

GECAB meeting, September 8, 2005, Gerlach Community Center

Item 1. Call to Order at 5:30 PM.

Item 2. Roll Call/Determination of quorum: Matthew Ebert, Joe Colt, Donna Potter, and Jonathan Farnsworth present, Geraldine Martinson absent. Quorum established (others present: see attachment)

Item 3. Certification of posting of the agenda.

Item 4. Approval of the current agenda.

Ms. Potter indicated 2 changes to the agenda:

1) the second item 11 is actually 12 (Chairman/Board Member Items) items for the Dec. 8 meeting agenda must be submitted by November 30, not August 31;

2) move Washoe County Sheriff's presentation(s) up from item 10, to in between items 5 and 6

The agenda with changes was approved.

Item 5. Approval of the minutes from the July 14, 2005, GECAB meeting: read and approved.

Item 10. Washoe County Sheriff update and discussion

Ms. Potter asked who is the appropriate contact for the Washoe County Sheriff's regular agenda item.

Sgt. John Spencer said that he is responsible for this area, as is Sgt. Mike Gross, but that the contact didn't need to be a supervisor, and the resident deputies could be contacted, especially since they know more about the goings-on of the community. Sgt. Spencer stated he was attending the meeting to speak specifically about the 9-1-1 call agenda item, and that Sgt. Gross would give an overview of what happened during the Burning Man event.

Item 10a. Clarification of events regarding a recent 9-1-1 call placed from Gerlach.

Ms. Potter asked whether Mr. Colt had anything to add before the response regarding the 9-1-1 call.

Mr. Colt stated his biggest concern was whether there was a change in policy regarding 9-1-1 calls where a deputy would only be dispatched if there was imminent danger. He was also concerned that the tribal police were the ones who showed up, and they had given their business card to a citizen, saying to call them directly in the event of a problem.

Sgt. Spencer stated that there has been no change in policy. TV dramas affect the public sense of police abilities. The Washoe County consolidated communication center, which is reached when 9-1-1 is dialed, provides services for the Washoe County Sheriffs, Reno Police Department, and the consolidated fire department in the Reno area. Things can be lost in translation, "man with a gun" or "man down" call can turn into a guy sleeping under his truck with a wrench. When 9-1-1 is called from Gerlach, the call is typed in to a computer database; the call then comes up on a supervisor's computer on desk or in vehicle. Based on the information provided by the dispatcher, the supervisor categorizes the call. This particular call came in as a "fight in progress, with one subject having a knife" which is considered a priority one call, with imminent danger to people involved. If a call is a "past tense burglary," that would be a priority three call, unless the caller is uncertain and afraid to go into the house, which would increase the priority.

In the specific incident, there was direct citizen contact with the local deputy where the deputy was told that there had been a situation but that things had settled down. Within 15 minutes, the 9-1-1 call was placed because the person had returned and there was a confrontation. The supervisor received the call and checked the schedule for available police. The resident deputies occasionally are not in Gerlach, have time off, or are on vacation, in which case an officer is dispatched from Reno. The tribal police have no jurisdiction in Gerlach or off the reservation.

In this particular call for service, it was entered that the subject had left the area and it was not an ongoing problem. Sgt. Spencer stated that he does not know whether they failed in the communication from the

supervisor in Reno back through dispatch, to call the original complainant to let them know that a deputy would not be sent since there was no longer an emergency. A police report could be taken on regular time to be fiscally responsible to the community when there was not an emergency. A second 9-1-1 call came in as a “fight in progress that involved a knife.” The local deputy arrived on the scene well before the tribal police arrived. It takes an hour for support to get from Wadsworth to Gerlach on the highway, and when they responded they arrived to a calm situation with no problem, no knife. A possible explanation is that sometimes people will jack up the situation to get a response, although this approach is not advocated. People on the scene had taken care of the situation and there was no knife. If the call was real, dispatch would have put it in as priority one to get an officer out, or an officer from Reno, or available Nevada Highway Patrol as backup. At times the tribal police have been called for backup since the protection of life is the highest priority. A lesser call may be deferred to later if not a priority, these are known as “paper calls” where information is gathered for investigation. A felony in progress will create a response from Reno regardless of whether overtime is necessary.

