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 COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINERALS
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RICHARD PERRY
 Administrator

Thursday, February 6, 2020

1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

1:00 PM by Richard DeLong

Commission	Staff	Public
Richard DeLong	Richard Perry	Tyre Gray, NvMA
Randy Griffin	Mike Visher	Jennifer Atlas, Griffin Company in LV
Bob Felder (absent)	Garrett Wake	
Mary Korpi	Rebecca Ely	
Josh Nordquist	Sherrie Nuckolls	
Nigel Bain	Debbie Selig	
Art Henderson	Anthony Walsh, DAG	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Richard DeLong

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Tyre Gray, Nevada Mining Association, introduced himself as the new President of NvMA and gave a brief speech about his background; he's looking forward to working with the Commission and staff. He also gave a safety share regarding temperature changes and to be aware of the different windshield wiper fluids for different climates.

Anthony Walsh, Deputy Attorney General introduced himself and gave a brief speech about his background.

I. AGENDA

A. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Josh Nordquist

Seconded by: Art Henderson

Unanimously approved

II. MINUTES

A. Approval of the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Mary Korpi

Seconded by: Art Henderson

Unanimously approved

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of new Minerals Commission Chairman

Rich DeLong explained the Commission adopted a practice to choose a Chairman every two years at the first quarter meeting in even years.

Art Henderson: Recommended to keep Rich DeLong until his term is up.

Nigel Bain: Asked Rich DeLong what his thoughts are regarding this.

Rich DeLong: Stated he is interested and willing to serve another two years or until his term is up as long as the Commissioners believe he's being effective and doing the best possible for the Commission.

Nigel Bain: Supported making the motion.

Motion to hold a vote on Electing Rich DeLong as Chairman: Art Henderson

Seconded by: Nigel Bain

Unanimously approved

Motion to approve Electing Rich DeLong as Chairman: Art Henderson

Seconded by: Nigel Bain

Unanimously approved

Rich DeLong: Thanked everyone for their support.

B. 2019 Minerals Education Summary

Rebecca Ely presented a PowerPoint presentation giving a summary of 2019 activities including Outreach by category: K-12 schools, trade shows, conferences and workshops, civic, government, and professional organizations and clubs, public events, Boy Scouts/AML; New NDOM K-12 classroom presentations; NDOM agency brochure; and 2019 and 2020 Teachers' Workshops.

Mary Korpi: Asked about why middle schools have the lowest percentage reached by grade level.

Rebecca Ely: Shared how hard it is with middle school teachers, she's had to show them how our topics fit into their curriculum, she stated for spring 2020 she has five or six middle schools on her schedule compared to two in 2019. Rebecca is also working on developing more middle school activities so there's a place for NDOM with 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade.

Rich DeLong: Asked if the classroom activities table is just for high school or is it for high school, middle school and elementary school.

Rebecca Ely: Responded it's for all grade levels K-12. Nevada has adopted the Next Generation Science Standards in place of what the Nevada standards used to be so many states are working on just going to the Next Generation Science Standards. This list can be adapted to apply to any school district because we've based it on the newest standards.

Rich DeLong: Use this then to help convince the middle school teachers how the program fits into their curriculum.

Rebecca Ely: Yes, it's not just the teachers, the teachers take less convincing than the administrators but they need to talk to their administrator and they need to be able to explain exactly how we're going to support their standards, how we're going to fit into the curriculum so this is a tool they can bring with them to lead that discussion.

Rich DeLong: The high school work that's gone on, I got the impression it's mostly career date oriented rather than presentation in the classrooms, is that the case?

Rebecca Ely: That is the case, I'm working on that to, the high school teachers are a lot like middle school teachers. It's about timing, when they're going to be addressing natural resources in their curriculum, they want you to be able to fit that into their schedule so there's some scheduling challenges that comes with that. I do have several high school presentations on my spring calendar; I gave the high schools and middle schools a little bit of a priority on scheduling because I'd like to see us reaching more of that grade level.

Rich DeLong: That's great, what's going on here is really good, thank you for continuing the mission.

Art Henderson: Four or five years ago we held a Commission meeting at Bishop Manogue High School where we focused on STEM and a class attended that meeting. Out of that class, six students are graduating with engineering degrees in May/June. They attend Colorado School of Mines, Santa Clara, Army, Air Force, and UNR. This program is very important, because I think none of these students probably thought of being an engineer, maybe two of them did. It is not easy for a young lady to become an engineer and to work in the world of men. This is where our focus needs be, 50 percent of the engineers should be women, we should tell those young ladies that they can do everything and

maybe we should have a meeting at another school as it really made an impact on these lives according to their parents. This program works and these are the results from all the hard work NDOM has done.

Randy Griffin: Regarding the planned field trip to Lhoist's IMV clay mine, you may want a backup in case it rains on that date because it lives up to its name of Mud Camp when it does rain.

Rebecca Ely: Duly noted, it's always good to have a Plan B.

