

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

March 19, 2025

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 1:21 PM on March 19, 2025.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Myles Getto
Commissioner Eric Blakey
Commissioner Matt Hyde
County Manager Jim Barbee
Comptroller Sherry Wideman
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Deputy Clerk Crystal Muschetto
Clerk Treasurer Linda Rothery

ABSENT:

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Crystal Muschetto, Deputy Clerk, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 13th day of March, 2025, between the hours of 4:00 and 5:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

**Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted.
Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- February 19, 2025.

The Minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2025, are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2025 as presented. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- February 19, 2025 Budget Hearings.

The Minutes of the Budget Hearings held on February 19, 2025 are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Budget Hearings held on February 19, 2025 as presented. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- February 20, 2025 Budget Hearings.

The Minutes of the Budget Hearings held on February 20, 2025 are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Budget Hearings held on February 20, 2025 as presented. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

1:15 PM A- Presentation of Employee Service Awards for the 1st Quarter of 2025.

Employees receiving service awards during the 4th Quarter of 2024 are:

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Brenda Ingram	Court Services	35 Years
Deanna Tomb	Comptroller	10 Years
Kenneth Tye	Juvenile Probation Office	10 Years
Emily Tunsil	Public Defender	5 Years
Shelly Chamberlain	Public Defender	5 Years

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

The service awards were done in recognition of the stated employees for the years of service to Churchill County. No action was taken.

A. B- Consideration and possible action re: Update of current activities, plans, or actions related to the Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District.

Bureau of Land Management, will provide an update of current activities, plans, or actions related to the Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Mark Mazza, Acting Stillwater Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, began with some brief updates. He noted that Catherine Dyer, who had been serving as the Acting Stillwater Field Manager, has returned to her full-time role at the BLM State Office in Reno. A permanent selection has been made for the Stillwater Field Manager position, though a start date has not yet been determined.

National Defense Authorization Act - BLM

Sand Canyon road realignment- BLM is the lead agency for NEPA; holding meetings with BOR and the Navy to figure out next steps forward

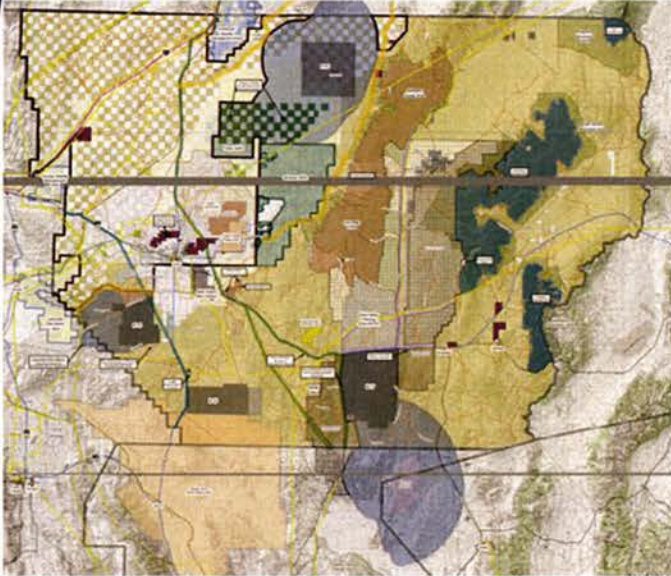
BLM, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Navy and the grazing permittees (currently B-16) meet regularly with the affected grazing permittees. BLM working with approach on grazing in all bombing ranges

BLM and BOR continues to work through the BLM and BOR withdrawal revocation process for Churchill County's top two priorities.

BLM is the cooperating agency for the Great Basin pipeline realignment and State Route 361 road realignment.

Prioritizing work on affected B-16 grazing permits

Next IEC meeting scheduled for March 24 at 2pm



Mr. Mazza also reported that Census flights are currently underway this week. The team is based in Hawthorne while they conduct surveys of the Mineral County wild horse herds. Flights began on Monday and are expected to continue for about six days. These surveys are part of a rotating schedule, with the goal of covering each herd area every other year.

