



Humboldt County Board of Commissioners
Monday, January 30, 2023
Retreat Minutes

Those present were Chairman Ken Tipton, Commissioners Jesse Hill, Ron Cerri, Tom Hoss and Mark Evatz, Deputy District Attorney Wendy Maddox and Deputy District Attorney Macdonald, County Manager Dave Mendiola and Clerk of the Board Tami Rae Spero.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tipton called the retreat to order at 8:30 a.m. in the regular place of meeting at the County Meeting Room #201, Courthouse, Winnemucca, Nevada.

STAFF REPORT: A copy of the staff report was included on the on-line agenda for review and provided to the Commission. (see attached).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairman Tipton asked for public comment. Commissioner Hoss asked if public comment would occur on each item or should it be presented at the beginning. Chairman Tipton indicated it should happen at the beginning. Commissioner Hoss asked if there was anyone with public comment. Chairman Tipton noted that comment would also be offered at the end.

Debra Gay, a resident on Rose Creek Road, offered public comment on the transfer station at the airport industrial park noting that she believed it would happen but, asking the Commission, as they are voted in by people of community, that, if they allow this to go in, that they do their due diligence and do everything they possibly can to protect this community including preventing the runoff from leaching into ground water, preventing air pollution, dust blowing and protect the community so their water doesn't get contaminated; she continued discussing the number of trucks planned for and the probable increase in the numbers and her concern with this; in closing she asked for a list of the chemical toxins that will be coming back through the community on the trucks and indicated that the Commission needs to do their job as she knows this can't be stopped.

Christina Kenison, a resident of Rose Creek Road, offered public comment as to her research into the airport noting that there are lots of rules and regulations related to what can be done and what can't including the distance of the railroad to runways and what can be put there; she stated that this plan puts the airport at risk of FFA funding being pulled and the airport being shut down so she believes that due diligence has not been part of equation as it has got this far without anyone knowing that; she stated that if county and city keep pushing things through she knows who to sue as they own the airport.

No further public comment offered.

LITHIUM NEVADA PRESENTATION: Representatives from Lithium Nevada will present an update on the Thacker Pass Lithium project. Tim Crowley and Maria Anderson with Lithium Nevada appeared before the

Commission. Mr. Crowley commented on the future of a local office being set up in Winnemucca. He continued reviewing the status of mine including what has been accomplished and what is occurring moving forward including their partnership with Bechtel Engineering Company.

Melissa Case and Mat Ovenden with Bechtel appeared before the Commission and introduced Bechtel and explained how they would be involved with the project.

Mr. Crowley continued offering comment on the foot print of the permitted areas for the mine, how the processing will work at the mine, the Lithium Technical Development Center, the building of a transloading terminal and what that site will be used for; he noted that the airport site has not been settled on as other sites are being looked at and they are working with the residents of the area and that the FFA has been working with the City on the proposal, that they will contract with another entity with the necessary type of experience to manage the site; he continued discussing the environmental responsibility issues at the site including the low water consumption of the site and how the rights have been acquired and a state forfeiture requirement of 22%. Mr. Crowley commented on the intent to improve communication, the efforts with the Tribe to allow for Tribal members to work for the company, the work occurring with the Orovada and surrounding communities, other community investments including workforce training, jobs, benefits and lithium supply and demand including what product leaves the site and how it is handled noting the rail is intended for inbound, if it is pursued, as that will depend on several factors.

Chairman Tipton asked about the transloading terminal as to how the sulfur is off-loaded and secured and transported. Mr. Crowley responded including explaining that there will be storage at the site and explained how it would be handled for transport.

Commissioner Evatz asked Mr. Crowley to comment on the permitting and licensing for the site as well as the transport to address the comments of concern provided earlier. Mr. Crowley explained the permitting process for the facility, who is being looked at for the construction process, that the off-loading site is already permitted and explained.

Chairman Tipton asked how much water would be needed for the steam process at the transloading site. Mr. Crowley responded.

Commissioner Hill asked about air and water monitoring. Mr. Crowley confirmed that monitoring would be required as it is a function of the permits and explained.

Commissioner Hoss asked about the carbon footprint and questioned how sulfur can be burned. Mr. Crowley responded explaining about the use of scrubbers and explained what is being invested in with best available control technologies. Commissioner Hoss asked about the sulfur storage at the airport and the gases and how they will deal with those coming off the site. Mr. Crowley responded that there will

always be a scrubber. Commissioner Hoss asked for clarification. Mr. Crowley responded explaining the plan for a scrubber every time which eliminates the gases. Commissioner Hoss noted that this is a major factor when dealing with sulfur. Mr. Crowley offered further discussion to explain. Commissioner Hoss asked about the amount of water usage. Mr. Crowley responded noting they would only buy 12-acre feet so they cannot go beyond that. Commissioner Hoss asked how the community will be handled once the site is finished with. Mr. Crowley responded commenting on reclamation requirements including the deposit of reclamation bonds. Commissioner Hoss asked about the funding noting that it is taxpayer dollars. Mr. Crowley responded explaining the funding and what is involved with the process with the federal government including the payment of interest. Commissioner Hoss asked what Humboldt County would be getting out of it. Mr. Crowley responded saying that they are excited about being good corporate citizens and commented on the economic development benefits to the County including job creation. Commissioner Hoss asked about the number of rail cars and questioned whether they would fit. Mr. Crowley explained.

