

**STATE LAND USE PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

June 3, 2022  
Humboldt County District Court  
Small Court Room  
25 West Fifth Street, Winnemucca, NV

**Members Present**

Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County (Chair)  
Lorinda Wichman, Nye County (Vice Chair)  
Hope Sullivan, Carson City  
Sami Real, Clark County  
Wilde Brough, Elko County  
De Winsor, Esmeralda County  
Jim French, Humboldt County  
Mike Reese, Lincoln County  
Wes Henderson, Lyon County  
Roger Mancebo, Pershing County  
Kathy Canfield, Storey County  
Jeanne Herman, Washoe County  
Marla McDade Williams, Nevada Indian Commission  
Charlene Bybee, Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities  
Jacob Brinkerhoff, Nevada Association of Counties

**Members Absent**

Jim Barbee, Churchill County  
Maureen Casey, Douglas County  
Art Clark, Lander County  
Curtis Schlepp, Mineral County  
Bill Calderwood, White Pine County

**Others Present**

Candance Stowell, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony  
Lindsey Manning, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation  
Michon Eben, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony  
Alex Tanchek, Silver State Government Relations  
Jaina Moan, the Nature Conservancy  
Joesph Lednicky, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
Andy Rieber, Consultant for Humboldt County  
Mike Visher, Nevada Division of Minerals  
Jordan Hosmer-Henner, Governor Steve Sisolak  
David Pritchett, U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Dan Nubel, Office of Attorney General  
Charlie Donohue, Nevada Division of State Lands  
Ellery Stahler, Nevada Division of State Lands  
Scott Carey, Nevada Division of State Lands

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Jake Tibbitts** at 9:01 am. A roll call was held for members of Council and a quorum was established. Introductions were made by others who were present.

**2) Public Comment**

**Jake Tibbitts** called for public comment. There was no public comment, and the public comment period was closed.

### **3) Review of the Agenda**

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that staff was unable to complete the February 10, 2022, meeting minutes before the meeting and suggested that the Council remove those minutes from the agenda. There were no other changes to the agenda suggested by the Council. **Jake Tibbitts** stated that there being no additional changes to the agenda, then the Council will proceed with the meeting agenda with the removal of the February 10, 2022, meeting minutes.

### **4) Approval of October 15, 2021 and February 10, 2022 SLUPAC Meeting Minutes**

**Lorinda Wichman** made a motion to approve the October 15, 2021 SLUPAC meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by **Roger Mancebo**. There was no discussion on the motion. There was no opposition to the motion and the motion was passed.

### **5) Election of Four Members to serve on the SLUPAC Executive Council**

**Jake Tibbitts** provided an overview of the staff memo for this item and the proposed letter that was included as page 15 of the [meeting packet](#). Jake stated that the current members of the SLUPAC Executive Council are Lorinda Wichman, Sami Real, Jim Barbee, and Jim French and the terms of these members expired on May 28, 2022. He reminded the Council that state law requires that the Executive Council be comprised of members from different geographic regions of the state. He stated that the Executive Council has never been formally requested to convene but felt that the existing members were doing a good job and that it would be good to reappoint them to another term.

**Roger Mancebo** made a motion to appoint Sami Real, Lorinda Wichman, Jim Barbee, and Jim French to the Executive Council for a two-year term ending on June 3, 2024. The motion was seconded by **Jeanne Herman**. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote of the Council.

**Jeanne Herman** made a motion to elect **Lorinda Wichman** as Vice Chair for a one-year term ending on February 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Roger Mancebo**.

**Wilde Brough** asked if the 4 members nominated consent to serving on the Executive Council.

**Sami Real** stated that she would be happy to serve another term on the Executive Council.

**Lorinda Wichman** stated that she is willing to serve another term on the Executive Council.

**Jim French** stated that he is willing to serve another term on the Executive Council but reminded the Council that his term on the Humboldt County Commission ends at the end of the year.

There was no opposition to the motion and the motion was passed.

