

Monday, November 21, 2011

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners was called to order on Monday, November 21, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the regular place of meeting at the Courthouse, Winnemucca, Nevada. Those present were Chairman Garley Amos Jr., Commissioners Mike Bell, Dan Cassinelli, Tom Fransway and Jim French, District Attorney Michael Macdonald, Administrator Bill Deist and Clerk of the Board Tami Rae Spero.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Amos asked for public comments. Rudy Herndon of the Humboldt Sun asked about the progress on the nuisance complaint on the Shell property. District Attorney Macdonald stated he would meet with Mr. Herndon following the meeting to discuss the matter.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 17, 2011 AND NOVEMBER 7, 2011: Administrator Deist stated that there were no minutes available and that the Clerk would hopefully have them for the first meeting in December.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

CONSENT AGENDA: Administrator Deist stated he had nothing to present under the consent agenda.

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: Administrator Deist informed the Board that the Pine Forest Bill had been introduced in both the Senate and House and provided a copy of an article from the Reno Gazette Journal related to the bill. Upcoming meetings and dates of importance were noted.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS REGARDING OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

THEY SERVE ON: Commissioner Cassinelli discussed a proposal by the WCVA to look at adding another concession stand, restroom and bar at the events center and their plan to have conceptual drawings prepared which they would pay for but they want an agreement from the Commission before proceeding as the facility belongs to the County. Discussion occurred regarding the proposal. The consensus of the Board was that they had no problem with proceeding with a conceptual drawing but that the project could not proceed any further until it is brought before the Board for formal action. Commissioner Fransway noted that he had previously requested the Commissioners to review his answers on a questionnaire relative to the wild horse and burro issue which he had received in his capacity as a

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member of the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Committee; he thanked Commissioner French for his comments and noted that he would still appreciate any additional comments as the issue remains contentious and it may eventually result in some Commission action before it is fully resolved. Commissioner French offered his assistance if needed.

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 as presented.

APPROVAL OF CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON A CONTRACT WITH WISE CONSULTING AND TRAINING FOR AN ASBESTOS DEMOLITION SURVEY RELATED TO THE BUILDING DONATED TO HUMBOLDT COUNTY WHICH THE WINNEMUCCA RURAL FIRE DISTRICT HAS ASKED TO BE DEMOLISHED: A copy of the proposed Agreement for Environmental, Consulting, Testing & Training Services provided by Wise Consulting & Training had been provided to the Board for review. Administrator Deist reviewed the need for this survey prior to demolition. The following motion was made by Commissioner Fransway and passed unanimously:

To authorize the Chairman's signature on the request for consulting on the issue of asbestos at the building that is being proposed to be demolished by Winnemucca Rural Fire.

2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PLANNING: Administrative Assistant Brenda Willey appeared before the Board.

THE GRANT APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS: Ms. Willey reviewed the Community Development Block Grant Program process for the Board.

SUMMARY OF PAST PERFORMANCE FOR CDBG GRANTS RECEIVED BY HUMBOLDT COUNTY SINCE 1984: A copy of the Summary of Past Performance for CDBG Grants was provided to the Board for review. Ms. Willey reviewed the status of the grants for the Board.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S ANNUAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS STATEMENT: A copy of a Letter regarding the Housing Needs Assessment was provided for the Board's review. Ms. Willey asked that the Commission approve the Chairman signing the submitted letter which asked the CDBG to accept the Housing Needs Assessment from 2008 for Humboldt County; she noted that if the request is refused a Housing Needs Assessment would need to be done before January. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Cassinelli and passed unanimously:

To authorize the Chairman to sign the letter for the CDBG grant.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE A 36 MONTH CONTRACT WITH WEST FOR WEST LAW NEXT LEGAL RESEARCH FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

District Attorney Macdonald appeared before the Board and explained that he is still looking into this matter and so he requested that the Board table the item for further research. The Board concurred.

ROAD MATTERS: Road Superintendent Ben Garrett appeared before the Board.

REPORT OF PENDING ROAD DEPARTMENT PROJECTS: Superintendent Garrett informed the Board that the Nevada Department of Wildlife had taken care of the beavers in the Martin Creek area, that graveling, grading, the replacement of guard rails and cattle guards and crack sealing were occurring on various roads, that the punch list for the Ruby Pipeline was still being monitored, that the Eden Valley Bridge was being worked on by the Nevada Department of Transportation Design Team and that signage had been installed at the shooting range.

MISCELLANEOUS ROAD RELATED MATTERS: Commissioner Cassinelli commented on a complaint he had received related to North Valley Road and Superintendent Garrett discussed the roads at issue with roads cut in rather than raised and the issues with moisture on such a road.

