

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 2, 2017
North Las Vegas City Hall, 2250 Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, Nevada

Resource Advisory Council members present and category represented:

Susan Agee	Grazing/Ranching	Category 1
Douglas Baker	Transportation/Rights-of-Way	Category 1
Daryl Folks	Permitted Recreation	Category 1
Jason Higgins (RAC Chair)	Energy/Mineral Development	Category 1
John Hiatt	Environment	Category 2
Tara Kilpatrick	Wild Horse and Burro	Category 2
George Phillips	Archaeology/Historic	Category 2
Elise McAllister	Dispersed Recreation	Category 2
John Lee	Elected Official	Category 3
Stanley Smith	Academic/UNLV	Category 3
John Zablocki	Environment/Wildlife	Category 2
Pual Matthews	Public at Large	Category 3
Annette George	Native American	Category 3
Stephanie Garcia-Vause (RAC vice-Chair)	Transportation/Rights-of-Way	Category 1

Resource Advisory Council members absent and category represented:

All members attended

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:

Tim Smith	BLM Southern Nevada District, District Manager
Tim Coward	BLM Tonopah Field Manager
Catrina Williams	BLM Red Rock/Sloan, Field Manager
Kirsten Cannon	BLM Southern Nevada District, Public Affairs Specialist
Vivian Browning	BLM Las Vegas Field Office, Realty Specialist
Gayle Marrs-Smith	BLM Las Vegas Field Office, Field Manager
Alicia Styles	BLM Monument Manager, Basin Range National Monument
Robert Wandell	BLM Southern Nevada District, Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Manager
Jared Bybee	BLM Ely District, Acting Associate District Manager
John Asselin	BLM Southern Nevada District, Public Affairs Specialist
Kenya Rice	BLM Southern Nevada District, Executive Assistant
Lorena Candelarios	City of North Las Vegas, Real Property/ Counseling Services

Public:

Wendy Rudder, Triple Aught Foundation, Basin and Range National Monument
Judy Bundorf, Private Citizen
Varlin Higbee, Lincoln County Commissioner

A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of or at the end of these minutes and is also on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Southern Nevada District Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to review said minutes should contact Kirsten Cannon, public affairs specialist, at (702) 515-5057.

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9:00 a.m. Jason Higgins, Chair, Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, called the meeting to order and conducted introductions

John Lee- We are happy to have the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) here. We hold the BLM auctions here at City Hall and we will supply this building whenever you would like to have a meeting here; we will open it up to you. It is a community building and we want to share that with you.

Opportunity Village has a special group of young artists and I was able to send a letter to Bob Brown and he sent over a gavel for our RAC Chairman.

John Lee presented the RAC Chair with a gavel.

9:15 a.m. Election of 2017 Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Nominations-

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- I nominate Jason Higgins to serve as Chair for the RAC

Elise McAllister- I second that nomination.

Jason Higgins- I accept.

All members are in favor of the nominations; Jason Higgins is elected

2017 Mojave Southern Nevada Resource Advisory Council Chair.

Vice-Chair Nominations-

Susan Agee- I nominate Stephanie Garcia-Vause to serve as Vice-Chair for the RAC.

Elise McAllister- I second that nomination.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- I accept.

All members are in favor of the nominations; Stephanie Garcia-Vause is elected

2017 Mojave Southern Nevada Resource Advisory Council Vice-Chair.

-Discussions-

Jason Higgins- I was contacted by the Chair of the Sierra Front Resource Advisor Council, they have asked us again to support a letter that they are doing called "Improved Management of Riparian Areas". I will email all of you a copy of the letter. They wanted to know if we would support them and they are open to edits. Please review it and we will table it until the Tri-RAC and will decide if we will support it at that time.

- An agenda topic we would like to bring up at the Tri-RAC is how a procedure could be done when one RAC requests the support of another RAC.
 - We would like to discuss this because last year the RAC wanted the "Improvement Management of Riparian Areas" letter reviewed and a decision made quickly. A lot of time was spent during our meeting debating a letter that we ended up not supporting at all.
- We need to decide as a group how many meetings we want to do this year. Traditionally this RAC has done 4 meetings a year including the Tri-RAC. Also, we have to have all meeting dates, to include subcommittee meetings, for the year. Subcommittee meetings are going to be required to have a Federal Register Notice.
- Do any of the Subcommittee Chairs want to step down, does anyone want to take over as Subcommittee Chair, or do we want to stay the same?

- There are four subcommittees:
 - Planning- Stephanie Garcia-Vause, Chair
 - Recreation- Elise McAllister, Chair
 - Basin and Range National Monument- Susan Agee, Chair
 - Grazing Standards and Guidelines- Susan Agee, Chair

John Hiatt- We are hearing about a proposed 10% cut in budget in federal agencies, are we going to have a financial problem going to other communities?

Tim Smith- I don't believe so, we are still looking at the same budget we have had in the past. I would encourage the RAC where we can provide efficiency to do so, meaning we can travel together instead of everybody driving their personal vehicle in an effort to save money.

- It is important, however, not to make this a Southern Nevada only RAC, we need to understand what is going on in other districts as well. There are great issues and dialogs that need to occur in other districts.
- As of right now there has been no information coming out regarding changes to the funding of the RACs. The Secretary of the Interior was just confirmed yesterday and took his oath of office. We will be getting more direction coming down over the next several months. For this year, I would spread the meetings out.

9:20 a.m. Meeting dates and Topics for year

Tri-RAC-

Kirsten Cannon- The subcommittee meetings will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2017, in the morning. The Tri-RAC will start Tuesday, April 4, 2017 in the afternoon, continue all day Wednesday, and end at around 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2017. Southern Nevada District personnel will be traveling to the meetings on Monday, April 3, 2017, for those who would like to travel with them you are welcome to, and returning to Las Vegas on Friday, April 7, 2017. The meetings will be held at the Elko Convention Center in Elko, Nevada. Southern Nevada District personnel will be staying at the Hampton Inn.

-Tri RAC Meeting Schedule-

Tim Smith- The draft agenda for the subcommittee meetings and Tri-RAC on April 4, 2017 thru April 6, 2017 is as follows:

- April 4, 2017-
 - 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Subcommittee Meeting
 - 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m. BLM Nevada State Director Remarks/
Report Out from all RACs
 - 1:00 p.m.- ? Open RAC discussion
 - End of day Photo Session
- April 5, 2017-
 - Morning-
 - Discussion on RACs and Engagement in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Review of the National Lands Conservation Program
 - Discussion on Lands- Private, State and Federal Lands

- Great Basin Landscape Conservation Group
- Afternoon-
 - Discussion on Wild Horse and Burros
 - Media Training
 - Public Comment Period
- April 6, 2017-
 - RAC Breakout Sessions
 - State-Level Breakout Sessions

-Discussions-

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- One of the things we talked about in our September Planning subcommittee was whether or not we could hear more about BLM's approach to public engagement- meetings vs. open houses. We would like to know if there is any policy or how you approach those and whether or not we could have the discussion about the approach to public engagement.

Tim Smith- We can get with Chris Rose, BLM State Office, and see if there is an opportunity for that discussion.

Kirsten Cannon- I think that would be more of a side bar conversation at this point, because they sent up the Federal Register Notice two weeks ago; it could not be a stand-alone discussion.

John Zablocki- Is there any potential for a hang-up with the Federal Register Notice? I have heard that all Federal Register Notices have to get approved through the White House now. Is there any potential that the meeting might not happen?

Tim Smith- No, the meetings will happen.

RAC Meetings-

Jason Higgins- Over the last several years we have spread out the meetings and it has been a benefit to the RAC members as well as the communities. The meeting in September, in Pahrump, was a great opportunity to educate the public. They thought that we were all BLM employees.

- This RAC covers parts of five counties to include Clark County, Nye County, Lincoln County, White Pine County, and Esmeralda. Getting out to those areas is important for us as well as for the communities.

Elise McAllister- It would be great if we could have a meeting in Mesquite and we could tour Gold Butte National Monument, maybe not this year but next.