### **6) NEAP Funding Letting of Support**

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided an overview of the staff memo for this item that was included as pages 16-19 of the [meeting packet](#). Scott stated that staff believes that the Nevada Economic Assessment Project (NEAP) contains a lot of useful data that can be to support the position of local governments and Tribal Nations in the land use planning processes. He stated that staff feels that the proposed letter is consistent with policy adopted by the Council in the past with respect to having accurate information to assess the economic impacts of land use planning decisions. He also stated that staff believes that the proposed letter will help support the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's efforts to secure long term, sustainable funding for NEAP. He stated that if approved, the Chair would be authorized to sign the letter, a copy of the approved letter would be posted on the Council's website and sent to officials included on the last page of letter.

Joesph Lednicky with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension stated that since the last Council meeting NEAP has entered into an agreement with Nevada State Parks to conduct a visitor use survey across all state parks in Nevada. Joesph stated that project team is working with the National Extension Foundation on a \$60,000 fellowship grant to support staff and technologies for NEAP.

**Jim French** asked if there was a sister study to the State Parks expenditure study that the NEAP is conducting with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW).

Joesph Lednicky with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension stated that there is not a similar expenditure study for NDOW. Joesph stated that NDOW had requested a study to look at the impacts of hunting and fishing generally through the University of Nevada, Reno College of Business. He stated that there are efforts to utilize the data collected through that study into the NEAP, but additional funding is needed to complete a similar expenditure study for NDOW.

**Jim French** stated that he was surprised that NDOW did not want this type of study completed through the NEAP because this data has been requested and has been needed by the agency for some time. Jim stated that from the standpoint of the State and counties, hunting and fishing expenditure data is used to support management decisions on the ground. He stated that this kind of data could be useful to determine the economic impacts of recreation on public lands and can be used to support comments on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects.

Joesph Lednicky with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension stated that NEAP is available to assist NDOW with such a study. Joesph stated that the work that has been done so far is the most extensive economic study of its kind ever completed in Nevada.

**Mike Reese** asked if the NEAP team was aware of state specific economic studies that are annually completed by the National Sportsman Foundation. Mike added that the latest Nevada study from 2020 was recently released. He stated that in 2020, Nevada's sportsman spent \$414 million which resulted in \$39 million in sales tax collected in the state.

Joesph Lednicky with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension stated that he was unaware of this study and that he will talk with his colleagues to make them aware of this study.

**Wilde Brough** asked for additional information about the work the NEAP is conducting in Elko County for wild horses.

Joesph Lednicky with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension stated that NEAP has been asked by the county to look at the impacts of wild horse and burros on public lands within Elko County. Joesph stated that this is a significant issue for the county and that wild horse and burro populations have exceeded the management levels of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He stated that the project team is looking at the impacts of these populations on hunting and other industries within the county.

**Wilde Brough** stated that the wildlife report was eye opening. Wilde stated that if the county had the deer population it had in 1983, Elko County would be \$35 million richer. He questioned how to get a large deer population if the deer winter range is depleted before they get there. He stated the BLM and county have completed every study there is concerning wild horses, but the county has never seen an economic number as to what it was actually costing ranchers. He stated that the population of wild horses are 3 to 4 times larger than they are supposed to be despite the BLM conducting gathers every now and then. He stated that once the horses are gathered, they are transported back east where it costs anywhere from \$500 per year and up to \$1,000 per year to be managed in Oklahoma. He stated that he wants to know what the wild horses are actually costing the county in terms of economic losses. He stated that he is a huge fan of NEAP and is 100% behind this letter.

**Jake Tibbitts** stated that those were great examples of this issue that were brought up by Wilde.

**Jim French** stated that he hopes that this study would circle back to the research that Dr. Tom Harris at the University of Nevada, Reno performed in the past looking at the long-term loss of grazing lands as opposed to the short-term losses. Jim stated that the conditions on the land have created a generational change on the land with the loss of topsoil and increase of invasive weeds happening all over the west due to large horse populations on the land. He stated that the lawsuit NACO filed against the BLM back in 2010-2011 was lost not because they didn't have standing but because the counties could not assess the economic losses from wild horses. He stated that under NEPA, the Department of the Interior is required to conduct a cost benefit analysis but they don't. He stated that Elko County has initiated the process with Humboldt County to get correct economic data that they counties can use in future NEPA proposals. He stated that there is a real need for accurate and timely economic data and that its important that all counties support this project.

