit next year. Commissioner Williams suggested bringing it before NRMAC. Commissioner Myers suggested the first half of day be NDOW informing them of the impacts to the animals, and NDF speak about rehab and fire suppression.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to appoint John Carpenter as our representative to Chair a possible Fire Summit in the future and that the County Manager look at what we have on County staff, including Commissioners, and select a couple of people to assist Mr. Carpenter on his endeavor. Commissioner Guttry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[3:05:49 PM](#)

**IX. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG):
2012 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG):**

In accordance with Notice 36-2011, conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of obtaining the views of citizens and staff regarding the types of projects to submit for a funding application to the **2012 Community Development Block Grant Program**. The County Commission may rank projects at this meeting to submit to the State CDBG Program.

Lynn Forsberg submitted a list of the proposed projects and noted one of the projects was not on the first listing. He stated the NDEP funding was no longer available for the Mountain City sewer pond lining and rehabilitation project. Lynn Forsberg commented the \$300,000 project was under mandate by the NDEP. Their second preference was the Montello water tank and SCADA. Lynn Forsberg stated Nevada Legal Services had submitted a project last week for senior citizen aid but they were unable to contact them for further information.

Commissioner Russell inquired about the Montello water project. Lynn Forsberg explained the existing tank needs repair inside and asked for the installation of a parallel tank to complete repairs on the existing tank. Commissioner Dahl asked which projects were upon the list because of non compliance. Lynn Forsberg stated the first two projects

Commissioner Myers inquired if there would ever be any funding available in the future for the Mountain City project. Lynn Forsberg doubted if there would be any future grant funds available and it was difficult for Mountain City to pay back a loan given their population. Commissioner Dahl inquired about Mountain City's compliance penalties. Lynn Forsberg stated they were facing fines if they don't try to comply. Commissioner Dahl inquired if the non compliance in

Montello was due to fire. Lynn Forsberg replied it was because of paint coming off inside of the tank. Commissioner Myers inquired about the amount of grant funding available. Lynn Forsberg assumed it was 1.2 million dollars, same as last year.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to select the Montello Water Tank & SCADA Project as first and then the Mountain City Project second. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Williams asked if the grant funding was declining. Lynn Forsberg replied yes, he stated the grants had to receive reauthorization from Congress.

The motion passed unanimously.

[3:15:57 PM](#)

VIII. ELKO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Statements of Qualifications:

Discussion and consideration of acceptance of engineering design statements of qualifications for public works projects.

- A. Montello Water System Tank Design and SCADA Controls
- B. Mountain City Wastewater System Improvement Design Phase I

Lynn Forsberg stated they have reviewed statements from both StanTec of Reno and Day Engineering in Ely. His recommendation was to award the project to Day Engineering because they were more accessible. Commissioner Guttry inquired if local consultants had submitted statements and received a negative response from Lynn Forsberg. Commissioner Myers inquired if Day Engineering could do both agenda items A & B and received an affirmative response.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved that as long as there was no legal issue under agenda item A Elko County Public Works Department; that for agenda items A. Montello Water System Tank Design and SCADA Controls and agenda item B. Mountain City Wastewater System Improvement Design Phase I; that we contract with Day Engineering. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion.

Lynn Forsberg stated Day Engineering did the preliminary engineering on the Mountain City project.

Commissioner Williams inquired if they could set a funding limit. Lynn Forsberg stated it was a set amount of grant funding and there was no negotiation.

The motion passed unanimously.

[3:22:12 PM](#)

VI. 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 FEIS / ROD including a facilitated meeting with the USFS.

Commissioner Dahl had spoken with Jeanne Higgins of the Forest Service about the proposed meeting. He stated the public had asked it to be held in the evening and Jeanne had agreed to that. He stated Eureka had requested that they participate in the meeting and Jeanne Higgins had agreed to Eureka's participation. He commented that Jeanne Higgins had sent a copy of her proposed agenda. He stated they have to schedule a meeting date between Elko County, Eureka County and the Forest Service. Commissioner Dahl stated they should review Jeanne Higgin's proposed agenda and send their comments back to Jeanne. He suggested the first item on the agenda be what Elko County's expectation was of the Forest Service annual review and what can Elko County do prior to the Record of Decision to insure they do not end up in the same situation as Eureka County with no annual review process post Record of Decision. He referred to the copy of a letter sent by Jake Tibbitts, of Eureka County, regarding their appeal of the Travel Management Plan and the annual review not being held over the past two years. Randy Brown had spoken to several people throughout the west who stated the Forest Service had not performed any reviews since these Record of Decisions were passed. He stated with regards to the cross country travel issue, the 2005 planning rule was based upon an arbitrary and capricious statement: "*because the four wheelers were getting bigger and more people were using them they should prohibit the use*". Commissioner Dahl noted Jeanne Higgins had suggested that be an agenda item for discussion.

