

Monday, May 3, 2010

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners was called to order on Monday, May 3, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in the regular place of meeting at the Courthouse, Winnemucca, Nevada. Those present were Chairman Chuck Giordano, Commissioners Garley Amos Jr., Dan Cassinelli, Tom Fransway and Mike Bell, District Attorney Russell Smith and/or Deputy District Attorney Angie Elquist, Administrator Bill Deist and Clerk of the Board Tami Rae Spero.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES - APRIL 19, 2010

REGULAR MEETING: Corrections offered by Commissioner Fransway. The following motion was made by Commissioner Amos and passed unanimously:

To approve minutes of the April 19, 2010, meeting with corrections offered by Commissioner Fransway.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Giordano asked for public comment. Commissioner Fransway stated that he had received a call from a constituent regarding the odor in the community. Administrator Deist agreed to look into it. No further public comment offered.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

CONSENT AGENDA: The following items were presented under the consent agenda by Administrator Deist for the Board's review/action:

1. **Request for Adjustments to the Humboldt County Real Property Tax Roll:** Requests 09-10-31 through 09-10-37 were provided for the Board's review. *Recommendation: That the Commission approve the adjustments as recommended by the Assessor and the Treasurer.*

The following motion was made by Commissioner Bell and passed unanimously:

To approve adjustments as recommended by the Assessor and Treasurer and to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

SOLID WASTE MATTERS: Administrator Deist stated that he had nothing on this item.

PUBLIC LANDS PLANNING MATTERS & FORMULATION OF COUNTY POSITION ON BLM, FOREST SERVICE AND THE FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSED

ACTIONS: Administrator Deist stated that he had nothing on this item.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

OTHER INFORMATION AND UPCOMING MEETINGS: Administrator Deist updated the Board on the activities in Water Canyon regarding the BLM's plan to realign the road in the area with the County's assistance, to amend their plan to allow OHV in zone 1 and to post speed limits for both OHV and vehicles.

Administrator Deist noted that the property owners of the nuisance complaint at 4370 Sunny Drive had contacted the Clerk's Office and stated that clean up was ongoing so the item would be on the next Commission agenda for review. Upcoming meetings and dates of importance were reviewed.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS REGARDING OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

THEY SERVE ON: Commission Fransway discussed the College of Agriculture Biotechnology & Natural Resources (CABNR) meeting he had attended relative to the potential closure of the College of AG and requested that an item be placed on the next agenda for an update. Administrator Deist reported on the meeting he had attended regarding net proceeds.

CLAIMS FOR EXPENDITURES OF COUNTY FUNDS: The following motion was made by Commissioner Bell and passed unanimously:

To approve the claims for expenditures of County funds.

APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH SWENDSEID & STERN REGARDING IRS AUDIT OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NEVADA \$49,750,000 POLLUTION CONTROL REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS (SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY PROJECTS) SERIES 2006:

Contained in the Boards packet was a copy of the letter from Swendseid & Stern stating the representation provided for Humboldt County regarding this issue. Comptroller Brooks explained the planned audit by the Internal Revenue Service and the bonds and the County's involvement with them; he noted that all costs for this audit will be borne by Sierra Pacific. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Amos and passed unanimously:

To approve this agreement, approve the engagement letter with Swendseid and Stern regarding IRS audit of Humboldt County, Nevada \$49,750,000 pollution control refunding revenue bonds Sierra Pacific Company Projects.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION RELATED TO RETURN OF SALE FROM THE RECENT TREASURER'S TAX SALE:

A copy of the proposed resolution was provided to the Board for review. Treasurer Gina Rackley appeared before the Board. Treasurer Rackley reported on the auction, the sales, the amount which the county gets to keep and explained the process relative to the excess proceeds. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Cassinelli and passed unanimously:

To adopt the resolution of the recent Treasurer's tax sale.

