

Monday, May 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners was called to order on Monday, May 20, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in the regular place of meeting at the Courthouse, Winnemucca, Nevada. Those present were Chairman Jim French, Commissioners Dan Cassinelli, Garley Amos Jr., Mike Bell and Marlene Brissenden, District Attorney Michael Macdonald, Administrator Bill Deist and Clerk of the Board Tami Rae Spero.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman French asked for public comments. Ken Hladek addressed the Board and thanked the Road Department for both the dust control on the roads in the area where he resides and for the manner in which the department does its work. No further public comment offered.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 6, 2013

REGULAR MEETING: No minutes presented for consideration.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

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

1. Certification related to drug and alcohol testing required by the Senior Transportation Grant: Provided to the Board for review was a copy of the proposed letter of certification to be signed by the Chairman. It was noted that the letter was being requested by the Senior Citizens Board as it is a requirement of the grant and that as the County is involved as the grantee, the agreement has been reached to allow the program to be in the County's random testing to make it easier for the program. *Recommendation: That the Commission authorize the Chairman to sign the letter.*

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

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.

2013 LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: POSSIBLE FORMULATION OF COUNTY TESTIMONY/INPUT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION, RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REQUESTS, NACO LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND

RELATED MATTERS: Review and discussion occurred regarding AB 227, SJR 15, the cloud seeding bill and an update on the Pine Forest Bill was provided.

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MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

OTHER INFORMATION AND UPCOMING MEETINGS: (see attached memo) Administrator Deist provided information on a meeting with Chris MacKenzie to discuss the process for the landfill host agreement and on an application for solar energy credits. Upcoming meetings and dates of importance were noted. Discussion occurred regarding the solar energy credits program and process.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS REGARDING OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

THEY SERVE ON: Commissioner Brissenden reported on a Hospital Board meeting and on a meeting of the Humboldt Museum Board which she had attended. Commissioner Amos discussed a Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting he had attended.

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

To approve the expenditures as presented by staff.

PRESENTATION BY JOHN A. CARLSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT BENEFIT INTELLIGENCE, REGARDING THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (PPACA) AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMBOLDT COUNTY:

John A. Carlson, Executive Vice-President of Benefit Intelligence Insurance Services Inc. appeared before the Board and reviewed a power point presentation related to Health Reform and the Affordable Care Act. Discussion followed the presentation.

UPDATE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ON THE REQUEST FROM KWNA TO OBTAIN TRANSLATORS OWNED AND LICENSED BY THE COUNTY:

District Attorney Macdonald reviewed the background of the issue including the request by KWNA to obtain the two FM translators that are currently owned by the County, that the FCC licenses are also in the County's name, what the current law is related to ownership of the translators by the County and the process required by statute to sell county owned property. Rodd Stowell of KWNA Radio addressed the Board about either purchasing or leasing the translators. Chairman French asked if the current radio operators who use the translators have any rights. District Attorney Macdonald stated that they do not have a lease they only re-broadcast from the translators. Ken Sutherland of Ruby Radio Corporation appeared before the Board and indicated that he will be bringing a new radio station into the community; he requested that he be involved in the process to obtain the translators as well. Administrator Deist noted for the Chairman that it was time for a scheduled public hearing. Chairman French stated that the Board would proceed to the public hearing and then return to this item following the hearing.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON RH-13-01: A rezone application submitted by Wynn and Chandra Allred to change the zoning on their property from RR-2.5 TPZ (Rural Ranchette 2.5 acre minimum lot size with an airport overlay) to RR-1.25 TPZ (Rural Ranchette 1.25 acre minimum lot size with an airport overlay). Subject property is located at 4285 Rainbow Road; APN 013-341-14: A copy of the Notice of Public Hearing was provided to the Board for review. Chairman French read the title of the item set to public hearing. Administrator Deist informed the Board that this matter had been continued at the Regional Planning Commission level so no public hearing could occur today but as the item had already been published the item was included on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING ON RH-13-04: A rezone application submitted by Salvador Romero to change the zoning from RR-13 (Rural Ranchette 13,000 square feet minimum lot size) to R-3 (Multiple Family) on property located at 3050 Sunny Drive; APN 010-342-03: Provided to the Board for review was a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing and a copy of the Status Report from the Planning Department recommending approval including the application and a map of the area. Chairman French read the title of the matter set to public hearing. Mrs. Lawrence reviewed the request and recommended approval. No comments or questions received from the Commissioners. Chairman French asked for public comment. None offered. The following motion was made by Commissioner Bell and passed unanimously:

To approve the rezone RH-13-04 as submitted by staff, Assessor's Parcel Number 010-342-03.