Commissioner Cerri asked when the facilities in Orovada would be built. Mr. Crowley responded. Commissioner Cerri asked about the water protest that had been filed and its status. Mr. Crowley responded. Commissioner Cerri asked about housing given the current issues with that in the community and noted that Lithium had discussed constructing some housing. Mr. Crowley responded that it is a big challenge and explained the plan to build a workforce hub and explained but noted even with that there will not be sufficient housing so once the hub is in place it will be de-commissioned in stages to allow for additional housing until the community has sufficient housing.

Commissioner Evatz asked about any discussion about improvements on US 95 for highway safety. Mr. Crowley responded noting that they have had discussion with NDOT which resulted in the interchange plan but he agrees further discussion should occur. Commissioner Evatz asked if the FFA has permitting authority or approval process related to the rail spur. Mr. Crowley responded that he does not know as it is between the FFA and the City but they do have input. Commissioner Hoss asked if discussion could occur with the FFA. Chairman Tipton asked if that has been discussed at the Airport Board Meeting.

Debra Gay asked from the audience what is in place to protect the public if the trains were to derail. Mr. Crowley responded that there will need to be an extensive safety plan which will be worked on to include input from the public; he commented on how the sulfur is handled.

Christina Kenison offered comment from the audience that it would be good to include Rural Fire due to the concerns about derailment; she continued noting her discussion with the FFA and asked about the boiler and steam as, based on Mr. Crowley's response, that is also a concern, that there are multiple

concerns and continued offering comment on the FFA issue. Chairman Tipton asked what Ms. Kenison's question would be. Ms. Kenison continued stating that she was providing the Board information on the FFA situation. Chairman Tipton noted that this is early in the process and more discussion will occur before it is done.

Joel Murphy, asked if the plan is to transport sulfuric acid back on the line. Mr. Crowley responded no. Mr. Murphy asked about the scrubbing process and what may be released. Mr. Crowley responded that will be part of the permitting process.

Mr. Crowley commented that all that has occurred on their side related to the airport industrial site is that an appraisal has been requested but that this is very early in the project and there are lots of steps left. Commissioner Hill offered comment on the benefits of this project for economic development but noted the need to protect the citizens and protect the airport function so it is very important that the County and the City be on the same page with this.

Chairman Tipton recessed the meeting at 9:55 a.m. reconvening at 10:00 a.m.

ORMAT TECHNOLOGIES PRESENTATION: Representatives from Ormat Technologies will present an update on their Baltozar Geothermal Project near Denio, Nevada. Scott Nichols with Ormat Technologies appeared before the Commission and explained the planned projects for Nevada including information on geothermal systems and power generation, the geothermal – Great Basin perspective showing the sites in this area including the Pinto Project and the McGee Mountain Project which are in the initial stages and the Baltozar Project which is fully permitted, the development process for the sites, information on the regional perspective, the environmental benefits and the community benefits.

Chairman Tipton asked for clarification as to the location of the Baltozar Project. Mr. Nichols responded. Discussion ensued regarding the projects including how the power is transmitted and what permitting is required for the projects.

Mr. Nichols commented on the capacity factor for geothermal facilities. Chairman Tipton asked about the life span of this type of project. Mr. Nichols responded.

Commissioner Hoss asked about the control over what is taken out and put in. Mr. Nichols responded.

Commissioner Hill asked about water rights both the acquisition and the impact of these projects on domestic water rights. Mr. Nichols responded.

Chairman Tipton stated that the Commission would proceed to section C of agenda item 7.