(Resolution No. 05-03-10)

REQUESTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

AD/WELCOME LETTER FOR THE NEVADA STATE FIRE CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN

WINNEMUCCA JUNE 23 - 26, 2010: Doug Cain a member of the Winnemucca City Fire Department spoke in support of the request. Discussion occurred regarding the cost of the ad. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Fransway and passed unanimously:

To approve the welcome letter to the State Fire Convention and any funding necessary to do that and the estimate is \$50.00.

\$1,000 GRANT FOR THE NEVADA ALL-AROUND WORKING COWHORSE CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD IN WINNEMUCCA, JULY 30 - AUGUST 1, 2010: A letter of request was provided to the Board for review. Administrator Deist noted that the Commission has provided grant funding to this event for the last two to three years. Commissioner Amos asked if the group had approached the WCVA for funding. Commissioner Cassinelli stated that he did not think so. Administrator Deist noted that in the past it has been indicated that funding has not been provided by the WCVA as the event attracts more locals then out of town guests. The following motion was made by Commissioner Cassinelli:

To award the \$1,000.00 grant to the Nevada All-Around Working Cowhorse Championship.

Commissioner Fransway commented on the event participation being from all over the west; he asked that a part of the motion be that next year WCVA consider supporting this event. Commissioner Cassinelli stated that he would not change his motion, that if the group wanted to go to the WCVA they could; he continued noting that in the past he believed the request had been turned down because it did not bring in enough money but noted the usage of the RV park and showers at the complex and the revenue generated by that; he stated that he would bring the matter up at the next WCVA meeting and report back to the Commission. Chairman Giordano called the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

\$3,500 GRANT FOR THE HUMBOLDT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WINNEMUCCA FUTURES: Pat Gray, Chairman of the Humboldt Development Authority (HDA), appeared before the Board and spoke in support of the request noting the presentation at the April 19, 2010, County Commission Meeting; he updated the Commission about the project including the approval of the WCVA for a \$3,500.00 grant, the creation of a steering committee and the commitment to the project. Commissioner Fransway stated that at the April 19th meeting he had noted the County's continued commitment to the HDA at budget time and reiterated that the amount being requested should come from HDA. Commission Bell commented on the amount being requested being minimal and that this is more about showing the Commission is on board with the project and that the Commission can support it with a contribution and that it is a worthwhile cause. Commissioner Fransway commented that the Commission does support HDA with the contribution that is made every fiscal year and not contributing the additional funds does not dilute that support. Mr. Gray

reviewed the contributions of HDA and other participants. Discussion occurred regarding the need to follow through with the project. Commissioners Cassinelli and Amos voice their support for the project. The following motion was made by Commissioner Bell and passed with Chairman Giordano and Commissioners Amos, Cassinelli and Bell voting aye and Commissioner Fransway voting nay:

To approve \$3,500.00 grant for the Humboldt Development Authority Winnemucca Futures.

REVIEW OF PROPOSAL FOR UPDATE OF QUINN RIVER TV DISTRICT AND DIRECTIONS

ON HOW TO PROCEED: A memo entitled Recommendations for Quinn River TV District 4/2010 with diagram had been provided by the TV/Communications Director for the Board's review (see attached). TV/Communications Director Paul Burkholder appeared before the Board. Director Burkholder reviewed the memo for the Board and discussed the current status of the McDermitt channels, the option of making those channels work or allowing them to go away, what may work with the channels which come in from Boise, issues with the High Peak location, the recommendation if there are viable channels, the need to convert to digital and the estimated costs. Discussion occurred regarding the need to make sure of the benefit of spending the dollars, the need to review the equipment at High Peak to make sure there are viable channels, the continued availability of free over the air television, the possibility of a community meeting to determine what the district residents want, the amount of money currently in the Quinn River TV District fund, the availability of grant funds and the possibility of obtaining assistance from the Assessor's Office for determining the number of antennas versus satellite dishes in the district. Public comment was received from audience member Mel Hummel regarding the issue. The Board directed Director Burkholder to determine what is viable at High Peak and bring that information back to the Board.