Jason Higgins- We should also have one in Laughlin. Is there any preference on Caliente or Ely? We have done Caliente two of the last three years.

- We are looking at June/ July and late August/early September

Jason Higgins- The June RAC meeting will be held June 28-29 in Ely. What would we like to see while in Ely?

John Hiatt- We need to see the fuel reduction projects, Sage Grouse, and the Robinson Mine. With regards to the Robinson Mine, there is going to be problems in the future with tailings, and there are already problems with the water supply in Ely.

Jason Higgins- Jared Bybee and I were discussing a coordination meeting with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and one of the topics of discussion for the meeting is the guzzlers in wilderness areas. We would like to get an update/presentation on that issue and how it works between the agencies.

Elise McAllister-Lincoln County scoping comments for the motorized recreation opportunities is an issue I would like to see covered. We could visit Cleve Creek Campground, it would be nice to be able to add more of those in Lincoln County. Recreation affects more people than anything else.

John Hiatt- The excess number of wild horses above AML is an issue in Ely.

Tim Coward- In regards to the wild horses are we just looking at Ely?

John Hiatt- We are looking at every place they are a problem in all districts.

Elise McAllister- There are a lot of creative ideas for handling wild horses within the Tonopah Field Office.

Tim Coward- Are you looking for the status of wild horses and what gathers we have planned?

John Hiatt- I would like to see what areas that are really significantly over AML look like and what kind of damage to the range is happening.

Jason Higgins- We currently have a lot of proposed topics for the Ely RAC meeting. I will work with Tim Coward, Mike Herder, and staff to see if we could combine field trips to look at these issues and if we do not have time then we could ask for a presentation to be made during the meeting.

Tim Smith- Another topic for the meeting could be fee increases at Red Rock. Catrina Williams will need to start working with the Recreation Subcommittee regarding financials.

Elise McAllister- Are we going to look at having the subcommittee meetings the day prior to the RAC meetings, or would that be too much? Should we try to have them separately?

Jason Higgins- With travel and the meetings that would be too much. There are a lot of topics to cover during the RAC.

Jason Higgins- Let's look at dates for the Tonopah meeting. What topics would you like to discuss, so far we have the Mining Park Tour in the afternoon and the following morning a tour at Crescent Dunes.

John Zablocki- What would the Mining Park tour encompass? One of the things I am interested in is all the Lithium mining.

Tim Coward- The Mining Park is not Lithium.

John Zablocki- Could we build Lithium into the discussion during the Mining Park tour? I would like to know what is going on with the Lithium plans.

Tim Coward- We can present that.

John Hiatt- If you really want to know what is going on with Lithium mining, you should go to the Nevada Water Resource Association Forum on Lithium.

Tim Coward- Most of the Lithium is either on public or patented land in that area, we do permit that. I could have my staff brief on that.

John Zablocki- I would like to know what is going on, what projects are coming in, and where things are in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Jason Higgins- Most of the Lithium deposits within the area is almost wrapped up, as far as what they have found. Maybe ten more years left.

Tim Coward- It is tough to estimate the time available left. I can give you an update on where we are currently, what has been permitted, and the type of applications received.

John Zablocki- I would like to come away from the meeting with a comprehensive picture of what is going on with Lithium mining.

John Hiatt- There was a map that came out last week that showed 15 different potential Lithium areas in Nevada. There is actually one in the Dry Lake South.

John Zablocki- The other item I would like to see address and added to the agenda is Solar Planning in Tonopah Field Office.

Tim Coward- We do not have any projects right now.

John Zablocki- Could we have a discussion around the large CSP project?

Tim Coward- It is a project that I do not have an application for.

Tim Smith- Would you like someone like Greg Helseth to come in and talk about solar in general throughout Nevada?

John Zablocki- Yes.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- Is Greg still the right person to talk to about any of the corridors and things like that?

Tim Smith- He can talk about corridors.

John Zablocki- My hope is to come away from the meeting with a comprehensive view of Solar and Lithium within the area.

Tim Smith- We have to ask Tonopah and Ely for locations for the meetings, so we need to narrow this down within two weeks. Locations have to go into the Federal Register Notice as well. Please get this to Kirsten Cannon within the next two weeks.

Jason Higgins- This will give us four meetings, is there a need for five meetings?

John Hiatt- There are some issues in Southern Nevada District that warrant discussing, and those issues are not on the agenda currently. We should have a meeting to discuss those issues.

John Lee- Part of the great thing in Southern Nevada is the relationship. If you did have a meeting here, you could look at Hyperloop, and the Apex area. Congressman Bishop is going to start moving some stuff and looking at Southern Nevada public lands and there might be some discussion on some land transfer legislation. It could be a topic that could be timely and the location would be great for seeing some of the things we have already worked together on.

Jason Higgins- Could we do a tour day and not have a formal meeting?

John Zablocki- That is a good idea.

John Hiatt- One subject that needs to be discussed is inappropriate shooting on public lands and the hazards it causes.

John Lee- I was Chairman of the Regional Shooting Range we built; it took ten years to do it. There are non-traditional shooting ranges out there. This was another BLM property that we worked together on.

John Hiatt- The problem is when that was done it was going to solve the uncontrolled shooting problem in Las Vegas, but in the southern part of town there is more uncontrolled shooting now than we have ever had.

Jason Hiatt- We did address the shooting issue in a presentation last fall in Pahrump. We can take this issue to the Planning or Recreation committee. We need to come up with a recommendation to BLM.

John Hiatt- Since that presentation in Pahrump, the Forrester Service has closed Lovell Canyon so those people that were shooting there are now moving on to BLM land. All we have done so far is move it around.

Jason Higgins- The BLM has a limited number of Law Enforcement to police it, and the only thing that is going to solve it is putting more officers on the ground.

John Hiatt- Policies are going to be important too, and public information as to what this is going to cost the BLM in the future as far as cleanup and what the liability cost when someone gets killed.

Jason Higgins- Those are great topics and we need to take those to the subcommittees and work it out there and come up with a recommendation to the BLM.

Elise McAllister- You have a tradition that is really strong in the rural communities about going out and shooting. The bigger issue is the interface between public lands and urban areas.

John Hiatt- The issue is people going out and taking pyrotechnics targets and shooting them.

Varlin Higbee- That is a county issue; the County Commissioners need to get involved.

Elise McAllister- The County (Clark County) did pass a no shooting ordinance two years ago. It is really strict- 500 feet from any road.

RAC Meetings

-RAC Meeting Schedule-

RAC Meetings for the year are as follows:

- June 22-23 in Ely. Topics will include:
 - Fuel Reduction
 - Sage Grouse
 - Robinson Mine
 - Wild Horse Areas Over AML, What do these Areas Look Like
 - Cleave Creek Campground
 - Addition Wells in Ely due to Water Issues
 - Red Rock Fee Increase

- September 27-28 in Tonopah. Topics will include:
 - Mining Park Tour- in the afternoon
 - Solar Reserve Crescent Dunes- in the morning on the second day
 - Lithium- status of projects
 - Solar Planning

Subcommittee Meetings

-Subcommittee Meeting Schedule-

Planning-

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- The Planning Subcommittee will meet May 24, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., location will be at the City of Henderson, and again on August 8, 2017, same time and location.

Recreation-

Elise McAllister- The Recreation Subcommittee will meet May 24, 2017 at 3:30 p.m., location will be at the City of Henderson, and again on August 8, 2017, same time and location.

Grazing Standards and Guidelines & Basin and Range National Monument-

Susan Agee- The Grazing Standards and Guidelines Subcommittee will meet at 5pm and the Basin and Range National Monument Subcommittee will meet at 6pm on April 18, 2017, at the Alamo and again on August 15, 2017, same time and location.

-Discussions-

Tim Smith- I would submit to you that prior to the next RAC meeting, you can have a meeting in Southern Nevada and others can call in. You can do the meetings multiple times as needed by the board.

Jason Higgins- We will get the dates done and then within the next two weeks get the topics to Kirsten.

Jason Higgins- Get your ideas for topics to your Chairman soon as they will need to turn those topics into Kirsten within the next two weeks.

