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Thursday, July 22, 2021

1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Commissioners	Staff	Public
Mary Korpi	Mike Visher	Jordan Hosmer, Governor's Office
Josh Nordquist	Rob Ghiglieri	Joseph Riney, NvMA
Art Henderson	Sherrie Nuckolls	
Bob Felder	Lucia Patterson	
Nigel Bain	Garrett Wake	
Stephanie Hallinan	Courtney Luxford	
	Anthony Walsh, DAG	

CALL TO ORDER

1:00 PM by Mary Korpi

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None

AGENDA

A. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Bob Felder

Seconded by: Josh Nordquist

Unanimously approved

II. MINUTES

A. Approval of the January 14, 2021 quarterly meeting minutes

Motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes made by: Josh Nordquist

Seconded by: Bob Felder

Unanimously approved

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of New Commissioner and Reappointments

Mary Korpi: Asked Stephanie Hallinan to tell a little bit about her background.

Stephanie Hallinan: Thanked everyone and introduced herself, then gave a brief description of her background.

Mary Korpi: Stated we're glad to have her and thanked her for submitting her application. Mary congratulated Nigel Bain and Art Henderson on their reappointments.

Art Henderson: Thanked Mary and said he is happy to be on the Commission.

Mary Korpi: Stated we're glad to have you here.

B. Election of new Mineral Commission Chairman

Mary Korpi: Stated Rich DeLong chose not to pursue another term with the Commission and asked Mike Visher to explain the roles and responsibilities of what the Chairman does because knowing what those expectations are is important.

Mike Visher: Explained the Chairman's responsibilities and expectations.

Mary Korpi: Asked if anyone had questions.

Art Henderson: Asked what Commissioners would be willing to serve as the chairman.

Josh Nordquist: I would be happy to volunteer.

Mary Korpi: That's a good question Art, are you or Nigel interested?

Art Henderson: No, I don't think so, I think there are many qualified people in the room that can handle this job.

Nigel Bain: I think from the geothermal side I think Josh will be great because then it's another part of mining or mineral extraction that's represented, same with the chairman elect right now, her knowledge in mining is good but she also has a bit of an outsider's point of view, I think that it is good that we diversify.

Mary Korpi: Thanks Nigel. Based on that discussion do we have a motion?

Bob Felder: Asked if the Chairman's position is every two years.

Mike Visher: Yes, that's what the Commission decided that it should be a two-year term and revisit again to see if somebody wanted to be reconsidered and reappointed by the Commission for this position, but that two-year term was decided and established by the Commission.

Bob Felder: So, it doesn't have to turn over, it's reconsidered every two years?

Mike Visher: Yes.

Art Henderson: The previous Chairman was 27 years I believe, is that right Mike?

Mike Visher: Yes, that was Fred Gibson.

Art Henderson: That's why we decided to revisit every two years, it gives more people an opportunity and it can be the same person, we renominated Mr. DeLong twice, I think it's a good exercise to do every two years.

Motion to appoint Josh Nordquist as Chairman for the next two years made by: Bob Felder

Seconded by: Art Henderson

Nigel Bain: Mary, in the past you've raised your hand, are you still interested in the role?

Mary Korpi: I did not put my hand up, mainly a lot of what Mike talked about, I'm not always here 100% of the time and I appreciate being in that role, but I think we need to have someone that's accessible and a lot more dependable than I'm able to be here in the Reno area.

Unanimously approved

Mary Korpi: Congratulations Josh, welcome.

Josh Nordquist: Thank you, I appreciate the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to it.

Art Henderson: Let's elect a Vice Chair also please, Mary is your term continuing?

Mary Korpi: Typically, it's not a vote of the Commission itself, the Chairman makes that appointment.

John Nordquist: We'll finalize that by the next meeting.

C. The Discovery Museum Exhibit Proposal

Mike Visher: Before Garrett starts his PowerPoint, I'd like to bring in Mat Sinclair who submitted the letter in your packet and who graciously offered up the room for our meeting. This is Mat Sinclair, Lucia and I met with him after the last meeting we had with the Commission where you all were in support of having something like the Las Vegas Natural History Museum's rock and mineral exhibit here in Reno, so we reached out and talked with Mat and he gave us a tour of the facility, we talked a little about it. Mat will talk about the Museum and their role and a little bit of how he sees this fitting in.