Gerlach is a unique environment which requires special deputies who live in the community, and situations are handled slightly differently. The deputies are known to people, there is more community buy in here. Sgt. Spencer said that he would welcome being called directly if there was a problem, or people could call Sgt. Rose. He has attended Burning Man and Sempra meetings to stay in touch with what's going on. The gentleman at Planet X in an earlier conversation said he thought Washoe Sheriffs were only coming when Sempra people called.

Ms. Potter asked if he could explain how the tribal police came to be here.

Sgt. Spencer stated that every police agency in the state is understaffed due to hurricane relief support. Although that was not in play for this call, all Washoe County Sheriffs were tied up with other calls in the Reno area. When the local deputy called for backup, the tribal police were the only available support agency.

In this situation, the problem had dissolved, which often happens. A situation definitely occurred with an unwanted, provoking person, but citizens dissolved the situation with great decorum and a knife never was an issue. Perhaps the subject was known to have a knife and this was confused in communication. Sgt. Spencer stated that a citizen should be called back and informed when a report will be taken and why we are not coming, and apologized for any responsibility for that not happening.

Ms. Potter thanked Sgt. Spencer for his clarification.

Item 10b. Report on Washoe County Sheriffs service during the Burning Man event

Sgt. Mike Gross introduced himself as the supervisor for the Gerlach deputies. He has held that position for almost 3 years. For the last couple years he attended the entire Burning Man event, but this year he attended just on Saturday, and there was another sergeant present. This was one of the better years as far as their involvement, and participants were better behaved in the Gerlach/Empire area. There was only one arrest; a Reno citizen was arrested for DUI. There were approximately 100 citations written for speeding. These were mostly people going through the 25 mph zone at 32 – 35, and some enforcement near Empire. There were no significant calls, whereas in the past years there were always a few calls. Everything was pretty smooth, pretty calm. They had the same staffing as the past few years-- the 2 resident deputies plus 4 more full time deputies and a sergeant on site 24/7 for the 2 week period. This has been a big benefit, and having a patrol car rolling around helps set the tone. It was a bigger event than it has been, and seems to grow every year. They estimate approximately 42,000 people attended, with the official count around 35,000. It got busy quicker, with more people showing up earlier and the big exodus about the same.

Mr. Ebert asked how he came up with his estimate.

Sgt. Gross responded that it was hit and miss with some counting. They've talked to the Burning Man people over the past 3 years, and although there is an official count, some people are probably missed, and there are going to be some people sneaking in to avoid a high gate fee. It is a rough guess, based on looking at the size of Black Rock City compared to last year; it's a ballpark figure.

Sgt. Spencer stated that Judge Graham asked to make sure any local citations were scheduled so he could

hear them in Gerlach, although there were no local residents cited.

Ms. Potter said that although it was stated in the minutes that there was a "bad attitude" from deputy, no one on the board was actually there and the attitude of the deputies has been good from her experience. There was general agreement with this statement.

Sgt. Spencer stated that there was no reason not to be professional even though their job is not always pleasant.

Item 6. Election of Officers:

Ms. Potter was elected Chair, Mr. Farnsworth was elected Vice-Chair, and Mr. Ebert was elected Secretary.

Item 7. Updates/Correspondence:

A letter from Dave Ziegler, Director of Regional Planning, invited the CAB to attend the regional planning meetings of the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission.

Item 11a. New Business: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Assistant Sheriff Jim Lopey introduced himself to talk about CERT. He oversees everything in the Sheriff's office except for the jail and the courts. He oversees the deputies in Gerlach and they are the best deputies in many years out here. They take any complaints very seriously. In Reno they are preparing for over 300 evacuees from the Gulf Coast coming in Monday. He does emergency planning for the Sheriff's office and oversees CERT, and he belongs to several committees in the state and locally including the citizens homeland security council and several other citizens groups.

Sheriff Lopey stated that he is here to get the word out and tell neighbors that they would like to begin CERT team in Gerlach. It is a federally funded program started many years ago in Los Angeles. They have a robust and excellent team in Reno that has been helpful in local disasters and other police operations. They provide free training such as emergency preparedness, 1st aid training, disaster preparedness, terrorism, incident command, and disaster psychology. The CERT program is designed to work in a geographical location where citizens would respond to natural or man-made disaster, particularly if local authorities were unable to respond. CERT would do light search and rescue or minor triage of injured people, much like as with the Gulf Coast emergency-- there were some immediate responses by various agencies but they were overwhelmed. In theory a CERT team would self-deploy, in contact with sheriffs, and go out and assist fellow neighbors. The training is provided free of charge, with weekly combined classes 3 hours. Out here they would condense training into a couple days. He asked people to consider joining and to tell friends and neighbors. The goal is to have a CERT team in every geographical location, Gerlach is the last area to have a team organized.