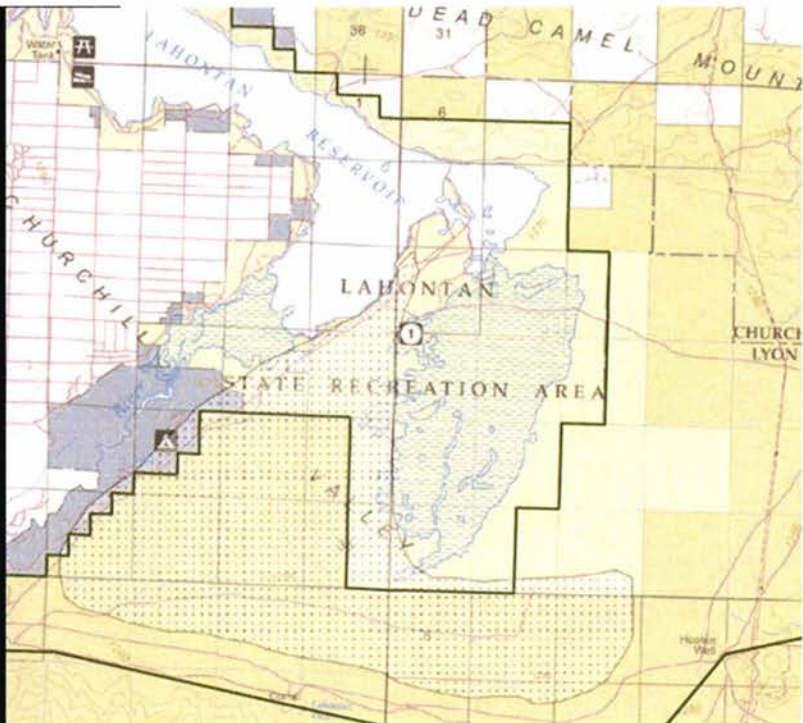
Wild Horse and Burro

Census flights planned for FY25

- ▶ Pilot Table Herd (Mineral County)
- ▶ Marietta Herd (Mineral County)
- ▶ Pine Nut Herd (Douglas, Carson City and Lyon)
- ▶ Garfield Flat Herd (Mineral County)
- ▶ Wassuk Herd (Lyon, Mineral)
- ▶ Montgomery Pass (Mineral)
- ▶ Lahontan (Lyon County)
- ▶ North Complex (Fort Sage, Dogskin and Granite in Washoe County)
- ▶ Flanigan (Washoe County)
- ▶ Desatoya (Churchill and Lander)

Prioritizing the Lahontan Herd Management Area (Churchill County) gather EA (Public Comment Period)

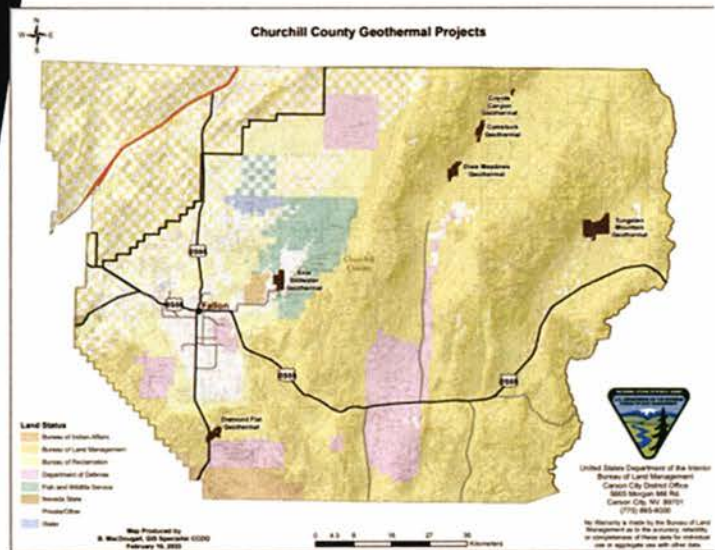
Second priority is the North Complex (Washoe County) horse gather NEPA. North Complex would include the Flanigan, Dogskin Mtn & Granite Peak Herd Management Areas.



Mr. Mazza shared an additional update that was not included on the slide presentation but is relevant. A recent decision was made concerning the Montgomery Pass Herd, and as a co-managing agency, the Stillwater Field Office will soon begin developing a new management plan for that herd. This effort will be conducted in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bishop BLM Office, with a kickoff meeting already scheduled. The Montgomery Pass horses are known to migrate toward Mono Lake, an area that draws significant public interest, making this planning process particularly important.

Geothermal Projects

- ▶ Dixie Meadows: A baseline requirements document is near completion with USFWS NASF and BLM, Ormat has participated in the discussions
- ▶ Diamond Flat (exploration) NEPA in progress and working on timeline with NEPA contractor.
 - ▶ BLM is requesting SHPO enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to resolve adverse effects; a Historical Properties Treatment Plan is being developed



Minerals Projects

- ▶ **Bell Mountain Mine.** Lincoln Resource Group is entering the final design, pre-construction phase for the Bell Mountain Mine. The EA for the project was finalized and Decision Record / FONSI issued March 2020.
- ▶ **Cosmo Dixie Exploration.** Cosmo E&P US., has two Notices for lithium exploration in Dixie Valley. Aquarius, two drill pads and 1,150 feet of constructed road, for a total of 3.47 acres. Sagittarius, one drill pad and 7,060 feet of constructed road, for a total of 4.56 acres.