10:08 a.m. Updates on Las Vegas/Pahrump Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Tim Smith- During the draft RMP the BLM received over 23,000 comments. We have been asked to go back and look at a couple of issues. We are going to supplement the RMP. The supplement will only look at five or six items, it will not open up the whole plan, but it will open up those five or six items.

- The items that will be looked at are as follows:
 - Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
 - Solar
 - Disposal
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Socioeconomics
 - Gold Butte National Monument
- We are going to look at combining one Environmental Impact Statement with two Record of Decisions- one for Gold Butte and one for the rest of the RMP.
- The scoping period will happen once the Department sets a new policy of Federal Register Notices. We have to put out a Notice of Intent, once that is done there will be a 60 day public scoping period and then we will work on the six items. It will take about a year and a half to get the whole thing complete.

-Discussions-

Elise McAllister- The disposal area for the Moapa Township previously, a long time ago,

sent a letter to the BLM and did not want any to be up for disposal, and now there is a new town manager and I was hoping that area could be part of the disposal.

Tim Smith- When we open the disposal piece back up, we would need input.

John Zablocki- With regards to solar, what do you anticipate the scope of it being? Is it going to be focused on solar energy zones or the whole thing related to solar?

Tim Smith- The whole thing related to solar.

John Hiatt- This is a supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) so will the scoping period for the alternatives be the same as the previous alternatives or is there a potential for new alternatives?

Tim Smith-You are probably going to see a similar set of alternatives, but how that is arranged, it will be different than the original draft.

John Zablocki-What do you mean by that, the alternatives themselves will be the same?

Tim Smith-We are still working that out, but the old draft plus the supplemental will have to be meshed back together again. The six items will have to go out for a draft and then complete the public comment period, it will have to be meshed back in with the old draft.

John Zablocki- Do you anticipate in any of the six items in the supplement that there would be alternatives that were not in the previous draft?

Tim Smith-There would be a proposed RMP that would come out of all of this and that could have a different alternative.

Varlin Higbee-When you are talking about lands with wilderness characteristics we felt the impact of this in PILT funds. When an area becomes designated wilderness, in Lincoln County's case the monument, all the acreages no longer fit under payment in lieu of taxes (PILT). You do not receive PILT. It has been a real impact to Lincoln County.

Tim Smith- Lands with wilderness characteristics are not designated, it is just an inventory of what is out there.

Varlin Higbee- Just keep this in mind, because some of those areas you are looking at could, down the road, become wilderness areas.

Tim Smith- Lands with wilderness characteristics are just an inventory, and then the BLM has to decide if we want to continue to manage those areas as lands with wilderness characteristics or do we want to dispose of it or something else.

John Zablocki- What would be the timing of the draft?

Tim Smith- To get the draft out it will be a 1.5 years and then we have to merge the draft in with the other draft and then work on a proposed RMP final draft, which could take another year. Then there is the ROD which can take anywhere from 6 months to a year.

John Zablocki-Scoping will be 6 months?

Tim Smith- It all depends on when the Department releases its strategy on Federal Register Notices.

Jason Higgins- With regards to the scoping period with the last draft, you extended it twice, 120 days, and this one you are only planning a 60 day comment period?

Tim Smith- The other was the draft RMP not scoping. This is strictly scoping and we will do outreach with the various communities such as Pahrump, Las Vegas, and Laughlin.

John Hiatt- These things are taking so long that you might be in violation of NEPA, in terms of the data being stale. This is a complaint from a lot of people.

John Lee- Is that employee driven or data driven? Do you think that things are just sitting on employees desks or there is just so much data to go through?

John Hiatt- I can't answer that, I do not work at the BLM. I do think it is a combination of too much data, there were a lot of comments and some of them were pretty thick and it takes a lot of time to go through all that data. It takes so long to get the plan out that by the time it is out it is obsolete.

Jason Higgins- In BLM's defense, people are very sue happy and so the document has to be written in a way that they do not get sued and so they can defend it in a court of law.

John Hiatt- You need to realize you are going to get sued anyway so just do the right thing.

Tim Smith- We are going to follow the process the way it needs to be followed.

John Hiatt- If there is a hiring freeze will that slow things down?

Tim Smith-I do not believe so.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- I think some of the delay is the communities. Some of the communities acknowledge that they were not as engaged as they intended to be and I believe the BLM is having to go back and do this because the communities came out and said they needed to take another look. The BLM was ready by then it was the communities that held things up.

John Zablocki-I thought that what Planning 2.0 was supposed to address this in the early phase alternatives so that you would not get as far along before people objected. Is Planning 2.0 been rolled back for congressional review and does it impact this supplement project?

Tim Smith- Planning 2.0 does not impact the supplemental. We started under the older process and that is how we are going to finalize it.

John Zablocki- In theory Planning 2.0 is supposed to make it go faster.

John Hiatt- Cutting down on the public review process does not make it go faster.

Elise McAllister- After the RMP, then the Travel Management Plan?

Tim Smith- Correct.

Elise McAllister- Is there a possibility to do an amendment or anything out at Logandale Trails? It gets a lot of use.

Tim Smith- I would have to talk to Gayle Marrs-Smith about that at some point.

Jason Higgins- Would it have been easier to split out Las Vegas from Pahrump because of the magnitude of the document?

Tim Smith-I think that the effect is going to be that we look at things in a landscape approach. Once you gear up, you are better just to have everyone focus and do it all at once. We got a lot of comments and there were concerns about somethings that came in and we are trying to be responsive to those things and move forward.

10:25 a.m. Update on Gold Butte National Monument

Tim Smith- On December 28, 2016, the President signed a Proclamation to proclaim Gold Butte as a national monument. Our focus is we follow policies, laws, regulations, and Executive Orders related to that.

- Gold Butte was proclaimed for cultural resources, critical habitat and other values.
- Within the packet handed out is the Proclamation (attachment 1) that talks about the values within Gold Butte.
- People can drive out there, nothing is closed.
- Gayle Marrs-Smith and her staff completed a Travel Management Plan for that area. The Travel Management Plan was carried forward in the Proclamation.
- Lee Kirk is the Interim Manager for the Gold Butte National Monument.
- In the Proclamation it talks about an advisory committee specific to the monument. There will be an advisory committee that will meet and help the BLM with a management plan. The committee will have 12 people on it.

-Discussions-

John Hiatt- Is there a time frame on the advisory committee getting started on things?

Tim Smith- First there needs to be a Notice of Intent on the advisory committee which has a Federal Register Notice. Currently we do not know when that will occur. Once it does occur it will be just like this advisory council; there will be a request for nominations and they will be vetted through the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, BLM Nevada State Office, Governor's Office, and then to Washington D.C.

- On the committee there will be members from some of the town advisory boards,

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City of Mesquite, Recreation, Environmental Representative, Public at Large,
Elected Official.

John Zablocki- We discussed the RMP for the Basin and Range National Monument and when I read the proclamation for Gold Butte National Monument, there are differences with the Basin and Range National Monument.

- The Gold Butte National Monument proclamation seems to satisfy the status quo of the management out there currently.
- How much room for new management decisions or changes do you see coming out of the planning process? It seems the boundaries are set.

Tim Smith- The RMP is going to recodify the Proclamation. Gayle Marrs-Smith and I will discuss the need for an activity level plan- where will trails go and what other amenities are going to be out there that will support the monument.

John Zablocki- The Proclamation says the Secretary of Interior has the authority to reroute the roads. Does that literally mean the Secretary or would that happen at this level?

Tim Smith- No, it is delegated down to our office, and those actions would happen at this level. It would be fully vetted through the public.

10:40 a.m. -Break-

10:55 a.m. -Reconvene-

John Lee- Recently the County Commissioners are moving in a direction to appease the Rhodes project on Blue Diamond Hill. Is there any way that North Las Vegas could work with someone to protect the Blue Diamond Area. I could work with Congress to get some land within North Las Vegas and do a land swap. Maybe we could provide land for the home building in the Apex area or some other area in an effort to protect the Blue Diamond asset.