C. Relocation of NDOM Las Vegas Office

Garrett Wake presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Las Vegas office move including the overview, timeline, lease comparison, location overview, and new office diagram.

Rich Perry: Can you comment on why we're moving?

Garrett Wake: Yes, the move is necessary because Clark County has purchased the entire building complex.

Rich DeLong: Is the 10K cost for the move in the current budget?

Garrett Wake: We did not anticipate this move in our fiscal budget for FY20 which if we move in June it would be a part of this budget and we'll have to do a work program, we already have all the information put together. It doesn't have to go to the Board of Examiners so we can wait to see if the construction is going to finish in time or not, and if it does we'll submit a work program. If not, we can wait until next fiscal year where we have 5 months of free rent, which we didn't anticipate in our last budget, and then use that to cover our moving cost and still have some left over.

D. Request for support for the Nevada Earth Science Teacher's Workshop

Rich Perry went over a letter from the Nevada Mining Association Education Committee requesting \$15,000 per year for 2020-2021 to help fund the teacher's workshops for the next two years, which includes materials, maps, rock and mineral kits, etc. and is budgeted on a biennium basis. He also included information that pertains to the next teacher's workshop in Las Vegas with an agenda and session plan of the event.

Motion to support \$15,000 per year for 2020 and 2021 made by: Mary Korpi

Seconded by: Josh Nordquist

Unanimously approved

E. Reclamation of the Fallon Bentonite Mine

Mike Visher handed out an overview of the reclamation of the Fallon Bentonite mine in Churchill County and presented a PowerPoint presentation including the project background, reclamation work, and NDOM inspections. Mike also talked about a video that was taken from a drone that showed what the site looked like before and afterwards to document all the work. This is an example of a very important successful reclamation bonding story to tell as the industry goes forward when there are bonding issues, like during the CERCLA 108b discussions. The process works and using the drone is much more impactful, the before and after stills are okay but the drone imagery, I think, helps quite a bit.

Josh Nordquist: Thinking about the aerial footage, is this something we should publish?

Mike Visher: I think it's something we should consider doing, yes; we need to do some additional work on the video to prepare it for larger masses so that it's more self-evident and explanatory. It will have more impact once the revegetation comes back. Use of drone video to document our AML project is a good way to tell our story to our stakeholders.

Randy Griffin: What type of bentonite is it?

Mike Visher: Sodium bentonite.

Randy Griffin: Was the mine depleted?

Mike Visher: I think there are some questions that exist regarding the quality and size of the resource. The underlying claimants will have to go through the permitting process from scratch including posting of a new bond in order to move the mine forward, but at this time it doesn't appear that they intend to do that.

Josh Nordquist: With the remaining funds that the BLM has, are they reserved for additional work that may be necessary or can those funds be designated?

Mike Visher: The funds can only be used towards the reclamation because that's how the money was set aside so it can only be used for the actual reclamation work, the contracting of it or the administration of the work. I expect additional revegetation work will be needed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update to Regulation Changes to NAC 517, Mining Claims chapter

Mike Visher stated NDOM was looking into making changes to NAC 517 to reduce the mining claim fee by \$0.50. At the last meeting the Commission decided not to move forward with that, there was also discussion on this chapter to do some updates in the language to address some inconsistencies between filings at the county level for placer claims and filing of those maps at the county vs. BLM. The inconsistency starts with the NRS, in the statute itself. The NRS for 517 is speaking to the claimant and what they have to file, how they file, how they locate, what forms they have to use, what has to be on the form. The NAC isn't speaking to the claimant, it's speaking to the county and the requirement of the county to receive the information, record it, make it publically available and if it's deficient, by which means is it deficient. The discussion here is whether or not we think we should move forward. If we did move forward and we had the hearings and the Commission approved the regulation changes and it went to the Legislative Commission, LCB would advise the Legislative Commission that they think that it's in conflict with the statute; we don't want to be there. I don't believe this is a big problem at this time. If it becomes an issue we can revisit it but it would require a change to statute which would require a bill and that opens up everything in chapter 517 to potential changes. I don't think there's any interest in doing any of that. I'm not sure I agree with LCB, but I'm not willing to fight LCB on this one and until there's enough of a need to do something I think we should just let this one die and if the problem persists we can consider it again or we can also take the approach to seek an Attorney General opinion.

Art Henderson: For clarification, the text in blue type is what you're proposing to drop?

Mike Visher: Yes, the blue italics are language we proposed as changes, and the red strike through are proposed deletions. If we don't move forward with rulemaking then there would be no changes. The yellow highlighted text was done just for today's discussion.

Richard DeLong: I'd like to follow up on Mike's comment about the concept of suggesting putting together a BDR to revise NRS 517, given the likely tenor and content of the issues in the next session it wouldn't be prudent to open up this chapter for this issue even with what happened in the past with the Legislature wanting to put additional fees to the general fund on mining claims. We have directed the Division to revise NAC 517, we need to either ask them to continue which likely be to go to the AG for an AG opinion would be the next step or we would like them to cease activities related to revising this part of the NAC.