REQUEST FROM NEVADA MULEY'S AND NEVADA CHUKAR FOUNDATION FOR MONETARY SUPPORT OF REHABILITATION OF LANDS IN THE HOT SPRINGS RANGE

BURNT DURING THE 2011 FIRE SEASON: A memo from Administrator Deist setting forth the request for monetary support and detailing what has been provided for the project and the monetary support received was provided to the Board for review. Administrator Deist reviewed the information provided by Jim Rackley noting that enough equipment and manpower had been committed but that financial support in any amount would be appreciated and that the entities would hold on to the funds until invoices are paid and that Nevada Muleys would be the pass through organization. Commissioner Bell asked how much more funding was needed. Administrator Deist stated he did not know. Commissioner French stated that he spoken to Brad Baumann of NDOW and that he had indicated that the problem that they are running into are the dollars necessary to purchase the Forage Koshia seed which is produced locally, as it is difficult to get the BLM and the Forest Service to buy into putting Forage Koshia in the seed mix as it is not a native species but it is a very resilient plant which bounces back during drought cycles and everything eats it so Mr. Baumann's suggestion was that if the Commission chose to contribute that the contribution be for the purchase of that seed and his estimate at the time was

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that about \$10,000.00 worth of the seed was needed. Chairman Amos noted that a commitment had been discussed at a prior meeting of \$10,000.00 in funds and \$10,000.00 in-kind services and that he would have no problem with the \$10,000.00 but what he would like to see done is for the seed to be purchased and the invoice be brought to staff for handling up to the limit of \$10,000.00. Administrator Deist stated the only question he would have would be, by the County paying directly, if that would affect the group's ability to monitor the amounts for a match or something like that which may be why Muleys is going to be the pass through. Chairman Amos stated whatever was needed to take care of it but only up to the limit of \$10,000.00. Commissioners French and Bell concurred. Commissioner Fransway stated that to him it was a duplication of tax payer dollars as we pay into that every year in the form of income tax and he did not think the County should submit its taxpayers to being double dipped as he thinks it could be precedent setting; but he stated his appreciation for the private dollars that are being offered in the project but that it was not the County's responsibility to rehab fire and the BLM needs to do a better job on rehab and suppression efforts; he stated his support for writing a letter to the BLM to request the use of Koshia and to buy seed locally. Administrator Deist asked if there had been a break out at the prior meeting of how much land was public and how much was private as both were affected in the fire and the County does have a history of contributing to do rehab on private ground. Commissioner French concurred and stated they did not have an actual number of acres but he knew that the Federal Government has a policy that they do not pay for reclamation work on private ground; he continued stating his concurrence with Commissioner Fransway's concerns about setting precedence as he does not think the County should be looked to first for filling in the gaps on rehab work however looking at the magnitude of what burned in the area and what is actually in the budget for reclamation work and knowing that if the reclamation does not occur this winter that we lose the window of opportunity to reclaim the area he had to ask, what would be the outcome, if the County does not step up and he stated it would reduce the acreage for suitable forage and the land would convert to cheat grass which would result in the loss of livestock use and wildlife values; he stated he would go on the record as stating that the funding from the County Commission would be the area of last resort but he sees the need for it this year. Administrator Deist noted the e-mail provided by Mr. Rackley at the prior meeting which referred to the need to secure funding for the non-federal lands to improve the chances for federal funding on the public lands and stated that would lead him to believe that the funding they are seeking is for private ground. Commissioner Bell agreed that was his understanding. Chairman Amos noted that the indication was that it was difficult to distinguish between the public and private but that those people who have the permits in

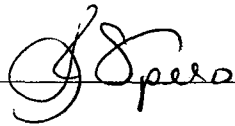
those ranges contribute a lot of money to the County coffers in tax dollars and he believes this is an opportunity for the Commission to help not only them but also the recreationalists and he believes it would behoove the Commission to offer some sort of monetary assistance. Commissioner French stated his belief that there would be long term economic benefit back to the County as the loss of that winter range would affect the Santa Rosa mule deer population. Commissioner Fransway noted that the same thing could be said for the China Garden fire so would the Commission be contributing if a request is received for that rehab project. Commissioner French responded that the difference in the China Garden fire in terms of numbers of mule deer and the potential for recruitment on an annual basis to this County is much smaller. Commissioner Cassinelli stated he was in support of the request. The following motion was made by Commissioner French and passed with Chairman Amos and Commissioners Bell, Cassinelli and French voting aye and Commissioner Fransway voting nay:

To accept the request from Nevada Muleys for up to \$10,000.00 for acquisition of seed, Forage Koshia in particular, and to work with the Administrator's Office in terms of acquiring that seed for the Hot Springs rehab work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Amos asked for public comments. None were offered.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Amos adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

ATTESTED:



Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairman

MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FROM: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: November 15, 2011
SUBJECT: OTHER INFORMATION AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Pine Forest: As you are aware this bill was introduced in both the Senate and House recently. The Senate bill is S 1788 and the House bill is HR 3377. I have also attached an article which was in the November 15, 2011 issue of the Reno Gazette Journal regarding the Pine Forest.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. November 24 & 25, 2011 County Holidays
2. December 1, 2011 RMP Meeting
3. December 2, 2011 NACO Board
4. December 5, 2011 Commission