

White Pine County Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 14th, 2022

5:00pm

White Pine County Library Conference Room

950 Campton Street Ely, NV 89301

Minutes

Attendance: Jared Bybee, Cody Odgers, Laurie Carson, Jose Noriega, Bill Wilson, Bill Miller, Dave Baker, Mary Kerner, Danny Reed, Mark Tefft, County Manager Mike Wheable, Dana Johnson,

Zoom – Gary Perea, Steven Carter, Fredrick Partey, Jeremy Drew

- I. Call to Order **05:01 pm**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions
- III. Public Comment
Bill Wilson and Gary Perea made comments about the agenda and the packets needing to be presented in a timely and correct manner.
- IV. *New Business
 - a. *Discussion/for Possible Action – Approval of the April 12th and May 10th minutes.
 - i. **April 12th Minutes approved – Mary Kerner Motioned Dana Johnson Seconded, Passed**
 - ii. **May 10th Minutes approved – Mary Kerner Motioned Dana Johnson Seconded, Passed**
 - b. *Discussion/for Possible Action – Discussion and vote of any items for future agendas.
None at this time.
 - c. Discussion / for Possible Action – Update on the White Pine Pumped Storage Project. County Manager Wheable and/or Jeremy Drew, RCI may provide an update on any new developments with the Project. The Committee may take action to provide input to the Commission on any new items presented.

County Manager Wheable was present and discussed updates with the pump water storage project. He shared that the county had hired a lawyer to help write a development agreement for this project. This lawyer was hired to look at all points of the communities, boards and stakeholders concerns and to make sure they are all taken into consideration. This lawyer would be able to sort out the concerns and the aesthetic desires of the community and decide what belongs in the developmental agreement and the permit processes.

Wheable then continued his conversation addressing concerns of Natural Resource Board members and the social media policy the county adopted a few years ago. Wheable shared some misinformation that was shared by a member of the Natural Resources on social media. Wheable then expressed his concern that the board understands that they need to share any information or concerns that they may have with him and not posted on social media.

Wheable finished with extending his office to the board to please communicate any concerns and previous arrangements that the Water Advisory Board and/or the Public Land User Advisory board had with the Hydro project. This way County Manager Wheable would then be able to work forward in getting these items addressed.

Jeremy Drew was present and stated that he did not have any recent updates on the Hydro project that had not already been spoken about.

Bill Wilson brought up a fault line in the area of the Hydro project. He asked if the fault line was being addressed with geotechnical studies during this drilling stage of the project.

Discussion was had about what studies would be taking place during the fall period. It was stressed again that any questions that could be collected should be collected and shared.

Steven Carter then asked if the County was going to hold any public hearings or presentations on this project so the public could voice their concerns and or objections to the Hydro project. Cody Odgers replied that there already has been a few public hearings and multiple presentations at the Commission meetings and one for the Natural Resources Board recently. Cody suggested that if anyone had concerns they could express them during the Commission meetings and the Natural Resources meetings. Cody also suggested asking the Commission to have another public hearing.

Jeremy Drew stated that there would be more public hearings as the process and application processes move forward.

- d. Discussion / for Possible Action – Addition of an Energy Section to the White Pine County Public Lands Policy Plan. Jeremy Drew, RCI will discuss energy policy from other Counties that may serve as a starting point for a new section of the White Pine County Public Lands Policy Plan. The Committee may provide direction for development of draft language specific to White Pine County. The Committee may establish a sub-committee, and appointment members, to work with Mr. Drew on this issue.

Jeremy Drew was present and spoke that it would be very helpful for the committee if they would apply a sub-committee to help create an Energy Development section of the counties Lands Policy Plan that could be altered as energy projects enter the county.

It was decided that Jeremy would make the request to the Commission from the Natural Resources Board that Jeremy would begin the process on this energy plan.

Dana Johnson motioned that RCI would suggest to the Commission that they would move forward in the process of developing an Energy Development Section for the Public Lands Policy. Dave Baker Second. Motion Passed.

V. County Representative Update
None Present

VI. Discussion

- a. *Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Bureau of Land Management – **Jared Bybee was present for an update. See back up material for updates.**
- b. *Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – U.S. Forest Service – **Jose Noriega was present. Jose touched on the drought and the changes it has altered in the area.**

Jose touched on the push Blue Diamond was having to get rid of some land allotments in the Ward Mountain Area. He continued touching on the recreational side of the Forrest Service and the increase of fees at the campgrounds. From \$10.00 to \$12.00 and group sites being a flat rate versus being based on the amount of campers.

Ward Campground still has no water. Timber Creek and Bird Creek rates have been moved to \$10.00 a site. The Forest Service did expand the Bird Creek group site and placed a canopy over the day use areas.

Jose touched on the Fire side and stated that all the hiring was done for the season. His only full crew was the YCC youth crew and expressed that most hiring for the 2022 fire season had been unsuccessful.

Jose finished speaking on the noxious weeds and the work that they were working towards to help contain them.

- c. *Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – National Park Service – James Woolsey – Emailed an update to be presented. See below.

The project to reconstruct and restore the Wheeler Peak Campground is nearly complete. This campground, located at 10,000 feet elevation, provides a wonderful cool summer experience for visitors. The National Park Service is nearly complete on the \$4.5 million project. The campground will reopen by 26 June and can be reserved on the website www.recreation.gov.
- d. *Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Nevada State Parks – **None Present**
- e. *Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Department of Wildlife – **None Present**
- f. *Update/Discussion for Possible Action – RCI, Jeremy Drew – **Jeremy was present and went over a quick over view of the items that were not touch on by the BLM and the Forest Service. See back up material.**
- I. Discussion– Update from CRM on the White Pine County Public Lands Management Plan, OHV Section, County –Wide OHV Policy.
Jose stated that there was no update at this time.
- VII. Discussion/Action – Committee Vacancies, Resignations, Appointments
Kristi Lynch-Rozich resigned as secretary.
- VIII. Next Meeting Time and Date Announcement - **To Be Determined and distributed by the County Clerk. Expected date July 12th at 5pm.**
- IX. Public Comment - **None**
- X. Adjournment – **07:12 pm**

Authored by Kristi Lynch-Rozich, Secretary

Signed and approved:

Cody Odgers, Chairman

Attest:

Nichole Baldwin, Secretary as of 8/2022