Joesph Lednicky with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension stated that since the project is a part of the University, the team is able to pull in resources from various colleges to support counties with their data needs.

**Marla McDade Williams** stated that an economic analysis needs to be balanced by social welfare, environmental racial justice, and natural resources considerations. Marla stated that Native American people in this state used to hunt in areas where there now are homes. She stated that there is also a loss of habitat that is experienced by the Tribe's throughout the state. She stated that Tribe's do not receive state or local tax revenue. She stated that activities taking place on Federal land could benefit a county, but not the Tribe's.

**Jim French** stated that the Council was right about the need to quantifying the losses. Jim stated that the losses on Federal lands might not be the same with sport hunting, but this data could be useful for counties to have when quantifying the impact of management decisions.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that this issue was recently presented to the Legislature's Interim Public Lands Subcommittee in Ely. Charlie stated that during this meeting many legislators had some interesting comments and that the recording of this the meeting could be a good resource for the Council. He stated that he understands Jim French's comments about wildlife and that he and Ellery Stahler are working on acquisitions of behalf of NDOW and that they'd be happy to elevate the Council's comments on this issue with the department.

**Jim French** stated that he believed that NACO and the counties had a case against the BLM in the past and if they had accurate economic data they could have won. Jim stated that a past example of significant wildlife loss was in 1992-1993, where there was a significant loss of mule deer. He stated that in 1988-1989 the state was coming off a record high population of the mule deer. He stated that after a four-year drought by 1992 there was a negative effect on the wildlife populations which also resulted in a large wild horse die off. He stated that during this period the mule deer fawn ratios went from 88 per 100 does down to 4. He stated that once you reach these low ratios you have basically crashed the population and that the mule deer populations have never really recovered. He started that when you have wildlife losses it impacts the availability of tags and hunting opportunities throughout the state for years to come. He stated that these types of losses have an immense impact on smaller counties.

**Jake Tibbitts** brought up a couple of suggestions for the proposed letter. Jake proposed that in the first paragraph the phrase, "I am writing this letter" be changed to "as approved by the Council on June 3<sup>rd</sup>". He suggested in the third paragraph changing the phrase "assess local land use planning" to "assess land use planning and economic incentives at the county level". He suggested in the last sentence of the third paragraph to change "industries" with "proposals" and insert "land use policy" before. In the CC section of the letter, he suggested changing the Nevada Division of Wildlife to the Nevada Department of Wildlife and adding BLM, US Forest Service, the Joint Interim Standing Natural Resources Committee, the Interim Public Lands Subcommittee, and the Interim Finance Committee to the letter.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands asked how the NEAP is currently funded and what kind of funding is needed to support NEAP.

Joesph Lednicky with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension stated that the project is funded by the university and that they do receive contract specific funding to support the project. Joe stated that he believes a general fund line item in support of NEAP could help the team address data needs.

**Jake Tibbitts** suggested that the letter be addressed to Board of Regents Chair Cathy McAdoo, University of Nevada, Reno President Brian Sandoval, Dean Bill Payne with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and Dean Greg Moiser of the University of Nevada, Reno College of Business.

**Lorinda Wichman** made a motion to approve the NEAP letter with the changes suggested at the meeting and authorize the Chair to sign the letter. The motion was seconded by **Jim French**. There was no discussion on the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **7) County and Member Planning Updates**

### **Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County**

Jake stated that housing continues to be a big issue for Eureka County. He stated that with existing mining activities, new mining exploration, and tourist season going on all the hotels are full. He stated that with the hotels being full it has forced people who normally stay overnight in the county to visit other areas. He stated that the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is closing escrow on some lots in the Eureka subdivision to house their workers. He stated that NDOT has not been able to attract new workers to the area because of housing and they have purchased four lots to provide housing for their employees. He also stated that Eureka County continues to deal with water shortages and is still working on longer term solutions to water in the Diamond Valley.

Jake stated that the Cooperating Agency meetings for the Greenlink North transmission project start next week. He encouraged all counties along the proposed route to become cooperating agencies if they aren't already.