Sheriff Lopey introduced Kaydie Paschall, CERT Coordinator. Ms Paschall stated that she is paid to watch out for volunteers, recruit them, train them, and keep them involved. Volunteers in Incline Village and throughout Washoe start with an initial 18 hours of training. Normally they do 6 weeks of classes, 3 hrs. each night. Anyone 18 and up can join regardless of skill level. A small community like Gerlach/Empire already understands the importance of neighbor helping neighbor. She hopes to arrange for another meeting for interested people and set up dates, and indicated the various available literature.

Ms. Potter stated that she will set up a date working with Deputy Sheriff Bloom or Ms. Paschall.

Item 8. Public Comment: there was none at this time.

Item 9. Gerlach Fire Department Update and discussion:

Since Chief Gooch could not attend, Mr. Farnsworth provided the update. Mr. Farnsworth stated that there is a new 2005 International tender in the shop, with a capacity of 3052 gallons, capable of pumping 1000 gallons per minute. The Governor has signed paperwork for \$235,000 for a new fire engine which should be built next month. They are working with BLM Fire to get a new patrol truck, since the old one is pretty

wore out.

Item 11b. New Business: SUP SW05-012 Intermountain Water Project

Washoe County planner Eric Young was present in place of Paul Kelly, who was unable to attend for medical reasons.

Introduction of Richard DeLong, Enviroscientists, INC., representing the applicant.

The applicant is proposing to pump water from Dry Valley and Bedell flat to the North Valleys for municipal use. The proposal is a phased approach to develop water in Dry Valley and Bedell Flat, which will collect water at a pump station in Bedell Flat, go through Bedell Flat, then connect at Stead Airport, then connect to Washoe County Water or Tum-Wa to various municipal uses. Phase 1: initial development would be 3 - 4 wells in Dry Valley 1500 AF. Phase 2: when demand increased and contracts are obtained, an additional 500 AF would be developed in Dry Valley for a total of 5 wells. Phase 3: 2 wells in Bedell flat would be developed for an additional 5 AF, for a total of 2000AF to the service territory in the North Valleys. Power will be provided by Plumas Sierra for Dry Valley from Constantia, and for Bedell Flat over from Red Rock. There are backup generators in case the grid goes down.

Ms. Potter asked if these generators were the diesel ones she had read about.

Mr. De Long answered yes, but they are for back up only. The proposal in the SUP is different than what was stated in the EIS, and has been redesigned from 3K AF to 2K AF to reflect water availability concerns. Also, they are using line power from the beginning instead of generators to get started.

Mr. Colt asked about their proximity to Fish Springs Ranch.

Mr. De Long indicated that they are far to the south on the map, and said that the Dry Valley basin is the next one south of the Honey Lake basin, itself being just south of the Smoke Creek basin.

Ms Potter asked if there was one mountain range separating Honey Lake from Dry Valley.

Mr De Long responded yes, that the Fort Sage mountain range separates Dry Valley from Honey Lake.

Mr. Colt asked about the right of ways indicated in the SUP which were signed over.

Mr De Long stated that there are some right of ways for Winnemucca Ranch, which is private property. Intermountain has right of ways to utilize their surface to develop the water ways, including pipelines, water wells, and monitoring wells. Another individual property owner has given right of way to cross his property with pipelines. Mr. De Long then described the difference between BLM land, private land, and the Stead Airport on the map, and identified the Tuscarora gas line.

Mr. Colt questioned the county representative, looking at County's comprehensive planning policy analysis, through public service and facilities element, prohibits long term ground water mining as a method of water management. Also says short term ground water mining is an unavoidable and acceptable aspect of all ground water development sources. Understood. If this isn't long term ground water mining, as Vidler is long term, what is?

Mr. Young asked if he should define the difference between short and long term?

Mr. Colt said yes, this investment is humongous and would have to be long term.

Mr. Young said he did not know the answer, and asked whether Mr. Colt knew what water mining means .

