



Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held February 2, 2017
at the Gerlach General Improvement District – Community Room, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV

1. ***CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.
MEMBERS PRESENT – Matthew Ebert, Elisabeth Gambrell, Allen Nash (alternate filling in for Tina Walters), Lisa Nash.

ABSENT MEMBERS (Excused): Sonya DeForest, Tina Walters, Brooke Covey.
2. ***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. ***PUBLIC COMMENT** – No Comments
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017:** Matthew Ebert moved to approve the agenda for **FEBRUARY 2, 2017**. Elisabeth Gambrell seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2016:** Elisabeth Gambrell said she had a few edits. The introduction of the minutes had Spanish Spring CAB, it should be Gerlach/Empire. Matthew Ebert moved to approve the minutes for **OCTOBER 6, 2016** as amended. Elisabeth Gambrell seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
6. ***UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE** – Elisabeth Gambrell said to save the date for the Health Fair on June 16, 2017 by Northern Nevada Hopes. She said they are looking for citizens to assist with the fair. There is more information to come.
7. *** PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS/UPDATES**
7A. ***Gerlach Fire** – Pat Irwin, Gerlach Fire Services Community Coordinator, will provide information regarding the Gerlach Combination Fire Department and calls for service in the area. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Pat Erwin, Community Coordinator for the volunteer station, gave an update and recap:

Permit staff have been dedicated to the Gerlach area and unincorporated Washoe County, approximately 4,600 square miles up to the Idaho border. He said they have enjoyed the first 6 months so far. He said they have looked into a grant, and they hosted a fundraiser. He said they want to get a \$36,000 gurney. They have received a quote. The Washoe County Commissioners have put money towards that goal. He said they are waiting to hear from POOLPACT. He said they are applying for a fire fighter grant and miscellaneous grants for extra equipment, solutions for bottles, and a hydraulic ladder to make it accessible. He hopes they receive the grants.

Main focus is the volunteers. He said he is proud to announce 14 volunteer fire fighters; they are receiving support. 12 are enrolled in EMT class. By April 1st, driver only certificates will be completed. CPR and CVAC will be completed. The class ends in May with EMT testing in June. Driver certificates will be updated after completion. He said they are working to be a partner to do transport on the playa. He said he is happy with community and support.

7B. *Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) – A representative of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office may be available (unless on a call for service) to address public safety questions and concerns. For more information call (775) 328-3001 or online at www.washoesheriff.com (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Sheriff Dave Evans gave an updates:

- Warming up; coming to the end of hunting season
- More traffic through the area
- Increased in speeding incident by Empire Store
- Children are outside playing; enforcing speeding.
- Increase in drug use – meth
- Roads are being washed out with the storms. The back and white closed road signs have been posted. It's a misdemeanor when you ignore the signs.
- They are working to restore the pole from the accident.

7C. *Washoe County Emergency Management – Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager with the Office of the County Manager will provide information regarding recent flooding and snow events. Please feel free to contact Mr. Kenneston at (775) 337-5898 or via email at akenneston@washoecounty.us. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

- Shelter trailer has 50 bed trailer in the community
- Working with Don Pelt for shelter equipment for an unusual event.
- Worked with State for a mass casualty trailer located in the County roads yard with supplies for a 100 person accident.
- We had the wettest January since the 1800s. Series of flood/snow events in the County, busy for public safety. Activated emergency status and supplied emergency services. There is a lot of damage throughout the county. Governor declared state of emergency; met with FEMA – there will be federal assistance. If there is damage to public infrastructure, please let the County know. That may include mitigation efforts to lessen the effects in the future. He said their job is to advocate for the citizens.
- He handed out some books – Red guide to recovery with advice on how to interact with government for recovery during a natural disaster. He handed out brochures about personal preparedness. He said he is available anytime about emergency preparedness.

Allen Nash said he wanted definite date for road repair for Nixon and Sutcliffe. He said he spoke to Don and construction companies. They were hoping for the road to be repaired by March. Aaron said he guessed a 30 day reopening. Local traffic has been able to access. Allen said there were canals were filled up during storm, they need to be cleaned. Aaron said there is a priority list. He will ask the county roads for an estimate dates.

Margie Reynolds asked about road access with one way for the Nixon/Sutcliffe road damage. Aaron said he doesn't know. He knows there is bypass for locals. Aaron said tribal members and those living in Nixon and Sutcliffe are able to access. It will take a while to fix. Dave Evans said it takes a long time to go through that area. It's quicker right now to go through Wadsworth.

