

**White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board
Bristlecone Convention Center – White Pine Room
Regular Meeting – May 23, 2023 - 4 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman McIntosh called to order the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board regular meeting at 4 pm. Member Wright led in the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present	Chairman McIntosh, Kurt Carson, Marietta Henry, Janet Van Camp, Sandra Wright
Board Members Absent:	None
Staff Present	Kyle Horvath, Errol Porter
Legal Counsel	McKinzie Hilton (Zoom)
Public Present in Person	Rudy Herndon, Elisabeth Johnson, Brandon Stocksdale, Joseph Rozich, Wayne Cameron, Jody Lyons, George Chachas, Juliet Noyes, Adam Henriod, Tim Mueller, Andrew Valedéz, Hagen Hammonds

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Valedéz spoke. Present with him are his counterparts, Tim Mueller and Hagen Hammonds. They are from Federal Lands Highways. They are essentially DOT for Federal lands. They are doing a project with Nevada DOT through their One Nevada process to identify opportunities for access to Federal lands. They have been at this for two years with NDOT; they have identified about a hundred projects throughout the state. What they are doing here today is to put some color on the map because up until now there have just been lines on a map. There will be funds made available for the state through their office. He thanked everyone for hosting them.

Rudy Herndon and Jody Lyons spoke. They are representing the Schellraiser festival in McGill. It starts Thursday, June 1 and runs through Saturday, June 3 at the McGill pool park. They have thirty-five bands on board over three days. There will be an artist by the name of Steve Keene at the festival who is famous for a lot of his album artwork for bands from the nineties. There will be eleven food truck vendors. All initial reservations for the campground north of McGill are fully booked. Minor flooding has occurred for six or seven weeks at the campground and along the main road, but he is optimistic that things will dry up in time for the festival. Jody said it is lovely to be back in town.

George Chachas spoke. On the list of bills, he commented that considerably more is being spent with one radio station than another. He felt they needed more equality. He is concerned on the Mt. Wheeler bill. He sees that \$4,000 is being spent this time of year. He wants to know why. He has yet to receive any information regarding the Silver State Motel. He has mentioned the fact there are RVs throughout the community. He wants to know if they are paying the proper fees. He is concerned about the kiosk across from Sports World. Another sign is shadowing it. He has yet to see anything regarding money given to the community choir for pigeon control. He has an ongoing concern regarding the new walkway that was put in. It does not meet minimum ADA standards. He has asked for information regarding Ed Spear, who was a contractor with the Tour and Rec Board. He has not received anything in writing regarding Doris Lawler and the payment of \$64. He has asked how many conventions the convention center hosted in the last

three years, what months did they take place and what was the attendance for each. He is still waiting for an answer. Time called.

4. PRESENTATION – Nevada Department of Wildlife – Heath Korell and Adam Henriod

Kyle gave a brief explanation for the presentation. He said for the last six months we have invited tourism partners to kick off our meetings, which gives us all a chance to talk face to face. It gives us a chance to talk about different opportunities and about the ways in which we can help. The main goal is to try to decide how we can be better partners. This will allow the Board and the community to be updated as to what the Department of Wildlife is doing.

Adam Henriod spoke. He is the Eastern Complex Supervisor for the Department of Wildlife. He oversees all the wildlife management areas on the eastern side of the state, one of them being the Steptoe Valley Management Area, which is here locally, formerly known as the CCC ranch. A brief history on the property. State Senator Comins owned what later became the CCC ranch back in the early 1900s. That property changed ownership multiple times; eventually it was purchased by the Consolidated Copper Mine Company and came to be known as the CCC ranch. They sold to the Bidart Brothers in the early seventies. NDOW purchased the property on November 5, 1999. He said we were the first entity in Nevada to receive the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, commonly known as NAWCA. It is a wetland improvements grant. With that grant money, fourteen seasonal ponds were put in which are managed with the priority of waterfowl habitat. Comins Lake is a little over four hundred surface acres. New infrastructure was installed in 2021. Adam supplied a graph which showed the number of visitors to Comins Lake in 2018 via road counted data. On an average month visitors totaled 5,500. He feels the numbers now are much higher. He briefly touched on future projects. They are working on an MOA with White Pine County to lease just under 3,000-acre feet of water annually. As part of the agreement, they are working on improving boating and recreational access to Comins.

Member Carson asked how the fish were doing at Comins. Adam said according to our fish biologist, he believed the lake turned over early this year. You add in several other factors such as low water coming into the lake and a lot of ice on top of the lake which both translate to low oxygen in the lake which is hard on fish. There was a fish kill but not very impactful.

Member Henry asked how deep is the water in Comins Lake? Adam says it varies. On the south side it is shallow. On the north side there might be fifteen feet. Average depth is around eight feet as compared to Cave Lake which at its deepest is around sixty feet. Cave Lake is only thirty-four acres – small and deep. Comins holds a lot more water.

Member VanCamp asked if there were any plans to landscape the area, to put in any trees? Adam said not at this time. He said some shade structures have been put in. A lot of their emphasis is towards water fowl management and trees are detrimental because they provide purchase for their predators.

Adam mentioned that Cave Lake construction should be done by the end of this year. Chairman McIntosh asked how long it will take to fill Cave Lake. Adam said best guess is it could fill up over the winter. He said they will not be restocking it with fish until it is full, perhaps in the Spring.

Director Horvath asked what the options are for doing projects together at Comins Lake. He said there is money available through grants and he wants to know what the procedure is for bringing ideas to the table. Adam said they are federally funded. He said it depends on the grant criteria as to whether they can partner.