PLANNING MATTERS: Betty Lawrence, Senior Planning Technician for the Planning Department, appeared before the Board.

LP-10-04 - Final map approval for division of land into large parcels submitted by Desert Mountain Surveying on behalf of CBD Development Group of Northern Nevada, LLC to divide property into 15 lots of approximately 14 @ 40 acres each; 1 @ 81.23 acres. Property is located approximately 8 +/- miles northwest of Pronto; Section 11, T36N, R33E, MDB&M, APN #05-331-11; Provided to the Board for review were copies of the Planning Department Memorandum and Report recommending approval and maps of the area. Dave Louk of Desert Mountain Surveying was present on behalf of the applicant. Mrs. Lawrence reviewed the application and recommended approval noting the inclusion of the access jurat. The following motion was made by Commissioner Bell and passed unanimously:

To approve LP-10-04 final map as recommended by staff.

Deputy District Attorney Elquist departed the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

REQUEST FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY TO PICK UP THE VICTIMS WITNESS ADVOCATE POSITION AS A PART-TIME POSITION: District Attorney Russell Smith and Office Manager Nancy Jurad appeared before the Board. District Attorney Smith spoke in support of taking the current part-time position in his office which assists the Public Administrator to a full-time position to cover the duties of the Victims/Witness Advocate position; he reviewed the additional cost related to salary for the grade 15 position. Administrator Deist voiced his concern with reducing the grade assigned to the Victims/Witness advocate position from 21 to 15 and questioned whether that would be a violation of either the employees contract or County policy; he requested that the District Attorney work with Brenda Willey in the Administrator's Office to make that determination. Discussion occurred regarding the concerns. District Attorney Smith noted that he believed the grade for the original position was determined by the amount of funding available for the position in the grant; he stated he would take a look at the issue and bring the matter back again.

District Attorney Smith remained in the meeting.

ROAD MATTERS: Administrator Deist stated that the Road Superintendent was not in attendance due to a family issue.

REPORT OF PENDING ROAD DEPARTMENT PROJECTS: Administrator Deist stated that application of mag chloride had begun in the Kings River area.

MISCELLANEOUS ROAD RELATED MATTERS: Commissioner Cassinelli indicated that he had been contacted by Dennis Acorda regarding Pasquale and Richards Roads in the Richards subdivision and Mr. Acorda had asked if gravel were placed on the roads could they come into the County Maintained System. Administrator Deist stated that he would have the Road Superintendent contact Mr. Acorda when he got back into the office. Discussion occurred regarding the status of the Shelton Lane fencing project. Commissioner Amos commented on issues with drainage at the intersection of East Thomas Canyon Road and Grass Valley Road and noted it could be a public safety issue.

Deputy District Attorney Elquist returned to the meeting and District Attorney Smith departed.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH WORK FOR THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: A copy of the proposed agreement was provided to the Board for review. Assessor Jeff Johnson appeared before the Board. Assessor Johnson spoke in support of the request noting issues which had occurred with the previous aerial photograph work and the option for a refund or re-fly, the decision to have the re-fly done with additional

parcels being added which weren't picked up the first time and the cost. Discussion occurred regarding the length of the contract, the cost and the benefits of the project. Commissioner Fransway asked that the language in the agreement be corrected to make the time frame of the contract and the associated cost more clear. Assessor Johnson agreed. The following motion was made by Commissioner Fransway and passed unanimously:

To approve the contract extension with Pictometry International Corp for an additional two years not to exceed \$23,825.00.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION HONOR IN MEMORY OF FORMER HUMBOLDT COUNTY

SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER DIRECTOR DEE LARIOS: Jim Kinney and Joe Gough of the Senior Citizens' Board appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Amos suggested that it would behoove the Commission to acknowledge what Dee Larios had done for the Senior Citizens' Center and the community. Mr. Kinney spoke in support of Commissioner Amos' suggestion and offered some additional suggestions such as the naming of a new senior housing facility near the Center the "Dee Larios Senior Complex", a plaque and/or a rose bush. Commission Fransway asked that a resolution be drafted in her honor in addition to any other honors. Discussion occurred regarding Mrs. Larios contributions including the senior transportation program. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Fransway and passed unanimously:

That the Commission draft a resolution in honor of Dee Larios' contributions to the Senior Center and work with the Senior Center Board to come up with a plaque type of honor in her name.