### **Lorinda Wichman, Nye County**

Lorinda stated that Nye County continues to work on housing issues within the county through its lands bill. She stated that the county needs to obtain additional land near communities for housing development. She stated that the county was approached by the BLM to see if there was land available to provide RV housing for their employees near the Tonopah airport. She stated that the county has an RV park at the airport that has not been used for many decades and the county is looking into ways to reopen it to provide housing.

Lorinda stated that the county does not have an update regarding NASA's proposed land withdrawal in the Railroad Valley. She stated that during monthly meetings between the county and NASA, the county has expressed concerns with NASA but the agency feels this withdrawal is a foregone conclusion. She also stated that the county expects to find out within the next week or so which member of the Nevada delegation will be championing the county's land bill in Congress.

### **Wilde Brough, Elko County**

Wilde stated that there is a lot of construction going on in Elko and Spring Creek for new natural gas pipelines and broadband internet. He stated that the new broadband internet is going to increase the speed and reduce the cost of service at the County administrative building. He stated that the previously reported railroad tie company moving to Wells needs additional railroad approval before it can begin operations. He stated that the City of West Wendover continues to work on its 84-acre downtown project. He stated that the City of West Wendover will soon receive 3,000 acres of the former bombing range for future economic development. He stated that marijuana sales continue to be strong in Jackpot and that the community will soon have a new Love's Truck Stop.

Wilde stated that the county continues to struggle to find builders to come and build new houses in Wells and Jackpot. He stated home builders in the Elko area continue to build new homes but it's very difficult to find builders in other areas of the county.

**Jacob Brinkerhoff**, Nevada Association of Counties

Jacob stated that NACO recently signed onto a letter to the BLM requesting additional funding to help manage the wild horse and burro program throughout the state. He stated that NACO is tracking the Greenlink West and Greenlink North transmission projects and remains concerned about sage grouse habitat issues throughout the state.

**Roger Mancebo**, Pershing County

Roger stated that Pershing County is having a lot of the same problems that have been expressed by the other members today. He stated that the outlook water remains dry and the county remains concerned about prolonged drought conditions in the Rye Patch reservoir. He stated that groundwater has become a large concern for the county with wells beginning to run dry. He stated that the water situation in the county has become dire as there is no water allotment for famers this year.

**Jim French**, Humboldt County

Jim stated that the permitting for the lithium mining project in Orvada has been completed. He stated that there are still some ongoing legal challenges to the project in addition to professional protestors who remain on the site. He stated that the mining project has begun the design and engineering phase. He stated even though lithium designated as a strategic metal for the nation, there has been a concerted effort throughout the state to stop lithium developments. He stated he believes that the project will move forward and that nearly 35% of all known lithium deposits in North America that are at the Thacker Pass site.

Jim stated that housing affordability and availability remains a challenge for Humboldt County as well as the entire state. He stated that there are contractors who are interested in building or have begun to build in the county but have been slowed down due to supply chain issues. He stated that there are a lot of houses that are in various stages of completion in the county that have been slowed down because of supply chain issues. He stated that because of the housing challenges in the community, the county is having issues attracting a qualified workforce and filling jobs that are needed. He stated that the county and the school district have begun to look at entry level housing and even RV parks to provide housing needed for the workforce. He stated that the hospital recently purchased four houses in Winnemucca to provide housing for doctors and other health care professionals.

Jim stated the county continues to monitor the proposed airspace modernization and expansion of Mountain Home Air Force base in the northern Humboldt and Elko counties. He stated that this is the same area the county has had to take fences out and shut down roads to provide habitat for the sage grouse. He stated that despite these past efforts in these areas there has been no opposition or concern about what the Air Force is proposing. He stated that the Air Force is proposing a 100 ft air space ceiling for aircraft training in these areas which he believes will have an impact on sage grouse.

Jim stated that there is a new solar project proposed for Valmy which includes two sections of private land next to the Valmy power plant. He stated that the project is still in the permitting stage, but conversations are ongoing with the State of Nevada about how property taxes will work. He stated that the plan is to transfer the ownership of the land to NV Energy once the project is complete. He stated that the county continues to deal with growing pains in Grass Valley. He stated that the area was developed 20-25 years ago with a large proliferation of wells and septic tanks that are now creating groundwater and nitrate concerns. He stated that the county is in the design and engineering phase for a new sewer treatment facility for the community. He stated that this is a \$60 million dollar project, and the county is trying to figure out how to pay for the new facility and provide these services to the homes in the area.

