

**IN A JOINT MEETING WITH THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION. LIQUOR BOARD & ROAD COMMISSION HELD ON MARCH 22, 2023 IN THE WHITE PINE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM IN ELY, NEVADA**

The Following Were Present:

County Commission  
Shane Bybee, Chairman  
Laurie L. Carson, Vice Chairman (via Zoom)  
Richard Howe, Commissioner  
Hank Vogler, Commissioner  
Janet VanCamp, Commissioner  
Nichole Stephey, Clerk of the Board  
Carol Hobbs, Deputy Clerk

County Officials  
Kathy Workman, Finance Director  
James S. Beecher, District Attorney  
Mike Johnson, IT  
Jasen Hutchens, IT Engineer  
Scott Henriod, Sheriff  
Martin Troutt, Roads Superintendent  
Lori Romero, Library Director

Also Present  
George Chachas, Georgetown  
Media

Appearing Via Zoom: Terri Martinez (Finance), Geri Wopschall, Burton Hilton (Assessor), Jennifer Lee (City of Ely), Michelle Beecher, Art M. Olson, Jennifer Farnworth (Finance), Catherine Bakaric (Treasurer), Abbi Hilligrass (Congressman Amodei), David Meyer (JUB), Jeremy Drew (RCI), Rhiannon Scanlon (rPlus Energies), Chrissie Shady (Recorder), Chris Hanafeld (BLM), Courtney Thornal (WPC Maintenance), Laura Oslund (PACE Coalition, Kristi Rozich (Aquatic Center Director), Shelby L., and others.  
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Chairman Shane Bybee called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

This was duly observed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Clerk Nichole Stephey advised the Board that Mr. George Giannopoulos supplied two letters for public comment, which were added to

the backup material.

George Chachas informed the Board they needed to address the composition of the Tour and Recreation Board, who are not White Pine County (WPC) residents. He continued that many members appear via Zoom and since COVID restrictions were relaxed, they need to be released. Mr. Chachas stated that grant money was provided to some who did not qualify under the provisions set by State NRS. He stated that Chairman Bath-McIntosh needed to be removed since the Convention Center was not holding conventions and added that a lot of money was being spent by that board needed change. Mr. Chachas felt that a lot was being lost downtown. On agenda item 2Bc, the old Standard Market in McGill needed to be put up for Tax Sale. Mr. Chachas requested a detailed accounting of overtime accrued by the Regional Planning Commission. He reminded the Board that the new Courthouse was not ADA compliant and that the sled riding hill across from the Senior Center needed a safety fence. Mr. Chachas had yet to see any permits or contractors working on the Community Choir building. He advised that the Great Basin project on Aultman did not have proper access on the corners. Time was called. Mr. Chachas continued and was removed from the meeting. Chairman Bybee called for a short recess to have Sheriff Scott Henriod remove Mr. Chachas.

Commissioner Hank Vogler advised that SB-90 was before the Legislature to make the wild mustang the State horse. He added that it seemed harmless, but there's over 100,000 horses destroying range and

Mr. George Chachas had to be removed from Beecher and Wheable's own meeting for being disruptive, only 2 months after they improperly appointed this highly disturbed individual to another Commission, for the sole purpose of playing politics.

He felt that as a rural county, the Senate Bill needed to be officially opposed.

## 1. NOTICE OF TIMED AGENDA ITEMS:

### A. 9:00 A.M. LIQUOR BOARD

\*1. **Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to grant Brenda McConaha a liquor license for the period of June 1st through June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The liquor license is for the McGill Swimming Pool Park area during the Schellraiser Music Festival.**  
**Sheriff Scott Henriod**

Sheriff Scott Henriod presented the item and asked the Board if they had any questions. Commissioner Richard Howe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vogler made the second. The motion passed

unanimously.

**\*2. Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the February 8, 2023 Liquor Board Meeting**

Via Zoom, Vice Chairman Laurie L. Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Howe made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. 9:15 A.M. ROAD COMMISSION**

**1. Discussion/Update: on Primary and Secondary Roads within White Pine County and County Facilities, Completed and Future Projects, Communications with Corporation and Governmental Agencies. Martin Troutt, Roads Superintendent**