Mr. Gough addressed the Board with a request that the Commission furnish a flag for the Veterans Memorial Park as it is a county park. Chairman Giordano asked that the item be placed on a future agenda for discussion and action.

REQUEST TO DONATE PROPERTY TO HUMBOLDT COUNTY BY GLORIA BROWN FOR USE BY THE WINNEMUCCA RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A copy of a letter from William Macdonald on behalf of Gloria Brown and the Winnemucca Rural Fire District to the Board of Commissioners was provided to the Board for review (see attached). Bill Macdonald, Gloria Germain Brown, Winnemucca Rural Fire Chief Ron Schrempp and Winnemucca Rural Fire District Board of Director Walt Curtis appeared before the Board. Mr. Macdonald introduced Mrs. Brown to the Board and detailed her family history in the community and stated her intent to contribute to the citizens of Winnemucca and all of Humboldt County her property located at 48 East Fourth Street and Baud Street adjacent to the Winnemucca Rural Fire District

Station; he continued stating that her gift will be to Humboldt County for public purposes as may be determined or dedicated by the Board of County Commissioners honoring and in the memory of the Merwyn H. Brown and Gloria Germain Brown families. Mrs. Brown presented the deed to the property to Chairman Giordano. (*Deputy District Attorney Elquist left the meeting at 11:33 a.m.; no legal counsel present*) Fire Chief Schrempp introduced the members of the Fire Department present at the meeting and requested that the Fire Department be allowed to use the property and thanked Mrs. Brown for her donation. After the presentation and discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Fransway and passed unanimously:

That the Humboldt County Commission accept the gracious donation of the building at the corner of Baud and Fourth Street in the name of the Brown and Germain families and that we anticipate the use by the Winnemucca Rural Fire Department for improvements to the District.

Recess for lunch at 11:40 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

District Attorney Smith present for the next item.

REVIEW OF INITIATIVE PETITION PROPOSING TO AMEND THE SOLID WASTE CODE AND DECISION TO SET TO PUBLIC HEARING AND ALLOW IT TO GO TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS IN NOVEMBER:

A copy of the Petition Certificate of Results, a copy of the Initiative Petition language, a copy of a letter from John Frankovich of McDonald-Carano-Wilson representing Jungo Land and Investment Inc. regarding the consideration of initiative petition proposing amendment to Humboldt County Solid Waste Code and a copy of a letter of response to John Frankovich's letter from the Petition Committee were provided to the Board for review. Richard Cook, a Petition Committee member appeared before the Board at the request of the Chairman. Mr. Cook offered comment regarding the selection of the landfill site, response to Mr. Frankovich's letter, the makeup of the petition, issues with the landfill related to the technology used, the proposed economic impact, the responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners with regards to the issue, the need for an environmental impact study regarding the project and the ability and authority of the Commission to find that the purpose of the petition is to protect the health and safety of the public from toxins and environmental harm. Chairman Giordano noted the information received by the Commission and requested that the District Attorney Smith explain the process of the initiative. District Attorney Smith discussed the statutory language related to the initiative petition and explained what actions the Commission could take regarding the petition as set forth in statute. Chairman Giordano asked for the District Attorney's recommendation. District Attorney Smith

recommended that the Commission allow the voters to speak; he noted the legal actions pending and suggested, rather than having this body take another action, that the voters be allowed to speak; he continued stating that POOL/PACT has appointed representation for the County in the legal matters and that an e-mail had been received from the attorney assigned requesting that the issue be placed on the ballot and District Attorney Smith stated his agreement with that request. Commissioners Bell, Cassinelli and Amos concurred. Commissioner Fransway commented on the petitioner's committee actions and stated his belief that if the Commission intervened it would be unfair to them and the voters of the County so the Commission needs to let it run its course and see what happens in November. Chairman Giordano and Commissioner Bell agreed. Chairman Giordano stated that this was not a public hearing but that he had wanted to hear from a representative from the committee. The following motion was made by Commissioner Amos and passed unanimously:

That after review of the initiative petition proposing to amend the Solid Waste Code not to set to public hearing and allow it to go to a vote of the registered voters in November.