Commissioner Dahl stated they had been repeatedly assured by Gar Abbas that any roads that were not in the system would be put on if it was brought forward by the Commission after the Record of Decision. However, in Eureka County's letter many of their roads were simply omitted and the Forest Service response was the roads were not on the Forest Service inventory and was not included in the proposed action. He noted the letter stated none of the 30 omitted roads were included. Commissioner Dahl commented Eureka County's letter stated that the roads closed because the Forest Service thought them to be redundant were roads that were used during the 1890's and documented through historic plat maps. He noted the letter stated those roads were heavily used in 2009. Commissioner Dahl commented that Jake Tibbitts had written that none of Eureka County's comments had resulted in a change to the Record of Decision. He believed they need to have the inclusion of public comment. Randy Brown stated the County had requested a comprehensive

inventory of the roads and had asked what happened to the roads that were omitted from the maps. He stated if the County could not get the Forest Service to do an annual review within a couple of years then nature would reclaim those roads. Commissioner Dahl expressed concern that the Forest Service had re-designated the RS 2477 roads and they need to discuss how to address that issue and roads joining other roads. He stated Jeanne Higgins had put roads crossing private property as a proposed item for discussion on the agenda.

Commissioner Dahl suggested they discuss enforcement actions and what would the penalties be. Randy Brown understood they had already written citations for being upon roads that were not marked in the Ely area. Commissioner Dahl stated there was also the issue of marking the roads "open" and not "closed" and where was the budget for marking the roads open rather than marking them closed. He stated there was an issue of where the authority was that directs the Forest Service to close roads and eliminate cross country travel.

Commissioner Guttry noted the County's socio economic study was not included in the EIS.

Commissioner Dahl stated the Elko County Natural Resource Plan was not considered within the EIS. Randy Brown believed they had applied only portions of their plan. He stated they did not consider the 86 pages of public comments that were submitted to them; the Lemmings Plan was not considered; nor was the Dr. Harris studies considered. He could not find an economical review within the Forest Service EIS.

Commissioner Williams inquired if it was to be an annual review or a review every two years. Randy Brown commented the Forest Service Manual stated it was an annual review. Commissioner Williams suggested that RAC discuss this. Randy Brown stated the Travel Management Rule was dictating this. Commissioner Dahl noted Ed Monnig had written the plan would be reviewed annually but it had not been reopened. Randy Brown stated in Washoe County they had not reopened the plan for two years and it has been four years at Tahoe. He stated the Forest Service was using the excuses that it was a budget issue or a lack of staff issue to reject requests for review.

Commissioner Myers requested a definition of what "cross country travel" was from the Forest Service. He stated the omitted road determination was important as well as a comprehensive road inventory, the status of RS 2477 roads, BLM and Forest Service Roads, determination of what was cross country travel, and a collaborative review dates between the agencies.

Commissioner Myers stated they should discuss enforcement actions and when the maps would be available.

Commissioner Myers stated after reading Jake Tibbitts letter he was in favor of Eureka County's participation. Randy Brown stated Eureka County had gone through the economic impacts from their Record of Decision.

Commissioner Myers stated holding an Elko County workshop was imperative because each Commissioner had a different thought pattern and should be coordinated before going into the Forest Service meeting.

Randy Brown had draft a list of their discussed issues.

Commissioner Myers stated the chronological that had been updated from the beginning of the process and they should send a copy to Eureka County. He stated there may be some parallels that should be discussed with Eureka.

Commissioner Dahl stated Nye, Lander, and Mineral Counties also wanted to participate. Commissioner Myers stated originally the Board had talked about having a multi county summit with the Forest Service.

Commissioner Dahl commented that the "no action" alternative should also be discussed. Commissioner Myers suggested they write the agenda. Commissioner Dahl stated they would include Jeanne Higgins agenda items.