CONTINUED UPDATE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ON THE REQUEST FROM KWNA TO OBTAIN TRANSLATORS OWNED AND LICENSED BY THE COUNTY: Mr. Sutherland offered some solutions to the issue with the translators including shutting the translators off, offering programming which does not compete with the local stations commercially or giving the translators to the broadcasters (one each) and charge rent and have a lease signed with the broadcasters taking over the licensing requirements; he committed to serving the community with public and local information and noted that he had submitted written comments which he would appreciate the Commission reviewing and considering those comments prior to making a decision. Commissioner Cassinelli asked Mr. Stowell if the option of giving the translators to the broadcasters through rent or lease would be acceptable. Mr. Stowell agreed it would and commented on the term of the licenses and how that could be handled. Commissioner Bell asked if, by renting these translators which are housed in

a County owned facility, it could create an issue with other members of the public wanting to rent space at the facility. Administrator Deist noted that the building is full at this time. Paul Burkholder, former County Communications Director, appeared before the Board and noted the limited space in the building and possible issues if the broadcasters required any additional equipment at the site. Ric Grantham of the Communications Department suggested that if the County did choose to turn over the translators that they should be moved to another location. Commissioner Bell noted his concern about setting some type of precedence. Mr. Burkholder discussed the current leases that exist and the policy that as those lessees leave not to allow new ones back in which occurred because there had been an objection from a local business owner that provided that type of service and who did not want the County competing with him. Mr. Stowell stated no additional space would be needed. Mr. Sutherland commented that he was not sure that the FCC would allow the leasing of translators so he suggested that the Commission just award the licenses to the broadcasters and make the money back on the rent. Mr. Stowell stated that KWNA's FCC counsel had indicated leasing was a possibility but he agreed the County should check it out. Commissioner Cassinelli noted that the easiest choice would be to give each broadcaster a translator. Commissioner Bell concurred but noted that he had concerns about the County competing with businesses that lease space plus concerns about whether the County could actually utilize the space. Mr. Grantham commented on the reasons he would prefer that they not be in the County's building. Administrator Deist noted that it is again time for a public hearing so he suggested that the District Attorney review the issues raised today and the matter be brought back at the June 3rd meeting. Chairman French stated the matter is tabled until the proposals can be reviewed. Commissioner Cassinelli noted the need to wrap this up at the next Commission meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARD A NUISANCE COMPLAINT ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THOMAS AND KAYLEEN HEIBERT AND LOCATED AT 3715 WEATHERBY DRIVE, WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA; APN 06-181-31: Provided to the Board for review was a copy of the

nuisance complaint, a copy of the investigation report filed by the Building & Safety Director, a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing and of the proof of service on the property owners. Chairman French read the title of the item set to public hearing. Complainant Janice Bradshaw and property tenant Nicholas Stratton appeared before the Board. Ms. Bradshaw addressed the Board and stated that clean up had occurred with most of the stuff being removed but that she is still getting blowing trash in her yard. Mr. Stratton stated that he was unaware about the blowing trash but that he had removed the vehicles and most of the other items from the property and that he had arranged to obtain a dumpster from a local trash

company. Mr. Stratton provided photos to the Board for review. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Bell and passed unanimously:

To table the matter for ninety days to determine if the problem has been abated.