Special Recreation Permits Updates

- ▶ **A district wide project planned to batch OHV SRPs in to one review has been kicked off on 3/11/25. It will include proposed dates and routes of Carson City District Races**

Mr. Mazza also provided updates from the recreation staff, focusing primarily on Sand Mountain. He noted that Easter weekend is traditionally a high-traffic time at Sand Mountain and preparations are underway to ensure adequate staffing for the event.

In terms of infrastructure, paving work is currently being done on the helipad, with additional road paving scheduled for April and May. Mr. Mazza also highlighted a community safety initiative happening over Easter weekend—free youth helmets will be distributed, thanks to a partnership between Renown Children’s Hospital and the Nevada Outdoor School.

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Lands & Realty

Greenlink North

- ▶ Final EIS expected to be published in April 2025.
- ▶ Record of Decision expected to be published in July 2025.

Railroad Spur ROW west of Fallon

- ▶ Applicant is Western Emulsions, Inc. Rail Spur
- ▶ ROW is approx. 450 ft x 32 ft.
- ▶ Internal Project Initiation Form (PIF) presentation on March 25th

Mr. Mazza provided an update on the Greenlink North Transmission Line, which primarily follows the Highway 50 corridor. He noted that the project proponent has requested slight reroutes after conducting on-the-ground assessments. These adjustments are largely related to construction logistics and feasibility.

The BLM team is currently reviewing the proposed changes to determine the appropriate path forward. They are assessing whether the re-routes can move ahead with a simple letter of authorization and some surveys or if a new decision process will be required to address the changes.

Commissioner Hyde raised a concern about the ongoing cycle of wild horse management, noting that the current approach seems to follow a pattern of roundups, population increases, and more roundups. He asked whether there has been any discussion about implementing more efficient, long-term solutions, such as the sterilization of stud horses, to help stabilize herd numbers. He also commented on the strain on local feedlots and described the system as a revolving door, acknowledging that BLM staff are on the front lines of the issue and suggesting there must be a better way.

In response, Mr. Mazza explained that the gather schedule is set by BLM's national headquarters, not by the Carson City District Office, which can make it challenging to maintain herd numbers at local target levels. He emphasized that the ability to conduct gathers is dependent on available funding and space in the holding corrals. If there isn't enough room, they are unable to proceed with gathers.

He also mentioned that BLM previously tried an adoption incentive program to encourage the public to adopt more horses. While there have been positive stories and some success, the

number of adoptions represents only a small fraction of the total horse population, and thus has limited impact on reducing numbers in holding.

Mr. Mazza concluded by noting that more significant changes to wild horse management, such as expanded use of sterilization or new strategies, would likely require legislative action.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none. This presentation was done for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of a Professional Services Agreement between Churchill County and Sanborn for two aerial imagery projects totaling \$120,179.72.

The Assessor's office utilizes aerial imagery to safely, accurately, and efficiently complete its appraisal responsibilities. Aerial imagery and building permits are the main sources of discovery of new property in the county. The Assessor's technology fund has financed aerial photography flights since 2011. The 2025 flight was included in the 2025-2026 Technology Fund budget. However, we altered the boundaries of the flight, which resulted in an increase of \$8,374.72. If approved, the 2026 flight will be included in the 2026-2027 budget. We are requesting approval of the contract in order to schedule the 2025 imagery flight, which will be utilized for the 2026-2027 reappraisal of Area 5 effective July 1, 2025.

2025 City & North County flight.

Cost \$57,565.72

126 square mile flight

3-inch ortho/oblique imagery

2026 Improved East County flight.

Cost \$67,614.00

225 square mile flight

3-inch ortho/oblique imagery

Sanborn owns and operates the fleet of aviation assets used to fly the imagery. Sanborn Ortho products use rigorous and comprehensive quality control measures to create an orthorectified image that "contain the image characteristics of a photograph with the geospatial qualities of a map".

FISCAL IMPACT: If approved, the Agreement will be funded by the Technology Fund as a qualified expenditure not to exceed \$120,179.72 over two fiscal years.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: As stated.