Chairman Giordano stated that public comment would be accepted now prior to the Commission traveling to Memory Lane.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Giordano asked for public comment. Mike Meagher addressed the Board regarding the requested resignation of the Regional Planning Commission and the request that the Board of Commissioners request a recall of the Regional Planning Commission. Chairman Giordano stated that was not a request the Commission could respond to. Paul Bendell expressed his thanks to the Board for their actions regarding the petition. No further public comment.

THE COMMISSION WILL GO TO MEMORY LANE TO VIEW THE SITE IN RELATION TO A REQUEST FROM CLEVE AND DELORES MALLORY FOR AN ABANDONMENT OF A 731.2 FOOT PORTION OF MEMORY LANE, A 30 FOOT EASEMENT, LYING NORTH OF BRUCE DRIVE, NEXT TO AND WITHIN THE EASTERLY BORDER OF ASSESSOR'S PARCEL #006-621-

26 AND #006-621-27: Chairman Giordano read the title of the item and stated that the Board would reconvene at the site. The Board reconvened at the site of the proposed abandonment at 2:16 p.m. Present were Chairman Chuck Giordano, Commissioners Garley Amos, Dan Cassinelli, Tom Fransway and Mike Bell, Administrator Bill Deist, Clerk Tami Rae Spero, applicants Cleve and Delores Mallory, property owner Fred Fosbinder and NV Energy representative Bob Rice. Mrs. Mallory indicated the site proposed for abandonment. Mr. Mallory offered that if Mr. Fosbinder put in the road within 30 days he would withdraw the request for abandonment. Mr. Fosbinder stated his intention to put in the road but would not agree to the

30 day time frame. Discussion occurred regarding the location of the easement, the promises made by the developer, Mr. Delaney, to create access through Norma Drive, Mr. Mallory's placing gravel on Memory Lane at his own expense and his plan to remove the gravel and place it in another location, what the County can do regarding the issue, what the developer should have done, the location of the guy wires, access used via the road crossing BLM property, the cost to move the guy wire, Mr. Fosbinder's plans for the area and his opposition to the abandonment. Mr. Rice discussed the utility easement as to location, what could be done regarding the guy wires, the cost for the options and access. Chairman Giordano asked that the matter be placed on the next agenda for continued discussion and possible action.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Giordano adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

ATTESTED: *[Signature]*

Clerk

APPROVED: *[Signature]*

Chairman

UNOFFICIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONERS
FROM: ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: April 28, 2010
SUBJECT: CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: Approval of the consent agenda is requested pursuant to the following staff recommendations:

1. Request for Adjustments to the Humboldt County Real Property Tax Roll: Attached are requests 09-10-31 through 09-10-37 for your review.

Recommendation: That the Commission approve the adjustments as recommended by the Assessor and Treasurer.

MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: April 12, 2010

SUBJECT: OTHER INFORMATION AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Update on activities in Water Canyon: The BLM Winnemucca District Manager has advised me that they will be taking the following actions in the Canyon: 1) they will, with our assistance, be realigning the road in the area where several vehicle accidents have occurred and will be placing guard rail on the corner also; 2) they will be amending the plan to allow OHV in zone 1; 3) they will also be posting speed limits for both OHV and vehicles.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. May 5, 2010 | Management Team |
| 2. May 7, 2010 | Insurance Committee |
| 3. May 7, 2010 | Negotiations with HCEA |
| 4. May 12, 2010 | Negotiations with HCLEA |
| 5. May 12, 2010 | Negotiations with HCEA |
| 6. May 17, 2010 | Commission |
| 7. May 17, 2010 | Open Meeting Law Workshop |

