



JOE LOMBARDO
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STATE OF NEVADA
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ROBERT GHIGLIERI
Administrator

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Thursday, May 16, 2024

1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Commission	Staff	Public
Josh Nordquist	Robert Ghiglieri	Justin Luna
Art Henderson	Rebecca Tims	Jim Faulds NBMG
Bob Felder	Nicole Ting, DAG via Zoom	Josh Bonde
Randy Griffin via Zoom	Garrett Wake	
Nigel Bain	Sean Derby	
Mary Korpi	Peter Engh	
Stephanie Hallinan	Crystal Cruson	

CALL TO ORDER

1:00 PM by Josh Nordquist

Roll Call

All commissioners were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Josh Nordquist

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None

I. AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Nigel Bain

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Unanimously approved

II. Minutes

- A. Approval of the meeting minutes from the February 15, 2024, meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by: Stephanie Hallinan

Seconded by: Bob Felder

Unanimously approved

III. **New Business**

A. **Review of Ongoing Federal Legislation Proposals and Rule Making**

Administrator Ghiglieri provided a presentation regarding ongoing Federal Legislation Proposals and Rule Making.

Mary Korpi: Rob presented at the last SME meeting, and she wanted to mention that she got several positive comments after Rob presented.

B. **University of Nevada Reno, Mackay School of Mines Update**

Annie Huhta: provided an update on the Mackey School of Mines.

Randy Griffin: Have you had any contact with the descendants of John Mackay?

Annie Huhta: We do with Michael Mackay, he is a member of the board. He brings a lot of historical context to the board.

Randy Griffin: What was the original grant to get the school started?

Annie Huhta: I don't recall the amount off the top of my head, I believe it was in 1908.

Bob Felder: I believe you and the dean were about to have a face to face with the provost regarding the Marigold royalty, all you have said today is that you are continuing to work on that. Can you share anything on that?

Annie Huhta: There has been a lot of development regarding Marigold funding development at the University. We wanted to have an opportunity to go and sit down with the provost and president and have a conversation around where Mackay fits in considering that so much of the strategic work that we are doing aligns with the strategic goals of the university. We are focused on keeping that line of communication open and continuing to engage on this. Since that meeting in mid-April, I have been communicating with Mackey chairs on a weekly basis. We have submitted a cluster-hire proposal for consideration that would supplement our economic geology programs at the University with the hopes that we would be able to leverage a lot of the critical mineral funding that exists within the state and federal agencies. I am hopeful that things continue to move forward.

C. **Lithium, Battery Research, production, and recycling update and truck charging fleet status**

Garrett Wake gave a presentation on lithium battery research, production, and recycling.

Nigel Bain: It seems like the lithium industry is under a ton of focus. Is Nevada going to be left high and dry?

Robert Ghiglieri: I did a presentation for the Recharge NV conference at UNR. There were people from Dragonfly and Panasonic and other research and technology companies. The good news with Nevada for lithium is that they said in 50 years lithium and Nevada will still be involved. I agree with you, the boom that we are in right now is getting covered in the media, but I think that we will still be looked at somewhat for long term.

Garrett Wake: There are a lot of articles about this from MIT and other places where they are advancing lithium technology. There are many long-term bets being made by companies like GM and others with mining companies like Lithium Americas and Ioneer.

Josh Nordquist: Ormat is sourcing their lithium batteries without cobalt. This week we heard about increased tariffs on China to support lithium.

Nigel Bain: I didn't realize that you guys were into storage.

Josh Nordquist: It's not a lot right now but we have big plans. The use of utility scale grid-based storage is growing.

Nigel Bain: At one point, Tesla built the biggest facility in Australia and it was discharged in one or two seconds.

Josh Nordquist: Two weeks ago in California, between around 7 and 10 pm, 20% of California's load was from batteries and that is expected to grow to 40 to 50% within the next 5 to 7 years.

D. **2024 AML Summer Intern Program**

Peter Engh provided an update on the AML summer intern program

Jim Faulds: The Geodawn lidar was released a couple of months ago and hopefully you are aware of where the locals where your work overlaps. It covers about 1/3 of Nevada. It includes the entire Walker Lane, into the Carlin Trend, Battle Mountain, Winnemucca. So that might be helpful in those areas.

Peter Engh: That will be helpful when we do aerial reconnaissance. How do we access this?

Jim Faulds: You can reach out to us.

IV. Old Business

A. NDOM Budget Update

Garrett Wake provided an update on NDOM's budget.

Bob Felder: Rob, do we have the data on mining claims and how many are owned by large or small companies?

Rob Ghiglieri: Yes. Lucia looked into this a few years ago and it was about 50/50.

Bob Felder: I think certain size companies may take a small cut in claims, small companies may try to drop 20% to make up this cost. Others may drop more. I do see a small drop.

Rob Ghiglieri: I think by 2027 we see a 10% drop by a slow decline. But gold is still at \$2,300 and there is \$73Bn in funding available for lithium mining and extraction from DOE.