FUNDING SOURCE: Technology Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Denise Felton, Assessor, made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement between Churchill County and Sanborn and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Legislative Update:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Update on the status of all Bills in the 2025 Nevada Legislature and support or opposition to any Bill that has an impact on county government or the citizens of Churchill County.

Staff will provide an update on the status of all Bills in the 2025 Nevada Legislature and may seek support or opposition to any Bill that has an impact on county government or the citizens of Churchill County.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Joseph Sanford, Senior Deputy District Attorney, provided a legislative update beginning with AB51, a bill that addresses public records. He explained that the proposed revisions would allow counties to charge a reasonable fee for the time and effort involved in gathering and creating public records. This measure has been widely discussed during NACO meetings and appears to have strong support, though Mr. Sanford noted that public records legislation often faces significant challenges. The county will continue to monitor its progress.

Next, he discussed AB66, which proposes to expand the Churchill County District Court from one judge to two judges. Mr. Sanford indicated that a formal action by the County Commission is not required immediately. He anticipates the board will need to make a decision in an upcoming meeting on whether or not to support the expansion.

He then addressed AB70, a bill relevant to renewable energy projects. As Churchill County continues to grow in this sector, AB70 would require the Director of the Governor's Office of Energy to consider written comments from County Commissioners on applications for tax abatements. While it is unclear how much influence those comments would carry, the bill would at least give the board a chance to participate in the decision-making process.

Mr. Sanford concluded with updates on two water-related bills: AB104 and SB36. Both address conjunctive management and the establishment of a water rights retirement program. Churchill County's water liaison, Chris Mahannah, is actively engaged with both bills to ensure any impacts are either beneficial or appropriately mitigated. While no major fiscal impact is expected, these bills could provide long-term benefits by creating a clear conjunctive management plan through the State Engineer's Office, offering the county predictability and guidance as development continues.

Mr. Sanford provided further legislative updates, starting with AB109, which pertains to water usage in relation to geothermal projects. He noted that this bill is currently being evaluated by stakeholders within the geothermal industry to assess its potential impacts. As of his last update, AB109 had not yet been scheduled for a hearing, suggesting that its progression is uncertain.

Regarding AB218, Mr. Sanford recalled previous discussions about this bill, which initially proposed requiring courts to send text message notifications to individuals involved in court proceedings—a measure anticipated to incur substantial fiscal costs. He informed the board that the bill has since been amended to remove these provisions, effectively eliminating the associated financial impact on counties. The implementation of court notifications is now being reconsidered, potentially through grants from the Administrative Office of the Courts or similar avenues, rather than through direct legislation.

Mr. Sanford then addressed AB226, a bill concerning tax credits and abatements. This legislation would mandate that the Governor's Office require companies seeking tax abatements to develop a Community Benefit Plan. Such a plan would detail the specific benefits the company intends to provide to the county, aligning with local zoning and planning requirements. This approach aims to ensure that community benefits—such as enhancements to fire services, police, parks, or other public amenities—are clearly articulated and tied to the tax abatement process, where there is authority to negotiate them, rather than during the planning stage, where such authority may be lacking. While Story County has been active in promoting certain tax abatement-related bills, they have indicated that they are not the driving force behind AB226. Mr. Sanford suggested that this bill could be advantageous for Churchill County, particularly as development continues.

Mr. Sanford provided further legislative updates, beginning with a bill that would have required live translation services for the deaf at public meetings. Initially, this mandate posed a significant financial burden due to the need for live consultants to provide transcription services. However, recent amendments propose allowing the use of electronic or AI-based transcription services, which are more cost-effective, thereby reducing the fiscal impact on counties.

Regarding AB307, Mr. Sanford explained that this bill seeks to eliminate the 15% excise tax on wholesale cannabis sales and increase the retail sales excise tax from 10% to 14.25%. Currently, Churchill County prohibits wholesale or resale of cannabis products, so this change does not directly affect the county. However, since the wholesale excise tax revenue benefits counties, its elimination could significantly impact county revenues if Churchill County were to change its stance on cannabis in the future. Larger counties with established cannabis industries are actively contesting this bill, and Churchill County is monitoring its progress to assess potential future implications.

SB71 was discussed next, which requires certain public entities to post vendor and purchase information on their websites. A similar bill pertains to the online posting of planning and development issues. While these mandates do not entail substantial direct costs, they impose additional regulatory responsibilities, necessitating more staff time and resources. Mr. Sanford

emphasized the growing need for county websites and portals to become more adaptable in providing timely information to the public.