Recommendations for Quinn River TV District 4/2010:

System Description:

The Quinn River TV District has TV and FM radio equipment located at three sites (see attached System Diagram). The equipment at High Peak receives signals from Boise stations and rebroadcasts them to the McDermitt area. Equipment at Eagle Creek receives signals from High Peak and Double H for rebroadcast into Orovada. Equipment at Double H gets signals from Winnemucca Mtn and rebroadcasts them into the Kings River Valley, Upper Desert Valley, and the Orovada area. All three sites are on BLM land.

Present Issues:

Viewers in these areas have complained that some channels are not viewable or have poor picture quality for long periods of time, often weeks or longer. At this time, none of the three channels licensed at Double H are viewable and two of the Eagle Creek channels are off or not watch-able. Other channels have good pictures that sometimes freeze or break-up with occasional audio dropout. I am not aware of any FM radio reception problems.

Besides TV reception issues, the District has other problems that should be dealt with. Four TV channels are being operated (and another is licensed) on frequencies the FCC has allocated to other uses and all of the TV channels are still being rebroadcast in analog form. These are not violations yet, but the FCC could mandate changes or require them to cease operation at any time, and certainly the four out-of-core channels will not be allowed to operate past their license renewal date of October, 2014. Viewers, even in rural areas, expect digital signals will be available for their new televisions.

Also, all three sites need building repair or replacement and other site work. A considerable amount of unused equipment and garbage should be removed from each location.

Resources:

The District has just over \$119,000 available cash. Revenue for the last few years has averaged about \$14,000 a year, which appears to come entirely from a \$34 per residence annual TV tax. FIND AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENSES.

The Federal Government, through the NTIA, is presently offering grants to TV translator license holders in rural areas. These grants are reimbursements for the cost of equipment used to convert analog translators to digital operation. This program does not have an official end date, but it is widely believed that it will not last past this calendar year.

Larry Smith, presently the Chief Engineer of KAID, the Boise PBS station, has provided engineering and technical assistance to the District for many years and may be willing to provide future assistance.

Recommendations:

1. High Peak - All of the Boise primary stations' signals are digital. When the quality of a digital TV signal is above a certain level, the equipment used to process and rebroadcast the signal works very well. If the signal quality is right at the needed level, the picture may occasionally freeze or become blocky and the audio may skip or drop out. If the quality of the received signal drops even a little bit more, the picture goes away completely. Only signals that are consistently good should be used as input signals for TV translators. Otherwise viewers will be frustrated by intermittent outages and technicians will be going to the site to fix problems that can't be fixed. Due to distance, terrain, differences in frequency, and differences in radiated power, the signal quality received at High Peak varies from station to station and from day to day. Stations that cannot be received reliably at High Peak need to be identified and dropped from the system. If no stations appear to be consistently viable, we should abandon High Peak and look at other options as a source for TV signals in the McDermitt area.

Displacement applications should be made to move all reliably viable out-of-core channels (channels 52 and above) to the core. Flashcut applications should be made for all the viable High Peak channels to convert them directly to digital operation. Ideally, a "companion" digital channel would operate simultaneously with an analog translator for some period while viewers migrated from analog to digital viewing, but space and electrical limitations at High Peak and the District's financial limitations preclude this.

Very little of the existing electronic equipment would be usable for digital broadcast. Equipment, antennas, and support structures that are not needed should be removed from the site.

Once FCC Construction Permits have been granted (or we can be very sure they will be granted), translators that are capable of digital operation should be purchased as well as antennas, transmission line, and other ancillary equipment as needed. This equipment should be installed and made operational promptly and viewers in the McDermitt area should be notified by appropriate means that analog TV broadcasts have ceased and only digital signals are available. Applications for FCC licenses for these stations should be filed at this time.