DISCUSSION OF FORMING A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR MANAGING THE SYSTEM LONG-TERM: Consideration, discussion and possible action to determine whether it is feasible, appropriate and in the best interest of the County to form a General Improvement District for the Gold Country water

system and if so, Direct the County Manager to begin efforts to recruit members willing to serve, and identify boundaries for the district so a resolution and ordinance can be brought back before the board at a later date. Manager Mendiola offered comment on this proposal. Commissioner Cerri commented on the importance of the users being in charge of what occurs with the system; he noted that he does not know if this will work for this but he wants this to be looked at; he continued commenting including that the local districts need to contract for maintenance needs, not rely on the County. Andree Rose of Drake, Rose & Associates appeared before the Commission and offered items to consider the number of entities needed to cover the different systems but noted that no matter how many entities are created they would operate as an enterprise fund(s) and explained including the need to support themselves and how maintenance/operations can be managed. Commissioner Cerri commented on the cost to the county taxpayers if the county has to maintain and asked, if it is possible, to have a single GID to manage Gold Country, Star City and the sewer aspect with different classes to reduce the number of people who need to be involved due to the issues with getting people involved. Ms. Rose responded as to the ability to combine different funds under one GID and different ways that the maintenance can be managed. Commissioner Cerri noted that the lines would need to be drawn. Deputy District Attorney Maddox explained what would need to be done to create a district and what must be included. Commissioner Hoss noted the lack of funding associated with Gold Country and questioned where the funding would be found to do the process and not penalize the taxpayers by using county funds. Ms. Rose responded noting potential funding available from Gold Country and explained. Deputy District Attorney Maddox and Ms. Rose commented on what funds would be transferred to the County. Commissioner Hill commented on putting Gold Country and Star City into one district. Manager Mendiola commented on the plan to blend water of the two systems to deal with the nitrate situation. Discussion ensued. Chairman Tipton commented that he would like to hear from the citizens of both districts to make sure that there is interest in serving. Commissioner Evatz asked about the governance process. Deputy District Attorney Maddox responded as to what happens if a board cannot be created. Commissioner Evatz offered comment on the process noting his support for one GID over all parts. Commissioner Cerri offered comment on how the boards work in Orovada. Ms. Rose commented on the audit requirements for districts. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Cerri noted his concern that the Commission does not have the time to manage all of these systems. Comptroller Rackley explained how county time is tracked. Commissioner Cerri noted the impact on the Public Works Department in any case. Commissioner Hill asked to hear from Public Works Director Kalkoske; he noted his concerns with items such as learning the system and how to work on the system. Director Don Kalkoske responded to the query (via Teams) and

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commented on what had occurred with taking on the systems currently managed by his Department and noting that they are still learning the systems; he continued noting that Gold Country does not have mapping in place and explained what he is doing to provide an easier process to map the systems; he commented on why Star City was not bad to take on as it is a more recent system. Comptroller Rackley commented on the number of additional employees that might need to be hired if the County took on the system including in the Public Works Department, the Comptroller's Office and the Treasurer's Office and noted that they have looked at a software management program. Chairman Tipton suggested that a GID umbrella covering all the parts makes the best sense but it is probably too early to look at. Commissioner Cerri commented on the need to create the boundaries and such first but he does not want this to just stay status quo. Manager Mendiola commented that the boundaries have begun to be worked on and commented on options available for management. Discussion ensued regarding how other systems are handled. Discussion ensued regarding how to go forward and what would be involved and how the Commission wishes to proceed. The following motion was made by Commissioner Evatz:

That we generate an absolutely comprehensive what all needs to be done, a very detailed step by step approach including solicitation of participants that would serve on the GID, what ordinances would need to be done, what public hearings and how many of them, what the space, everything, so that at a time when we do pull the trigger on purchase that we don't kind of start this meeting over again, that we pull that document out and that's the playbook that we utilize to move forward in an expedition and efficient manner.

Commissioner Hill asked if we would have to identify boundaries at that point. Commissioner Evatz noted that there is a boundary approach in the preliminary document around septic management which seems to make a lot of sense as it does cover both water systems. Discussion ensued regarding what else needs to be accomplished and what will be involved in that. After discussion, Chairman Tipton called Commissioner Evatz's motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Tipton recessed the meeting at 11:37 a.m. reconvening at 11:57 a.m.

GOLD COUNTRY WATER SYSTEM ACQUISITION UPDATE: Update by County Manager Mendiola and Deputy DA Wendy Maddox on the processes that need to occur as part of the acquisition agreement approved by the Board in November of 2022 before the Gold Country water system and associated water rights pass to the County for ownership, operation and maintenance. Manager Mendiola reviewed what has occurred with this process to this point (no microphones at this point due to technical difficulties).

Due to technical difficulties the meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. reconvening at 12:25 p.m.

WORKING LUNCH BREAK: Lunch was taken during the period of the technical difficulties with the recording/sound/image system.

Manager Mendiola re-reviewed what has occurred with this process to this point. Comptroller Rackley reviewed discussion had at a meeting which had occurred between County officials, representatives of the State Revolving Fund and bond counsel related to the purchase of the water district.

Due to technical difficulties the meeting again recessed reconvening at 12:45 p.m.

Comptroller Rackley continued her report. Based on a question from Commissioner Cerri, Comptroller Rackley explained what funding would pass to the County.