SB93 introduces labor standards for state agencies awarding federal funds for broadband infrastructure development, specifically requiring projects to pay prevailing wages. This could have significant implications for the deployment of broadband infrastructure, potentially increasing project costs and affecting the pace of broadband expansion.

Regarding SB94, Mr. Sanford noted that this bill aims to exempt Nevada from observing daylight saving time, allowing the state to remain on standard time year-round. Although its passage appears unlikely at this time, he mentioned it for informational purposes, acknowledging the potential impact on residents and businesses if enacted.

SB116 addresses the annual compensation of elected county officers. NACO has expressed support for this bill, which is being introduced by Senator Daly. An amendment was presented during the recent hearing, and the current expectation is a significant increase in salaries across various elected county positions, excluding judges who are covered under different provisions. While no immediate action is required, Mr. Sanford indicated that some form of this bill is likely to pass.

SB120, which initially posed a substantial fiscal impact, required courts to allow individuals to enter into payment plans for fines and other monetary penalties. An amendment has since removed most provisions related to payment plans, except those concerning public defender fees. This revision significantly reduces the financial impact on counties, which is favorable news for Churchill County.

SB355 is a critical bill for the county, focusing on tax abatements for energy-related projects. Currently, tax abatements are contingent upon the fiscal impact not exceeding the fiscal benefit to the county. However, SB355 proposes exemptions for energy facilities that incorporate Agrivoltaics or Ecovoltaic production—practices involving agriculture or conservation under solar panels. The bill's definitions of these terms are somewhat vague, raising concerns that many solar facilities could qualify for larger abatements, potentially reducing county revenues. Mr. Sanford advised that the county consider providing neutral testimony to highlight these concerns, emphasizing the need for clarity in definitions and addressing potential reductions in county benefits.

AB70: This bill would require the Director of the Office of Energy and the Governor's Office to consider written comments from County Commissioners when evaluating tax abatement applications. Commissioner Getto expressed support for this measure.

SB355: This legislation proposes exemptions from fiscal impact requirements for Agrivoltaic and Ecovoltaic energy systems, potentially affecting tax abatements for solar energy projects. Commissioner Getto opposed this bill, citing Churchill County's role as a major energy producer and exporter.

AB226: This bill mandates that companies seeking tax abatements develop a community benefit plan outlining specific advantages for the local area, such as support for fire services, police, or parks. Commissioner Getto supported this initiative.

AB307: This proposal aims to eliminate the 15% excise tax on wholesale cannabis sales while increasing the retail excise tax from 10% to 14.25%. Although Churchill County currently prohibits wholesale or resale of cannabis products, Commissioner Getto opposed this bill due to its potential future impact on county revenue.

SB71: This bill requires public entities to post purchasing information on their websites, potentially increasing the workload for county staff. Commissioner Getto opposed this measure.

SB93: This legislation establishes labor standards for state agencies awarding federal funds for broadband infrastructure development, including prevailing wage requirements. Commissioner Getto opposed this bill, noting its potential significant impact on broadband deployment.

SB94: This bill seeks to exempt Nevada from observing daylight saving time, aligning the state with Arizona and Hawaii. Commissioner Getto remained indifferent to this proposal.

SB116: This legislation proposes revisions to the annual compensation of elected county officers. Commissioner Getto supported this bill.

SB120: This bill requires courts to allow payment plans for fines and prohibits ordering defendants to pay for appointed public defenders. Commissioner Getto opposed this measure due to its potential fiscal impact.

Commissioner Hyde emphasized the importance of monitoring these bills for any amendments that could alter their original intent. Commissioner Blakey concurred, highlighting the need to time their positions effectively to ensure their comments remain relevant as the legislative process unfolds. Mr. Barbee assured the Commissioners that any significant modifications to the bills would be brought back for further consideration, allowing the county to adjust its stance as necessary.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to support the following Bills: AB 70, AB 226, and SB 116, and to oppose the following Bills: SB 120, SB 355, AB 307, SB 71, and SB 93. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Letters Received:

A- Bureau of Land Management's notification of its public consultation for the Stone Cabin and Willow Creek Allotments and proposed action to implement temporary range improvements for the duration of drought conditions within the allotments.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides notice of its public consultation and proposed action to implement temporary range improvements during the duration of drought

conditions being experienced within the Stone Cabin and Willow Creek allotments to mitigate the impact of ongoing drought on livestock grazing. As of February 20, 2025, approximately 81.43% of Nevada is experiencing drought, with severe conditions in both allotments. The drought is expected to persist through April 30, 2025, prompting the implementation of drought response actions outlined in the Battle Mountain District Drought Management Environmental Assessment (Drought EA).