Applications for NTIA grants cannot be made until stations are operational and Licenses are granted. CONFIRM THIS

2. Double H - Two digital channels from Winnemucca Mountain are currently receivable at Double H: KOLO (ABC) and KNPB (PBS). KOLO has two program streams (ABC network on 8.1 and Universal Sports on 8.2) and KNPB has three program streams (PBS network on 5.1, Create TV on 5.2, and Spanish Language PBS on 5.3).

Applications should be made to acquire the channels needed (through displacement/flashcut and new applications) to rebroadcast these stations digitally, with the antenna patterns and transmit power needed to cover Kings River Valley, upper Desert Valley, and Orovada areas. This would give viewers in these areas the equivalent of five digital TV channels.

Next to none of the existing equipment at Double H will be usable on the new channels with digital modulation. This surplus equipment should be removed. Also, the existing District buildings are small with poor lighting and are in need of repair. Humboldt County has a larger building at the site that is better suited as a communications facility. We should consider removing all of the old Quinn River stuff (buildings, antenna support structures, etc) and installing any new equipment in Humboldt County's building and mounting antennas on Humboldt County's tower, or building a new tower/antenna support structure.

Once assured of getting Construction Permits for two digital channels, the needed equipment should be purchased and installed quickly. When the stations are operational, licenses and then grants can be applied for.

Once the two new digital channels have been established and the grant reimbursement money has been received, we might consider additional channels at this site. This would require Humboldt County to make changes to their transmit antenna(s) on Winnemucca Mountain.

3. Eagle Creek – The District has equipment that receives digital TV signals and converts these to analog signals for use by the existing translators at High Peak. If we replace the translators with digital equipment, we won't need the digital-to-analog conversion equipment at High Peak and we can use these converters at Eagle Creek.

Digital signals at Eagle Creek arriving from High Peak and Double H should be reliable and high quality (provided we can receive high quality signals at High Peak). Using the salvaged converters and the existing Eagle Creek translators, we should be able to provide good quality analog TV signals to Orovada for a year or so. Some new antennas and transmission line would have to be purchased. Some site repair work and a general clean-up would also need to be done.

Once digital operation at High Peak and Double H has been established and the reliability of operation at these sites is known, we should consider the future of Eagle Creek as a TV translator site. It may be that the vast majority of TV viewers in the District can be adequately served without Eagle Creek. Double H translators, with the appropriate power levels and antenna patterns can broadcast to Orovada, Kings River Valley, and the Bottle Creek/upper Desert Valley areas. High Peak can serve McDermitt and upper Quinn River Valley. Eliminating Eagle Creek would greatly simplify the District's system and reduce costs.

A big reason to keep Eagle Creek is this site makes it possible to rebroadcast Boise stations into Orovada and Reno stations into the McDermitt area. Without Eagle Creek, only Reno stations will come from Double H and only Boise Stations will come from High Peak.

Estimated Costs:

Each station that can be rebroadcast from High Peak would require a new 10 watt digital translator. Some stations would also require new transmit antennas. It is likely that a new receive antenna array could be purchased that could serve several channels. All stations would require new TX and RX cables and connectors. Depending on how many channels prove use-able at High Peak and how tidy we need to be, a new tower or other antenna support structure may be needed. Below is a sample budget for three usable Boise stations at High Peak:

Engineering and applications for Flashcuts and Displacements	\$4,500
Electrical work and building repair	\$1,500
Garbage removal and misc site clean-up	\$2,500
Digital translators	\$33,000
One 2-bay panel type TX antenna	\$2,500
One 2-bay log periodic RX antenna	\$1,100
Cables and connectors	\$1,100
Misc	\$1,200
<u>High Peak Total:</u>	<u>\$47,400</u>

Labor for new equipment installation is not included. A new tower would add \$12,000 to \$25,000 to the total. It is possible that Humboldt County could furnish some or all of the first three items without charge or at greatly reduced fees, provided the manpower was available. In the example above, \$36,600 would be eligible for NTIA grant reimbursement.