Commissioner Williams suggested a copy of the chronological be sent to Jeanne Higgins to give her some of the history of what has happened. Commissioner Dahl suggested sending it to Senators Amodei and Heller. Commissioner Guttry requested they total how many public service announcements were put out to the public, how many times it was upon the Commissioners' agenda, how many times they actually met with the Forest Service (Randy Brown, Commissioner Dahl and Robert Stokes) and how many times the County held public meetings and put the totals at the end of the document. He commented upon how many times the Commission had attempted to gather information from the Forest Service.

Commissioner Russell noted the Forest Service went through a specific process and then gave all the authority to their District Rangers to make the Record of Decision. He stated the District Ranger made the decision about the roads and those decisions may be arbitrary. Commissioner Russell stated science may have been used but the bottom line was the Ranger still makes the decisions. He stated the Forest Service was a top-down organization in general principles and the overlay for the Travel Management Plan was throughout all the forests regardless of circumstances. He stated the plan was not individual toward a particular region, the regions needs, or geographical/environmental differences. He stated the plan was not logical.

Commissioner Myers stated when they were making headway with the Forest Service they sent Tom Montoya away for four months and now Gar Abbas would be gone for three months.

Randy Brown had spoken to the Ely District Ranger who told him the District Ranger did have authority to make some decisions upon which roads were open and closed but certain specific items were addressed through CFR 36, Part 212 that they cannot deviate from. Randy Brown suggested the County challenge the Rule rather than challenging the Ranger. Commissioner Dahl inquired if the Rule addressed cross country travel. Randy Brown commented the Rule was based upon an arbitrary and capricious statement "because they were becoming bigger and more powerful we cannot have them off the road". Commissioner Dahl questioned why Gar Abbas allowed ½ mile off the road for elk yet they cannot go cross country. Randy Brown replied because of the threats of lawsuits from people such as Western Watersheds. He stated there was no evidence that it was detrimental to the environment and New Mexico and Arizona there were legal challenges. Randy Brown stated if an ATV club stated they would not destroy or harm any environment then the group would have to do a full blown EIS to show no damage. He noted the Forest Service had circumvented the NEPA by stating no ATV off road because it caused damage. He questioned if the federal agency was exempt from the NEPA requirements.

Commissioner Guttry noted Jeanne Higgins had stated at their last meeting the District Rangers did not have any discretion to eliminate cross country travel. He understood from Jeanne Higgins comments that one of the fundamental expectations was to eliminate cross country travel. He noted that in Arizona and New Mexico they can do cross country travel so that statement was incorrect. He suggested they submit a proposed agenda to Jeanne Higgins to see what she could not talk about because they were not negotiable. Commissioner Guttry suggested they draft the agenda at the workshop. Commissioner Dahl inquired if they were going to have a workshop before the Forest Service meeting. He stated they need to tentatively schedule a meeting date with the Forest Service. Commissioner Dahl stated there would be no subcommittee oversight hearing this year but both Senators Heller and Reid would be invited to have representatives at the meeting.

[4:01:51 PM](#)

Grant Gerber suggested that the alternative No 1 ("no action" alternative) should be considered. Randy Brown stated it was in their planning rule and according to CFR 36 Part 212 it must be adhered to. Grant Gerber suggested alternative 1 could be the preferred alternative if the Ranger agreed.

Grant Gerber suggested that "fire" be included upon that agenda. He commented upon the impact closed roads would have upon fire suppression activities. He noted the recent fires had threatened two towns which was a health and safety issue. Grant Gerber reported by September 29th over 104,000 acres had been burned and by October 5th an additional 281,000 acres burned.

He stated after two days more acreage was reported so they have now reached 500,000 acres this year statewide.

Commissioner Russell inquired if NEPA required review of all alternatives. Grant Gerber replied yes and NEPA overrides the Forest Service internal decisions. He believed they were violating the Congressional mandate by having an executive making these rules and ignoring the Congressional action. He believed they should have the violation of NEPA upon the agenda for discussion.

[4:07:38 PM](#)

Assemblyman John Ellison suggested someone from the Board be on the legislative public lands agenda and give them updates. Commissioner Dahl stated he would testify on the 4th of November.

Commissioner Myers commented upon the negative economic impact throughout the State due to the closure of roads. He stated there would be a reduction in hunting and recreation with road closures.

Assemblyman Ellison suggested they present this to every County.

Jim Collins asked if they could get waivers from the Forest Service regulations. Commissioner Dahl stated they could ask.

