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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINERALS

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Wednesday November 8, 2023

1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Commissioners	Staff	Public
Mary Korpi	Garrett Wake	Christy Bauer
Art Henderson	Rob Ghiglieri	Justin Luna
Bob Felder	Rebecca Tims	Becky Hall- Children’s Museum of N. Nevada
Nigel Bain	Nicole Ting, DAG	Simon Jowitt- NBMG
Josh Nordquist	Dustin Holcomb	
Randy Griffin	Peter Engh	
	Sean Derby	

CALL TO ORDER

1:00 PM

ROLL CALL

All Commissioners were present except Stephanie Hallinan, Quorum noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

I. AGENDA

A. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Mary Korpi

Seconded by: Randy Griffin

Unanimously approved.

II. Minutes

A. Approval of the August 10, 2023, meeting minutes

Motion To Approve: Bob Felder

Seconded By: Randy Griffin

Unanimously approved.

III. **New Business**

A. **Introduction of the new CREG Director**

Simon Jowitt from the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology gave a slideshow presentation on his new role and responsibilities as the new CREG director at the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Nigel Bain: On the Lithium world-wide supply, does Nevada have the potential to overshoot the market?

Simon Jowitt: When Thacker Pass and Rhyolite ridge come on stream, the production will make them two of the larger lithium producers globally. There are other lithium projects underway too. There is potential for short term oversupply. I think discussing that in the lithium report is a key thing to inform the lithium sector in the State. There's a lot of uncertainty in lithium. We need to ensure that we can really inform the minerals industry.

Nigel Bain: It's not just individual minerals as a whole suite of minerals that I think should be in there.

Randy Griffin: I noticed you were making a visit to UT Austin in February, what are you going to be discussing with them?

Simon Jowitt: They asked me to come over and talk about critical metals. They're currently one of the many universities in the US that are currently looking for economic geologists with expertise and critical metals. I think that's some kind of part of my job is that kind of outreach. Not only to just put UNR and CREG on the map, but also to inform the general public and inform the universities of the research into critical metals and the mining industry is important, and the more people that get that message the better of them.

B. **Request by Carson City Children's Museum**

Becky Hall from the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada presented a presentation for a request for funding for a new augmented reality sandbox for the Children's Museum.

Josh Nordquist: Becky, do you have an anticipated schedule?

Becky Hall: Right now, we're finishing up the geology lab, hopefully by next month. Our plan is to be done with these exhibits by June of next year so we can have our anniversary, and so we can kind of present these new exhibits to the community. So, our overall timeline for this kind of fast paced. Upgrades to the Museum would be in the next, like 7 to 8 months.

Arthur Henderson: Becky, who are you working with? Garrett or Rob?

Garrett Wake: I just want to clarify a few things from when we talked, the funding you mentioned to being contingent upon getting another part. The thought was, if the Commission were to approve this, the funding would only be spent if a commitment was made from another mining partner. That contingency was a part of this.

Arthur Henderson: So, you're the one working with Becky?

Garrett Wake: Yes.

Arthur Henderson: Why are we being so conservative? Why don't we just give her the \$10,000?

Garrett Wake: I think the initial thought was just in the short timeframe, we thought \$5,000 would be a good sell to the Commission, but we can increase that.

Arthur Henderson: Rob, what is your opinion on that?

Robert Ghiglieri: There's enough money in our budget to cover that cost.

Arthur Henderson: If you read here, this museum has been in business for 30 years and has about 25,000 people coming per year. It is in line with our principles and education. She can still go out and ask for industry to support certain things, but if \$10,000 will allow her to reach her goal by the 30th anniversary, I think we should give the \$10,000.

Mary Korpi: I would agree with Arthur that a larger amount is going to expedite raising whatever else we need to raise, and it can also get this process going quickly and as soon as that geology portion is done, the money should be raised to move right into this project.

Josh Nordquist: Becky, you say this is a \$15,000 project in the letter?

Becky Hall: That's what an exhibit firm said. But I was saying if you don't go with an exhibit firm, and you can outsource the different pieces to the exhibit, you can do it at a much less expensive package.

Arthur Henderson: Josh, to completely answer her request, \$15,000 would be correct. But I was listening to \$10,000, either way, any of the three is fine with me. I would approve any of those three amounts.