Double H would require two 30 watt digital translators, or possibly one translator if adjacent UHF channels can be located here. Sample budget for Double H recommendations:

Engineering and applications for Flashcuts and Displacement	\$3,000
Building removal and misc site clean-up	\$2,500
Two digital translators	\$40,000
Combiner	\$3,900
UHF omni antenna	\$4,900
Cables, Connectors, RX antenna feeds	\$1,300
Misc	\$1,000
<u>Double H Total:</u>	<u>\$56,600</u>

Labor for installation of new equipment is not included. Again it is possible that Humboldt County could provide some or all of the first two items. If adjacent UHF channels could be used at the site, a savings of about \$20,000 is possible. In the example above, \$48,800 would be eligible for NTIA grant reimbursement.

Eagle Creek would not require any large expenditure for the first year. If digital transmission from here is desirable in the future, it could be paid for with money received from the NTIA grant program. Sample first year budget for Eagle Creek:

General site clean-up and repairs	\$1,500
Antennas and cables	\$3,500
<u>Eagle Creek Total:</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Estimated Total Cost for All Recommendations:	\$109,000

Other Considerations:

There is a real possibility that none or very few of the Boise channels can be received reliably at High Peak. If this proves to be the case, some possible options would be:

1. Move the TV site to another location that can receive the Boise stations better, but still would allow rebroadcast into McDermitt. The only site I know of that meets these requirements is Blue Mountain. This is a developed communications site about 25 miles north of McDermitt. It would be more expensive and time consuming to move here than it would be to re-vamp high peak. It might require more powerful (and expensive) transmitters since it is further away from town than High Peak. The winter weather at Blue Mountain is slightly worse than High Peak (not good at either place) but the road is slightly better (both roads are terrible).
2. Bring Reno channels to High Peak via Eagle Creek. This would be expensive and take at least two years since my recommendation would be not to do this unless we could convert the Eagle Creek translators to digital operation first. Also, signals coming from High Peak might not be very reliable since the translators there would be at the end of a long relay chain (Warm Springs to Toulon Peak to Winnemucca Mountain to Double H to Eagle Creek to High Peak) and a failure at any location ahead of High Peak would mean an outage in McDermitt. Finally, it may be that McDermitt viewers don't have much interest in the Reno Stations.
3. Try to transmit Reno channels to McDermitt directly from Eagle Creek. We probably could cover most of McDermitt, but there would be areas that can receive signals from High Peak that cannot see Eagle Creek. More powerful transmitters would have to be used than the ones currently used at Eagle Creek and I am not sure of the present facility could handle this.

4. Reach agreement with satellite providers to provide inputs to High Peak translators. This has been done in a very few locations around the country, and we are trying to work out an agreement to do this in Denio. There are additional technical considerations with this method, and the additional cost of an encoder with each station that is rebroadcast. Also there would be an ongoing cost to use the signal(s).
5. Use District funds to provide McDermitt area viewers with satellite dishes and subsidize subscription fees for some period of time. Not sure of the legality or political feasibility of this.

A final thought before we commit to anything regarding the Oum River TV District. The general direction of FCC policy the last decade or so has tended to marginalize free over-the-air TV. Some of this may have been unintentional, but more recently influential people at the FCC, in Congress and in the private sector, have openly been questioning the viability and value of free broadcast television. RF spectrum has been taken from television twice before, and both times Humboldt County had to spend considerable time and money to comply. Recently the FCC released a new plan that would require even more RF spectrum from the TV band. It is conceivable to me that sometime in the not-so-distant future it might become technically too difficult and too expensive to provide free broadcast television to many rural areas outside the reach of the big city's primary stations, and quite possibly northern Humboldt County could be one of these areas.

My own personal feeling is that free over-the-air television is still a valuable and preferred source of information and entertainment for many households. If we have the resources to continue providing this service without causing additional financial burden on our taxpayers, we probably should do it.

BLM, ongoing maintenance and support, roads and winter access,

Summary