Nigel Bain: I'd like to remind everyone of the one time we tried balancing our budget for Mackey from claim fees and that about destroyed the Mining Association.

B. Update on Proposal to join the Interstate Mining Compact Commission

Administrator Ghiglieri provided an update to the commission on the proposal to join the IMCC

C. NDOM Project Proposals

Administrator Ghiglieri provided a presentation on NDOM project proposals.

Josh Nordquist: Have we looked at the forecast for expenditures?

Robert Ghiglieri: In the forecast, moving forward in the next few years, I did a forecast of \$250,000. That would include \$50,000.00 towards PDAC, AME and the education workshop and then \$200,000 for special projects. Even if we did that amount our reserve would still not get to the reserve amount, and we would still have some additional funding for additional projects.

Robert Ghiglieri: The first priority would be the fluids database and the digitization. The second one would be the FTE (full-time employee).

Arthur Henderson: On the fluid digitals enhancement, please explain the cost to us one more time.

Robert Ghiglieri: We estimate for phase 1 of the database to basically get it to the new Sequel database with online interface would be \$46,000.00. The reason for this cost is because it's under an existing statewide contract that has a really good rate and they would just be modifying the Bureau of Mine Regulation and Reclamation database, so the structure is already there. There would be some small ongoing costs but those would be minimal. It's a statewide contract where we would just have to do a service agreement and start working in a matter of a couple of weeks.

Garrett Wake: We are already doing this for the bond pool.

Arthur Henderson: The document digitization?

Robert Ghiglieri: Yes, that one we will have to go for contract, and we were thinking about \$50,000 a year. We internally do not have the time and energy to do this. It's a full-time job. We have found 3 companies that do this type of work, and we would have to go out for contract. I would anticipate this one to start in fiscal year 2025.

Nigel Bain: I'll make a motion to approve the database modernization for the \$46,000 and digitization for \$50,000.00.

Mary Korpi: I'll second

Arthur Henderson: Nigel, should we give them a big chunk of money or extend it over a few years?

Robert Ghiglieri: If we get the contract authority for \$50,000 and it's for 1 year and we say yes this is great and then we can do a contract amendment with them and add to it. If you say \$50,000 a year for the next couple of years, we could also look at it and say this is not worth it and we can amend it.

Arthur Henderson: What if we did \$100,000.00?

Nigel Bain: I think we should do 1 year and see what we get

Robert Ghiglieri: Yes, and it's just coming back in a year and saying this was good or bad. Do you approve of continuing or not? I have no issue with that. The idea makes a lot of sense but again, until you do the work, is it worth it?

Motion to approve the fluid minerals database modernization and digital enhancement projects– 1 year / \$96,000 total in FY 25: Nigel Bain

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Unanimously approved

Recommendation is to go back and review the estimates for updating the Ore Toll and Smelting Capacity Report

Motion to approve 1 Full Time Employee for Fiscal Year 2026: Mary Korpi

Seconded by: Nigel Bain

Unanimously approved

Motion to change from fleet owned vehicles to agency owned vehicles: Arthur Henderson

Seconded by: Mary Korpi

Unanimously approved

Motion to approve the \$20,000.00 budget for the mining reclamation project: Mary Korpi

Seconded by: Nigel Bain

Unanimously approved

D. Update from the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources and its subcommittee on Public Lands

Administrator Ghiglieri provided an update from the Joint Interim Standing Committee

E. NBMG Contract Updates and Proposals

Jim Faulds provided an update on NBMG projects.

Arthur Henderson: After you scan all these documents, what will you do with them?

Jim Faulds: They can go into databases.

Arthur Henderson: What about paper copies? Do you store them?

Jim Faulds: Yes, we store them.

Stephanie Hallinan: How is this program different from the fluid minerals data collection and what is the coordination with Minerals?

Robert Ghiglieri: This project is generally the mining district. Mining related VS fluids. There is definitely overlap between the two.

Josh Nordquist: Is it rescanning?

Jim Faulds: It's enhancing the metadata. These are documents that are already scanned.

Josh Nordquist: Is someone mainly entering that metadata?

Jim Faulds: Yes, we have two technicians.

Arthur Henderson: Did you get your funding approved for the building?

Jim Faulds: No.

Arthur Henderson: What's your idea Rob?

Robert Ghiglieri: I feel like I asked Jim to come and present this for a reason. I feel like this is good data that helps the industry, and that helps us with doing research.

Motion to approve Mining District Files Enhancement for \$40,000.00: Arthur Henderson Unanimously Approved

F. Administrator Report

Administrator Ghiglieri provided the Commission with his administrator report

V. Commission Business

- A. Correspondence to the Commission
- B. Review of Staff Monthly Activity Reports
- C. Future Agenda Items

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT

5:15 pm

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify the Division of Minerals, 400 W. King Street, Suite 106, Carson City, NV 89703 or contact Rebecca Tims at (775) 684-7043 or by email at rtims@minerals.nv.gov.