Martin Troutt, Road Superintendent, provided an update of road maintenance activities from February 1st through March 13<sup>th</sup>, which included road maintenance of snow plowing and removal on standard roads, road maintenance of snow plow and removal on non-standard roads in North Creek, East Creek, Michigan, and Pinyon Pine, and snow removal for the airport. He provided an update on road maintenance for non-County roads, which included clearing snow drifts within Blue Diamond Estates for law enforcement access and clearing alley ways in both Ruth and McGill for propane deliveries. He added that they assisted Elko County on Ruby Valley Road for resident and service access. Superintendent Troutt added that the Road Department received a new CAT grater with a V-Plow attachment. Graters were working overtime in an effort to keep roads open. They were working on widening roads where snow was pushed and stacked and only had one lane. Fuel usage surged due to higher than normal weather. The City of Ely owed WPC 117 hours per the County/City Assistance agreement, which was a zero change from the last report. Superintendent Troutt added there were a few roads washed out: Monte Neva Road and Rogers Road south in Spring Valley. WP 10 was also washed out and closed but there was access around it. WP 7 to Pogue Rd in WPC was muddy but open. The Park Service provided a dozer for the Cave Valley Road, but the Road Department provided the fuel. He added he and Manager Wheable were looking for a solution to alleviate the Cross Timbers area from being flooded out. Superintendent Troutt also informed the Board that their budget was needing augmentation due to excessive fuel costs during the long winter.

**C. 9:20 A.M. NATURAL RESOURCES**

**1. Discussion/Information only regarding the White Pine County Natural**

**Resource and Public Land Issues Tracking List. Jeremy Drew, Principal Resource Specialist, RCI**

Jeremy Drew, RCI, joined via Zoom and advised he only had a few updates on the tracking list. The Garnet Hill MOU for cooperating agency had no change since the BLM made their presentation to the Board. On the proposed Spring Valley National Monument, feedback was received from each Congressional Delegate and from the Governor's Office. They were appreciative of the letter and map provided. They also briefed the Governor's Office as well as Senator Rosen's staff. He would be looking at supplementing the task order since there had been a request for additional meetings and briefings. Supervisor Woolsey from Great Basin National Park expressed appreciation for the Commission's comments to the fire management plan and mentioned he would be in touch to let the Board know how they incorporated their feedback. Greenlink North held a pre-NEPA public meeting on March 29th at 5:30 p.m. That was the third pre-NEPA meeting on that project.

Regarding the White Pine Pumped Storage, Mr. Drew provided extensive comments to their draft license application and he subsequently provided their responses. He added that the responses are typical in a NEPA type process or other administrative process. Some of the responses were difficult to ascertain so if any of the Commissioners had question, Mr. Drew encouraged they reach out to him. The second item he encouraged the Board to take note of was the Notice of Application Tendered for Filing with the Commission Requesting Cooperating Agencies and Soliciting Additional Study Requests. He added it had an April 28th deadline. In the notice, they called out several federal agencies who will be cooperating agencies such as the BLM and they did not call out any of the State or local agencies, although it could be requested. The Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) did recommend pursuing cooperating agency status as well as asking for the follow up studies that they see completed as the project progressed that are considered private. Mr. Drew advised he would research further and reach out to District Attorney James S. Beecher, if necessary, to ensure cooperating agency status would not limit the Board. Item# 3n regarding the application was not ready for environmental analysis. In Mr. Copeland's presentation he illustrated project progress moving forward and before FERC would recognize the project as being EA ready, there would be a public scoping period that would provide an opportunity for comment during that scoping period before FERC deemed the application ready for analysis. Mr. Drew continued regarding Item O that described the main components of the project and the disposition of the road on the Duck Creek Basin side of the mountain. It was reported during the NRAC

meeting as well as it was to this Board that the intent of that road would be an emergency access road and the road itself would not be improved. That was not how it read on the posting or in their response to comments. They talked about an alternative upper reservoir road from the upper reservoir road to Duck Creek Basin or WP Road 29 that would be two lanes and paved, which was contradictory to previous statements. Mr. Copeland advised he would investigate and get back to Mr. Drew and that he was open to be revisions, if necessary.

Regarding the update from the former Commissioner in Beaver County, Utah on the Pine and Wah Wah Valley Export Project, he asked for a status update to the Color Country BLM District Manager on their EIS. The response Mr. Drew received from the BLM District Manager was there were substantial changes to the EIS analysis, so they were still working on that internally with the BLM. It was unclear if it would come back in a draft supplemental format and no time frame for that was provided. Mr. Drew's final update regarding NRAC and energy transmission was moving forward with the development of an energy section per the WPC Lands Public Policy Plan. Commissioner Vogler questioned what responsibility the local Sheriff or ambulance have once the Garnet Hill project was completed. Mr. Drew advised he could check in with Churchill County if they had any funding exchange since they had worked on a similar project. Mr. Drew added that garbage collection should be addressed in the EA. Commissioner Vogler also noted that some Indian Tribes worked with the BLM that had equal standing and equal status and he felt that would be worth pursuing regarding the Swamp Cedars. Mr. Drew advised he would certainly explore that further. DA James Beecher reminded the Commission on discussion update protocol.