The Stone Cabin Allotment, covering 389,499 acres east of Tonopah, features diverse vegetation across elevations from 5,300 to 9,300 feet. The Willow Creek Allotment, northeast of Tonopah, spans 12,171 acres with elevations from 6,300 to 7,400 feet. Both areas have limited riparian resources and provide habitat for wild horses and sage-grouse. Grazing is permitted year-round in Stone Cabin (1,992 AUMs) and seasonally in Willow Creek (341 AUMs). Due to persistent drought, AUM reductions have occurred over the past decade, with average permit use at 63% in Stone Cabin and 76% in Willow Creek.

The Proposed Action allows Stone Cabin Ranch, LLC to temporarily haul water to improve livestock distribution and reduce overgrazing. Five temporary water haul sites—one in Willow Creek and four in Stone Cabin—will be placed along existing roads at previously disturbed locations. Water will be transported by truck and all troughs will include wildlife escape ladders. Temporary water sources will help maintain grazing rotation, prevent overuse of riparian areas, and manage invasive annual grasses through targeted grazing.

The Tonopah Field Office will issue a Proposed Decision authorizing temporary water hauls for the duration of the drought, plus one full growing season. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) and a cultural inventory will be conducted before the decision. Public, partner, and government feedback is invited before finalizing the proposal.

Public comments will be accepted until March 25, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

B- Bureau of Land Management's notification of the Pancake Complex Wild Horse Gather and Herd Management Area Plan Final Environmental Assessment.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and approved the decision to gather and remove excess wild horses from the Pancake Complex. The assessment evaluates the environmental impacts of managing the wild horse population to maintain an appropriate management level (AML) of 336-638 horses. This action aligns with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 and aims to improve vegetation, habitat, and watershed health. The public comment period ended on December 11, 2020 and the final EA is available online.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

C- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's notification of its public comment period and public hearing regarding the Nevada Haze Revision to the State Implementation Plan for the second planning period.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is accepting public comments on the proposed revision to the Nevada Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the second planning period. After partially withdrawing sections of its 2022 SIP due to changes in the state's energy landscape and transmission reliability, NDEP has replaced those sections in this revision. Once finalized, the revision will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval. The document is available on the NDEP website.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

D- Bureau of Land Management's notification of its Herd Management Area Plan and Gather Plan Environmental Assessment for the Bullfrog Herd Management Area and 30-day public comment period.

The Bureau of Land Management has developed a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and Gather Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bullfrog Herd Management Area (HMA) in Nye County, Nevada. A 30-day public comment period runs from February 20 to March 24, 2025, via the BLM ePlanning website. The Bullfrog HMA, located in the northern Mojave Desert, is split by U.S. Highway 95, with Beatty, Nevada, at its center. The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild burros is set at 58-91 but, as of March 2025, the population is estimated at 1,197 adults, with additional foals expected. The overpopulation threatens rangeland and riparian resources, prompting the need for action to maintain ecological balance and comply with the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

E- Bureau of Land Management provides notice of its Proposed Decision for the South Lone Mountain Spring Enclosure Project for an enclosure fence on lands managed by BLM.

The Bureau of Land Management consulted with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and the public regarding a proposed project to install a steel jack enclosure fence around South Lone Mountain Spring on BLM-managed land.

The proposed action would authorize NDOW to construct exclusionary fencing at South Lone Mountain Spring to improve riparian habitat in Esmeralda County, Nevada. Overuse by wild horses and cattle has led to vegetation loss and soil erosion. The project involves installing a wildlife-permeable steel jack fence around the water source, limiting but not entirely restricting livestock and wild horse access. This would provide necessary rest from overgrazing and trampling, while allowing periodic entry through a gated section to support management goals.

Alternative locations were not considered due to localized spring degradation. A no-action alternative was reviewed but would likely lead to further habitat loss. The project aligns with the Tonopah Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP), supporting wildlife habitat enhancement, bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope conservation, and the protection of sensitive species. The decision to proceed includes all design features, procedures, and monitoring outlined in the proposal. A resource review confirmed no undue environmental harm and the project complies with all relevant laws. No public comments were received following the February 8, 2025 consultation with NDOW and the public.

The grazing decision process includes two steps: a Proposed Decision followed by a Final Decision. The Proposed Decision allows for a 15-day protest period. If no protest is filed, it becomes the Final Decision. The Final Decision can be appealed within 30 days. In total, 45 days must pass after the Proposed Decision before the project can be authorized, unless an appeal is filed or a stay is issued.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

F- Bureau of Land Management's notification of its Environmental Impact Statement for Silver Peak Lithium Operation Project.