FINAL WATER PURCHASE DECISION ON ADDITIONAL WATER RIGHTS AVAILABLE FROM GOLD COUNTRY

WATER: Consideration, discussion and possible approval to secure 100% of all 1470.90 Acre Feet (AF) from Gold Country Water that are not included in the GCW acquisition upon closing of the acquisition of Gold Country Water system at a cost of \$1,000 per AF and a total expenditure of \$1,470,900. The funding will come from the Local and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) revenues received by the County in FY 2022.

The water rights will be utilized for economic development and housing projects within the existing water basin. Manager Mendiola reviewed the request for the Commission noting that prior discussion had occurred as to whether to handle as the water banking agreement is place noting that this cannot happen until the PUC closes the purchase of the water system. Commissioner Hill commented that this is a great opportunity for the purchase of water rights at a great savings and noted the possible use for economic development. Commissioner Hoss questioned if the rights are proven as he is not interested in jumping on this until that can be confirmed, as well that the rights can be sold if they are municipal rights. Deputy District Attorney Maddox responded that what she is hearing from the water lawyer is it has been confirmed that they belong to Gold Country. Commissioner Cerri suggested that proving beneficial use on all of them may not have been done on all of them; he continued asking if any relinquishment would be required by the State Engineer if the County sold the rights as that had been noted in the discussion with Lithium; he asked that confirmation of whether that would occur be obtained from the State and suggested that needs to be determined before this proceeds. Commissioner Hill concurred. Chairman Tipton asked that staff follow up on that and bring the matter back at a future meeting. Commissioner Evatz asked about the Local and Tribal Consistency Fund. Comptroller Rackley explained the funding. Commissioner Evatz asked if this project fits within the parameters for this funding. Comptroller Rackley confirmed that it did. Commissioner Evatz commented that the context of finding water rights at this price and given what was heard from our representatives last week, he would support the acquisition.

Theresa Schroeder-Stix of Schroeder Law appeared before the Commission via Teams. Chairman Tipton

asked about the ability to use the water rights and the possibility of having to relinquish an amount to the State if sold. Ms. Schroeder-Stix responded noting that she can look into the relinquishment (“haircut”) and explained how that is usually associated with an agriculture right. Discussion ensued. Based on a question from Commissioner Cerri, Deputy District Attorney Maddox reviewed the amounts identified in the appraisal. Commissioner Hoss asked if this water would be given to Lithium Nevada. Manager Mendiola responded. Commissioner Hill asked about the ability to transfer the rights if a business came in that was not in the Gold County water area. Chairman Tipton responded. Discussion ensued regarding the status of the basin. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Hill and passed with Chairman Tipton and Commissioners Hill, Cerri and Evatz voting aye and Commissioner Hoss voting nay:

To secure one-hundred percent of all 1470.90 acre-feet from Gold Country Water that are not included in the Gold Country Water acquisition upon closing of the acquisition of Gold Country Water system at a cost of \$1,000.00 per acre feet and a total expenditure of \$1,470,900.00; The funding will come from the Local and Tribal Consistency Fund revenues received by the County in Fiscal Year 2022. The water rights will be utilized for economic development and housing projects within the existing water basin.

(Deputy District Attorney Michael Macdonald substituted for Deputy District Attorney Maddox at 1:15 p.m.)

GRASS VALLEY WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FACILITY PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE: County Manager Dave Mendiola will provide an update on funding efforts related to the design and construction of a wastewater collection and treatment facility in Grass Valley, including efforts to secure grant funding for the purchase of land and the design phase of the project as well as other possible funding through the State Revolving Fund. Manager Mendiola reviewed the information for the Commission noting changes at the State level but his expectation that the funding will remain and other options related to grant funds as well as other opportunities and his plan to meet with state representatives about said opportunities as well as an economic development funding for engineering. Chairman Tipton asked about the ability to use State Revolving Funds as a match for other grants. Manager Mendiola responded. Commissioner Evatz asked, if a return call from the new Chief of Staff had occurred based on the call made by Senator Hansen at the meeting the prior week and if it has not occurred he asked that the matter be followed up on; he stated that he would like to attend the meeting with the state representative and commented on the need to pursue this soon due to the cost. Commissioner Hoss asked what the funding identified as 30-million was for; he noted his concern that the amount is only going to cover a portion of the project. Manager Mendiola reviewed what the funding would cover in phase one noting additional

funding would be required for additional phases but noting the point is to address the higher populated areas. Commissioner Evatz commented on the plan.