**\*2. Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM for Cooperating Agency Status on the Garnet Hill Recreation Area Management Plan. Jeremy Drew, Principal Resource Specialist, RCI**

Via Zoom, Mr. Drew advised the Board that he reviewed the MOU with counsel and he was comfortable seeking Board approval and signature of the Cooperating Agency MOU. Commissioner Howe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vogler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**\*3. Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of two Task Order Addendums (Amended Phase 5 for the Proposed Spring Valley National Monument and Phase 6 for the White Pine Pumped Storage Project). Jeremy Drew, Principal Resource Specialist, RCI**

Via Zoom, Mr. Drew advised they had a master's services agreement with the County that carried their budget through the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2023) and the total budget for that was \$40,000.00. This request was to expand the budget from all the feedback received from Congressional offices and expand the Pumped Storage Efforts. Vice Chairman Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Howe seconded. The motion passed 5 to zero.

## **2. ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

### **A. COUNTY COMMISSION**

#### **1. Hank Vogler, Commissioner**

##### **\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2023-12 supporting coyote calling**

Commissioner Vogler explained that several counties held two-man contests where they hunt coyotes and whoever got the most received prizes. It helped with the Sage Grouse on the endangered species list. As a hunter, he wanted to have more hunting opportunities for people. He advised there was a push through the Legislature to stop the coyote contests. He believed it was legal to hunt them at night. He added that without the contest, one could still hunt but, it was an incentive to help population control. Commissioner Howe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Janet VanCamp made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. ELECTED OFFICIALS**

#### **1. Catherine Bakaric, Treasurer**

##### **a) Discussion/Update regarding the Treasurer's monthly report for January 2023** Treasurer Catherine Bakaric was not on Zoom. There was no update.

##### **b) Discussion/Update regarding the Tax Sale**

Treasurer Bakaric was not on Zoom. There was no update.

##### **\*c) Discussion/For Possible Action: regarding direction on how the Treasurer should proceed with the Standard Market in McGill (APN 004-053-08) and the storage unit in McGill (APN 004-171-06)**

Finance Director Kathy Workman advised that she and Treasurer Catherine Bakaric had discussed this item and requested it be tabled. Commissioner Howe made the motion to table. Commissioner Vogler made the second. The motion passed unanimously, and the item was tabled.

### **C. DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**1. Lori Romero, Library Director/Senior Program Administrator**

**\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action to Accept Nutrition Supplement Incentive Program Grant #17-000-07-NX-23 in the amount of \$11,873.00 with no County match**

Library Director Lori Romero advised this was received yearly and it would be utilized for food. Commissioner Vogler made the motion to approve. Commissioner VanCamp made the second. The motion passed 5 to zero.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

The following are "action" items that may be considered in one motion/one vote. They are considered routine, non-public hearing items that have no protests. Any person representing an item or member of the public not in agreement with the recommendations by staff should request to have that item removed from the Consent Agenda. Any County Commissioner may remove any items from the consent Agenda and have it placed in the Action Items.

**\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Payroll for County Elected Officials.**

**\*b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of budget transfers within and between functions or programs within a fund that do not increase the total appropriation of the fund.**

**\*c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the February 22, 2023 Joint County**

Vice Chairman Carson commented on the February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 minutes and spoke regarding typos on page 3, item b1, line 8; page 6, item b2, line 7 from the bottom; and page 11, item 2, line 6 from the bottom. With those corrections, Vice Chairman Carson made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Howe seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Vogler moved to adjourn; Commissioner VanCamp seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

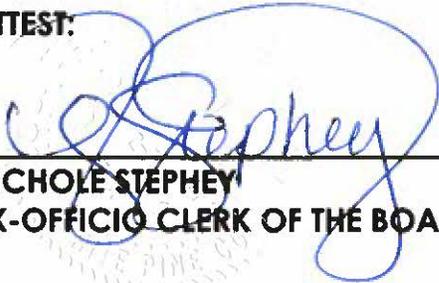
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**WHITE PINE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA**



**SHANE BYBEE, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**



**NICHOLE STEPHEY  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**