



Board of Mineral County Commissioners

Hawthorne, Nevada

April 25, 2017

The Honorable Board of Mineral County Commissioners met this day in a recessed session with the following people present:

Honorable Garth D. Price	Chairman
Honorable Chris Hegg	Member
Honorable Christopher Nepper	Clerk-Treasurer

Absent	Honorable Jerrie Tipton	Vice-Chairman
	Honorable Sean Rowe	District Attorney

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Safety Message

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Hegg.

No Safety Message was offered.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Eric Johnson, Nevada Division of State Parks – Public workshop regarding new state park proposed for East Walker River, a portion of the properties being in Mineral County.

Eric Johnson, Nevada Division of State Parks gave a presentation regarding the proposed new state park for East Walker River. The area would encompass The Pitchfork Ranch, Rafter 7 Ranch, The Flying M Ranch, and Nine Mile which is a portion of the Flying M Ranch. The land total would be 12,700 acres with 28 miles of public access to the East Walker River.

The initial acquisition was by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for water rights, and then the property was offered to Nevada Division of State Parks. NFWF would be contributing 5.2 million dollars towards restoration of lands. Deeded property would be the responsibility of State Parks.

Mr. Johnson discussed the basic development for recreation and services for the proposed parks.

Recreation opportunities for the Flying M Ranch could include a day use, primitive camping, full hook-up camping, cabins and off highway vehicle access (OHV) campgrounds. Also kayak/canoe put in and take out areas, archery, walking trails, fishing, ADA access would also be included. The goal is to keep the airport when it becomes available through the life estate. They would also like to retain the existing trap and sporting clay range. The Flying M Ranch also has many existing cabins that would be available to rent.

Nine Mile development could include OHV access, primitive camping, interpretive center, a bridge, limited development with sanitation.

Rafter 7 Ranch development could include a public observatory, camping, fishing, day use area and OHV access.

The Pitchfork Ranch, OHV access, camping,

Road improvements were discussed.

Dana Dapolito, Nevada Division of State Parks, invited the public to select their top choices for amenities, activities and alternatives for The Pitchfork Ranch, Nine Mile and Rafter 7 Ranch and mark their choices on maps.

Mr. Johnson addressed concerns regarding emergency services and law enforcement in the area. There would be a Park Ranger & Supervisor at Pitchfork Ranch, Park Ranger at Rafter 7 Ranch, and a Park Ranger at the Stone House. Rangers would live on site and would allow for a shorter response time.

Roads and traffic, future mines, were discussed. Formal agreements would need to be in place regarding how road maintenance would be paid for.

Communications for Search & Rescue were also a concern, discussion ensued regarding repeaters and communications.

It will be one park, managed as four units. Mr. Johnson stated there would not be a fee to drive through the park to get to a destination on the opposite side of the park. There would be a charge if people wanted to stay within the park for recreation.

Discussion ensued regarding hunting zones.

4. Patrick Hughes, Mineral County Emergency Manager – Commissioner briefing concerning the status of, and possible impacts to Mineral County from the spring thaw flooding event that will impact Nevada over the next several months.

Mr. Hughes stated as of April 4th 2017 there was 640,000 acre feet of snow pack in the Walker Basin. Flooding was expected for May, June, July and August.

Intensity of the flooding would depend on the snowmelt rate. The towns of Yerington and Schurz were expected to flood. The south end Schurz was expected to receive more flood water than the rest of the community. Discussion ensued regarding notification for emergency services.

Impacts to roads were discussed possible road closures at Highway 208, Wilson Canyon, Highway 95, Highway 95A, Highway 50 and others. It was unknown when the roads might be closed or how many could be closed simultaneously.

Discussion ensued regarding distributing projected flooding impact information to the public.

Mitigation plans were also discussed regarding impacts to utilities, businesses, medical services, vector control (mosquitoes and insects) and shelter concerns.

Commissioner Price and Hegg felt it was important to get information to communities in regard to flooding and possible impacts.

Commissioner Price stated that the Schurz Tribal Council has been great to work with and was keeping everyone informed about the flooding event. He appreciated the Chairman of the Council

Board of Highway Commissioners - None


Public Comment - None

Commissioner Recognition- Commissioner Price thanked the Road Department and Utilities Department for their work on the Community Clean-up efforts.


There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting of the Board adjourned until Wednesday May 3, 2017 at 9:00AM.

A verbatim recording of this meeting has been prepared and by reference becomes a part thereof.

Approved: Board of County Commissioners

By: 
 Garth D. Price, Chairman

Date: 6.7.17

Attest: 
 Christopher Nepper, Clerk of the Board

Mineral County is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.