**Marla McDade Williams**, Nevada Indian Commission

Marla stated that Candance Stowell has recently been hired as the Planning Director for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. She stated that Candance has an interest in public lands and previously worked for Douglas County.

**Sami Real**, Clark County

Sami stated that Clark County continues to work on the rewrite of its entire zoning code and on housing affordability issues. She stated that the county continues to work on implementing its All In Clark County plan which is dedicated to promoting sustainability throughout the county. She stated that a big focus of the plan is to electrify the entire county, and that staff continues to have discussions with developers, business owners, and electric utilities to find ways to do things better.

**Jean Herman**, Washoe County

Jean stated that Washoe County continues to have a lot of same issues as the rest of the counties but on a much larger scale.

**De Winsor**, Esmeralda County

De stated that the county is still awaiting the new mine to develop in Goldfield and that the mine was recently sold to a different mining company. He stated that the new mining company has begun additional exploration of the area before beginning development of the new mine. He stated that new lithium mine between Dyer and Silver Peak has hit a little bit of a setback with the potential listing of an endangered plant in the area. He stated that two new truck stops are planned to come in before the end of year which will help out the county.

**Curtis Schlepp**, Mineral County

Curtis stated that housing and water continues to be a challenge for Mineral County like the rest of the state. He stated that the county is excited to see some new housing be developed in Hawthorne. He stated that the county also continues to deal with the management of wild horses.

**Hope Sullivan**, Carson City

Hope stated that the Planning Department is working with Building and Fire Departments on the long-term use and conversion of hotel units in the city to housing. She stated that there are a lot of electrical and fire safety concerns with the long-term use of hotel units as residential housing. She suggested that this may be an issue in other parts of the state and suggested a future agenda item on this topic.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands suggested that the city take a look at Durango, Colorado and the work they have done to transition hotel units into the city into housing. Scott stated that he recently attended a webinar through the American Planning Association that highlighted the good work Durango has done with its master plan and zoning code to successful convert hotel units into housing.

Hope stated that Carson City currently has two Neighborhood Improvement Districts and is considering creating two additional districts. She stated that the administration of these districts is a lot to go through annually and suggested that the Council have a future discussion on how to deal with administering these districts.

**Charlene Bybee**, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities

Charlene stated that she reached out to Wesley Harper with the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities and that he did not have any updates for the league. She stated that the City of Sparks continues to deal with housing affordability issues as well and is trying to provide for additional housing stock to meet the demands on the missing middle. She stated that the city is looking to provide additional townhomes, condos, and other smaller housing products to meet the housing needs of the city. She stated that the city is building a lot of apartments but there is still a strong demand and rents continue to increase. She stated that the inflationary pressures of the economy and supply chain issues are making the housing situation even more challenging. She stated that the city continues to work on new ways to provide housing for senior citizens, veterans, and transitional & supportive housing for the homeless.

**Mike Reese**, Lincoln County

Mike stated that housing is likely the biggest issue for Lincoln County and that its even starting to impact the BLM. He stated that the BLM recently hired 5 new employees, but the agency cannot find housing for these staff members within the county. He stated that he recently met with the county's planning and building departments and they shared with him that since the Lincoln County Land Act was approved by Congress in 2004, less than 500 acres of the 57,000 acres authorized has been disposed within the county. He stated that the county has received \$38,000 from the proceeds of these land sales but has spent more than \$150,000 to carry out the program. He stated that Lincoln County has become a popular destination for people from Las Vegas to visit and build second homes. He stated that the lack of available land, costs to build, and lack of builders in the county make it cost prohibitive to build these second homes. He stated that the county would like to see a better attitude from BLM to dispose of the federal lands that have authorized for disposal.

**Wes Henderson, Lyon County**

Wes stated that Lyon County continues to struggle with housing like the rest of the state. He stated that a lot of housing is currently under development in the Dayton area and as a result is stressing the area's sewer and water infrastructure. He stated that the county is expecting to soon see the preliminary maps for a potential Lyon County lands bill. He stated that once the maps are created the county will begin the public outreach and hearing process for a lands bill.