The Bureau of Land Management, in partnership with the Tonopah Field Office and other agencies, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Silver Peak Lithium Operation (SPLO) Project. Albemarle U.S., Inc. submitted an amendment to its Authorized Plan of Operations to reconcile 168 acres of unauthorized disturbance on private land and 770 acres on public land, as well as to expand lithium brine extraction facilities. The expansion would impact 375 acres of private land and 283 acres of public land, adding new brine ponds, pump stations, pipelines, and production wells. The EIS will analyze potential project impacts and alternatives. A Notice of Intent was published on February 28, 2025, initiating a 30-day public scoping period ending March 31, 2025. The BLM is seeking public input and will host two opportunities for stakeholders to learn about the project, provide comments, and ask questions.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

G- Nevada Department of Environmental Protection's notification of its review of the Draft Final Sampling and Analysis Plan, Remedial Investigation of Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl substances at Naval Air Station, Fallon, Nevada.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has reviewed the Draft Final Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) for the Remedial Investigation of Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The document, dated February 14, 2025, was prepared by CH2M Hill, Inc. for Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest (NAVFAC SW) and

incorporates NDEP's previous comments. NDEP has determined that the Draft Final SAP satisfactorily addresses its concerns and may be finalized at NAVFAC SW's discretion.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Adoption of Resolution 5-2025 authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to sell property held in trust because of unpaid taxes, directing publication of the Notice of the Tax Sale as provided in statutes, and other matters properly relating thereto.

NRS 361.595 provides for the sale of any property held in trust by the Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer for unpaid taxes. A list of properties currently held in trust for unpaid taxes is provided with this Resolution and marked as Exhibit "A". This resolution directs Linda Rothery, Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer, or her duly authorized Deputy, to sell said trust properties to the highest bidder for cash of a total amount not less than the amount of taxes, costs, penalties, interest, and recording fees legally chargeable against the property.

The Clerk/Treasurer has contracted with a company to conduct the tax sale virtually again this year. The tax sale is scheduled for April 17 and 18, 2025. Deadlines have been established pursuant to statutes whereby the tax payer can pay the amount due and keep the property from being sold. Therefore, the list of properties actually sold may be different. In the event that all properties are redeemed, no tax sale will take place.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not known until the tax sale is conducted or taxes are redeemed.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Either the unpaid taxes will be paid and deposited or the tax sale will take place but it is unknown at this time if any parcels will be sold.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LINDA ROTHERY, CHURCHILL COUNTY CLERK/TREASURER, OR HER DULY AUTHORIZED DEPUTY CLERK, TO SELL PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST BECAUSE OF UNPAID TAXES, DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF THE TAX SALE AS PROVIDED IN STATUTES, AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

Julie Gilmore, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to adopt Resolution 5-2025 authorizing the sale of property held in trust by the Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer for unpaid taxes and directing publication of the Notice of Tax Sale as provided by NRS 361.595(3)(a). Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. B- Consideration and possible action re: Selection of HintonBurdick CPAs & Advisors as the Independent Auditors for the audits for Churchill County and CC Communications for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 using the two-year extension option.

Churchill County has been pleased with the external audit services provided by HintonBurdick CPAs & Advisors for the past 8 years and now seeks approval to utilize the two-year extension option for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, and 2026, which include year-end reports prepared and submitted in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and Nevada Revised Statutes.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$ 209,664.00 in FY 25 and FY 26.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Costs as outlined.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund Budget for professional fees.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Sherry Wideman, Comptroller, made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to use the two-year extension option for the audit Contract to HintonBurdick CPAs & Advisors for audit of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Churchill County, including all the enterprise funds for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025 and 2026. For a maximum price of \$100,800 for FY 25 and \$108,864 for FY 26, this price is inclusive of the hours incurred to prepare the financial statements and related notes as outlined in the 2017 Request for Proposals. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consent Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Report of the condition of each fund in the treasury and the statements of receipts and expenditures pursuant to NRS 251.030 and NRS 354.290.

A Fund Balance Report is attached indicating the beginning balance, receipts, disbursements, and the ending balance of each fund for Churchill County as required by NRS 251.030 and NRS 354.290.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

B- Consideration and possible action re: Notification of Burial Application 386A36285 approved March 6, 2025.

Notification of Burial Application 386A36285 received and approved per NRS 428.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: Social Services Indigent Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

C- Consideration and possible action re: Notification of Emergency Temporary Guardianship 25-10DC-0166, which was approved February 18, 2025.