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

REQUEST TO HAVE GRAVEL PLACED AT THE PARADISE VALLEY RV PARK: Provided to the Board for review was a cost estimate for the requested work at the Paradise Valley RV Park, prepared by the Road Superintendent with an estimated cost of \$13,276.00 including material, equipment and labor. Discussion occurred regarding the ownership of the park, the length of time the project would take and how many department employees would be needed. Glenda Deputy of the Paradise Valley Community Board addressed the Commission regarding the need for the work and the lack of available funding; she estimated that the funds available from room tax would be about \$4,000.00. Chairman French commented on the possibility of it being a cooperative effort and the need to maintain the park due to the usage. Commissioner Cassinelli commented on how the park and community hall were created. Administrator Deist noted that the Commission minutes from February 6, 1995 clearly reflect that the Community Board is responsible for the maintenance. Discussion occurred as to what the County had done at other sites and how that was handled. Gloria Marcuerquiaga and Liz Chabot of the Paradise Valley Community Board spoke in support of the request. Chairman French asked if the County hauled the gravel to the site, could the Community Board arrange for it to be spread. Mrs. Marcuerquiaga agreed they could but noted that the site requires leveling before the gravel can be placed. Superintendent Garrett discussed what would be involved with leveling the site including hand work and the time it would take. Administrator Deist voiced his concern about the cost to the department for a project that is not road related and that should be handled by the special district. Chairman French suggested that the County could identify the utilities and such where the hand work would need to occur and could arrange to get the gravel to the site with the community providing the rest of the work. Superintendent Garrett commented that there is a considerable amount of leveling which needs to be done but noted that no matter what is done the drainage is bad at the location; he continued stating that the people needed plus the haul is going to cost about \$4,000.00 so the questions is who would pay for the gravel which would cost approximately \$1,200.00 and he cautioned that the amount could be affected by the leveling. Commissioner Cassinelli discussed what had occurred when the building was purchased noting that the minutes state that maintenance is the responsibility of the community and that the County did not grant the funding for the purchase of the building because the County wanted it, but because the community

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did, so while he doesn't have a problem with the County helping it is not just the County's problem. Chairman French concurred that it is not the County's responsibility but as the community does not have adequate resources for the project he was just wondering if there was an opportunity to have a cooperative project. Mrs. Deputy concurred that the community did not have the necessary funding and if the County doesn't assist they would just have to do what they can afford. Superintendent Garrett commented that the equipment to do the work exists in the community, it is just the trucking for the hauling of the gravel that they would need. Administrator Deist suggested that to be consistent with what has occurred in the past the community would purchase the gravel and the County would haul it. Mrs. Deputy stated that they would take the suggestion back to their Board. Discussion occurred regarding the room tax funds, what has occurred with this request at the community level and the need for compaction of the gravel. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Brissenden and passed unanimously:

That Humboldt County will provide hauling provided that the Paradise Valley Community Board is agreeable to the purchase of the gravel and once it is delivered spreading it.

Commissioner Cassinelli asked if the County could supply a compactor. Superintendent Garrett stated that it wouldn't be a problem.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF STRIPING AGREEMENT WITH NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Provided to the Board for review was a memo from the Road Superintendent recommending approval of the new agreement which would have Humboldt County reimbursing NDOT for striping to include actual costs for labor, equipment and materials with no exchange for truck hauling by Humboldt County, the agreement will continue until December 31, 2014 with an estimated annual expenditure of \$20,000.00 and a copy of the proposed agreement. Superintendent Garrett reviewed the request for the Board. District Attorney Macdonald stated that he had reviewed and was satisfied with the contract but it was still under review by NDOT so his suggestion would be that the Board approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign subject to any changes. The following motion was made by Commissioner Bell and passed unanimously:

To approve the striping agreement with NDOT and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement contingent on the final NDOT contract that they send back.

REPORT OF PENDING ROAD DEPARTMENT PROJECTS: Superintendent Garrett reported on gravel and mag chloride application work on Herschell, the mag chloride project, the completion of the Paradise Valley Weed District building, road work and stand pipe work.

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MISCELLANEOUS ROAD RELATED MATTERS: None offered.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE ON-GOING DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN NEVADA; ENCOURAGING EXPEDITIOUS COOPERATION AMONG AGENCIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, STATE OF NEVADA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO AVOID, MINIMIZE AND MITIGATE THE ADVERSE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF SAID DROUGHT AND REQUESTING NEVADA GOVERNOR BRIAN SANDOVAL TO DECLARE A DROUGHT EMERGENCY WITHIN HUMBOLDT COUNTY: Provided to the Board for review was a copy of an

e-mail from Mike Baughman, Executive Director for the Humboldt River Water Basin Authority asking that Humboldt County as a HRWBA member adopt the resolution and a copy of the proposed resolution. Administrator Deist referred the Board to the e-mail from Mr. Baughman, explained the purpose of the action and recommended adoption of the resolution. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Amos and passed unanimously:

To adopt the resolution expressing concern over the drought conditions in Northern Nevada.

(Resolution No. 05-20-13)

Chairman French recessed the meeting at 11:33 a.m. to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2013-2014 BUDGETS FOR HUMBOLDT COUNTY AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS: Provided to the Board for review was a copy of a memo from Comptroller Sondra Schmidt detailing the budget changes that have occurred since the tentative budget was adopted (see attached). Chairman French read the title of the item set for public hearing. Comptroller Schmidt reviewed the budget changes. Chairman French asked for public comment. None offered. The following motion was made by Commissioner Amos and passed unanimously:

To approve the addition of the new items to the 13-14 budget.