John Zablocki- Where the Red Rock Visitor's Center is now, originally that was going to be part of the Howard Hughes development. The Nature Conservancy, BLM, and Howard Hughes developed as successful land swap. That type of arrangement has worked in the past and there is a precedent for it.

John Haitt- That was before the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

John Zablocki- The Nature Conservancy certainly does have an interest in any of those type of outcomes but they are challenging.

John Lee- I am going to be meeting with Mr. Rhodes to see what he is really trying to see what he is trying to do. I am going to put out a press release to stir up conversation, but I thought Tim might be able to help.

Tim Smith- That would be difficult, because it is all private property on top and it is not the BLM's role to tell Mr. Rhodes what he can and cannot do on the top of the

mountain. We have no interest in acquiring the disturbed lands on top. It would need to be restored. We would be interested in any of the lands on the mountain that have high value resources and there are some undisturbed lands that do have high value resources. Maybe there is an opportunity somewhere down the line for a multiparty conversation about what Blue Diamond Hill should look like in the future.

John Lee- How would you advise me to see if we could do something.

John Hiatt- Question Mr. Rhodes and see if he is only trying to cover his investment or does he intend to make a million dollars. If he is only trying to cover his investment there may be room for discussion, but if he is trying to get millions of dollars than there is probably no room for discussion.

- The site is going to be challenging to develop.
- He has agreed he will only take access from the east.
- He also has to bring water up there and provide space for water.
- He will have to provide an onsite plug detention basin for sewer.

John Lee- I would have to have someone help come in with some money to get him out to get something else.

John Hiatt- Mr. Rhodes is busy mining there, at what point in time will he reach his investment with mining?

John Lee- I am going to try to float ideas to protect Blue Diamond Hill.

John Hiatt- I full support your position on it.

John Zablocki- My understanding is that for that site to be developed, there would need to be a road right-of-way (ROW) across public lands.

Jason Higgins- That would be a connected action and you would need to analyze the whole site.

Tim Smith- I think we only analyze the ROW itself. As of today we have no perfected application.

11:09 a.m.

District Updates

BLM Battle Mountain District

Timothy Coward, Manager, BLM Battle Mountain District- (see attachment 2)

- Corvus Gold Nevada North Bullfrog Exploration Project is near Beatty.
 - Still exploring and anticipate when gold prices change they may come into operations.
- Gemfield Resources LTD. Gemfield Project is just north of Gold Field.

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- Has concluded that the original water analysis already accept was appropriate.
 - They are moving forward with their baseline studies.
 - They are working on their NEPA document which will be an EIS.
- Round Mountain Gold Corp.
 - There is a sense of urgency in moving forward due to the fact there is over 500 jobs that could be in jeopardy.
- Mineral Ridge
 - They come in about every 6 months to amend their plan of operations.
 - Working on their baseline studies.
- Hasbrouck
 - Their plan is to level a mountain and process the ore.
 - We do not have a full plan to date.
- Silver Peak Road ROW
 - ROW to Esmeralda County
 - Road is about 90% complete
 - Due to washouts, the County would like to raise the road and put in culverts.
- Gold Point Land Sale
 - Town was in trespass.
 - Esmeralda County is interested in purchasing the town of Gold Point.
 - Completed the validity exam, which showed a modification of the area that is being sold.
 - Currently working on the EA and baselines.
 - Will be selling a little less than 230 acres to Esmeralda County.
 - The residence will have to pay the county back for the purchase of the land.
- Beatty Bike Trails
 - ROW to the BLM for bike trails.
 - Identified areas where people can ride and have placed signs along the area.
 - 120 miles of bike trails.
 - Baseline studies will be done and then the level of NEPA will be determined.
- Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA) Withdrawal
 - Department of Energy (DOE) wants to expand the land withdrawn for the CNTA.
- Valley Electric Association (VEA) Fiber Optic Line
 - Will run from Henderson all the way up to Diar.
 - This is a multiagency project.
 - Under the BLM it is a multijurisdictional project with multiple offices.
 - The Plan of Development (POD) is being updated.
- Beatty Springs
 - Consists of five springs.
 - This month or next month we will start working on the Indian Springs
- Reveille HMA
 - AML is 135 wild horses; if there is more than that a gather is performed.
 - The BLM is administering PZP in Reveille as well as in Stone Cabin.
 - The horses are moving from one HMA to another.
 - 151 horses were gathered.
 - 30 mares were treated with fertility control, PZP.
 - Currently, have a ranch and other non-governmental organizations that would like to help with gathers. Looking a bat trapping the horses with the

help of the rancher. Once the horses are trapped the BLM would separate the 1-2 year old horses, hold them for 30 days, and then adopt them out. We think we can adopt about 20-30 horses. The only cost associated with the trapping would be the food.

- The rancher has also agreed to halter train the horse.
- Rhyolite
 - BLM is looking to stabilize three buildings.
 - Awaiting the approval of the budget.
 - There is a lot of vandalism.
 - Rhyolite gets 250,000 visitors yearly.
- June Oil and Gas Lease Sale
 - There are 106 parcels nominated.
 - EA should be out within the next two weeks for the 45-90 day protest period

-Discussions-

John Hiatt- There are more burros than I have ever seen before in Beatty

Tim Coward-We do flights and are estimating right now about 350 burros, we are allowed to have 91 burrows. Last year we removed 45 burros via a bate trap.

Tim Coward- A Notice is not a federal action; if an individual has a mining claim and they want to go out and do exploration work on the claim and it is less than 5 acres of disturbance, the individual will submit a Notice to the BLM. The BLM then does a cost reclamation estimate, bond.

John Zablocki- If the individual does not bond for it they do not get to do the work, is that correct?

Tim Coward- Correct. Our office gets four to six notices a month. This can include Lithium exploration as well.

Susan Agee- Are the Notices on patented and public lands?

Tim Coward- Notices are on non-patented lands, if it is on patented lands, those go through the state. If the BLM claimed the mineral rights on patented lands then it would go through the BLM.

John Hiatt- What is the status of Bear Mountain?

Tim Coward- We have nothing going on up there.

John Hiatt- With regards to the Notice, at what point in time after they have done their exploration do they have to come back and do the reclamation?

Tim Coward- A Notice is good for two years, but it can be extended every two years. There is nothing stating the BLM can cut off their exploration. As long as they keep it less than five acres of disturbance there is no reason to have an exploration plan of development (POD).

- Once they have said they are done exploring and they do not come in with a POD or a high level exploration project, then they are required to do reclamation within 30days.

John Hiatt-What happens if they say they want to extend the exploration?

Tim Coward-The BLM will perform a site inspection on the property and then extend the Notice for another two years.

John Hiatt- How many Notices actually get reclaimed?

Tim Coward- In 2001 the BLM send out expired Notices stating they needed to come in with a new Notice and a reclamation cost estimate for bonding purposes. There was a lot of Notices expired without bond, the BLM gave them until 2003 to bond and Notice. A lot of the proponents' reclamation because the bond is more than what it would cost to reclamation.

- Initially we had 220 expired Notices some had bonds some did not.
- Currently we are at about 140 expired Notices

BLM Battle Mountain District

Jared Bybee, Acting Manager, BLM Ely District- (see attachment 3)

- Working on the Basin and Range National Monument RMP; currently developing alternatives for the EIS. A draft is slated for review by the public by the end of the fiscal year (September 31, 2017).
- There are 14 parcels totaling 427 acres of land in Lincoln County identified in the 2008 RMP for disposal. The 30 day public comment period closes March 27, 2017.
- Working on land conveyances to the Nevada Division of Lands to include; Beaver Dam State Park, Ward Charcoal Kilns State Park and Steptoe Wildlife Management Area.
- Working on minerals projects; all minerals projects are in White Pine County.
- There are several Rangeland Monitoring and permit renewals currently being worked on.
- Recreation and Travel Management Planning projects are all moving forward.
- Currently accepting Round 10 proposals through March 17, 2017, under the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative. Funding for the initiative came from the sale of public lands identified for disposal in the Lincoln County Lands Act.
- Ely District received funding in Round 16 for conservation projects (Sage Grouse habitat) and non-motorized multipurpose trail system in Lincoln County.