[4:09:46 PM](#)

VII. ELKO COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (NRMAC):

Discussion and consideration of comments to the USFS regarding maintenance, improvements and enhancements of water developments on the forest to maintain healthy viable landscapes and multiple public land uses.

Randy Brown, NRMAC Director, stated the Forest Service felt they should have water rights in their name if they put money into water improvements. He stated the Forest Service was asking the allotment owners to relinquish their water rights to them. Commissioner Dahl commented this was addressed before with the BLM and it went to the Supreme Court. Randy Brown suggested they write a letter to the State Water Engineer.

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved to authorize staff to develop and send a letter stating the Elko County's position on water development and maintaining a healthy forest. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[4:13:53 PM](#)

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.

Randy Brown had sent a letter to the State Water Engineer requesting secondary or deep water pumping in Spring Valley for monitoring purposes on Elko County and White Pine County surfaces and subsurface flows. He had sent a letter of protest to the BLM stating the County did not agree with pumping water from Northern Nevada to Southern Nevada because there were other alternatives.

Randy Brown had attended the last Central Nevada Regional Water Authority meetings last Thursday and Friday. Commissioner Dahl stated Mike Dunbar was present and spoke upon desalination. Commissioner Russell stated desalination was very viable and would cost less. He stated an environmentalist issue was resolved by Australia developing technology for disbursement of the saline water into the ocean. He noted the California Coastal Commission was addressing it as California was moving forward with desalination. Commissioner Russell stated Mexico was doing desalination just south of San Diego. Commissioner Dahl stated the SNWA pipeline was to be four billion dollars but the figures they heard on Friday was 15.5 billion dollars. He noted the people at Laguna Beach stated for 2 billion dollars they could desalinate enough water to trade 500,000 acre feet to Las Vegas out of the Colorado River. He noted that Las Vegas already was drawing water from the Colorado.

[4:18:35 PM](#)

XI. EL PASO GAS CORPORATION/ RUBY PIPELINE PROJECT

Discussion and consideration of issues related to the Ruby Pipeline Project including possible discussion with Company representatives regarding the agreement to fund the removal of grazing leases, other public land issues.

Commissioner Dahl stated a Western Legacy Alliance representative was in Washington D.C. last week testifying on the Equal Access to Justice Act. He stated the amendment proposed by Senator Barrasso and Congressman Lummis was to get the Equal Access to Justice Act back to the original intent and not allow the 501 C3 organizations to file a suit against the federal government to be reimbursed for legal fees whether they win or lose.

Commissioner Williams commented that El Paso had sold.

[4:20:38 PM](#)

XII. COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR:

November 2 & 3, 2011 -- Elko – Nannini Admin Bldg, Suite 102

December 7 & 8, 2011 -- Elko – Nannini Admin Bldg, Suite 102

January 4 & 5, 2012 -- Elko – Nannini Admin Bldg, Suite 102

Commissioner Dahl inquired if there were any problems with those dates and did not receive a negative reply.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Presentation and review of claims for approval.

ELKO COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER 19, 2011

PAGE 14

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

Commissioner Williams stated he would be absent for two consecutive meetings for a trip to Australia in January.

[4:22:29 PM](#)

XIV. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY STAFF COMMENTS:

Commissioner Guttry stated there would be a teleconference for the UNR Fire Science Academy strategic committee on Friday. He stated at Washington D.C. there was testimony from the Fire Science Academy alumni from Greensboro, North Carolina. He had traveled with representatives from the college and the academy met with Shelly Berkley's staff. He stated they had support from Senator Mark Amodei, Senator Dean Heller, and Joe Hecht's staff. He stated Senator Reid was not supportive.

Commissioner Williams suggested they recognize Jeanette Hammons. Robert Stokes stated they would recognize her at the next meeting.

Commissioner Myers stated Veterans' Day Parade was upon the 11th of November and requested Commission involvement. He gave an overview of the people involved with the organization of the parade and some of the planning for the event. Commissioner Russell inquired about a County float. Commissioner Myers replied yes and the Veterans could ride on the County float.

Commissioner Russell thanked the Board members for support of the Second Amendment Proclamation. Commissioner Guttry commented that the City of Fallon supported it also. Commissioner Williams noted Janet Reno actually did make those statements.

[4:29:02 PM](#)

XV. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

No comments were submitted from the public.

[4:29:20 PM](#)

XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

APPROVED,

DEMAR DAHL, Chair

ATTEST:

MARILYN TIPTON, Deputy Clerk