Mr. Colt said he knew exactly what mining means, and that is what we are doing. In both instances we are staring to mine water now because it is a sale-able commodity. It is easier to sell than hay or cows.

Eric Young responded that mining generally means unsustainable use, with more water going out than is

returned. It is not mining if water is replenished through natural or man made recharge.

Mr. Ausbrooks asked, how can you be sure that you are not doing exactly that?

Mr. De Long responded that there have been number of studies in both basins. The state water engineer, who is responsible for determining the amount of water that can be withdrawn from a basin, looks at sustained yield. He has reviewed studies for Dry Valley showing recharge to be between 3000 and 6000 AF/yr. They have water rights for 3K and are using 2K, and are proposing to use less than the amount of recharge, therefore they are not mining.

Mr. Colt asked, do you have adjudicated rights like Vidler does?

Mr. De Long stated that they have certificated rights for municipal use in Washoe County right now, for a total of 3000AF for municipal use, with no agricultural use.

Mr. Colt stated that he was reminded of the defeat in Honey Lake, and that it seems with Vidler and Intermountain developments that this is a back door approach to split up .

Mr. De Long stated that they have absolutely no connection with Vidler. He indicated more places on the map for citizens to discern Winnemucca Ranch from Winnemucca Valley and Winnemucca Lake.

Mr. Colt asked how many monitoring wells there were all said and done.

Mr. De Long responded that there are a total of 20 monitoring wells from Dry Valley into California.

Mr. Colt asked if these were up to 400-600 ft. deep, with a small hole.

Mr. De Long said the monitoring wells are 2" to 4" wide.

Mr. Colt asked who would be affected by draw down.

Mr. De Long replied that there is one water right nearby for 25 AF, and in the proposal they will certify water availability on both sides of Bedell Flat for residential properties.

Mr. Colt asked, what happens if residences lose water, you sell it to them?

Mr. De Long said that if it can be demonstrated that residences lose their water because of pumping, since their proposal says that they will not impact anyone, they would look at cutting back their pumping. There is in Washoe County a water mitigation board which adjudicates those issues.

Mr. Young said that the water mitigation board began with people around Galena who were concerned about water availability following the development of municipal wells. They created a mitigation board to determine the cause of loss of water. If they agree, there is a fund set aside to help impacted persons to dig wells deeper or to mitigate impact in some other way. A lot of people had to dig deeper for all different reasons, whether because of development pressures or drought or whatever other reason.

Mr De Long said that Intermountain was working to see that any Bedell Flat impact is identified ahead of time to take corrective action.

Ms. Potter stated that although it is great to drill deeper, as can be done closer to the Sierras, sometimes out here you can't because you will get saline water. She was glad to see that Intermountain would provide water as a possible redress, and certainly hoped they wouldn't charge.

Mr. De Long said that the water encountered has been high quality, and there are no saline issues like with Honey Lake.

Mr. Colt asked whether Intermountain was a private company, and whether the project would be privately financed.

Mr. De Long responded yes to both.

Mr. Farnsworth asked about drainage crossings, and whether they considered going underneath instead of through drainages.

Mr. De Long responded that there are many minor drainages, and only one flowing drainage in Dry Valley. They would be crossing when it is dry, when steel is available, and contractor availability would also affect the timing. Likely that construction would occur in the summer to fall of next year.

Mr. Colt asked for a clarification regarding the path of their pipeline related to Vidler

Mr. De Long indicated that they followed similar paths which would diverge at Matterhorn on the west side of the hill on Stead Airport land. The pipelines would be side by side, but these are 2 separate projects, separate companies.

Ms. Potter noted that developing existing disturbed ground makes the EIS easier.

Mr. De Long said that was correct, and that the BLM ends up choosing their route to minimize disturbance. Both projects have a combined EIS.

Ms. Potter asked for comments from the public.

A member of the public asked how long the recharge survey lasted.

Mr. De Long stated that Washoe County has been collecting precipitation data for 8 years in the basin, along with chemical testing of various spring waters to determine recharge. Those studies came up w 3K to 6K AF recharge.

Mr. Marshall from Internountain stated that the most comprehensive study was conducted by Desert Research Institute, which is part of the University of Nevada, Reno.

Chris Wimmer, a Washoe County property owner, asked for the size of the coupling.

Mr. De Long replied that it would be a 16" collector and a 24" main pipeline to terminus, all buried.