Joe Rozich spoke. He is a Comins fan. He wanted to know if there is currently a comprehensive recreation management plan for Comins. If not, is there an opportunity for NDOW, the state and for local people to get together and brainstorm to agree on a long-range plan for various activities. Adam said they do have a management plan for the management area. He will be glad to supply a copy of it. He said they operate under Policy 66. The fundamental part of that is these properties have to be utilized for a majority of where their funding comes from which is for hunting and outdoor shooting. All other use is secondary. We have to find a balance.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Agenda, Including Removal of Agenda Items – Chairman McIntosh

Motion: Member Henry moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

B. Approval of Minutes: April 25, 2023, 4pm

Motion: Member Van Camp moved to approve.

Motion Seconded: Member Wright **Motion carried**

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval to Ratify Payment of Bills

Motion: Member Henry moved to pay check nos. 11453 through 11496 minus the bill to Bath Lumber in the amount of \$191,642.75.

Motion Seconded: Member Van Camp **Motion carried**

2. Approval to Ratify Payment of Bill to Bath Lumber

Chairman McIntosh disclosed she has an interest in Bath Lumber and will abstain from voting.

Motion: Member Henry moved to pay check no. 11468 in the amount of \$1,394.30 to Bath Lumber.

Motion Seconded: Member Carson **Motion carried with one abstention**

3. Update on Great American Eclipse

Director Horvath reiterated the date of October 14, 2023, for the annual solar eclipse. He said we had our community meeting with the representative from the San Francisco Exploratorium. We are getting the entire community together to determine the logistics of where we should be putting people to view this eclipse, how we should be managing our resources and how the business community capitalizes on this financially.

4. Update on Destination Development Demonstration – Travel NV 3D

Director Horvath said the next steering committee meeting is set for May 30 at 10 am. They will review the notes from the last public meeting. The last in-person meeting with the consultants will be in July. August is still the deadline for when we will be getting our deliverables, which is the ten-year action plan.

5. National Park Service RTC Program – Update on Recreation Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis Project

Brandon Stocksdale spoke. He is with the National Park Service with the River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. They are the community assistance arm of the NPS and help communities in planning and implementing their own conservation and recreation projects. They have been working on this project for a little over a year now with White Pine County. Their focus is on identifying local partners to identify what are all the recreational assets and opportunities. They also address the management and partnerships that go into the long-term maintenance of those facilities. They are looking at the actual recreational facilities and what goes into development and maintaining them long term. Their vision statement is to enhance outdoor recreation, they want to preserve that access both in terms of protecting corridors or access points from future development or encroachment and enhancing that access by connecting resources. They have formulated six desired conditions which will help them identify and prioritize projects. How do we connect communities? We have unique assets here. How do we do all of this in manageable ways? The final compilation of all of this is we have digital data of on-line maps that have been created and the other side of it is creating an action plan for the next ten years. Right now, they are refining the county-wide recreation map and database, prioritizing short/medium/long-term recommendations, identifying funding sources, identifying partnerships and stewardship agreement needs, consolidating recommendations into the action plan and then getting the stakeholder adoption of the action plan. Hopefully, they will be done by the end of the summer.

6. Update on Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation

Elisabeth Johnson spoke. She is the Program Officer with the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation. They were created in 2019. They are here to connect people, municipalities, towns, and organizations with resources. They work very closely with the RTCA. We house the Nevada trail finder website which is an official system of trails. They have the Nevada outdoor infrastructure grant. They are hoping they see a grant from White Pine County. They also have an outdoor and education recreation grant. They manage the Nevada starry sky destination designation program. They also house the Nevada OHV program. There is a state-wide shared stewardship agreement, called the Agreement for Recreation Shared Stewardship. It is an agreement that federal as well as state agencies signed on to. Considering eighty-seven percent of our state is federally managed land, there is this need for all of us to be working together to agree how all of it is going to be managed.

6. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Marketing Director's Report

Marketing/Events/Facilities

B. Marketing Director's Report

Director Horvath gave an update on Parallel Lines. He has conceptual drawings and concepts from them. They are available for review and input. They have presented three different ideas. He will have a follow-up meeting with them on May 31. Additional maps have been ordered for the kiosk at Sports World. All the mountain bike trails are open.

Marketing Director Porter said the consensus from his report this month is everything is up.

Display targeting was up in key areas. The search retargeting click through rate was at 20 percent which is very high. Errol gave the top five pages visited on the website. There were 89 percent new visitors. On device breakdown, most people visited through their desktop. A listing of upcoming events was given.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas commented about the presentations given this evening, in particular the reference made to dark skies. He said he wanted the Board to be aware that a company wants to put several thousand solar panels west of the airport. It is important to take a stand on what is important. They can put those solar panels further north. He said he has submitted a request for public information regarding how many events have come to the convention center. No answer yet. He has asked for public information regarding payment of dues to a private entity, Ely Rotary. Put it in writing. He is concerned with the amount of money given to Nevada Northern Railway. They do not work under the open meeting law. He has yet to receive any information regarding information about Shadrack Michaels. He is concerned he has not received anything regarding their stand on Heritage Park. If we are talking about housing, that area needs to be considered for housing and not a park. Time called.

Wayne Cameron spoke. High Desert Trailblazers have started to put up signs on the Ward Mountain route. Thanks again to Tour and Rec for their donation.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Judi Bourbeau

Minutes approved by:

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Name

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Date