**Cathy Canfield, Storey County**

Cathy stated that Storey County is finishing up its water resources plan and that the county expects to have it ready for review by the end of the summer. She stated that the county continues to work on its RS 2477 roads program. She expressed the county's appreciation to Churchill and Nye county staff for their assistance with this planning effort. She stated that one of the reasons for the delay in the RS 2477 plan is that the county needs to have a roads and highway commission in place. She stated that the county has received a grant from the Carson Water Subconservancy District to conduct a Virginia City drainage study. She stated that the area has been designated as an EPA superfund site and that during large storm events, portions of Six Mile Canyon Road are damaged. She stated that the county in the past has tried to apply for FEMA funding to address this issue but was unsuccessful because the area has been designated as an EPA superfund site. She stated that the county hopes that the drainage study will help address and solve this issue.

Kathy stated that the county has received a planning grant to do develop a plan to address flooding in the Lockwood community. She stated that the county hopes that this new plan will help address and alleviate flooding potential in the community. She stated that the county continues to see a lot of new development in the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center with the majority of new development being warehousing and battery manufacturing uses. She stated that many of these developments have been forced to stop construction due to supply chain issues.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands asked Kathy if the export effluent pipeline from Washoe County to Storey County has been put into operation. Kathy stated that the pipeline is currently under construction except for is one segment that is going through legal challenges.

**Maureen Casey, Douglas County**

Maureen was unable to attend the meeting but provided the Council with an [update for Douglas County](#) prior to the meeting.

**8) Humboldt County Public Lands Plan Revision**

**Jim French** stated that Humboldt County originally initiated this planning process in 2010 or 2011. Jim stated that he felt that the original plan was robust for the time when it was adopted in 2011 but that the plan is no longer adequate in terms of the challenges the county is facing. He stated that the county is fortunate to have been able to hire Andy Rieber to assist the county with updating the public lands element of its master plan. He stated that the first step the county took to update its plan was to develop a comprehensive water



management plan. He stated that the county previously did not have a water management plan and amended its master plan to include this plan. He stated that the county's previous version of its public land plan did not adequately address the county's needs or concerns. He stated that Andy suggested to the County Commission that it develop its own positions and policies that specifically deal with the persistent land management issues of the Federal government. Issues that were brought up in the planning process was the Federal government's lack of recognition of livestock as a fuels management tool, failure to manage wild horses, failure to initiate adaptive management, and other management concerns. He stated that new language has been added to the public lands plan to express the county's expectation in terms of land management based on their own requirements under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and NEPA.

Jim stated that he feels that its important for counties that have upwards of 80%-90% Federal land ownership to understand how much of an impact a Federal land management decision can have on a county's quality of life and economic vitality. He stated that he feels that a county's master plan should be updated and revised at a minimum of every 10 years and that there may be circumstances where an updated may be needed earlier. He stated that one interesting issue discovered during the planning process was just how much FLPMA and NEPA require local government planning decisions and recommendations into Federal land management activities. He stated that Humboldt County would not have been able to develop its public lands plan and would not have been able to have the conversation and robust language in the plan without Andy Rieber.

Andy Rieber stated that one of the main challenges any county will face in developing its own Public Lands plan is that they don't have jurisdiction over Federal land management like they do with private lands. Andy stated that the counties have a very clear responsibility within Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) to safeguard public safety, health, and welfare. She suggested that counties should draft and implement their own positions and specific statements regarding land management issues. She stated that such positions and statements provide the county with an on the record articulated position when dealing with land management issues instead of shooting from the hip. She suggested that counties can help themselves by digging into Federal laws and policies and use these requirements to support the county's positions and statements. She stated that it's not good practice for counties to rely on the agencies to interpret Federal laws and policies. She suggested that counties should bring forth these requirements directly to the agencies. She also suggested that counties should take advantage of opportunities where the county can in limited spheres exert its control and influence on Federal land. She suggested that there are opportunities for a county to exert its control within the Clean Air Act, Noise Reduction Act, Water Pollution Control Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. She stated that all of these acts empower local governments to adopt ordinances that control environmental pollutants that Federal agencies must follow.