Clifford Williams, a Gerlach resident, asked how far Dry Valley is from Gerlach?

Mr. De Long replied that as the crow flies, it was roughly a 3-1/2 hr. drive. Dry Lake is in the extreme SW corner of GECAB, though part of the project is in the North Valleys.

Someone noted that it is near a tree with tons of shoes in it.

Ms. Potter called for board comments.

Mr. Colt said that he thinks this is a domino effect, that we're starting a dangerous precedent. He feels we are exporting water for planned growth which should have been controlled a long time ago. Reno has outgrown their water supply, and is now reaching up into the valleys up here and exporting water; he thinks it's a dangerous process, and is robbing Peter to pay Paul. He doesn't like to see this, these communities can't live within their means. Call it what you want to, he still calls it mining. It's easier to raise water than cows or to graze it. We're going to lose all this country for grazing if we don't have any water.

Mr. De Long responded that only 2K AF of water would be supplied, in a phased development, with small, incremental growth. The project is not increasing planned growth, but meeting supply of approved land use.

Bud Connely, a Gerlach resident, asked what's to stop you in 10 years from making it larger?

Mr. De Long responded that then they would have to be in front of GECAB, BLM, etc., and he was not sure they would want to do it again.

Mr. Ebert stated that given that the state water engineer had already adjudicated the rights, their municipal use was already established unlike with Vidler, and with less water developed and not moved as far, he supported the project. Mr. Ebert made a motion to support the application.

Mr. Farnsworth seconded, with Mr. Colt opposed and the rest of the board voting in favor.

Mr. Colt stated that he felt it was a good project but a bad precedent.

Item 11c. County Commission Community Liaison update

Karen Miller was introduced by Ms. Potter.

Karen Miller stated that this was her second time to Gerlach, her 1st being in June when she mistakenly thought there was a meeting. The Board of County Commissioners approved her position as liaison late last year to help support their administrative functions and to have a County staff member at the CAB meetings. Her job is to listen and get input to take back to the Commissioners, to attend instead of Commissioners when necessary, and to benefit communication between citizens and the County. She does a report after each CAB, highlighting specific hot areas discussed, which goes directly to the appropriate County Commissioner.

Ms. Potter asked whether as a liaison, did she just represent Bonnie Weber's district or all of them.

Ms. Miller responded she was responsible for all, along with Greg. The position is growing daily, and there may be more staff in the future. They created a quarterly newsletter; 4 pages of the newsletter are County-wide, and 2 pages are specific to the district. She indicated that there were newsletters available for citizens. Regarding the new caucus time printed in the newsletter, actually the caucus has been eliminated, since the staff were using up lots of time to do this, and most questions could be answered through phone, email, etc. More Commissioner research/field trips were planned in the future, and Commissioner Weber wants the whole Commission to visit the Gerlach area. She indicated that there was a sign up sheet for newsletters to be delivered via mail or email, and that the Washoe County guide to services was also provided.

Item 11d. Citizen appointment to multiple boards.

Ms. Miller stated that it was timely to bring up. Initial proposed as an ordinance change, the goal was to limit CAB members from sitting on any commission that might come before that board, but it was left ambiguous. Examples of potentially conflicting membership which were brought up included the Board of Adjustments, Board of Equalization, Board of County Commissioners, and the Planing Board. After discussion, the County Commissioners decision specified just 2 boards-- the Board of Adjustments and the Planning Commission-- to which appointment would require resignation from the CAB. No other boards are restricted, and this may be revisited if necessary. The issue came up when a Silver Springs CAB member was appointed to the Planning Commission. Generally, if there is a specific conflict of interest as outlined in Bob Webb's memo or the CAB bylaws, you should recuse yourself. The same goes for instances of financial involvement-- CAB members are expected to use their best judgment. Ms. Miller passed out copies of the new ordinance.

Item 11e. Change of regular CAB meeting date.

Ms. Miller said that any Wednesday would be better for Commissioner Weber to attend, since there is a conflict with the Regional Planning Government Board meeting. The way it works is that the CAB votes to change, it is added on the next meeting agenda, then it becomes official after the meeting following that one.

Ms. Potter said that the 2nd Wednesday looked OK with scheduling at the Gerlach Community Center, and

asked whether there were any board member concerns. There were none.

Mr. Farnsworth made the motion, Mr. Ebert seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 12. Chairman/board member items.