-Discussions-

John Hiatt- According to your report, the TransWest Express Transmission project passes through the southeast corner of Lincoln County; that is not the impression I go through the EIS. It actually comes in to Lincoln County, off of Panaca summit, and then comes down south and then re-connects to the corridor in Mesquite, Nevada. That is about 60 miles of new corridor in Nevada. It is not exactly just the southeast corner of Lincoln County.

John Zablocki- Is there a map available for this project?

Jared Bybee- A map is available on line.

John Hiatt- Will the BLM widen the corridor, so it will not burn down in a fire?

Jared Bybee- Typically the ROW is cleared and maintained so that will not happen.

John Hiatt- What is the width of the ROW?

Jared Bybee- I am not really sure.

John Hiatt- A lot of land will be cleared for many miles if this is a 300-400 ft wide ROW.

Tim Smith- You can find the width of the ROW and other information in the EIS and record of decision (ROD) on line.

John Hiatt- When a large mine request an expansion there is going to be an impact to water. Does the BLM do an analysis on the effect on springs, both near and far?

Jared Bybee- The EIS analyses what the impacts are.

John Hiatt- Are you doing a full new EIS on the expansion of the minerals projects or just EA?

Jared Bybee-The Bald Mountain Mine is being analyzed as an EIS, but not all of the minerals projects are being analyzed as an EIS.

John Hiatt- Often times the you do not see the of impacts of the mines in terms of water, with regards to springs until 15 years later, by that time it is too late.

Tim Coward- The ground water models are ran, they are ran for surface water and below the surface. The effects of those are the best science we have available to us for analysis.

John Zablocki- Not all models are the same and a lot of that depends on how well the hydrology is understood. I have seen a huge disparity in the modeling use regarding ground water modeling. How do you make that determination for NEPA adequacy which model to use?

Tim Coward- Those models are different and it is not to say that one model will fit everything. Once we receive the model and statement of work (SOW), it is reviewed by our local Hydrologist and the BLM Nevada State Office Hydrologist. Once they run the model, the results are reviewed to make sure the model that is ran is appropriate and the results are there so that the BLM can complete the analysis. The State of Nevada also reviews the results. The results are being looked at both the the state and federal level.

John Hiatt- Has the plan of operations ever been denied based on the effect on springs remote from the site?

Tim Coward- I cannot answer that, I don't know. Monitoring should trigger, based on triggers, a mitigation that happened. If the streams start drying up in certain locations there should be triggers within the monitoring that says if this event happens then there should be a reaction to it. The reactions should be some sort of mitigation.

John Zablocki- There is a huge disparity with regards to the rigor of the ground water modeling used and the consistency of mitigation used. In the DRECP for example under conservation management actions for the Desert Water Conservation project in California, there is a very well developed section about ground water, ground water modeling and what the mitigations should be. I have not seen that type of consistency in any other ground water modeling. I would be interested from a BLM perspective if there were consistent frame work for mitigation when it came to ground water management.

Tom Coward- The BLM does review the models, SOW, and results of the modeling. The results are also reviewed by the state. Also, any mitigation is put out there for public review and they can provide any suggestions they feel is appropriate. The BLM can then make any adjustments to the mitigation that they feel are appropriate.

John Hiatt- There are a lot of rangeland monitoring permits, how long do you estimate it will take to process? How many man years will it take to process?

Jared Bybee- Most of the renewals are for two years. The majority of the permits are in White Pine County.

John Hiatt- The range cons under these permits work all the time. In theory all the past permits have been monitor yearly or bi-yearly basis for years. So I assume that the data is available. What new data really needs to be collected if the monitoring is up to date?

Jared Bybee- A determination would have to be made based on land standards.

John Hiatt- That is being done on a regular basis anyway, is that correct?

John Zablocki- Is it really being covered? A lot of times there is not enough range cons to cover the territory and the frequency.

Jared Bybee- That information would be generally collected prior to the permit, so you could have it to use if you need to make adjustments to the permit. You do your rangeland assessments when you need to make your determinations. Other monitoring can be collected along the way such as utilization.

John Hiatt- My point is, the BLM knows that these permits are coming up, so why does it turn out to be a huge deal. Prior to the permit, why does the BLM not say we need to keep track of these things so that we know, proactively, whether the terms of the permit are being met? Why is this not kept track of on an ongoing basis?

Jason Higgins- Who says it is not being kept track of. Why would you say it is not being done?

John Hiatt- I am not saying it is not being done, what I am saying is we were on a grazing

call for they State and they talked about this huge effort going into permit renewals and how the permits are six to eight hundred pages long, they are sucking up a huge amount of man power to do the permits. Is there some way we could do this so that is a lot smoother than this major effort every 10 years.

John Zablocki- After looking at the data, part of the problem is that a huge number of allotments are not meeting the standards and guidelines for grazing.

Susan Agee- No. A large part of the problem is the BLM has to write six-hundred page documents.

Varlin Higbee- The documents have to be to answer the questions that have just been asked. Management styles have not changed in a long time. The ranges and conditions of the ranges and the water are in better shape now than they were 50 years ago. My solution is give it to the states and let grazing boards and the counties handle it.

Susan Agee- The problem is every document has to cover every conceivable "T" and dot every conceivable "I" and be lawsuit proof. When we renewed in 2006, Western Watershead sued based on Sage Grouse and a whole lot of other things and that is why it takes so long the document has to lawsuit proof.

Tim Smith- In my previous job in Bakersfield, we had about 77 permits which were on the same timelines. A lot of those were small, but the process part is important. Some permits were able to get through quickly and others took longer. Part of it was making sure the standards were met and part was the process. Some permits were done with a Categorical Exclusion (CX), others due to complexity were done with and EA. The thing to remember is that the districts are going to follow the laws, policies, and regulations which will require a process to go through.

12:24 p.m. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) update presented by Robert Wandell, SNPLMA Program Manager.

- In 2016 there were 82 projects totaling \$152 million dollars approved.
- Round 17 will be open Tuesday, March 7, 2017 and close May 5, 2017.
- Round 17 will be a 50 to 70 million dollar round.
- We will not announce Round 18 until Fall 2018.
- We are going back to a bi-annual schedule between rounds.

12:30 p.m. District Updates Continued

BLM Southern Nevada District Office

Tim Smith, Manager, BLM Southern Nevada District Office- (see attachment 4)

- Moapa Prescribed Fire began January 30, 2017. The BLM removed 250 piles of Tamarisk in a 20-acre area. The BLM began restoration efforts on a 204 acre area along the Muddy River.

- Since the announcement of the Gold Butte Monument on December 28, 2016, the BLM has been making a strong commitment to get back out into the public to discuss the monument and what it means vs. what it does not mean.
 - A meeting was held in early February 2017 in Mesquite. There were over 100 attendees. Discussions were related to what the Proclamation does vs. what it does not.
 - Working with Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick on a good date for a presentation regarding the monument in Moapa Valley.
 - Will also be working with the Moapa Band of Paiutes.
 - The BLM will continue to do outreach to the public regarding the Monument.
 - The BLM will be getting a portal signed for the Monument. The BLM in conjunction with the Virgin Valley Water District and the City of Mesquite in regards to this and are looking for an Eagle Scout who would like to help put the portal signed up.
- Gayle Marrs-Smith and her staff are currently working on the Las Vegas Valley EA, looking at the EA being out sometime later this spring.
 - The EA will assist in speeding up review times for projects within the Las Vegas Valley.
- On January 26, 2017, a groundbreaking celebration was held at the Logandale Trails Main Trailhead.
 - Partners in Conservation, of which Elise McAllister is a part on, went to the State and was awarded a grant from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission to replace the aging restroom facilities that are currently out there.
- The Red Rock Scenic Loop is receiving improvements. Money was received from the Federal Highway Administration to repave the road and add expand parking areas.
 - Calico I is going to be completed at the end of March 2017.
 - Red Rock receives over 2 million visits yearly.