8. *VYA CONSERVATION DISTRICT – A representative from Vya Conservation District will be in attendance to provide an update on conservation district project, programs and opportunities. For additional information on the District please visit www.vyacd.org/ (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Lani Estill of the VYA Conservation District gave an update:

She said they expanded to this area and part of Washoe/Storey Conservation District. She gave a presentation:

- She reviewed their Mission statement, Vision Statement, and Board of Supervisors. Supervisors were in Cedarville area – ranch. There is no representation for this area. They have a full board; she asked the public if they are interested in this organization, please consider joining.
- Partner with NRCS, Fish and Wildlife, BLM on projects. She said they manage projects.
- Community outreach programs: Modoc County Fair, and the Agriculture Fair on March 10th which is an all day event, free event.
- Field trips to local ranches; scholarships for kids who want to study natural resources.
- Conservation: Spring developments, pasture rotations, active management and active conservation, weed control
- She said they are concerned about the wildlife with federal lands Bill; she had history of the landbills – friends of Nevada wilderness recommends it and it's what BLM studied. These lands are already BLM – Washoe County land bill wants to designate the land as wilderness instead of categorized as wilderness study area. There are links to definitions and the act in the handout.
- Allen asked how they are funded. Lani said through grants, projects management fee.
- Laura Blaylock asked about the BLM. Lani said they work with BLM on weed control.

9. PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS

A. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Washoe County Commissioner, Jeanne Herman, may be available to provide updated information on discussion and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Following her presentation Commissioner Herman may be available to address questions and concerns from the CAB and the audience. Commissioner Herman can be reached (775) 501-0002 or via email

jherman@washoecounty.us.

Jeanne Herman gave an update:

- She spoke about the Lands Bill: She said it's in the baby stages. 'PLAN' Public Land Access Network is interested in the Lands Bill. That's in limbo. She said she will keep everyone posted.

10.*COUNTY UPDATE – Al Rogers, Washoe County Management Services Director with the Office of the County Manager will be available to provide an update on County services. For additional information please feel free to contact Mr. Rogers at arogers@washoecounty.us. (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Al Rogers gave an update:

- He apologized for the October minutes; the recorder was inadvertently turned off during the meeting. He said he wanted to highlight what was discussed. He said the Washoe County Lands Bill. It's the infancy stage. It's important for this community to know what is going on. It will continue to move, but not quickly. The CAB program falls into his purview.
- He wants to know what the cab wants moving forward. He said last June they hosted an Open Meeting Law and planning item training. He said he sent the link to CAB members for the training videos. He said he has DVDs as well, and can send those up here.
- He thanked everyone for their updates. He said we will continue to have these public agency updates in addition to the Lands Bill update. He said since the June and October meeting, the Community Coordinator has been reinstated. He said she has been tasked to give updates. Office of County Manager is happy to take input and items of interest.

- Lisa asked about the training videos and if there any way to show if you have completed the videos. Al said we emphasize the importance of taking the trainings; it's the honor system, but wants to make sure there is relevance gained from the training. It's required every year.

Elisabeth asked about CAB workbook for CAB members. Al Rogers said he will get it updated and provide it for her.

11. *CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS -This item is limited to announcements by CAB members and topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.

- Elisabeth spoke about the GID meeting interruption. She asked if the CAB want to host the CAB on a different time, date, location. She asked how can we better work with the GGID. Lisa said until we get it changed, we need to respect the GID. She also said we need a microphone system.
- Elisabeth welcomed citizens from Empire for attending the meeting; she thanked them for the Christmas party.

12. *PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited to no more than three (3) minutes. Anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The public are requested to submit a Request to Speak form to the Board Chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.

A public member from Empire spoke about Empire. He said there are 45 individuals living in the town. 9 children in the school, 23 houses in the works. He said they plan on hiring people. They are firing up the mill with 65 employees including truck driver. This weather has been hard for shipments. They plan on re-doing the swimming pool and opening that up. He said they don't know about the golf course. He said they will max out on 60 people living in the community.

Sgt Evans reminded everyone about the legal stop sign in Empire.

A public member spoke about Plan Land Access Network (PLAN) is organized group of recreationalist, hunters, and explores. He had a letter for County supervisors and manager. He said wilderness topic is in question. He had information of acreage.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Number of CAB members present: 4

Number of Public Present: 21

Presence of Elected Officials: 1

Number of staff present: 1

Submitted By: Misty Moga