Mr. Ebert suggested inviting Burning Man to report on their compliance progress at their Black Rock Station facility, and Ms. Potter stated that it would be added to the agenda.

Item 13. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

GERLACH/EMPIRE CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD Meeting, March 9, 2006

1. **CALL TO ORDER, 4:30 P.M.**
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** Donna Stammers, Matthew Ebert, Jon Farnsworth, Geraldean Martinson present, Sylvia Fascio absent.
3. **CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDAS FOR THE March 9, 2006 MEETING:** The agenda was not posted to the Sheriff's office through an oversight; it will be posted there in the future, and the location will be added to the list at the bottom of the agenda.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF March 9, 2006:** approved.
5. **CAB MEETING MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP -** The regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board will recess for a 1 hour CAB Meeting Management Training Workshop with Marlene Rebori of UNR Cooperative Extension, and be called back to order at 5:30 p.m.
6. **CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 PM**
7. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF December 8, 2005** approved.
8. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:** Mrs. Stammers received numerous calls regarding Sempra, following an article in the RGJ titled "Sempra Energy Halts Gerlach Project Study." The article is posted in the Gerlach post office, and Ms. Miller said she would talk about it in her report.
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Roger Pelham, Washoe County Community Development, was asked to speak about his Burning Man inspection. This was a follow up for the Board of Adjustments, regarding the 8' fence on a 2' berm at their storage facility. The fence is bearing up well, and the storage yard is in compliance with the conditions of the special use permit. There have been no community complaints. A required bathhouse is awaiting springtime for final inspection. Financial assurances will be returned upon completion. A previously planned double-wide, while allowed outright, is not a stipulation for completion. A planned communications tower is also a separate permit.
10. **GERLACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Specifications are done for the new fire engine. It will be 4WD, be "pump and roll," and have phone capabilities. Training for volunteers is taking place on the 4th Thursday of every month.
11. **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT (UPDATE & DISCUSSION):** This item was skipped.
12. **COUNTY COMMISSION/COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATES:** Karena Miller, Community Outreach Coordinator, gave her report. She reviewed the details of the Sempra article. Sempra has postponed the BLM environmental impact statement process and has no "live" applications. She delivered quarterly newsletters and the annual Guide to Services for distribution. She announced the Leadership Academy launch on April 13, once a week for 8 weeks; the Animal Services grand opening March 25th; and the regional summit March 18th to discuss public awareness campaign to stop graffiti.
13. **NEW BUSINESS:** There was none.
- A. **CHANGE REGULAR GECAB MEETING DATE:** After discussion, the fourth Thursday of the month was unanimously approved as a new meeting date. This will be presented on top of the posted agenda in bold large letters, and also be posted in the "This n That" USG newsletter.
- B. **HIGH DESERT AREA PLAN:** Karena Miller said that the process countywide has taken much longer than expected. She will ask Eric Young to report back to us. Mrs. Stammers requested that the list Mr. Young put together of interested citizens be forwarded to her.
- C. **DISPATCH LIASON:** Joanne Dean was out sick, and this will be continued to the next agenda.
- D. **FIRE SERVICE COORDINATOR:** Paul Hefner introduced Tim Alameda, new Facilities Division Chief for the Reno Fire Department.
- E. **AMENDMENT OF CONDITIONS CASE NO. AC06-002 (AMENDMENT OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT SW03-008 FOR RTI RAILROAD SERVICES):** Angela Fuss described plans for a larger commercial coach as a watchman's quarters to support the operation of a railroad tie crushing facility. The project is located in the Flannigan area, approximately 1,500 feet northwest of the railroad track intersection. Mr. Farnsworth was concerned that the well was too close to the septic. Ms. Fuss said she would discuss placing it further with the owners, but noted that they are bound by code specifications. The proposal was unanimously approved.
14. **CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:** Water resources as an issue has been suggested for the agenda. Ms. Miller will contact Steve Bradhurst to find out about his availability. It was reaffirmed that Mr. Ebert would attend to the various changes and postings of the agenda.
15. **ADJOURNMENT**

