

**STATE LAND USE PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

December 12, 2014

At the following location:

Siena Hotel  
1 South Lake Street  
Reno, Nevada 89501

**Members Present**

Lee Plemel, Carson City  
Eleanor Lockwood, Churchill County  
Nancy Amundsen, Clark County  
Jim French, Humboldt County  
Steven Stienmetz, Lander County  
Varlin Higbee, Lincoln County  
Virgil Arellano, Lyon County (Chair)  
Lorinda Wichman, Nye County  
Austin Osborne, Storey County  
Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County  
Jerrie Tipton, Mineral County  
Laurie Carson, White Pine County  
Roger Mancebo, Pershing  
Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County (Vice Chair)  
Dr. Don Miner, Douglas  
Randy Brown, Elko County

**Members Absent**

Dagny Stapleton, NACO

**Others Present**

Charles Donohue, Nevada Division of State Lands  
Skip Canfield, Nevada Division of State Lands, State Land Use Planning Agency  
Jean Herman, Washoe County Commissioner  
Harold Ritter, Lyon County Commissioner  
David Pritchett, BLM State Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM and self-introductions were made. A motion was made by **Jerrie Tipton** to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by **Roger Mancebo** and the agenda was approved with a majority vote.

A motion was made by Jerrie Tipton to approve the September 12, 2014 meeting minutes with minor grammatical changes, seconded by **Nancy Amundsen** and the minutes were approved with a majority vote and two abstentions (**Jake Tibbitts, Laurie Carson**).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2015**

A discussion was held on the nomination of a new Chair and Vice Chair for 2015. With majority consensus, **Jake Tibbitts** was nominated and accepted the position of Chair and **Lorinda Wichman** was nominated and accepted the position of Vice Chair.

## **AGENCY REPORT**

**Charles Donohue** thanked **Virgil Arellano** for his service to the State of Nevada as Chair of SLUPAC. He stated that the Division of State Lands (NDSL) budget had been submitted. NDSL is reviewing bill draft requests in anticipation of the 2015 Legislative session.

**Skip Canfield** updated the Council on the status of a bill draft relating to SLUPAC and the Executive Council. The proposal would authorize the entire SLUPAC to review proposals for areas of critical environmental concern, ACECs. Currently the Executive Council can review ACEC proposals. A second part of the bill draft request specifies the duties associated with resolving inconsistencies between local plans will stay with the Executive Council. All of this was predicated on a report submitted by the Sunset Committee to consider the status of the SLUPAC Executive Council.

## **COUNTY PLANNING ISSUES**

### **Jake Tibbitts – Eureka**

The County's Groundwater Management Plan is being developed and mentioned AB 419 that allows for a basin to be designated as a "critical management area". Diamond Valley is not designated yet. County is using a basin-wide approach to update the Water Resources Master Plan. There is a socioeconomic "boom and bust" issue in Eureka County regarding NEPA projects. EIS/EA baselines can be outdated, County has hired a consultant to update info to proactively address the analysis of demographic and socioeconomic trends.

### **Lorinda Wichman – Nye**

Discussed cooperating agency agreement wording for non-disclosure agreements, Concern that public servants cannot sign. **Jake Tibbitts** said that there is Freedom of Information Act rationale and an exemption language to conform to open meeting law. **Skip Canfield obtained** the wording and sent it out to the members.

### **Varlin Higbee – Lincoln**

Wild horse problem in eastern county. Concerns about possible new "City NCA" on 97,000 acres. Development is progressing at Toquop.

### **Steven Stienmetz – Lander**

New hay facility planned in Battle Mountain – for China.

### **Vaughn Hartung – Washoe**

Citizen group wants to have Virginia Range horse herd as a tourist attraction and the County has concerns. County is preparing for growth associated with TESLA.

### **Nancy Amundsen – Clark**

County has requested an extension to comment on the BLM Las Vegas RMP update. Latest BLM land auction generated \$50 million. Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone projects are moving forward. Economic activity is up.

**Laurie Carson – White Pine**

SNWA pipeline lawsuit is in court. County submitted comments to the National NACO on “Waters of the US” proposal. Mining activity is still strong.

**Lee Plemel – Carson City**

City is reviewing the BLM Pinenut Resource Management Plan.

**Dr. Don Miner - Douglas**

Update to the 1996 Master plan is completed. 80,000 square foot community center is now open. Planning Commission approved a “fish farm” – salt water Israeli technology, indoor building for salmon and sea bass.

**Roger Mancebo – Pershing**

Water Master Plan is almost complete.

**Austin Osborne – Storey**

USA Pkwy will be completed to US 50 in 2017, NDOT has taken over management of the project construction in Lyon County. In Storey County, USA Pkwy is complete to the county line but will need upgrades to meet NDOT standards. County is working with Reno/Sparks to purchase effluent for Tahoe Reno Industrial Park (TRI) applications. Decrease in gold prices has affected Comstock Mining but they are still expanding to 1300 acres. A special use permit was approved to double the size of the pit. County is working with Silver City in Lyon County, listening to their concerns regarding the mine. County Master plan update is 40% completed. Anticipated completion end of 2015. Ongoing VC Highlands water problems, some residents have been forced to truck in water. Also looking at possible transfer of development rights there to offset future exacerbation of the problem.

**Jim French - Humboldt**

County Water Management Plan completed. There are “out of basin” water transfer concerns in Humboldt County. Concern of loss of agriculture where BLM changes the classification of an area and does not acknowledge existing activities, when a new project is proposed. Winnemucca RMP is mismanaging wild horses and burros.

**Jerrie Tipton - Mineral**

County Subdivision ordinance almost done. Master Plan and Water Plan updates completed. County is reviewing the Carson City BLM RMP update. Concerned about 4 potential wilderness areas.

**Virgil Arellano – Lyon**

County has concerns about additional wilderness proposed in the Carson City BLM RMP update – north Pinenuts. County Land Use and Development Code being updated – issue is Lyon County has nine unique communities all with different needs. Domestic wells are going dry in some areas. County has water availability concerns related to TESLA.

**Eleanor Lockwood – Churchill**

County is reviewing the Carson City BLM RMP update and the Bureau of Reclamation Newlands Plan update. New jail will be completed in 2015. Master Plan update to be completed in 2015.

**Randy Brown – Elko**

78% of the county is sage grouse habitat. One size fits all approach of addressing the sage grouse doesn't work across the West.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**David Pritchett**, BLM State Office, stated that county comments on the RMP updates are welcomed and pertinent. The Carson City RMP update will not be final until after the Greater sage grouse plan is approved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The next meeting will be April 10, 2015 in Elko.

**ADJOURNMENT FOR FIELD TRIP**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am so SLUPAC members could attend the Central Nevada Water Authority meeting next door.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Canfield

/s/

Meeting Recorder

Please note that minutes should be considered draft minutes pending their approval at a future meeting of the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council. Corrections and changes could be made before approval.

The meeting was digitally recorded. Anyone wishing to receive or review the recording may call (775) 684-2723. The recording will be retained for three years.