Josh Nordquist: That was the clarification I needed. The \$10,000 was if they sort of do it on their own and the \$15,000 is if it's full sourced.

Nigel Bain: Do you cooperate with the Nevada State Museum when there is a kid's tour, do they go to both places? Or are you an island on your own?

Becky Hall: I happen to know the director very closely and we work across the street and collaborate very often. We often do mutual field trips where in the morning they go to the State Museum and have lunch, and then walk straight across the street to the children's Museum. Much of our special programming is done collaboratively.

Josh Nordquist: Let's understand what we would like to have for reporting on the schedule and progress. We typically like to see feedback on progress. What would be your proposal to report back?

Becky Hall: Since this is fast paced and I am still reaching out and want that collaboration from industry, how about if I can update you before the end of the year, in December?

Robert Ghiglieri: Our next meeting is in February.

Mary Korpi: Should we make the motion contingent on raising the total amount needed, just for clarification?

Nigel Bain: We can. We got asked by the Nevada State Museum for money too. I can't remember how much exactly it was and when they were going to come back and talk. I don't know if anyone can remember, Rob?

Robert Ghiglieri: That contract is \$80,000. Garrett is currently working on that contract to get it moved forward. So, the timeline is probably the end of this fiscal.

Garrett Wake: That that project was a little different because that's a service-based contract. We had to send that out again to bid. The funding of \$5,000 or more here is for goods that can be sourced from a contracted vendor.

Nigel Bain: It seems like there is a potential for the two museums to collaborate a lot and really gain right into our mandate of promoting the mineral industry within Nevada.

Becky Hall: We do collaborate, and one of the benefits of providing the State Museum with their new plate tectonics is that we are going to be receiving their old exhibit and repurposing it into our geology exhibit.

Arthur Henderson: So, Rob, if you look at your performance measures for education kindergarten through twelfth grade. You need 24 educated children per employee. You're getting 25,000 by helping this.

Robert Ghiglieri: It's 24 presentations per FTE, this will definitely help in education and outreach.

Arthur Henderson: I'd rather just give her \$15,000.

Josh Nordquist: Does the \$15,000 project include software? How much is the software?

Becky Hall: I don't have an exact amount.

Arthur Henderson: Help us understand what funding we really need to provide.

Garrett Wake: If the Commission were able to provide it to \$15,000, that would give them more flexibility, and we have the funding for that.

Nigel Bain: I will change my motion to include the full amount of \$15,000, with the provider that we hear back in February how it's going.

Motion to approve \$15,000 Funding to the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada

Made By: Bob Felder

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Unanimously Approved

C. Update on Division of Minerals Staff Position Changes

Administrator Ghiglieri went over staff position changes for the Division of Minerals.

Mary Korpi: In today's world, where it's hard to find people and hiring, kudos to you for moving quickly and getting qualified people in. It says a lot for NDOM's reputation and all of you that help to get these people hired. So, I say, kudos.

D. 2023 AML Program Update

Peter Eng presented a slideshow on recent updates to the AML Program.

E. 2023 Fluid Minerals Program Update

Dustin Holcomb presented a slideshow presentation on updates to the Fluid Minerals Program.

Randy Griffin: What kind of inspections? What do you look for when you go out to geothermal and oil places?

Dustin Holcomb: By regulations we're inspecting the well head, conditions of the surface casing, and conductor casing and signage. We make sure there's no leaks along pipelines that are visible. Ensuring that they're properly signed and properly maintained and that the well pads are accessible and that the roads out to the wells are accessible, both in oil and geothermal solution.

Randy Griffin: What if they don't do anything about it?

Dustin Holcomb: We will write a letter to them. If an operator refuses to improve the conditions of their well head or well pad or fix a leak, we would be able to withhold approvals of their permits within their field.

Robert Ghiglieri: Let's say there is an oil leak and they do not get it cleaned up, then we would be able to bring in the Division of Environmental Protection and their spill team, and they would be able to assess fines and clean ups on that as well.

Dustin Holcomb: The same would apply to geothermal, we have just never really had a situation like that.

Josh Nordquist: I can confirm that, having received some of these notifications before they're taken seriously and fixed immediately. The main impact is the potential for not getting further permits down the road for work. It's taken very seriously.

F. NDOM Strategic Plan

Administrator Ghiglieri provided the commission with the NDOM Strategic Plan.