-Discussions-

Elise McAllister- The degree that the BLM went to, to address the public's concerns regarding the Moapa prescribed fire was amazing. The public was very appreciative of the BLM being so actively engaged with the community and for doing such a great job communicating with the community.

Elise McAllister- The groundbreaking event for the new restrooms at the Logandale Trails Main Trailhead was great. Among those that attended the event was the BLM, Nevada Off-Highway Commission. The Nevada Off-Highway Commission conducted filming to help promote the registration of off-highway vehicles. This was the first on-the-ground project that was funded through the program.

Catrina Williams- Calico I, along the Red Rock Scenic Loop will be complete at the end of March 2017. This will provide 100 additional spaces. A press release will be sent out soon regarding this. There will also be additional landscaping with the additional parking spaces.

Daryl Folks- This is just a brief update on what is going on with my family. In my

opinion, a lightning bolt was shot through the motor vehicle sport with the passing of my father. There were a lot of rumors going around with what is going to happen with the Best in the Desert race, so I wanted to let you know how things will work.

- Best in the Desert will not dissolve and is not for sale.
- The goal of the family is to continue on his Best in the Desert legacy.
 - The structure of Best in the Desert will go as follows:
 - Operations group that will man the races, start the races, finishes the races.
 - I (Daryl Folks) will take on the duties of my father and shake everyone's hands, at the start and finish, and working with the BLM to get races done.
 - There will be an Ownership side, the family, which will take care of the business side, to include financials.
- Thank you to the BLM for all your years of commitment and help with regards to the Best in the Desert race efforts.
- The Mint 400 is this weekend. It is a collaboration between us and Mad Media.

12:35 p.m. Subcommittee Updates

Recreation Subcommittee

Elise McAllister, Chairperson, Recreation Subcommittee

- At the last meeting we discussed:
 - Helping the BLM get the education message out.
 - Informing the public about the RAC and what we do.
- Tread Lightly is going to have a person on the ground in Nevada for the first time and will be partially funded through the Nevada Off-Road Vehicle Commission grants.
- Nevada Off-Road Vehicle Commission is going to have a website that will have education on how to ride responsibly.
- The Desert Conservation program is working with the Nevada Off-Road Vehicle Commission on education. These websites will help us get the word out without on responsible use and education message having to do it ourselves.
- I will take some of the issues we talked about at the last subcommittee meeting and include the shooting issue, Red Rock Fees, and recreation fees in general to our next subcommittee meeting. We will discuss the fees and try to come up with a recommendation to the BLM.
- Discussed making a list about permitting that would provide information on when a permit is needed and how to obtain one from the BLM.
- Will be sending out an email with the information, please review it and let me know if there are any additional items you would like us to discuss.

Planning Subcommittee

Stephanie Garcia-Vause, Planning Subcommittee

- At the last meeting, Nicollee Gaddis and Lee Kirk gave a presentation regarding NEPA.
 - Nicollee Gaddis shared information regarding the Las Vegas Valley EA. She discussed the steps associated with it. Step one was defining roles and responsibilities and guidance in an effort to expedite the ROW requests.
 - Nicollee Gaddis gave an overview of Eplanning and we had asked her if she would come to a future subcommittee meeting to do a demonstration of Eplanning.
- Discussed Planning 2.0 and it sounded like it is still in process. The last we heard was that Planning 2.0 is still being worked on to address comments and there are internal inconsistencies. In future meetings we are going to want to here what the status is on Planning 2.0 and what the opportunities are to continue to participate in the effort.
- Had an update on RMP, at that time it was stated it was on hold.
- Discussed utility corridors and how we want to move forward and what is it that we can do.
- Discussed the Tri-RAC and what kinds of things would we want to hear more about. So if in the media training during the Tri-RAC we could talk about public engagement and if there is some way to do that at a state level with regards to utility corridors.

-Discussions-

Tim Smith- With regards to discussing utility corridors at the upcoming Tri-RAC, I do not think we could discuss it unless it is generically discussed as part of the NEPA topic, due to the Federal Register Notice already being submitted.

Basin and Range Subcommittee

Susan Agee, Chairperson, Basin and Range Subcommittee

- We had four meetings last year.
- We sent out recommendations to the RAC.

-Discussions-

Susan Agee- I came across a scoping map regarding grazing and noticed some disparities. The feedback I received from the Grazing Board was that the BLM must not write a no grazing alternative.

- The Proclamation expressly allows for grazing to continue, but when reading through the scoping there were questions like “are there certain areas where livestock grazing is not compatible with resources and the monument...”, “how will the RMP address the shift in the historic uses of public lands in the monument in support of oil, mining, and grazing and other resources to a more conservation and recreation based emphasis...”. I hope this does not mean grazing will be eliminated next.
- There were suggestions from Wilderness Opportunity Fund, for 15 different location that folks felt warranted special management to preserve wilderness characteristics, these areas are in allotments.
- We made recommendation to the RAC.

Varlin Higbee- Does the Proclamation say it has to sustain?

Susan Agee- It does, that is why I am bringing it up. The Proclamation says that grazing will continue, but in the scoping report it says something different.

Jason Higgins-Is this just an individual's questions in the scoping report?

Susan Agee- No it is not, this was in the summary.

Alicia Styles- The purpose of the scoping report is to capture all the different feedback the BLM received during scoping. It does not reflect any particular point of view one way or the other.

John Hiatt- Are you reading the questions that are part of the visioning document?

Susan Agee- No, this is the summary of the report.

Alicia Styles- The scoping report shows the issues that were raised during scoping period.

Jason Higgins- Are these are from folks outside of BLM?

Alicia Style- Yes.

John Hiatt- So these individuals could say anything they want.

Varlin Higbee- So, it is an assumption of members of the public.

Susan Agee- There are an awful lot of assumptions in the report. There were a lot of disturbing things.

John Hiatt- Anybody can ask these questions. When the BLM asks the public to send in their concerns you can get anything. It is a summary of concerns. I would not get very excited about it.

Susan Agee- There is a concern that there is a push to eliminate grazing in the monument, even though the Proclamation says it will not occur.

John Hiatt- It is important to understand that when someone sends out a notice for scoping, people all over the country can send in their concerns. What counts is alternatives in the NEPA document.

Susan Agee- These are not scoping comments, they are summaries of what BLM received.

John Hiatt- BLM summarizes scoping comments in the form of a question. An individual can ask anything no matter how inappropriate it is. It is the BLM's job to be aware of those things and decide what is valid and what is not.

Susan Agee- So I guess my point is what is in scoping is in direct conflict with what is in the proclamation.

Elise McAllister- One of the great things about the subcommittee is it gave an opportunity for the public to make comments.

Jared Bybee- Scoping is also a way for the agency to identify issues before we start the NEPA process.

Jason Higgins- Susan, have you distributed your recommendations to the whole RAC?

Susan Agee- Yes, I think I emailed it, this was back in August.

Jason Higgins- We have not taken an official position as a whole RAC on those recommendations yet. Does everyone feel that they had an opportunity to review the recommendations, and take an appropriate vote to give to BLM? Susan, can you re-email it and we will bring it up as an action item at the Tri-RAC in a month.

John Zablocki- What would the recommendation be, would we sort through them and decide which ones are reasonable?

Jason Higgins- We take the committee's recommendations and vote yes, no, or yes with modifications and then forward them to BLM.

Varlin Higbee- You really need to read the Proclamation and then read the recommendations.

John Zablocki- With regards to grazing, in the Proclamation it seemed like it solidified the grazing.

Varlin Higbee- What people need to understand is that in the rural counties, our whole tax base is derived from natural resource based industries. When monuments and wilderness areas are dropped on top of us it impacts us tremendously. People that own grazing rights also own private property, and for the private property to function the way it needs to, they have grazing allotments that are tied to the private property lands. When you lose part of the federal grazing, it diminishes your property tax.

John Zablocki- When I read the monument Proclamation; I did not read anywhere where it was contrary to the grazing. In the Gold Butte Proclamation it says no cows, but in the Basin and Range Proclamation it says the opposite.