GECAB meeting minutes, December 8, 2005

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 PM
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** With Donna Stammers, Matthew Ebert, Jon Farnsworth, and Gerald Dean Martinson present, quorum was established.
3. **CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDAS FOR THE December 8, 2005 MEETING:** The posting of the agenda was certified.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF December 8, 2005:** The agenda was approved.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF September 8, 2005:** The minutes were approved with the following corrections: In item 9 on page 4, the fire department tender "should start to be built" next month; in item 11b on page 5, Mr. Colt said "starting" not "staring;" and throughout it should have read "Karena" Miller, not "Karen."
6. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:** It was announced that Joe Colt resigned from the CAB. Also, Donna Potter announced that her name has been changed to Donna Stammers.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** This was postponed until later in the meeting so long as it did not prove disruptive.
8. **GERLACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (UPDATE & DISCUSSION):** Gerlach Fire Department Chief Bill Gooch said there were a couple of fires, one with an RV in Gerlach which was close to a home, and one in Hualapai Flat where much of the property was rescued. Also, someone was cut out of a car in the Smoke Creek Desert who had been there overnight. In the winter time there is extra risk from wood stoves and fireplaces. He is impressed with the new trucks, which helped out in the Hualapai fire, where the roof/attic burned off. 9-1-1 dispatch is being investigated related to the call for the Smoke Creek vehicle extrication-- a truck was sent from Reno, then 40 minutes later dispatch called Gerlach. The woman sat in her car all night in cold weather. Karena Miller said she would have some comments about that.
9. **WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT (UPDATE & DISCUSSION):** Deputy Sheriff Tracey Bloom gave the report. Deputy Phil Condon is leaving Gerlach. He will be promoted January 9, and also will be attending classes in the Reno area. Deputy James McNeil is the new deputy. He is a personal friend of Deputy Bloom and has wanted to come up here for a while. There was a burglary complaint. It is easier to spot potential criminals since few people are moving around late at night this time of year.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Don Asher asked, who at the County can help structure our new \$85K water project? The goal is to find what research is necessary to establish whether Sempra pumping would effect Gerlach's water supply. When Sempra goes for water permits, they would have to pay for the appropriate research. Water expert from GGID meeting thought that Sempra's pumping would effect Gerlach's water supply. Mrs. Stammers replied, Karena Miller can find out, but the grant money goes to the GGID board, and they determine how it is spent. Mr. Farnsworth stated that the county has contact with GGID, and Ms. Miller said she will look into it too.
10. **COUNTY COMMISSION/COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATES:** Karena Miller, Community Outreach Coordinator, gave the report.

Regarding the 9-1-1 dispatch issue: A community outreach position has been created for the 9-1-1 dispatch center, and this position is held by Joanne Dean. She will contact GECAB to be put on the next agenda and will be coming out on a regular basis. She needs specific issues with dates and examples.

Paul Hefner holds the new position of fire service coordinator for the various regional agencies. Through the Healthy Forest Act, states have been asked to do risk assessments. Nevada completed these risk assessments, with Washoe County last because it is so large and diverse. Many agencies have had significant problems with the assessment. Mr. Hefner is looking for community input, please review and submit comments. Mrs. Stammers asked Bill Gooch to look at the assessment. Ms. Miller said she would mail him a copy. People can contact Paul Hefner at 846-4445.

Regarding the new GECAB member: this is being processed; Sylvia Fascio and Lisa Bertschi have current applications.

Commissioner Weber has an intern to help answer phone calls and correspondence. It is a part time job, and this person helps do footwork for Commissioners. Megan Johnson is the intern for Commissioner Weber, and can be reached at the main number 328-2005. The position lasts for a year, and is filled by college students interested in public administration.

Ms. Miller stated that there is a phone book recycling program at Lazy 5 on Pyramid Highway. There is a competition with the cities-- for every ton collected, 17 trees will be donated by SBC. Also, Lazy 5 is having a craft fair this weekend, starting tomorrow. Admission & parking are free.

Financial disclosure for commissioners are filed with the Nevada Secretary of State and with the State Ethics Commission.