FORUM REGARDING THE FORMATION OF A PUBLIC LANDS USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Consideration, discussion and possible approval to form a Public Lands Use and Natural Resources (PLUNR) Advisory Committee. The committee would be made up of stakeholders from different groups within Humboldt County, including Agriculture (Ranching/Farming), Sportsmen Groups (Nevada Muleys, Ducks Unlimited, Bird Groups), Mining, Outdoor Recreationalists (OHV, Snowmobile, Others) with the goal of monitoring federal and state agencies planning and policy activities related to multiple use of public lands and providing input to the Board of County Commissioners regarding impacts of current and potential new policies and actions. Commissioner Cerri offered comment on the benefit of creating this committee. Manager Mendiola offered comment. Andy Rieber appeared before the Commission (via Teams) and gave an overview of what this committee could provide using the County's Land Use Plans to provide information to the Commission on how to respond to Federal and State agencies as to policies and actions. Commissioner Hoss stated that he thinks it is a great idea. Commissioner Evatz stated his support for this and suggested that, if there are some counties that have a committee like this, which functions well that we reach out to them to help streamline the process. Commissioner Cerri commented that he has seen these groups look at water as well and so that may need to be included. Ms. Reiber responded that in White Pine the Public Lands and Water committees were recently merged and to her it seems like an efficiency. The following motion was made by Commissioner Cerri and passed unanimously: *To direct the County Manager to begin the process to form a Public Land Use and Natural Resources Advisory Committee to include water.*

FORUM REGARDING THE CREATION OF A COUNTY-WIDE WEED COLLABORATIVE AND HIRE A WEED COORDINATOR IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY: Consideration, discussion and possible action to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to create a County-wide Weed Collaborative and to explore possible sources of grant funding to hire a part-time or full-time Coordinator. The position would work closely with Conservation Districts, Weed Districts, as well as federal and state agencies to coordinate noxious weed abatement activities in Humboldt County. Cooperative Extension Agent Brad Schultz and Conservation Districts Program Coordinator Melany Aten appeared before the Commission. Mr. Schultz addressed the Commission and defined what is being discussed here which are noxious weeds and explained how those are defined, the increase of said weeds and the impacts as a result, the lands impacted by weeds, the need to focus on the whole spectrum, what this position would need to do and the need to have someone designated to cover the entire county. Ms. Aten offered comment on how the conservation districts and

weed districts have different goals even though they do coordinate when they can and information on what the districts do but again noting the lack of coordination between all of those involved. Andy Rieber (via Teams) offered comment the benefit of having a coordinator for all of the weed issues as she believes it has a lot of merit noting that other counties have created a multiple county weed district and how they are addressing weed treatment.

Commissioner Cerri questioned how we would pay for the program including the coordinator and the spraying, would this require grant funding. Ms. Aten responded. Commissioner Cerri asked how noxious weeds are treated on lands where the ownership is unknown. Ms. Rieber responded noting statutory language which allows for this type of treatment.

Commissioner Evatz commented on the funding concern as well as looking to the counties that are making it work. Ms. Aten commented on what has been done in Lander and Pershing Counties. Commissioner Cerri agreed that a weed coordinator is beneficial but noted some issues including the budget situation. Ms. Reiber offered comment on discussion she has had with the BLM and their ability to share in the cost for this type of program; she recommended that the County tap into the federal and state agencies regarding funding possibilities.

Discussion ensued as to how to pursue this plan and the timeline for that process. Commissioner Hill asked if the contract route had been looked at for this. Mr. Schultz responded. Commissioner Hill stated that he like the concept of getting things moving with more discussion later. Deputy District Attorney Macdonald offered comment suggesting that this is not only approving the concept but also an item needs to be considered for inclusion on the budget noting if the Board waits until next budget cycle that may delay the process. Commissioner Hill suggested that a concept amount could be included in the budget. Commissioner Evatz agreed with Commissioner Hill's suggestion about looking at the contract aspect; he noted his experience with the Nevada Muleys' group. Ms. Aten commented that it is easier to work toward grant funding and matches if you have some funding in place. Commissioner Cerri commented on the benefit of getting the coordinator in place and leave it to them to determine where the funding comes from. The following motion was made by Commissioner Cerri and passed unanimously:

To approve the concept of a county-wide collaborator and explore the feasibility of that position.

Discussion ensued.

OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW TO MAKE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE: Consideration, discussion and possible action regarding the current processes and procedures utilized for County Commission meetings, including but not limited to how agenda items are determined, how to streamline processes that require Commission approval and how to eliminate redundancy with