Tim Smith- If the RAC debates this letter; does it need to be identified at a minimum in the agenda for the next Tri-RAC meeting?

Kirsten Cannon- It will need to be identified in the agenda for the Tri-RAC meeting.

Tim Smith- We need to make sure we follow procedure, so when we develop the agenda for the Tri-RAC that we have the time it takes to discuss this issue.

Jason Higgins- The Recreation subcommittee will have the shooting issue added to it as well.

John Zablocki- So, when the RAC takes a position is it recorded if there is dissenting votes (i.e. the RAC voted five to four).

Jason Higgins- We can put that information in there; we have a tremendous amount of discretion. We do, however, try to get a consensus.

Alicia Styles- I was not at the last RAC meeting, but after reading the minutes, I was under the impression that the recommendations were presented at the RAC and carried forward.

Jason Higgins- The RAC does not have an official letter regarding the recommendations.

Alicia Styles- In the minutes it states:

- “Elise McAllister made a motion to adopt the recommendations to the monument which was submitted by the Basin and Range Subcommittee, with the caveat that it does not conflict with federal law or the Antiques Act...., John Hiatt second the motion, and the motion carried.”

Jason Higgins- Then I need to draft a letter for final approval. Susan Agee please sent me the recommendations again.

1:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Judy Bundorf- I am here on behalf of myself and several other individuals that are concerned about the southern part of Clark County that is still zoned for industrial land. Back in January of 2016, Laura Cutting Ham, Basin and Range Watch Foundation, met with BLM Nevada State Director John Russ and presented a petition to declare the area from Eldorado Valley going south as a non-industrial wind and non-large scale industrial solar area. The reason behind this are:

- Six wilderness areas- Ireteba Peak Wilderness, Nellis Wash Wilderness, South McCollough Wilderness, Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness, Bridge Canyon Wilderness, and Spirit Mountain Wilderness.

Within the last 5 years I have got to know a lot of the Native Americans in the three state area and Spirit Mountain is a sacred site for tribes as far away as the Hopi reservation. When they have a water ceremony at Spirit Mountain Hopi tribal members come from Arizona. The California, Arizona, Mojave tribe and several others are exceedingly concerned about a proposed wind farm called Crescent Peak Wind. Crescent Peak Wind would be on 37,740 acres with up to 220 wind generators that would lay on both sides of the Nipton highway and abut the California line immediately adjacent to the newly named Castle Mountain National Monument. We have heard that the wind turbans may be 700 feet tall. We would like people to be aware that this is not a good place for industrialization, as it is the last hold out in all of southern Nevada that has not been industrialized. I have lived in this valley since 1962 and travel extensively throughout Nye, Esmerelda, Lincoln, and Clark County and over into Arizona and California. I used to be proud to say I could drive from my home and in 30 minutes in any direction and I

would be in open desert. Now in four directions I drive it and it is solar panels, the whole area has been degraded in my opinion. So I would just like to make BLM aware that we are continuing to follow up with John Russ as to the status of that area. It has tremendous possibilities for tourism, just like Esmerelda is putting in bike trails this would be the perfect area for mountain biking. We are not saying make more wilderness areas, but areas where people can come and see the desert the way it has always been.

Varlin Higbee- I spent six days in Washington D.C. and that is where there is effectively close to 300 wind generators in the vicinity of the two Houses, the Senate and the Congress and that is where they need to be collecting their power is in those halls of Congress.

Judy Budorf- I would like to add that in this area I have seen an abundance of wildlife, big horn sheep, desert tortoise, badgers, bald eagles, and a number of rare birds. When the birds come around Searchlight, the Audobon people say they should not even be in Nevada. Also, I have not seen them but people say they have seen mountain lions as well. It is a very natural area; there has been no grazing there for years. It also abuts the Mojave Natural Preserve. It is an area that would be nice to preserve for a great number of reasons.

-Previous Discussions Continued-

Jason Higgins- I have a letter prepared for Susan Agee's recommendations for the September 3, 2016 meeting.

Elise McAllister- After review the meeting minutes from the previous meeting, I noticed I missed something. We would like to ask the RAC to support the Recreation Subcommittee's recommendation; but not say, as in the previous minutes, "come to public lands", instead we say "respect the land ethic". Instead of saying "inviting people" we say "start talking more about a proper land ethic". That actually came from the RAC meeting, we actually already passed it. I will add that to my email.

Jason Higgins- Do you have specific meeting topics for you subcommittee meetings that you can think of now?

-Subcommittee Topics-

Planning Subcommittee

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- The planning committee topics are:

- Utility corridors/transmission
- What do we want to achieve/ recommendations
- Update on the Las Vegas Valley EA
- Eplanning updates
- RMP/RMP supplemental updates
- Renewable Energy

-Discussions-

John Hiatt-Since the last meeting and now, the West Wide Energy Corridor Study, the re-evaluation of that public comment period happened. As a result of a lawsuit settlement, they are looking at the West Wide Energy Corridor. In Region 1, which is us, is the first region that they are looking at. They are taking comments and consolidating those and deciding on what recommendations will be for change or maybe they will wait until they do all regions before they do that.

John Zablocki- Those corridors are also identified in the RMP, and that is not a part of the RMP supplement. If anything came out of that corridor study process, would it come out as a new land use plan amendment?

Tim Smith- It would be an amendment to the RMP.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- Do we want to see what the recommendations are?

John Hiatt- It will be a long wait.

Jason Higgins-Where in the process are they John?

John Hiatt-Comment period is over and I can't remember if they are going to finish Region 1 and start Region 2, or if they are going to take comments from all regions and put them together. It really does not make sense to do it individually because they all connect.

John Zablocki- What happens in a scenario where a land use plan comes out of the process, but it is not what is currently in the RMP. Would the RMP back amend that and undo the recommendations that came out of the corridor study process?

Tim Smith- Lets say that the recommendations and the final ROD comes out, with regards to the corridors, prior to the RMP. That would just amend the 1998 RMP and would be carried forward into the new RMP. The other scenario would be if the RMP comes out first and then the final ROD for the corridor study comes in afterwards, it would amend the new RMP.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- It sounds like it either way, whatever comes out, it would be adopted. Whether it is incorporated into the new RMP or amending the old RMP.

Jason Higgins- Under what authority is this process for the corridors being done under?

John Hiatt- The West Wide Energy Corridor was established under the Bush Administration in 2007, there was a lawsuit over it, and this is a re-examination is a result of the law suit.

Jason Higgins-Which agency is it, is it Department of Energy (DOE)?

John Hiatt- It is Department of Interior (DOI).

Tim Smith- It is DOI and DOE, it is a joint effort.

John Hiatt- If you look at some of these corridors, you think why did someone deviate from what is currently there. It is because someone said they did not like the fact of where it goes.

- Here in southern Nevada, there is a corridor that goes down through St. George, Utah and comes into Dry Lake Valley and goes through the Moapa Indian Reservation. The new corridor does not go there, it is on the other side of I15. This is because Nevada Power Company said they did not want to deal with the Moapa Paiutes anymore.
- That is a very similar reason as to why the TransWest Corridor deviates from the corridor up near Mountain Meadows site in Utah and goes west all the way to Nevada and down. Some Forrest Service people living in that area said they did not want another line in the corridor because they viewed it as unsightly. So now we spend millions of dollars and create over 60 miles of new corridor so that those people do not have to see another line inside the existing corridor.

John Zablocki- TransWest delivers Wyoming wind into California, but that corridor opens up effectively a 20 mile wide buffer for potential new energy, whether that be solar or wind areas. So the corridor also structure wise, has potential additional future development, that otherwise might not have been anticipated in the planning process.

Jason Higgins- John Hiatt, would you mind putting some information together on that and report it during our next meeting?

John Hiatt- Yes, I can do that.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- John Hiatt, is there someone else that you know that you would want to put that together?

John Hiatt- Yeah, we might want to have Angie Dykema, with the Governor's office come and talk about what their plans are.