ADOPTION OF THE 2013-2014 BUDGETS FOR HUMBOLDT COUNTY, HUMBOLDT RURAL FIRE DISTRICT, WINNEMUCCA RURAL FIRE DISTRICT AND THE QUINN RIVER TV DISTRICT: The following motion was made by Commissioner Bell:

To adopt the 2013-2014 budgets for Humboldt County, Humboldt Rural Fire District, Winnemucca Rural Fire District and the Quinn River TV District.

Administrator Deist asked that the motion be amended to include the Denio TV District. The

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

To adopt the 2013-2014 budgets for Humboldt County, Humboldt Rural Fire District, Winnemucca Rural Fire District, the Quinn River TV District and the Denio TV District.

ADOPTION OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”: A

copy of the proposed Proclamation was provided to the Board for review. Present on behalf of the Senior Citizen’s Board was Board Chairman Tom Brissenden, Chuck and Shirley Eyans and Phil Jacka. Mr. Brissenden thanked the Commission for their continued support of the Humboldt County Senior Citizens. Chairman French commented on the high quality of the senior citizens center. Mrs. Evans noted the growth seen at the center and commented on their efforts to raise funds for the kitchen expansion. The following motion was made by Commissioner Amos and passed unanimously:

To adopt the proclamation declaring May “Older Americans Month”.

(Resolution No. 05-20-13a)

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CONCERNS OF THE WILD FIRE SUPPORT GROUP REGARDING THE POSITION OF THE BLM REGARDING RESPONSE BY THE WILD FIRE SUPPORT GROUP TO FIRES AS AN INITIAL ATTACK RESOURCE: Provided to the Board for

review was a copy of handout entitled “Nevada Wildfire Support Group (WSG) Issue with BLM Rule Regarding Volunteer First Responder Limits & Oversight” (see attached) and a copy of information from the State of Oregon related to rangeland fire protection associations. Mel Hummel of the Wildfire Support Group appeared before the Board and discussed his contact with the people in Oregon and what he had found out. Discussion occurred regarding that information. Chairman French asked Nevada Division of Forestry State Forester Pete Anderson if he believed the Oregon model would work for Nevada. Forester Anderson responded that while it was too late for this legislative session he believed that work could be done during the interim to put together a bill that works for Nevada to cover these groups. Chairman French suggested that maybe NACO could champion the cause. Gene Seidlitz District Manager for the Winnemucca Field Office of the BLM appeared before the Board stated that in terms of the Wildfire Support Group the BLM has in place, and has had in place, an agreement and annual operating plan which includes that if trained in fire fighting and when dispatched by the BLM they can be a resource for initial response; he noted that the keys were safety and training. Discussion occurred regarding the process for being called out on a fire including the training required, the requirements for training that is set forth by the national office of the BLM, the difference between the group and a rural fire district, concerns being expressed by the group that they cannot respond when there has been lag time

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in the past with BLM's response and the group's desire to be recognized and allowed to protect their interests out on the ground. Director Seidlitz discussed what was contained in the annual operating plan/agreement, noting that they are pretty explicit and stating that wildfire support groups will insure that the fire suppression guidelines and restrictions for action taken be determined by BLM fire management and abide by and do that in compliance as well as the fact that the agencies will insure that firefighters are properly trained and qualified, provided and outfitted with the proper safety equipment that meets the necessary requirements; he noted that these requirements are the same as what was in place in 2005 and that he must sign his name to the plan indicating that all the requirements are being met; he stated that as long as they are trained, integrated and communicative there are no problems but if they are not trained as prescribed he can't sign and he won't sign. He discussed dangers that exist on fires and the risks. Mike Feticc BLM Fire Management Officer appeared before the Board and responded to a question from the Chairman as to what the group is not adhering to; he stated that he did not believe the group had a qualified incident commander which is required for federal fires. Discussion occurred regarding what is required to be qualified as an incident commander and the differences between fire protection districts and this group. Chairman French commented on the need to put people on the ground as opposed to taking them off. Mr. Feticc concurred and stated that the BLM has made the commitment to help the group work on their task books/training qualifications and since the inception of the program there has not been one task book that has been completed; he noted that the group goes on a minimal number of fires and that the qualifications are not unique to BLM. Chairman French noted the willingness of the group to volunteer and the need to put people on the ground. Mr. Feticc concurred but noted the need for proper training and safety. Director Seidlitz commented on the need for willingness on the part of the group to take the time to be trained; he continued discussing a meeting which had occurred between the BLM, Congressman Amodio and others related to this issue. Director Seidlitz stated that he is all for boots on the ground and eyes and ears but explained his concerns related to training and safety; he commented on an incident of self dispatching and his issues with that act. Administrator Deist asked about the training that the group had received. Mr. Hummel explained what had occurred in the past with rookie school, which all members of the group have completed, and noted that training has occurred over the years but that while the agency is suppose to keep up with their training, that has not been happening; he stated that they have done all training that has been asked of them including pack tests, refreshers and schools but he noted that he did not know what happened when they went to a 501C3 but once that happened the training had slowed down; he continued stating his agreement that they need more training and responded to the