**Lorinda Wichman** asked if Humboldt County was going to share its Public Lands Plan with the Council.

**Jim French** stated that the county will be sharing a copy of the plan to anyone who would like a copy.

**Mike Reese** asked if there was anything in the plan that dealt with medical issues within a wilderness area and allowing for emergency response if needed. Andy Reiber stated that the county completed a chapter on law enforcement and public safety and that it was her understanding that during emergency situations local law enforcement and Federal agencies can work together to provide a response. She added that she believes the prohibition for emergency response within a wilderness area can be lifted in a life threatening emergency situation.

**Jim French** stated that Andy was correct and that its important for a county to participate and incorporate emergency response into an operations management plan that is adopted within a wilderness area.

**Mike Reese** stated that the reason for the question was that he sat on the Nevada Department of Wildlife Citizen's Advisory Board of 12 years. Mike stated that the Board dealt with a case where a licensed guide lost his license transporting a client experiencing a medical emergency in a vehicle within a wilderness area.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands thanked Jim French and Andy Rieber for their presentation. Scott stated that the update to the Humboldt County Public Lands plan is a good example for local governments to follow to improve the coordination & management of public lands and to address land use planning issues within their jurisdiction. He stated that when it comes to public lands under Federal ownership, local governments have limited control over the management of these lands. He stated that the Humboldt County Public Lands plan update has some good examples that local governments can use to beef up their land use policies to increase coordination and the overall management of public lands. He further stated that the plan also includes some helpful tools to help improve the working relationship with Federal Land managers which can lead to better on the ground land management decisions.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that often when a wilderness area is designated by Congress within the legislation there is specific language to allow for the delivery of water. Charlie asked if it's up to counties to reach out to individual permittees to let them know about the legislation so that these types of activities are allowed within the wilderness area management plan.

**Jim French** stated that when developing this plan they conducted a lot of public outreach and solicited input from a variety of public land users. He stated that by incorporating specific legislative language and other supporting policies into the county's plan helps inform Federal land managers of the requirements from Congress and the intent behind the county's land use plans.

Andy Rieber stated that new language in the county's public land plan is intended to be a first step in delivering the information and county's policies to Federal land managers. She stated that it's important for a county to consider how it is delivering its policies to the Federal Government and how they work with them moving forward to implement the policies on the ground.

### **9) Lithium Industry in Nevada Presentation**

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided an overview of the staff memo for this item that included on pages 20-21 of the [meeting packet](#). Scott stated that the purpose of this presentation is to provide the Council with a high level of the economic impact and potential of the broader lithium industry in Nevada.

Scott stated that Nevada is the only state in the union that encompasses every facet of the lithium-ion battery economy. He stated that in Nevada lithium mining is conducted in the Clayton Valley and research, development and recycling of lithium products takes place in Northern & Southern Nevada. He stated that all facets of the lithium industry are expected to grow over the next several decades and these activities could affect land use planning and economic development efforts around the state.

Mike Visher with the Nevada Division of Minerals provided the Council with a [presentation](#) about Lithium Exploration and Mining in Nevada.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated the entire Lithium-ion economy in Nevada employs between 8,282 to 9,116 workers in Nevada, roughly the same number of people as a mid-sized resort casino in Las Vegas. Scott stated that employment within this industry is projected to increase throughout the state as demand for lithium increases. He stated that this industry is likely not going away and that there could come a time where the Council may be asked to weigh in on a land use plan or issue a statement of policy regarding a specific lithium project.

**Hope Sullivan** stated that there is lithium battery recycling taking place within Carson City. Hope stated that one of the challenges Carson City is having is dealing with the fire hazard associated with the lithium battery recycling activities. She stated that local government fire departments are going to be on the front lines to respond to fires associated with this industry and they currently lack expertise in how to work with the chemical. She stated that that State of Nevada should have a role in assisting local government first responders to provide public safety and respond safely to emergencies at lithium facilities.

**Marla McDade Williams** questioned how the state would be treating the lithium industry if it did not lead off with the economic and job projections associated with the industry. Marla stated that the fact mining activities are taking place on public lands at a reduced market rate changes the whole economic incentive for this industry. She stated that given these types of projects should be looked at as public goods and that there should be economic, social, and racial justice considerations when reviewing these projects.