certain items. Commissioner Evatz offered his appreciation of the public format but commented on the ability to improve the process noting the need to involve both the new and old blood as well as obtaining input from County Department Heads; that he would just like to see an overall improvement in the efficiency of information exchange and engagement with the public; he suggested that the Commission could see, if Dave or a member of his team, could coordinate that kind of brainstorming session so it is not just the Commission and then obtain input from the Board based on their experience; he suggested that if meetings were more efficient and our engagement with the public was more efficient we might see more participation. Commissioner Hill asked if it would be helpful to bring back a time specific format and stick to those time lines and suggested that the limit on public comments of 3 minutes needs to be stuck to. Discussion ensued regarding the issues which occurred with a time specific format. Discussion ensued increasing the amount of purchase that requires Commission approval with Comptroller Rackley explaining why the amount of \$5,000.00 was set per auditor request. Discussion ensued regarding the reports provided to the Commission by staff. Chairman Tipton explained how he intends to handle agenda items during his time as Chairman. Commissioner Evatz provided clarification on his request. Clerk Spero offered comment as to the requirements for public hearings. Deputy District Attorney Macdonald offered comment. Human Resources Director/Assistant County Manager Abel del Real-Nava offered comment on training available to the Commission from Pool/Pact as to Robert's Rules of Order and other points related to meeting management. Commissioner Cerri offered comment on the benefits of discussing issues with the Manager or Comptroller or whomever can assist and reviewing the agenda items but noted the benefit of receiving the County Manager's input on items. Chairman Tipton offered comment on public comments. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Hill offered comment on the \$5,000.00 limit and his concerns with inflation that the amount may getting too low. Comptroller Rackley clarified that the limit is associated with capital assets and explained. Discussion ensued regarding the need for communication and the ability to look for other efficiencies and ideas.

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS AND BILL DRAFT REQUESTS (BDR) THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP IN THE 2023 NEVADA LEGISLATURE: Consideration, discussion and possible action regarding Senate and House Bills as well as Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) that could impact Humboldt County financially or otherwise that the County would like to be involved and heard on during the legislative session.

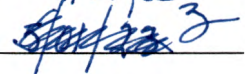
Chairman Tipton recessed the meeting at 3:31 p.m. reconvening at 3:39 p.m.

Chairman Tipton explained how to access the bill draft requests through the Nevada Legislative site and reviewed NACO's Bill Draft Requests and other BDRs submitted. Discussion ensued regarding various BDRs submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairman Tipton asked for public comment; none offered.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Tipton adjourned the retreat at 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST:  Clerk APPROVED:  Chairman

(Minutes approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman on 4/17/23
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Notice of Public Meeting
HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL RETREAT
Monday, January 30, 2023
8:30 AM

50 W. Fifth Street, Room 201
Winnemucca, NV 89445

Click here to join the meeting:
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All times on this agenda are approximate. Consideration of items may require more or less time than is scheduled. Items on the agenda may be taken out of order; the public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration; and the public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. Public comment is designated for discussion only. The public has the opportunity to address the Commission on any matter not appearing on the agenda; however, no action may be taken on Matter raised until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Additionally, public comment may be heard on any item listed on the Agenda. Persons are invited to submit comments in writing and/or attend and make comments on any agenda item at the Commission meeting. All public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person, at the discretion of the Commission.

Agenda - Monday, January 30, 2023

1. STAFF REPORT
 - A) Retreat Staff Report
[2023 Annual Retreat STAFF REPORT.pdf](#)

2. CALL TO ORDER
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

General public comment is designated for discussion only. The public has the opportunity to address the Commission on any matter not appearing on this agenda; however, no action may be taken on a matter raised until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

5. LITHIUM NEVADA PRESENTATION (INFORMATION ONLY)
Representatives from Lithium Nevada will present an update on the Thacker Pass Lithium project. Information only.
6. ORMAT TECHNOLOGIES PRESENTATION (INFORMATION ONLY)
Representatives from Ormat Technologies will present an update on their Baltozar Geothermal Project near Denio, Nevada. Information only.
7. GOLD COUNTRY WATER SYSTEM ACQUISITION UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF FORMING A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR MANAGING THE SYSTEM LONG-TERM (INFORMATION ONLY) / FINAL WATER PURCHASE DECISION ON ADDITIONAL WATER RIGHTS AVAILABLE FROM GOLD COUNTRY WATER (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
 - A) Update by County Manager Mendiola and Deputy DA Wendy Maddox on the processes that need to occur as part of the acquisition agreement approved by the Board in November of 2022 before the Gold Country water system and associated water rights pass to the County for ownership, operation and maintenance. For Information Only.
 - B) Consideration, discussion and possible approval to secure 100% of all 1470.90 Acre Feet (AF) from Gold Country Water that are not included in the GCW acquisition upon closing of the acquisition of Gold Country Water system at a cost of \$1,000 per AF and a total expenditure of \$1,470,900. The funding will come from the Local and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) revenues received by the County in FY 2022. The water rights will be utilized for economic development and housing projects within the existing water basin. Discussion and possible action.
 - C) Consideration, discussion and possible action to determine whether it is feasible, appropriate and in the best interest of the County to form a General Improvement District for the Gold Country water system and if so, Direct the County Manager to begin efforts to recruit members willing to serve, and identify boundaries for the district so a resolution and ordinance can be brought back before the board at a later date. Discussion and possible action.
8. GRASS VALLEY WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FACILITY PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)
County Manager Dave Mendiola will provide an update on funding efforts related to the design and construction of a wastewater collection and treatment facility in Grass Valley, including efforts to secure grant funding for the purchase of land and the design phase of the project as well as other possible funding through the State Revolving Fund. Information Only.
9. WORKING LUNCH BREAK
10. FORUM REGARDING THE FORMATION OF A PUBLIC LANDS USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)
Consideration, discussion and possible approval to form a Public Lands Use and