Don Asher of Gerlach asked repeated questions regarding the potential impact of the Semptra project on the water supply for Gerlach, and suggested that the project could create a negative liability for Washoe County. Ms. Miller suggested that this would make a good agenda item for a future GECAB meeting. Steve Bradhurst, Director of Water Resources, would be a good person to invite.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. CHANGE REGULAR GECAB MEETING DATE:** (Change GECAB meeting date from second Thursday to second Wednesday.) After Mr. Farnsworth stated that he has a problem with Wednesdays, Ms. Miller stated that she thought the third Thursday of the month would work for Commissioner Weber. To be discussed in next meeting.
- B. HIGH DESERT AREA PLAN:** The process is taking longer than originally hoped, and there has yet to be a community meeting of interested persons.
- C. BURNING MAN UPDATE:** (update on how the work ranch improvements are going): David Pedrolif of Burning Man showed a photo presentation of the ranch. All permits are complete except for the bath house, which is being tiled. There is nothing left on the "80 Acres" leasehold property, and ongoing efforts will address invasive weeds. The only open permit is for a communications tower planned for the spring.
- D. INCREASE GECAB MEETING FREQUENCY** After discussion, it was decided that increasing the frequency of meetings would not improve citizen attendance.

12. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas).

CERT workshops-- a date needs to be set for a presentation. Kaydie Paschal, Deputy Bloom, and Mrs. Stammers.

Water Tower Park-- Parks & Recreation has \$50K for the park. Carolyn Poissant needs to get with GGID about what is done with their property.

Empire day care center "Desert Darlings" did not require a special use permit per Roger Pelham.

13. ADJOURNMENT



GERLACH/EMPIRE CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF GERLACH & EMPIRE, NEVADA

Gerlach – Empire CAB meeting, , July 14, 2005

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Mr. Colt seconded, stating that he was not at all concerned.

The final vote had Messrs. Ebert, Colt, and Farnsworth in favor, with Ms. Potter opposed.

Mr. Colt asked the Chair for clarification regarding the recent conflict of interest amendment in Washoe County CAB policy.

Mr. Ebert didn't think that necessarily applied to Mr. Colt's situation as a member of the Gerlach General Improvement District board.

Ms. Potter agreed.

Mr. Ebert stated that the GGID was not likely to be sitting as an applicant to GECAB.

Ms. Potter asked that discussion of this be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Further agenda items to be addressed:

Assistant Sheriff Jim Lopey would like to come to speak about CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, terrorist response training.

Karena Miller, Washoe County Community outreach coordinator, asked to be added to the agenda for the September GECAB meeting.

The GECAB officer election will occur in the next meeting.

Mr. Slate pointed out that it is a standing CAB agenda item for the local fire department to report on conditions, and would like that to be added to the agenda.

Ms. Potter agreed, and stated that it will be done.

Mr. Colt said that we need to invite the local sheriffs to discuss a recent 911 call which took 3 hours before generating a response. To have law enforcement called only when imminent danger is expected, as suggested by the local law enforcement officer, is unacceptable. Two calls to 911 eventually brought 2 Pyramid Lake tribe police officers and one local. Mr. Colt cited a bad response and bad attitude from the local officer.

It was agreed to add this to the agenda.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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Mr. Ebert stated that the CAB members are not allowed to hold up the applicant for lack of preparedness, and made a motion to support the application.

Mr. Colt seconded, stating that he was not at all concerned.

The final vote had Messrs. Ebert, Colt, and Farnsworth in favor, with Ms. Potter opposed.

Mr. Colt asked the Chair for clarification regarding the recent conflict of interest amendment in Washoe County CAB policy.

Mr. Ebert didn't think that necessarily applied to Mr. Colt's situation as a member of the Gerlach General Improvement District board.

Ms. Potter agreed.

Mr. Ebert stated that the GGID was not likely to be sitting as an applicant to GECAB.

Ms. Potter asked that discussion of this be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Further agenda items to be addressed:

Assistant Sheriff Jim Lopey would like to come to speak about CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, terrorist response training.

Karena Miller, Washoe County Community outreach coordinator, asked to be added to the agenda for the September GECAB meeting.

The GECAB officer election will occur in the next meeting.

Mr. Slate pointed out that it is a standing CAB agenda item for the local fire department to report on conditions, and would like that to be added to the agenda.

Ms. Potter agreed, and stated that it will be done.

Mr. Colt said that we need to invite the local sheriffs to discuss a recent 911 call which took 3 hours before generating a response. To have law enforcement called only when imminent danger is expected, as suggested by the local law enforcement officer, is unacceptable. Two calls to 911 eventually brought 2 Pyramid Lake tribe police officers and one local. Mr. Colt cited a bad response and bad attitude from the local officer.

It was agreed to add this to the agenda.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.