Robert Ghiglieri: My goal was to get it to you earlier, so you had more time to review it. There isn't anything relatively new that was not already included in that fiscal 24/25 budget. I believe every objective in this strategic plan can be met within the next 5 years.

Josh Nordquist: Let's say we want to go back and make changes to this next year, what is the process? What is the state process behind it? Is there something that we can update along the way?

Robert Ghiglieri: From my understanding, this could be updated on an as needed basis. This is for our agency and the internal guidelines for our strategic plan. It is going to be reviewed by the Governor's office. I think it is important to highlight what the agency is doing and why we are doing the work we are doing.

Josh Nordquist: There is a deadline, on the 15th it was submitted to the Governor's office.

Robert Ghiglieri: I was told mid-November. So, I think it's a soft deadline. I wanted to have something that we could provide the Governor's office here in the near future.

Arthur Henderson: I would like to not show vacant positions. I would wait so you can show that you have a full staff.

Josh Nordquist: Time is a little bit limited but maybe something that we can spend some homework time on, or any other adjustments down the road.

Robert Ghiglieri: I believe we have some time to make modifications, please have your comments back to me by Friday next week. That way I'll be able to get it to the Governor's office in November.

Josh Nordquist: Any other commissioner's thoughts?

Arthur Henderson: These goals and objectives have been the same for years. So, for me, I think it's fine and I think you should just present it to the Governor's office.

Robert Ghiglieri: Is there something new the Commission would like to see the Division pursue?

Josh Nordquist: With no immediate feedback, I think it's worth a motion to approve at this time.

Motion to approve NDOM Strategic plan:

Made by: Bob Felder

Seconded By: Randy Griffin

Unanimously Approved

IV. Old Business

A. Request to Amend Existing Contract with Territory6

Sean Derby presented a request to amend the existing contract with Territory6.

Arthur Henderson: Bob, would you be opposed to having our content on TikTok?

Bob Felder: It is a little bit of a moral question in my mind, Garrett seems to agree.

Josh Nordquist: We should check to make sure there's not some issue with the using it on any Nevada Government devices.

Robert Ghiglieri: I'll look into the possibility if it is possible for us as a state agency.

Josh Nordquist: Someone's going to have to manage it. Someone's going to have to use it at work. A quick Google search indicated that in March this year the department administration provided a list of prohibited platforms on Nevada State owned devices.

Arthur Henderson: What else was on there? YouTube? The reason I brought it up is that it's free. \$50,000 for a 45-day campaign.

Sean Derby: There are methods for pushing content through Tik Tok in very similar ways to how we did it with YouTube. I can do research.

Arthur Henderson: If it's a moral issue, like Bob said we can scratch that and not do it at all but like I said the only reason I brought it up is that it's free.

Robert Ghiglieri: Recently the office of surface mining reclamation enforcement checked the videos and helped post it on their website, too. They do all the coal permitting and AML programs in the nation. I thought that was neat to be able to have that. The contract is still a valid contract. We would just amend

the contract and add additional time and money to it. The \$50,000 for the reboot is the digital buys for the existing content.

Josh Nordquist: Do we have any of the metrics?

Sean Derby: No. It was marginal, the views on YouTube, I think 7,000 more over the year. I will need to check on that.

Arthur Henderson: Jimmy King and the billboards, I think, are good. This AML outreach content update, it seems like a lot of money for something.

Motion to approve request for Territory6 Contract to renew the Jimmy King reboot at \$50,000.00, the billboards approved at \$26,000. Other items will be reviewed at the next commission meeting.

Made By: Arthur Henderson

Seconded By: Nigel Bain

Unanimously Approved

B. Administrator Report

Administrator Ghiglieri presented a report of ongoing items happening at the agency.

Arthur Henderson: A reserve is okay, but why is it not in the report this time? Because of a change of staff?

Robert Ghiglieri: No, generally this time it is all forecasted to the February timeframe that is when majority of the counties pay their fees so that is something that I'll make sure is in every meeting moving forward.

Arthur Henderson: I would like to see a budget forecast in future meetings. It is nice to have when approving items such as the Childrens Museum and contract updates.

Robert Ghiglieri: Will do.

V. Commission Business

A. Correspondence to the Commission

B. Review of Staff Monthly Activity Reports

C. Set Date for the next Commission Meeting

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

3:16 P.M.