comments by Director Seidlitz related to the self dispatching incident. Mr. Hummel explained how a fire is reported by members of the group and noted that once the BLM shows up they are fine with being released; he commented on why the group believes the initial response is so important. Mr. Hummel stated that they had no problem obtaining more training and getting members of the group to be incident commanders but what he had an issue with, and had discussed with Mr. Fetic, is why with this group beginning in 2008 they couldn't review the BLM records of the fires the group has been on and possibly get someone IC certified at some point but the BLM had said no which is why the group started looking for some law or something that could help but that he had never intended to put the BLM out as they had enjoyed working with them for years. Director Seidlitz offered comments as to the collaborative nature of prior years, that with the 501C3 the group went to assistance by hire, the willingness of some members of the group to be trained and that if the interest to continue with proper training and safety is there, they need to come in and meet with the BLM. Mr. Fetic explained the purpose of having to be incident command trained for the initial response and confirmed that they are absolutely agreeable and the offer has always been on the table to provide the training and getting the group certified. Discussion occurred regarding the training required and what has occurred. Mr. Hummel stated that he will be attending a summit in Oregon to see what is being done there followed by a meeting of the WSG to discuss that and what has occurred at today's meeting and would follow up with Director Seidlitz. Chairman French asked that the Commission be brought up to speed as to whether any assistance is needed. Mr. Hummel offered his thanks to the Commission and the BLM representatives. State Forester Anderson offered to assist with the training if needed. Commissioner Cassinelli noted that this was actually between the BLM and the Wild Fire Support Group though it was ok to keep the Commission informed. Director Seidlitz commented on the importance of communication to avoid issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman French asked for public comment. None offered.

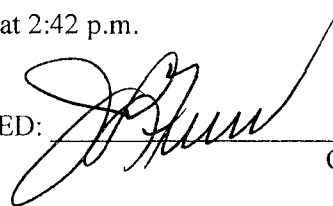
ADJOURNMENT: Chairman French adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

ATTESTED: _____



Clerk

APPROVED: _____



Chairman

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MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONERS
FROM: ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: May 14, 2013
SUBJECT: CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Certification related to Drug and Alcohol testing required by the Senior Transportation Grant: Attached is a letter requested by this group after they reviewed the grant and what was occurring. We are involved as we are the grantee and agreed to allow the program to be in our random testing to make it easier for them.

Recommendation: That the Commission authorize the Chairman to sign the letter.

MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: May 15, 2013

SUBJECT: OTHER INFORMATION AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Host Agreement: On May 10, 2013 the District Attorney and I met with Chris MacKenzie to discuss the process for reaching an agreement on a Host Agreement. We have provided Mr. MacKenzie with copies of the following material: 1) The Resolution setting the terms of the settlement with Jungo, 2) The memo dated August 27, 2012 from the District Attorney which includes the proposed host agreement submitted by Jungo and asking for your input, and 3) The sample host agreement provided by Commissioner French. We also discussed the history of what has occurred with this project and answered questions presented by Mr. MacKenzie. They will continue to review these documents and do further research on this subject. They will be present at your June 17, 2013 meeting to discuss the process, potential agreement, and seek input from you on this issue.
2. Solar Energy Credits: We were approached by UpStar Energy LLC regarding NV Energy's incentive program for solar energy. To apply an application had to be submitted by May 17, 2013. If awarded then normal public works bidding regulations apply to proceed with the project. There is no guarantee we will receive the award and we have made no commitment at this point beyond applying for the award. We did this for buildings at the Winnemucca Events Complex and in consultation with the District Attorney. We will keep you advised to what occurs with the application.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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| 1. May 21, 2013 | HR Training |
| 2. May 21, 2013 | Communication Study Meeting |
| 3. May 24, 2013 | Administrator Annual Leave |
| 4. May 27, 2013 | County Holiday |