John Zablocki- I know that some people are behind the settlement, maybe we could hear their concerns and what they were thinking about.

John Hiatt- Gregg Helseth could come and talk to us as well.

Tim Smith- Yes, but he will not be at the next meeting.

John Hiatt- He could come to the Planning Subcommittee meeting in May.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- Maybe we could have Gregg Helseth give as a presentation post Tri-RAC.

Tim Smith- I would hope that by the Tri-RAC or at least by the May subcommittee meeting, that we will have a better handle on the RMP and how that will be unfolding. We could brief the subcommittee on the RMP supplement, the milestones, and what we are specifically looking in at in terms of the six elements.

Stephanie Garcia-Vause- We can put a place holder for that and keep it as a standing item on the subcommittee agendas.

John Hiatt- There was a very interesting article that was published in the Economist Magazine regarding renewable energy called “The World Upside Down” that talks about the challenges that renewable energy causes for the utilities industry. It discusses how the path that we are going down may lead to significant problems as we permit more solar energy.

Jason Higgins- There is proposed legislation by Assemblyman Chris Brooks that would significantly increase renewable energy. It is not something that we tackle as a RAC but we are bringing it up for awareness because if you do that a lot of it is going to come from solar, just based on our resources, and then geothermal. Nevada’s wind resources are not as efficient as other places in the west. So if the legislation passes it will have a huge impact on BLM, and it will have the BLM re-thinking the Solar Energy Zones (SEZ).

John Hiatt- The problem with solar is that the generation time is primarily during the day. We are a long way away from having good storage, and the peak utilization is in the evening when solar doesn’t work. Because of this, what is happening is solar is depressing prices during the day time and basically depriving current utilities of revenue. It remove incentive to invest in energy because the prices go down. We do not have the technology to make it feasible and nobody is talking about how to change our model for usage to correspond to what we can generate.

John Zablocki- In this state we have a very fascinating state politically. We saw the net-metering wars that happened here. It will be an interesting dynamic as that technology evolves. The utility model itself will be questioned. The Lithium that Tesla is looking for is not all going for car batteries that is not their sole model.

Stanley Smith- There is a lot of funding going into storage.

Recreation Subcommittee

Elise McAllister- The meeting will be in April at Elko. Topics will include:

- Overview of Recreation Fees (Presentation by Barbara from the state, if she is there)
- Shooting
- Draft a letter to Tread Lightly and the Nevada Off-Road Vehicle Commission regarding website.

The May meeting topics will include:

- Red Rock Fees
- Lincoln County Scoping Comments

The August meeting topics will include:

- Permitting Issues

-Discussions-

Elise McAllister-If Barbara from the state attends, she might be able to give us an overview of recreation fees and if she is not there than we can the presentation from Barbara. This would set us up so that when we discuss the Red Rock fees at the next Recreation Subcommittee meeting we would have those guidelines and understanding.

- We will discuss the shooting issue and try to make recommendations to the RAC.
- Draft a letter to Tread Lightly and the Nevada Off-Road Vehicle Commission suggesting they include the land ethic message within their website. We could also state that we could be a resource for them.
- During the May meeting we will discuss the Red Rock fees.
- See if we can have Chris Carlton talk about the Lincoln County scoping comments.
- During the August meeting maybe we could discuss the permitting issue and see if we could make recommendations to the BLM for basic permitting information that the public needs to know when they are planning large group activities.

John Hiatt- We have to get all the topics for the meetings to Kirsten within the next two weeks, is that correct?

Elise McAllister- Yes, so I will email this information out.

Tim Smith- I ask that you keep the recreation fees piece all the way through, because my hope is that the business plan gets pretty close being to finished by the end of September. That will be routed through you and then at some point the Recreation RAC will have to have a more extensive conversation and we will need a letter of concurrence from the RAC.

Elise McAllister- Does that need to have a public component?

Tim Smith- Part of it can be done at the RAC during public comment, but we will be going out for public meetings. We are also having a lot of discussions with Metro Police on the Search and Rescue component. Currently, Red Rock is 70% of the counties Search and Rescue. We might be able to support their training.

Basin and Range Subcommittee

Susan Agee- Meeting will be April 18, 2017. Topics will include:

- Scoping Comment Review

Grazing Standards and Guidelines Subcommittee

Susan Agee-Meeting will be April 18, 2017. Topics will include:

- Cleanup of Standards and Guidelines Language

-Discussions-

Susan Agee- Two committees will meet, Basin and Range and Grazing Standards and Guidelines. During the Basing and Range Subcommittee we will be looking through the scoping summary and then wait until there is further action on the alternatives regarding the alternatives. During the Grazing Standards and Guidelines we will be cleaning up language in the guidelines.

John Zablocki- Does the language you recommend ultimately go back and amend the BLM at large language on standards and guidelines?

Susan Agee- The standards and guidelines are currently written for each RAC area. Each of the three RACs write their own standards and guidelines.

Jason Zablocki- I thought there was a standard set of standards and guidelines and they went across the whole BLM.

Jared Bybee- There are default standards and each individual RAC has those, they are the 41-90 regulations.

1:30 p.m. Public Comment Period Closed

-Discussions-

Tim Smith- In terms of Grazing Standards and Guidelines, once we receive a letter from the subcommittee on that we will need to vet it through the BLM Nevada State Office for addition feed back. Then if there is addition need to go into the Standards and Guidelines we can do that, but we need your information first.

Jason- So that topic should go on the main agenda for the RAC in June.

Tim Smith- Get all your information into Kirsten Cannon which is part is for the Federal Register Notice piece.

Jason Higgins- I will email to the RAC for the agenda, confirming dates, and each of the subcommittee chairs will get their information to Kirsten Cannon as well.

Tim Smith- Please get your receipts to Kirsten and Kenya so that they can work on your travel vouchers.

Jason Higgins- In Elko in a month, the preferred hotel is Hampton Inn. The meeting will held at the Elko Convention Center. Kirsten Cannon will coordinate carpooling.

1:36 p.m. Jason Higgins adjourned the meeting.

DECISIONS MADE/ IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

Election of 2017 Chair and Vice-Chair of Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council.

RAC Chair- Jason Higgins

RAC Vice-Chair- Stephanie Garcia-Vause

Subcommittee Chairs

Planning Subcommittee- Stephanie Garcia-Vause, Chair

Recreation Subcommittee- Elise McAllister, Chair

Basin and Range National Monument Subcommittee-Susan Agee, Chair

Grazing Standards and Guidelines Subcommittee- Susan Agee, Chair

Meeting Dates and Topics for the Year

Tri-RAC Meetings:

April 4, 2017, thru April 6, 2017; travel days are April 3, 2017 and April 7, 2017,
Elko Convention Center

For topics and draft agenda see page 3.

RAC Meetings:

June 28, 2017 thru June 29, 2017

For topics see page 8

September 27-28 in Tonopah.

For topics see page 8

Subcommittee Meetings:

Planning-

April 4, 2017, Elko

May 24, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., City of Henderson

August 8, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., City of Henderson

For topics see page 26

Recreation-

April 4, 2017, Elko

May 24, 2017 at 3:30 p.m., City of Henderson

August 8, 2017 at 3:30 p.m., City of Henderson

For topics see page 29

Basin and Range-

April 4, 2017, Elko

April 18, 2017 at 5 p.m., Alamo

August 15, 2017 at 6 p.m., Alamo

For topics see page 30

Grazing Standards and Guidelines-

April 4, 2017, Elko

April 18, 2017 at 5 p.m., Alamo

August 15, 2017 at 6 p.m., Alamo

For topics see page 30

Recommendation Letter to the BLM

Jason Higgins will prepare a letter the Basin and Range Subcommittee for recommendations submitted during the September 3, 2016 meeting

APPROVED BY:

Date: _____

Jason Higgins, Chairperson
Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC

- Minutes provided by Vivian Browning, BLM Realty Specialist

Attachments:

- 1- Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation
- 2- Battle Mountain District Report
- 3- Ely District Report
- 4- Southern Nevada District Office Report