Mat Sinclair: Talked about the Discovery Museum and their history.

Nigel Bain: The Nevada Mining Association was approached by the Discovery Museum about 20 years ago for a significant display like the one in the Reno Tahoe Airport so congratulations, you've managed to build the facility and congratulations in recognizing that mining is a significant partner in Reno.

Mike Visser: How many staff do you have and how many volunteers do you have?

Mat Sinclair: Pre-covid numbers, we have a full-time salary staff of 21 and we have an additional 35-part timers, volunteers at our peak was around 200, unfortunately we had to shelve our volunteer program throughout COVID-19 so we're just now picking our volunteer program back up starting this summer.

Courtney Luxford: You mentioned you have things for kids, adults, and seniors, do you have anything for special needs kids?

Mat Sinclair: We do as a matter of fact, in addition to our general programming where we can integrate students and families of all shapes and sizes, we offer a program called Discover Our Way which happens on the first Sunday of every month, we open 2 hours early on those Sunday's and it is just for families having a member with an autism spectrum disorder.

Courtney Luxford: I would imagine a place like this would be overwhelming.

Mat Sinclair: Yes, really difficult for families as not all visitors are as accommodating, accepting all kinds of experiences those people have so on those days we have specially trained staffed on site and we have a totally different set of programs we put in place in terms of lighting, special effects on some of our exhibits, we turn some of those exhibits off altogether so from a stimulus standpoint it's much more of an integrated experience.

John Nordquist: That's fantastic.

Garrett Wake: Went over the budget proposal with a PowerPoint presentation showing the cost breakdown and modifications.

Josh Nordquist: Will it be the same company that built the Las Vegas exhibit?

Garrett Wake: We can't assume who will get the contract, obviously when we did this the first time around, the company that build the first exhibit said yes, if you have another exhibit throw it my way. They will definitely bid on this, but we must go out for a competitive bid.

Nigel Bain: Would you change anything?

Garrett Wake: No, I don't think so, I think it turned out really well. Marilyn over at the Natural History Museum was over the moon with it, she said it's fantastic and the hit at the museum, right now everyone that comes in comes to see it. I wouldn't change anything.

Mike Visser: It would just be some design improvements that it's been used, some of the hinges would be modified, the handles from the stresses on how it's being used but no real design change to the look and feel and the message being sent which is why we have such a savings. The exhibit manager here said if we can get something like that here that would be awesome. That is the proposal in front of you for consideration and again if you have any questions of Mat, I can bring him back in to discuss.

Josh Nordquist: As far as budget goes do, we have the funds that these funds will be allocated from?

Mike Visser: You'll see that there are no issues, if you want to wait until after and then revisit this, we can do that, but I'll tell you right now we don't have any issues.

Motion to approve the proposal for the Discovery Museum Exhibit for \$49,499.00 made by: Nigel Bain

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Art Henderson: Is this proposal to approve this budget or is it for proposal going out for bids? What are we voting on here to get bids or to approve the budget that was presented today?

Mike Visser: The proposal would be to move forward with soliciting a vendor to fulfill the proposal at the recommended amount \$49,499.00.

Bob Felder: If a bid comes back at \$58,000, we'd have to revisit that?

Mike Visser: Yes, the way the bids are not to exceed so for us to accept it, it must come in provide us what we want for that amount or less, but we feel confident that the vendor for the Las Vegas exhibit can do that.

Anthony Walsh: I feel comfortable the way the action item is written so for meeting purposes we're covered there.

Mike Visser: Okay, great, thanks Tony. Are you okay with that Art?

Art Henderson: Yes, I just wanted to understand it. I'm in favor of all of it.

Josh Nordquist: I was thinking about all the times my family and I have spent here; I've brought all 3 of my kids to this museum, I've taught them all about mining and earthquakes, there's an earthquake table upstairs that everyone jumps on it. Ormat additionally contributed to the museum when it started and there's a small geothermal connection up there and can always be improved but I think it's impactful, I've been here many times.