Natural Resources (PLUNR) Advisory Committee. The committee would be made up of stakeholders from different groups within Humboldt County, including Agriculture (Ranching/Farming), Sportsmen Groups (Nevada Muleys, Ducks Unlimited, Bird Groups) Mining, Outdoor Recreationalists (OHV, Snowmobile, Others) with the goal of monitoring federal and state agencies planning and policy activities related to multiple use of public lands and providing input to the Board of County Commissioners regarding impacts of current and potential new policies and actions. Discussion and possible action.

11. FORUM REGARDING THE CREATION OF A COUNTY-WIDE WEED COLLABORATIVE AND HIRE A WEED COORDINATOR IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY

(DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Consideration, discussion and possible action to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to create a County-wide Weed Collaborative and to explore possible sources of grant funding to hire a part-time or full-time Coordinator. The position would work closely with Conservation Districts, Weed Districts, as well as federal and state agencies to coordinate noxious weed abatement activities in Humboldt County. Discussion and possible action.

12. OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW TO MAKE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Consideration, discussion and possible action regarding the current processes and procedures utilized for County Commission meetings, including but not limited to how agenda items are determined, how to streamline processes that require Commission approval and how to eliminate redundancy with certain items. Discussion and possible action.

13. REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS AND BILL DRAFT REQUESTS (BDR) THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP IN THE 2023 NEVADA LEGISLATURE (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Consideration, discussion and possible action regarding Senate and House Bills as well as Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) that could impact Humboldt County financially or otherwise that the County would like to be involved and heard on during the legislative session. Discussion and possible action.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT:

General public comment is designated for discussion only. The public has the opportunity to address the Commission on any matter not appearing on this agenda; however, no action may be taken on a matter raised until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

NOTICE:

The County Commission may close the meeting to receive information from legal counsel pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 241.015.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting electronically via Microsoft Teams or by appearing in person at the Humboldt County Courthouse Meeting Room 201 50 West

Fifth Street, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 at the time and date listed on the top of the agenda. There will be a physical location for the meeting; however, the meeting may be accessed electronically through an internet connection at Microsoft Teams link located on the first page of this agenda.

Members of the public may make a public comment at the meeting without being physically present by emailing publiccomment@humboldtcountynv.gov prior to 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting and messages received will be transcribed for entry into the record and provided to the Board for review. Members of the public may also make a public comment at the meeting without being physically present by accessing the meeting through the internet connection at Microsoft Teams link above.

Staff reports and supporting material posted for the meeting are available on the Humboldt County website at <https://www.humboldtcountynv.gov/> (click on the "Government" link on the home page) if that information was available when the agenda was posted. If the supporting material/ staff report is not included in the agenda packet, it is available to the general public at the same time the materials are provided to the Board. The administrative assistant at the County Manager's Office located at 50 West 5th Street, Winnemucca, Nevada, telephone number 775-623-6300 is the designated person from

whom a member of the public may request the supporting material for this meeting and the County Manager's Office is the location where the supporting material is available to the public.

15. ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE:

The public is welcome to attend the meeting electronically via Microsoft Teams or by appearing in person at the Humboldt County Courthouse Meeting Room 201 50 West Fifth Street, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 at the time and date listed on the top of the agenda. There will be a physical location for the meeting; however, the meeting may be accessed electronically through an internet connection at Microsoft Teams link located on the first page of this agenda.

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Winnemucca, Nevada, telephone number 775- 623-6300 is the designated person from whom a member of the public may request the supporting material for this meeting and the County Manager's Office is the location where the supporting material is available to the public.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

PLACES POSTED: Humboldt Co. Courthouse, 50 W. 5th St.: Rooms 201, 205, & 207 at

9:00 A.M. By: MC

Humboldt County Website: www.humboldtcountynv.gov at _____ A.M. By: _____

State of Nevada Website: www.notice.nv.gov. _____ A.M. By: _____

MEETING DATE: January 30, 2023 DATE POSTED: January 25, 2023

NOTE FOR SUPPORTING MATERIAL: A copy of the supporting material for the meeting may be obtained at Commissioner meeting/agendas on the Humboldt County website: www.humboldtcountynv.gov or by contacting the County Manager's Office, at 50 W. Fifth Street, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, (775) 623-6300.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Humboldt County Administrator's Office at 623-6300 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NOTICE - Humboldt County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment or services in an unlawful manner.





NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT - In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

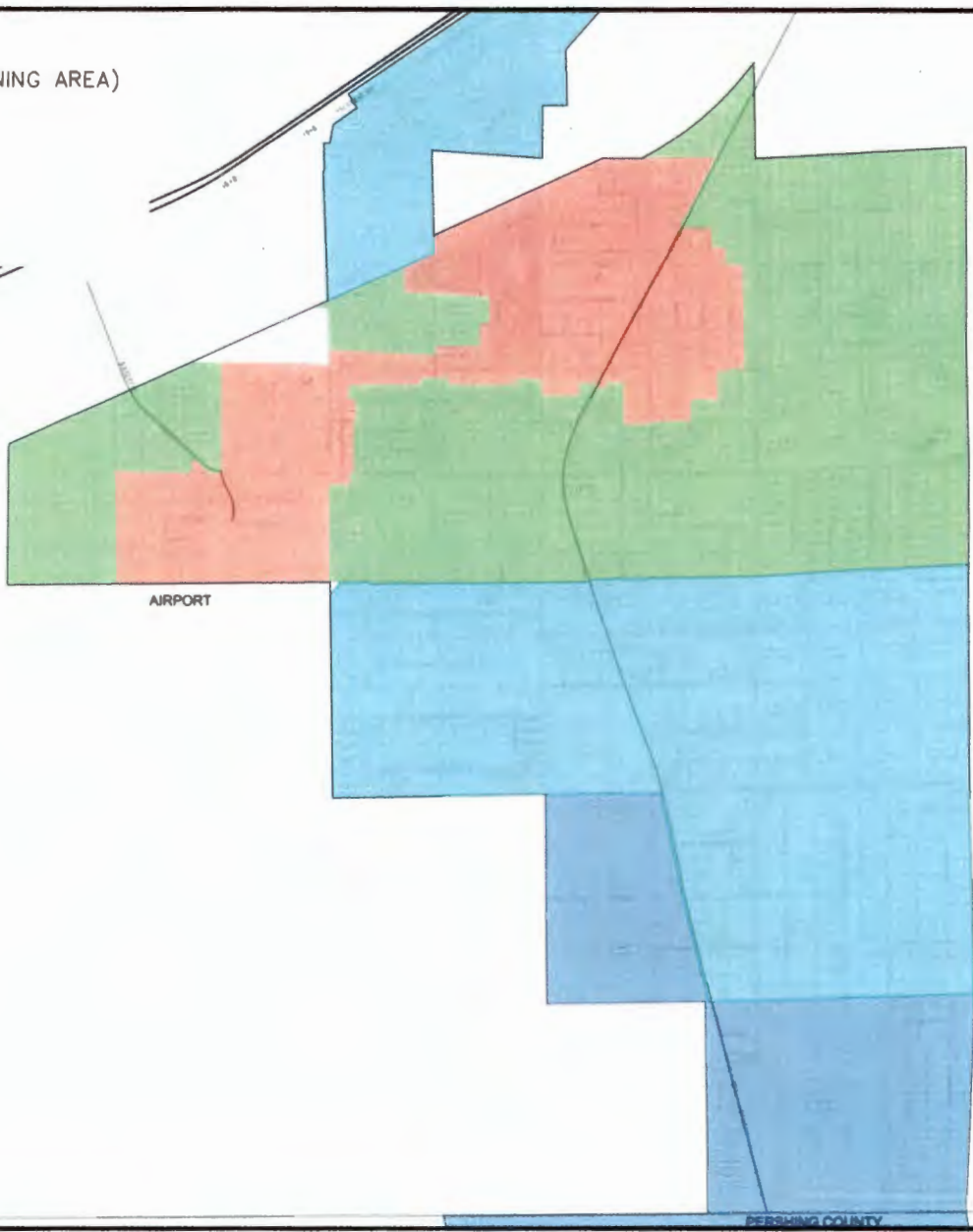
Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should Contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-9339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
fax: (202) 690-7422; or
email intake@usda.gov
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

LEGEND

-  PHASE 1 (PER PLANNING AREA)
-  PHASE 2
-  PHASE 3
-  PHASE 4



JOB NO.: 4028
DESIGN: 003
DRAWN: KMP
CHECKED: DLP
DATE: FEB 2022

FARR WEST
ENGINEERS, INC.
451 COUNTY STREET
ELLEN, NEVADA 89501
PHONE: (775) 738-2131
FAX: (775) 851-0798

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
NEVADA
MASTER SEWER PLAN



FG 5

