

**White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board  
Bristlecone Convention Center – White Pine Room  
Regular Meeting February 27, 2024 - 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**

<b>Board Members Present</b>	Chairman McIntosh, Kurt Carson, Marietta Henry (Zoom), Sandra Wright
<b>Board Member Absent</b>	Janet VanCamp
<b>Staff Present</b>	Kyle Horvath, Errol Porter
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Not Present
<b>Public Present</b>	Chris Christensen, Katie Jameson, Gregg Hallinan, Rudy Herndon, George Chachas

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gregg Hallinan, Professor of Astronomy at Caltech and Director of the Owens Valley Radio Observatory, was present along with Katie Jameson, Project Manager for the DSA-2000. Her background is in radio astronomy research. Gregg Hallinan said we are developing new technology for radio astronomy using small antennas. He said they have built arrays over the past decade in California collaborating with locals and the tribes to minimize the impact on the environment. The arrays have been operational for a few years. Based on the technology, we have developed an array concept called the DSA-2000. This would be the most powerful radio telescope ever built. We scanned the entire western half of the United States looking for the darkest skies in radio and it turns out the northern part of Spring Valley is the darkest location we find in terms of radio waves. These telescopes are small dishes. They are passive devices. They do not produce any radio waves. They only measure. We want to get away from any other sources of radio waves, so we are looking for quiet locations. This will be one of the most important instruments in astronomy; it will be the most powerful radio telescope of its time. This will be a great opportunity for education and public outreach. Also, an opportunity for jobs.

George Chachas said agendas are not being sent out on time. Mud and snow debris needs to be removed from sidewalks. He has yet to receive a complete list of those that have not paid for center usage or to receive a copy of the December 23<sup>rd</sup> audio part of the meeting. He said Board members need to be physically present at the Board meetings. He has not seen any information about why the agreement with Parallel Lines was closed off. He has yet to receive information about how many conventions this center has had or information as to the proper inventory. He is still concerned about the location of the kiosk across from Sport's World. He has yet to receive any information about the Community Choir returning the money given for pigeon control, about the walkway on the parking lot or any information about the Silver State Motel. Time called.

**4. PRESENTATION – Centennial Fine Arts Building – Chris Christensen**

Chris Christensen is with the White Pine Community Choir. They are working on the Centennial Fine Arts building restoration project. He gave a brief background on the Center that was built in 1927 to serve as

the Stake Tabernacle for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It was decommissioned in the early 1970s and bought in 1986 by the Choir Association. In 1992 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. By the mid 2000's, the choir situation had changed, and the association reorganized, making its focus the restoration and preservation of the building. An engineering assessment was done which provided a roadmap for the choir to follow during the restoration. The choir obtained funding for the first phase of the ADA access in the northwest corner of the building. Construction of the elevator shaft, entrance, electrical improvements, and concrete work was completed in July of 2023. A new roof design was approved which included removal of the three roofs, abatement of the asbestos shingles, construction of the new roof and seismic stabilization. This work was completed in December of 2023. Funding has been received to stabilize the south and west foundations of the building. Work is expected to begin late spring or early summer of 2024. There are still many future projects: the second phase of the ADA access, repair of the exterior building masonry and renovation of the windows. Once the exterior work is completed, work will start on the interior restoration. Mr. Christensen thanked the Board for all its support.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

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

**Motion:** Member Carson moved to approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion Seconded:** Member Wright

**Motion carried**

**B. Approval of Minutes: January 23, 2024, 4pm**

**Motion:** Member Henry moved to approve the minutes as presented.

**Motion Seconded:** Member Wright

**Motion carried**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval to Ratify Payment of Bills**

**Motion:** Member Henry moved to pay check nos. 11851 through 11924, minus the Bath Lumber check no. 11897, in the amount of \$136,010.19.

**Motion Seconded:** Member Carson

**Motion carried**

**2. Approval to Ratify Payment of Bill to Bath Lumber**

Chairman McIntosh disclosed she will be abstaining from voting on this item since she has an interest in Bath Lumber.

**Motion:** Member Wright moved to pay check no. 11897 in the amount of \$452.72.

**Motion Seconded:** Member Carson

**Motion carried with one abstention**

**6. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Executive Director's Report**

Director Horvath briefly went over the various meetings he attended this month. He made an eclipse presentation to the County Commission. Room tax was up 18.2% from January 2023 with one property not reporting. That property is making payments. As far as the current grants are concerned, the video Repurposing Campaign and Dark Sky video need to be submitted for reimbursement. Our most newly awarded grant is for the 3D Trail Signage. We have until April to apply for two grants, one being the Gravel Magic: Horizons video with Giant Bicycles and Placer.ai. A new Sunset Lanes mural is being worked on, along with the McGill baseball mural. Schellraiser Music Festival is May 30-June 1. To support the

Schellraiser and to develop a year-round music scene, our summer concert series was recently released. Excursion trains are running at the NNRV. Kyle spoke to the meetings and conferences he will be attending. An ambassador training session will be held on March 13. As to on-going projects, the horseback riding assets brochure is almost done. The conversation has started on relocating the ghost town façade. He is working with our land managers to produce a county recreation master map. He briefly went over the upcoming events. The Cave Lake dam project is still slated to finish construction this summer. It will be plugged up and let to fill up during the winter months. NDOW will be putting in as part of their erosion control project terracing and power in the cove where events have been held in the past.

**B. Marketing Director's Report**

Marketing Director Porter said our social media numbers are up this month. Facebook was up by 125 followers. Seven boosted posts and/or ads were done this month. He included the post reach within the last ninety days in his graphs this month. Instagram was up by twenty-five followers. He also showed the post engagement over the last ninety days as going upwards. Targeted digital had consistent numbers. He gave the top five pages visited on the website. He started last month including newsletter stats. From the contact list he received from Chairman McIntosh, our reach went up from 2,000 to 3,268. He gave the top five pages visited on the website. Errol has been asked to speak at Rural Roundup as a panelist.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Greg Hallinan said they are here until Thursday in reference to the DSA-2000 project. The project manager has brochures to give you an idea of the size impact of the project and how we will work to minimize our environmental impact. They are small antennas. No concrete is used. We place one in every thirty acres. They are randomly placed. He said it was amazing to come here and find this focus on tourism and dark skies. There are two windows that astronomers can observe through the atmosphere. One is the optical and the other is radio. It just so happens that Spring Valley is the quietest for both. The two large arrays before this are one in Mexico that is forty years old now and the other is in Puerto Rico which unfortunately collapsed a few years ago. We are trying to figure out how we can have this same picture appear in Nevada.

Rudy Herndon spoke. He said that last week he had a conversation with someone from Kennecott Rio Tinto about the future of Bassett Lake and the property. Kennecott Rio Tinto is planning to hold at least one public meeting in late summer or early Fall to go over some of the ideas they have. They are going over several scenarios, one of which is to do nothing – the least favorite. Rudy met recently with Jose Noriega from the Forest Service who had some wonderful ideas about the future of Bassett Lake. He is looking into SNPLMA funding. It is a tremendous potential resource.

George Chachas has yet to receive any information about Ed Spear, the Nevada Northern Railway, and Doris Lawler. He wants to know why the Board is paying Ely Rotary club dues. He wants to know why the Board paid Hotel Nevada \$358.66 for a guest. He wants to know why the Board is not allowing KELY radio any advertising dollars.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman McIntosh adjourned the meeting at 5 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Judi Bourbeau

Minutes approved by:

*Sandra Whight*  
Name

*3.26.2024*  
Date