Unanimously approved

Josh Nordquist: I'm assuming by next meeting we'll hear the status of that?

Mike Visher: We should be at the point where we may have selected a vendor by then depending on the timing. The initial goal was to have it completed in this fiscal with a delivery of next spring which turns out to be really good for the museum, they're going to be unveiling a new Tesla exhibit here as well in the spring, so it dovetails well with the timing of that. That's the anticipated timeline.

Josh Nordquist: Sounds promising.

D. 2021 Northern Nevada Earth Science Education Teachers Workshop

Rob Ghiglieri gave a review through a PowerPoint presentation and went over the goals and challenges they've come across and are working together with the Nevada Mining Association.

Mike Visher: The packet also includes the survey responses which you can see all the positive comments and the Nevada Appeal put out a news article on the workshop, we got some nice press out of it and the Elko Daily also included an article in their newspaper on the event. Joe, do you have anything to add to what Rob just said?

Joseph Riney: I'm representing the Education Committee and I would echo what Rob had to say, it's a fabulous partnership between the Association and the Division. It's a great opportunity to highlight industry as well as outreach to teachers. For teachers, it's really eye opening to them, at the end of the day they do not pay for anything, we actually pay for their credit as well, in Clark County they have to pay \$15 for a credit so we have the Clark County School District bill us directly. We completely value the partnership; we could not do it without the Division so we're really glad to have that partnership. These guys are all rockstars!

Josh Nordquist: Interesting challenges though rebuilding the voluntary workforce. I'll leave it to the question how can we help? What actions can be put together to support that?

Rob Ghiglieri: The key thing with that is if you know anyone who actually wanting to join the committee, it is a time commitment for mainly 2 weeks a year and then there's an hour to 3-hour meeting depending on if it's right before the actual workshop or not, about 8 times a year and those were held at the Nevada Mining Association's office on Mondays since then we're doing everything virtual we'll probably start doing the hybrid in the future, the hybrid will help out because one of the hardest things in industry is most industries are in Winnemucca or Elko and for them to make a meeting on Monday morning it's very difficult so we think having the ability to have hybrid solution for the future meetings the help industry to participate more would be great. The people we're looking for are people who are familiar with industry, with geology, we have a lot of geologists with the Division of Minerals but it's great to have a mine engineer, metallurgist, and environmental permitting person, that kind of stuff so they can bring a difference approach to the workshops and for new generating ideas.

Joseph Riney: We've had people on the committee who've been there for 25 years because they see such great value in what we do.

Nigel Bain: When is the coming workshop, Garrett? When and where?

Rob Ghiglieri: The next workshop will be in April 2022 at Faith Lutheran School in Las Vegas and the next meeting is August 10, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. and I can get you a link if you're interested. It is a virtual meeting that Allison Anderson put together, she's the one that sends all the meeting invites out. Terry Jennings who was at Kinross in Round Mountain for a long time he is currently the Chairman of the committee. He brings a great resource to us.

Mary Korpi: About 20 years ago there used to be a huge commitment at the senior level that they would support education and not just writing a check, it means showing up. Has there just been in a change in attitude? That's taken place at that expectation when you're not rewarded for doing that

Joseph Riney: I believe there isn't enough follow through, we're working on ways to improve that, Mike Visher came to the last Board of Directors' meeting and gave a great presentation, and they really heard the ask, the need for industry help. I do think there will be an improvement coming with that.

Mike Visher: It does take a time commitment from the company because at the time of the workshop you lost a resource at your mine site, so do you have someone that can work that during that week and that support has to be from the top down and it has to be built into the system and a lot of the mine sites run really lean and mean and the backup just isn't there. We really need someone that's committed, that will participate all the way through the process and help bring in new perspectives so it's not the same year after year and we do have a lot of repeat customers, they love the workshop, but we need to rebrand it, reapproach it and how do we get more teachers in with more enthusiasm. Everybody who is doing this is extremely passionate about the task at hand. We don't want someone that's coming because they're told they have to, that doesn't work, it has to be somebody that's available and supported by management, it's going to have to be funded because they're being taken away from their job during that time, whether it's a 2-hour meeting on Zoom or whether it's a weeklong or less 4- or 5-day commitment to the workshop in Vegas. I think they got the message; we'll see what happens and we're also meeting with Annie Huhta at Mackay to figure out some ways we can bring Mackay in as well as some of the contacts they have and add some of the educational components they have developed separate from this to incorporate those as well.