**Jake Tibbitts** stated that this is an important discussion to have for other types of mining as well and not just for lithium. He suggested a future agenda item for the Council to consider is a discussion about proposed reforms to the 1872 Federal mining law and the efforts of the Department of the Interior's Interagency Working Group to look into this issue.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands asked if some of the brine used in lithium mines can be injected back into the water table and later recycled on site.

Mike Visher with the Nevada Division of Minerals stated that water from the brine could potentially be recycled in the lithium mining process. Mike stated that it mostly depends on the hydrology of the area and the location of the injection well.

**Jake Tibbitts** stated that one thing he has taken away from this presentation that is there are many types of mineral extraction related to lithium mining. Jake stated that each mining project whether its lithium or not is different and will have to deal with its own set of unique issues. He stated that often a county won't find out about a future mining project until a mining company approaches the county for something or if the project is posted for environmental review. He suggested that it might be an interesting future agenda item for the Council to discuss ways to learn about and become involved in mining projects earlier in the planning process.

Mike Visher with the Nevada Division of Minerals stated that he would be happy to provide the Council with a presentation about the open source data and maps they have prepared regarding future mining projects around the state. Mike stated that one important consideration for Council when reviewing potential projects are potential assets and other resources that may be at risk from a proposed land use change or land withdrawal.

### **10) State Land Use Planning Agency Update**

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided an update of the State Land Use Planning Agency that was included as pages 38-41 of the [meeting packet](#).

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands expressed his appreciation to the members of the Council who provided letters of support during the Executive Council's review by the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission. Charlie stated that these letters resonated with the members of the Subcommittee and helped with their recommendation to keep the Executive Council in NRS. He also stated that Brad Crowell Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be resigning at the end of the month to assume a role on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Jake Tibbitts** asked if a replacement has been named for Director Crowell yet.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that a decision on a replacement has not been made by the Governor's Office at this time. Charlie stated that it is unknown whether a replacement will be named on an acting or permanent basis.

### **11) Future Agenda Items**

**Jake Tibbitts** stated that it appears staff is working with NDOW to schedule a presentation about the implementation of AB 211 and the development of tentative map review regulations. Jake suggested that if NDOW is going to provide a presentation to the Council, it would also be good if they also shared information about the mule deer enhancement program. He stated that the hunting unit decisions and funding for projects associated with this program could have an impact on land use plans around the state. He also suggested a

future presentation about the Dingell Act of 2019 and the nomination process for public land parcels that are inaccessible or have restricted access.

**Hope Sullivan** asked for a presentation from the Nevada Division of Housing about their priorities for housing across the State and ways for local governments to support the Division's efforts.

**Mike Reese** suggested a future agenda item about the 30 by 30 or the America the Beautiful initiative by the Federal Government. Mike stated that he believes this will be an important future land use planning issue for the Council to weigh in on.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that the Council has not weighed in on that initiative yet, but that staff is closely following this issue and provides regular updates to the Council on its progress. Scott stated that staff is awaiting further guidance and clarification from the Federal Government about this initiative before bringing this issue before the Council.

**Jake Tibbitts** stated that the Federal Government is currently working on the Conservation and Stewardship Atlas which is a web-based GIS map that will classify which lands and waters will count as protected or not. Jake stated that once the map is released it will help the Council and other stakeholders have the discussions about the merits of the initiative and where Nevada may sit in terms of protected lands and water.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that staff will also look the following future agenda items; BLM Statewide RMP update project, agriculture and irrigation impacts from climate change, Douglas County wetlands and transfer of development rights, and cannabis consumption lounges.

## **12) Scheduling of Future SLUPAC Meeting Dates and Locations**

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on Friday August 19, 2022 at the Elko Convention Center. Scott stated that the next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association's Nevada Rural Planning Conference which will be held August 18-19 in Elko.

## **13) Public Comment**

**Jake Tibbitts** called for public comment. There was no public comment, and the public comment period was closed.

## **14) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Carey

/s/

Meeting Recorder

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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. Meeting minutes and recordings of the meeting are available for inspection by the public within 30 working days after the adjournment of the meeting, the minutes and recordings are retained for at least five years in accordance with NRS 241.035(2). Anyone wishing to receive or review the recording may call (775) 684-2723.