Notification that Guardianship Application 25-10DC-0166 was received and approved for emergency temporary guardianship per NRS 159.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

D- Consideration and possible action re: Notification of referral for guardianship on behalf of protected person 25-10DC-0196, received March 5, 2025.

Notification of a guardianship referral received March 5, 2025 per NRS 159, which is being investigated.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

E- Consideration and possible action re: Notification of referral for guardianship on behalf of protected person 25-10DC-0197, received March 5, 2025.

Notification of a guardianship referral for Client #25-10DC-0197 received March 5, 2025 per NRS 159.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

F- Consideration and possible action re: Recorder's Monthly Apportionment Report for February 2025 totaling \$21,187.50 in revenue.

Churchill County Recorder, Tasha Hessey, provides her Recorder's Monthly Apportionment Report for February 2025 totaling \$21,187.50 in revenue for the month.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$21,187.50 in revenue.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees to help off-set services provided.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

G- Consideration and possible action re: Building Department's Revenue Report for February 2025 totaling \$21,642.58.

The Building Department provides its Revenue Report for February 2025 for the board's consideration and acceptance. A total of \$21,642.58 was received for the month

FISCAL IMPACT: \$21,642.58.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees are collected for the issuance of building permits, plan reviews, inspections, etc.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

H- Consideration and possible action re: Building Permit Activity Report for February 2025.

Provided for the board's review is the report showing 9 permits issued in the month of February 2025. Included in the 9 permits are 0 single-family-dwelling permit, 1 commercial permit, 0 industrial permits, 2 manufactured home permits, and 5 septic permits.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

I- Consideration and possible action re: Recorder's Monthly Apportion Report for February 2025 totaling \$21,187.50 in revenue for the month.

Churchill County Recorder, Tasha Hessey, provides her Recorder's Monthly Apportionment Report for March 2025, which shows a total of \$21,187.50 in revenue for the month. Further details can be found in the report. This report is provided for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$21,187.50 in revenue for the month.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees to off-set services provided.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested.

Commissioner and Management Staff Reports:

Chair Getto reported on the following topics:

- In recent engagements, I participated in a library strategic planning meeting to develop a five-year plan for the library's future.
- Additionally, I attended the Lahontan Valley Conservation District meeting, where Kristy Sullivan announced a tree sale in collaboration with Churchill County High School's Plant Systems Class. The deadline to submit order forms is April 4, with the sale scheduled for May 3, 2025.

- Furthermore, I took part in a meeting of the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority, which focuses on addressing water resource issues across nine Nevada counties.

Commissioner Blakey reported on the following topics:

- In recent activities, I attended a Stillwater Conservation District meeting, where regular business was conducted.
- Additionally, I participated in a session at the Churchill County Museum, which is currently hosting its Spring Lecture Series titled "Wheels," exploring connections between people and modes of transportation.
- Furthermore, as part of the Fire Board, we conducted interviews for the new Fire Marshal position and selected a candidate who will be recommended to the City Council and County Commission in the near future.

Commissioner Hyde reported on the following topics:

- The Fallon Youth Club is actively preparing for upcoming events and fundraisers. Notably, the annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for July, with further details to be announced. Additionally, the club plans to host its annual dinner fundraiser, maintaining last year's ticket pricing.
- Additionally, I have a Churchill Area Regional Transportation (CART) meeting scheduled today. CART provides transportation services within Churchill County, including facilitating access to vaccination sites for eligible populations.

County Manager Barbee had nothing to report.

Comptroller Wideman had nothing to report.

Senior Deputy DA Sanford reported on the following topics:

- The Churchill County District Attorney's Office is currently conducting interviews for a new attorney candidate in the criminal division. The office is enthusiastic about the potential addition and looks forward to enhancing its capacity to serve the community effectively.

Deputy Clerk Moore reported on the following topics:

- The Jim Regan Memorial Scholarship Applications are due by Friday, April 4th.

Claims and Payroll Transmittals:

The Claims and Payroll Transmittals were submitted for the board's consideration and approval.

Public Comment:

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

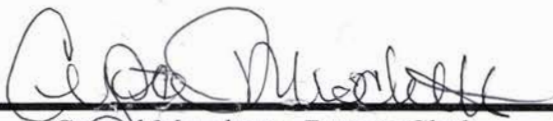
The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM.

Approved: 
Myles Getto, Chairman

Approved: 
Eric Blakey, Vice-Chairman

Approved: 
Matt Hyde, Commissioner

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Crystal Muschetto, Deputy Clerk