Josh Nordquist: Are there other programs like this in neighboring states?

Joseph Riney: We're actually the leaders when it comes to this. Arizona has a pretty phenomenal program but it's a much different program, they have a full time person to go into the classrooms, Utah has contacted us in the past, California and Oregon come to the workshops to see how we do it even Montana has attended, we've collaborated with Alaska, they have a fantastic program that is very similar, we pulled some notes from them and they've pulled from us, but when it comes down to doing these hands on mineral workshops everyone's looking at us.

Nigel Bain: I would add to what Mike said, some of the passion is from people realizing the impact that they're making for the industry, the industry has gone through pretty difficult time with this tax initiative, the industry is up against a tidal wave of thought and for me it was shocking how easy how it was to change some peoples' minds on what Nevada mining does for Nevada and including Las Vegas or Clark County and Reno, Sparks, Carson City.

Rob Ghiglieri: To add on to what Nigel said it's amazing to see in the Las Vegas workshops the teachers that have a zero idea that they have a gypsum mine, silica mine or a limestone mine literally within a 30-minute drive of where they live, they have no idea, and the tours open their eyes to it and understanding and appreciating it a lot more.

Nigel Bain: Same can be said about the geothermal and fossil fuel side.

Art Henderson: The hydraulic fracking presentation that was made was a very good one, I don't think we're going to be able to change a lot of people's minds about hydraulic fracking but it's a good exhibit, so I was very happy when they included that in the education activities.

Bob Felder: I'm also on the Board of GSN Foundation which its mission is to fund earth science education. In the last 2-3 years we've had a big drop off in teachers applying for money for fieldtrips K-12, it seems weird because they have great outcome and feedback. I'm wondering somehow the foundation and this program get a little bit better aligned or something or make it work better for everybody.

Rob Ghiglieri: Allison Anderson and I discussed incorporating GSN more, there's some great young geologists that are highly involved with it.

Bob Felder: There also might be a better opportunity to engage some volunteerism.

Rob Ghiglieri: And we can bring something up like that.

Lucia Patterson: When I'm in classrooms I mention that a lot, I'm just wondering if it's hard to incorporate that in.

Bob Felder: It seems like it's the same teachers every year and nobody is saying it's free money, like we usually support the cost of the bus to go on a field trip and we might have a volunteer that helps with the education

side of it but it's been dropping off which is odd so there might be away to increase engagement by getting aligned by these programs.

Joe Riney: I have a guess as to why that drop off is occurring, I think that comes back to DD LaPointe having retired. She was always speaking about it and bringing it up and reminding teachers and always running point when it came to that, and it aligns with her illness, but we can certainly do a better job at reminding teachers.

Mike Visher: So that opportunity needs to be on a flyer in a bag so that they know about it so it's something that they get in hand.

Bob Felder: We probably need somebody on the Foundation Board to step in and do what DD has been doing.

Mike Visher: We just wanted to provide an update to that topic as it's also a segue to the next agenda item which is an action item for you to consider.

E. Request for support for the Nevada Earth Science Teachers Workshop

Mike Visher mentioned this is part of the approved budget already and built into our biennium budget, but we do make this a formal approval by the Commission to authorize these funds and the request letter is in the packet so we're looking for a formal approval.

Motion to approve the \$15,000 per year for a period of two years made by: Mary Korpi

Seconded by: Nigel Bain

Unanimously approved

F. 2020 Annual Status and Production Overview

Lucia Patterson went over a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2020 Nevada Mineral, Oil and Geothermal Production.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislatively Approved 2022-2023 Budget and 2021-23 Budget Forecast

Mike Visher went over a PowerPoint presentation on mining claim revenue by month, reserve balance by week for FY17-FY21, and the 2020-2023 budgets and forecasts as of 7/14/2021.