Motion to take the recommendation by Mike Visher to cease this effort and reconsider potentially after the next Legislative session made by: Josh Nordquist

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Unanimously approved

B. Update to Regulation Changes to NAC 534A and NAC 519A.290

Rich Perry stated that, in February 2019, NDOM was directed by the Commission to make changes that were brought forward which included a complete reorganization and re-write of the geothermal chapter and modifications to the bond pool chapter to lower fees and allow for some bond pool refunds. Rich read through the adoption paperwork from the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the approved regulations R032-19 and R044-19.

C. Las Vegas Natural History Museum Exhibit

Garrett Wake provided an update with a PowerPoint presentation and explained an overview of what the Division envisions with a contract and the exhibit completion on or before December 31, 2020. Everyone was given a handout of the exhibit concept and descriptive design notes.

Rich DeLong: Asked about where the two contractors are located.

Garrett Wake: One is regionally close and one is not.

Rich DeLong: Asked who the Nevada Clerk of the Board is.

Garrett Wake: Responded with, Director of Administration.

Nigel Bain: Asked if the Natural History Museum agrees with the scope.

Garrett Wake: Replied with they've been very open and willing to have anything added and are very excited about it. Josh Bonde is the Curator there and has been involved in the design process.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Staff Reports and set date for next Commission meeting

Rich Perry shared two "Thank you" letters that the Commission received. One from John Carothers of the University of Nevada, Reno for the Commission's support of the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering and an update of the Marigold Royalty and the other from the Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation for their help with the Silver Top headframe restabilization project.

Mike Visher gave an update on the mining claim revenues with a Fiscal Year Cumulative Mining Claim Revenue by Month handout and a Reserve Balance by Week graph.

Determination of time and place of next CMR meeting.

The meeting will be on May 14, 2020 in Carson City with a tour on May 15, 2020.

B. Discussion of process for the recruitment and appointment of a new Administrator

Rich Perry: Shared he is retiring effective April 2, 2020 with his last day being April 1st. He stated it's been his honor to be the Administrator of the Division of Minerals over the past six and a half years and the confidence that everyone has had in him being able to carry out the duties and all of the efforts and initiatives that we've worked on together, he thinks the staff of the Division of Minerals is exceptional and it's been a pleasure being able to lead them during his time at NDOM.

Rich DeLong: Agreed with the Division has an incredible staff that does amazing work and acknowledged the fabulous and remarkable work Rich Perry has done over the years.

Art Henderson: Reiterated with Rich DeLong regarding Rich Perry and the staff, he thanked Rich Perry for always keeping the Commissioners informed between meetings and the professionalism every time they talked or he visited the Division. He stated we have a very good Division and feels we need to keep the continuity that we have now.

Mary Korpi: Stated she has a work history with Rich Perry and knows how effective he is. She applauds Rich Perry's leadership and applauds the staff; she knows he'll enjoy his retirement because it's well deserved.

Randy Griffin: Commented on being the new Commissioner, and needing help from time to time, every time he reached out to Rich Perry he has always been extremely responsive and by the time Randy got another cup of coffee Rich had already sent him whatever he needed. He thanked Rich for all he had done.

Rich DeLong: Stated when Rich informed him he was going to step down they worked together on a process and put together a job announcement, solicitation and job description to make sure that there is an understanding of the scope the position really entails. After a discussion of the language in the job announcement it was decided to change the Education and Experience paragraph to read "Must be a graduate of an accredited college or university and have substantial experience as an administrator or at least 5 years' experience in the exploration for or the production or conservation of minerals. The preferred candidate will have a B.S or higher degree in the geosciences or engineering with Nevada mineral industry experience relevant to the responsibilities of the position" and at the bottom of the page "All materials must be received by the close of business on March 6, 2020."

Motion to make the proposed changes to the job announcement as listed by the Chairman made by: Nigel Bain

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Unanimously approved

The Commissioners also discussed the process for reviewing candidates that after the close of business on March 6th the resumes received by the deadline will be emailed to each Commissioner to review and rank the top three candidates with a numbering system, top ranked gets a 3, next ranked gets a 2, final ranked gets a 1. Each Commissioner will send an email to NDOM's HR Coordinator with no more than their top three candidates.

Motion to have the HR Coordinator email all resumes to each Commissioner to review, rank and email back no more than their top three candidates to HR Coordinator for compilation made by: Nigel Bain

Seconded by: Josh Nordquist

Unanimously approved

Commissioners then discussed scheduling timelines. Each Commissioner will send an email to NDOM's HR Coordinator with no more than their top three candidates by March 11, 2020. The HR Coordinator will then be in contact with Rich DeLong on March 12, 2020 to go over the rankings and decide on the top candidates to determine who will be interviewed during a special open meeting sometime in March.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Garrett Wake announced the McCaw School of Mines Annual Spring Fling Gala will be May 16, 2020, contact Garret Wake for more information.

ADJOURNMENT

4:14 pm