

The Honorable Board of Lander County Commissioners met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Lander County Courthouse in Battle Mountain, Nevada on March 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: **DEAN BULLOCK, COMMISSIONER**
 STEVEN STIENMETZ, COMMISSIONER
 DAVID MASON, COMMISSIONER
 RAY H. WILLIAMS, JR., COMMISSIONER
 SADIE SULLIVAN, COUNTY CLERK
 JAMES BARNES, DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
 GENE P. ETCHEVERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 CATHY MYERS, DEPUTY CLERK

ABSENT: **BRIAN GARNER, COMMISSIONER**

5:00 P.M.

Chairman Dean Bullock called the meeting to order.

Let the record reflect a quorum of four Commissioners.

Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Let the record reflect the presence of Austin with Steve Williams, of the Forest Service and Louis Lani, via telephone conference.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA NOTICE

The Notice of Posting was reviewed and found to be in order. Commissioner Stienmetz moved to approve the Notice of Posting as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mason, the motion was voted and carried unanimously. **APPROVED**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE LANDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS &
THE LANDER COUNTY PUBLIC LAND USE ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION**

- 1) **Discussion For Possible Action Regarding Update & Status Report On Sage Grouse Issues & Impact To Lander County & Other Matters Related Thereto:** Executive Director, Gene Etcheverry said he attended the meeting on March 3, 2012 in Elko along with Commissioner Mason. He said it was an informative meeting and they got a lot of perspectives of the condition of the sage grouse and what they can and need to do.

Commissioner Mason said John Carpenter researched diaries from the early 1800s that reflected the different finds in geology. He said there was no mention of the sage grouse until after the Civil War when the Ranchers were settling. Commissioner Mason said about half of the people he listened to speak were not in favor of the BLM policy and the other half were. He talked about the predators of the sage grouse and what the BLM is doing.

Rod Davis, Cooperative Extension, said it has already been decided that the sage grouse warrants being listed. He said in three years they can revisit the status of the sage grouse, and if progress is being made it can drop to the bottom of the list. Mr. Davis said the immediate decision is whether the sage grouse moves up or down the list. Mr. Davis gave some background on the Governors of the Western States decisions to create a sage grouse conservation plan six to eight years ago. He said each State chose to do their own conservation plan. Mr. Davis said the Public Lands Group has been working on the issues and Jerry Annis has followed the issues with the sage grouse fairly close.

Jerry Annis, Public Land Use Advisory Committee, said he is in the middle of the sage grouse issue because his family owns one of the biggest ranches in the Lander County and it is administered by the BLM. Mr. Annis said he has worked very close with the BLM in enhancing the habitat and the resource that are the Public Lands in Lander County. He said he felt Lander County is at a Cross Roads to make a difference. Mr. Annis said he has a degree in Animal Science and felt they didn't hear a lot of facts at the meeting in Elko on Saturday March 3, 2012. He said the issue with the sage grouse is not a BLM issue, it is a US Fish and Wildlife issue and they will make the decision if the sage grouse is listed and where on the list it will be prioritized. Mr. Annis said in working with the BLM, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, UNR and NDOW there can be success in bringing back the population of the sage grouse. Mr. Annis also said in addition to the ravens coming from the dump and eating the sage grouse eggs, invasive weeds are having a very negative impact on the sage grouse habitat. He said he thought the Commissioners could show support to the Humboldt Water Shed Weed Management Area and the Lander County Conservation District to eradicate noxious

weeds. Mr. Annis said the Memorandum from the BLM is more of a guideline and it is a good document to follow.

There was other discussion among the members of the Board of Commissioners, the Lander County Public Lands Board, and the members of the audience regarding the various steps being taken by various organizations to increase the sage grouse population. They also discussed various ways other people or organizations can help.

- 2) **Discussion For Possible Action Regarding Update To Policy Plan For Federally Administered Lands & Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto:** Philip Williams, Public Land Use Committee, said it was questioned if they should change the name of the policy plan. He said their Committee had voted to not change the name, but wanted the thoughts of the Commissioners. Mr. Williams said most of the other Counties have changed the name to include "Natural Resources". Commissioner Williams shared his thoughts on the current plan and what could be added to the plan.

Rex Massey said they need to update the plan and to develop more in depth policy statements and action plan recommendations for individual topics. Mr. Massey said to take care of the sage grouse first and come up with a plan with PLUAPC to put in to immediate motion. He gave more ideas for updating the policy including land use and road issues. There was more discussion if the name of the plan should be changed. It was decided to leave the name of the plan the same and not change it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Board at this time Commissioner Stienmetz moved to adjourn the meeting of March 5, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Mason, the motion was voted and carried unanimously. **ADJOURNED**



**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF LANDER
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE
LANDER COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD**

ATTEST: 
LANDER COUNTY CLERK

NOTE: The Board of Lander County Commissioners serves as the town Board for the unincorporated towns of Battle Mountain and Austin, Nevada.

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