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| 5. May 28, 2013 | Community Health Meeting |
| 6. May 31, 2013 | Administrator Annual Leave |
| 7. June 3, 2013 | Commission |

UNOFFICIAL

Memorandum

To: Humboldt County Commissioners
CC: Bill Diest, County Administrator
From: Sondra Schmidt, Comptroller
Date: 5/15/2013
Subject: Changes to the tentative budget

Since our budget meeting in March there have been some changes to the budget prior to adopting a final budget. The following are those changes:

1. Community Support: You have authorized us to budget \$5,000 as a financial contribution from Humboldt County to assist with the Ruby Mountain-Cloud Seeding Program.
2. Building Inspector: The State has required that starting July 1st this department will have to purchase the mobile home seals in advance instead of as needed like in the past. We have budgeted \$2,000 in this new line item.
3. Assessor: We have increased this department's salaries and benefits by \$10,870 because the trainee has passed the appraiser test and will be reclassified. This was not in the tentative budget.

**NEVADA WILDFIRE SUPPORT GROUP (WSG) ISSUE WITH BLM RULE
REGARDING VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER LIMITS & OVERSIGHT**

The WSG has been in existence for more than 12 years, providing fire-fighting assistance to the BLM Winnemucca District. During this period of time dozens of wildfires have been successfully suppressed before the fires become catastrophic through the fast response time of this organized group. Recently, the BLM Fire Management Office (FMO) for the Winnemucca District has informed the WSG that they would no longer be allowed to suppress wildfires, but rather would need to wait to engage wildfire until the BLM Incident Commander (IC) arrives. The reason given for this new direction is the concern BLM has with liability should an accident occur (see attached agreement). The following are issues and reasons that support the need to continue as 1st responders on wildfires that occur on their allotments, and/or their neighbors' allotments :

1. WSG was previously trained and red-carded (certified), but has not been able to advance their qualifications because time does not allow for these rancher volunteers, actively managing their personal operations, the required time to attend this level of training.
2. WSG members are mostly rancher permittees who are on the land most all of the time. They therefore become the local eyes and ears as relates to wildfire,
3. When several wildfires are underway, and some have structures involved, or occur at a wildland urban interface (WUI), the BLM will designate these as priority, leaving the allotments to the WSG. The WSG is only interested in their specific area of attack. As

noted, it can sometimes be days before BLM arrives to initiate suppression for a wildfire event, depending on the number of fires underway and availability of resources.

4. The WSG consists of experienced and responsible ranch owners who understand the danger associated with wildfire. They are not young students newly trained to fight wildfire. WSG know when to step back and wait for more experienced personnel and advanced resources. Most all have been around wildfires for most of their lives and have been engaged in fighting these fires. They are decision makers who know when and how to act under wildfire conditions.
5. The WSG are rural landowners who are intimately familiar with their allotments, topography, roads, vegetation and fuel loading, and location of water sources for drafting water needed to fight wildfire. This is particularly important when fighting wildfires at night, when risk increases significantly.
6. WSG members reside near to their allotments and as such are able to position themselves when storm clouds form with dry lightning events, making it possible to alert BLM of wildfire ignitions and for initial attack. BLM often require hours before they arrive on the scene.
7. WSG has personally owned small pumper equipment, water tenders, dozers, graders, tractors/disks, and other equipment that are often used to help suppress wildfires. This equipment can generally be on the scene quickly due to proximity to the wildfires.
8. WSG are radio trained and in contact with BLM dispatch from the outset of a wildfire and throughout the event.
9. WSG is positioned across approximately 2 million acres of BLM Winnemucca District lands during the fire season, including their personal allotments and private lands. WSG

has successfully helped to suppress as many as 14 wildfires during a single season. This amounts to significant savings to the taxpayer while also minimizing damage to permittee grazing resources and critical wildlife habitat.

10. WSG help their neighbors with wildfire suppression, even if they are not members of WSG. They do not however leave the area of their ranches during the fire season except to fight local fires when called upon.
11. BLM rely on WSG as part of their seasonal resources. They are not paid for standby time, but rather call as needed.
12. Oregon has an organized 501c3 of trained rancher volunteers that are recognized by USFS and allowed to engage and suppress wildfires on USFS administered public lands.