Art Henderson: I have a comment, in looking at the expenditures on 2022-2023 and show to be around 2.8 million dollars so I just want to remind everyone that the reserve is in excess of the guidance. The guidance is 1.2 million but we base that guide on roughly on six months reserve so we have a big increase in expenditures so we may want to look into increasing that guidance possibly to 1.4 million in the future to keep our six months' reserve.

Mike Visher: Good point Art, is this something you would like to do on the agenda for the next meeting?

Art Henderson: Well, that's up to the new chairman, I'll leave it to him but it's just a comment that I don't like to show so much money in excess of our guidance and our guidance being based on number from previous years we should consider increasing the guidance for the increased in expenditures, just a comment from my point of view.

Josh Nordquist: The reserve amount is not just for expenditures but also having additional funding available.

Art Henderson: The reserve amount of 1.2 million was based on 50% of the expenditures because that six-months expenditures.

Mike Visher: It increased but we're budgeted for expenditures through for the additional AML enhancements that were anticipated to go for 2 years as discretionary bites to pull things down to kind of reset things but not necessarily ongoing, so I think that's part of the discussion is do you see these continuing longer than the initial approval by the Commission so are they ongoing and if they are ongoing then they probably ought to be considered for the reserve guidance.

Art Henderson: Or in general we say the reserve guidance, maybe instead of putting a number maybe we could consider saying it's 50% of the reserve budget for those years because I think our concern has always been at the end of the year and there's a lot of money especially if somebody may want to take that for some.

Bob Felder: I have a question about out-of-state travel, I forgot where we left things off, I know you went to Vancouver for Round-Up are we still on a wait list to be able to go up there? Because it's not in the budget I noticed.

Rob Ghiglieri: It should be.

Mike Visher: If it's not, it's supposed to be, if I didn't call it out

Rob Ghiglieri: It's built into it. We did a virtual in 2020 to make sure we had it for 2021, this year they did a save the date that it's going to be a hybrid in-person/virtual so we're kind of waiting to see more details before we commit to one or the other.

Mike Visher: That cost is in there, it's just not notated in the description.

Rob Ghiglieri: The NAAML P conference will be after this fiscal year it will be a net zero.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. **Review of staff monthly activity reports**

Mike Visher: These are just provided to the Commission to review in advance of the meeting and if you have specific questions, they can ask the staff or if not, you can ask me, it's really just a means to remind you of what was done on a monthly basis. The June information has not been emailed to you; this is the first time you'll get to see it as it was done just before we put the packets together so if there's any questions with regards to the activity report to ask staff now's your chance.

Josh Nordquist: I'll reach out to you later.

Mike Visher: We get a lot done and our open data site continues to be a very well used source and Lucia continues to find ways to make it new and improved and more efficient and ways to get more done with less amazingly and it will continue to be our go-to for valuable information on timely events and things that are pertinent to industry so that they can comment on issues at hand. We keep getting comments "I can't believe you have all this stuff".

B. Next Commission meeting tentatively set for Wednesday, October 27, 2021 with a tour on Thursday, October 28, 2021.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Garrett mentioned the McCaw School of Mines is hosting an October-themed event this year, they do a small-scale event every year, a lot of families and stuff, we've partnered with a nationwide organization this year we're looking to bring in additional revenue resources, we kind of rely on the mining industry but we want to diversify more, so this is one way of doing this. We're planning on the whole month of October having an event, if any of you are in town I encourage you to stop by I can get you into a haunted mine for free, we've had over 100,000 visitors come through our gates in 2018, most were 4th grade students this is one of very few places in Southern Nevada where kids are taught about the importance of minerals in our society other than the Division of Minerals and the Natural History Museum. If you want to support something like this in Southern Nevada, we will plug GSN if you give us flyers, that would be perfect, we also see thousands of kids every year and they leave learning about the importance of minerals they're always looking for additional source of revenue, donations, etc. just let Garrett know.

ADJOURNMENT

3:00 p.m. |