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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
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ROBERT GHIGLIERI
Administrator

Thursday, August 7, 2025

1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Commission	Staff	Public
Josh Nordquist	Robert Ghiglieri	Dan Worthy
Arthur Henderson	Rebecca Tims	Christina Erling
Nigel Bain Via Zoom	Garrett Wake	
Stephanie Hallinan	Dustin Holcomb	
Bob Felder Via Zoom	Sean Derby	
Randy Griffin Via Zoom	Nicole Ting	
Bob Potts		

CALL TO ORDER

1:00 PM by Josh Nordquist

Roll Call

All commissioners were present.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no comments.

I. Agenda

A. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Stephanie Hallinan

Seconded by: Arthur Henderson

Unanimously approved

II. Minutes

A. Approval of the meeting minutes from the May 29, 2025, meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by: Stephanie Hallinan

Seconded by: Arthur Henderson

Unanimously approved

III. Agency Business

A. Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) Update

Sheldon Mudd presented to the commission on the role of the Northern Nevada Regional Development Authority. He discussed the regional development authority model in the State of Nevada and how it works well for rural Nevada regions that don't necessarily have the resources for economic development pursuits. The

NNRDA footprint is about the size of Kentucky and is the largest, in terms of area, in the state. Their role is to establish industry; they primarily work in the industrial sector, less so the commercial and retail sectors. NNRDA focuses on three main pillars: workforce development, community development, and business development. The eastern region of Nevada has the second approved “development district” in the state, which allows them to create a comprehensive economic development strategy for the region. The NNRDA is targeting the wholesale trade, agriculture, healthcare, aerospace & defense, and construction and vocational trades sectors currently. Sheldon closed by discussing programs the NNRDA is facilitating to spur economic development and showed data relating to economic development investment in the region since 2018.

Rob Ghiglieri mentioned that mining operations are expanding, and new operations are coming online in places that haven’t recently had mining operations. Rob asked if there has been any change in the ability to develop housing in rural areas faster and if Jackpot, NV, is an example of this. **Sheldon Mudd** mentioned that the Surge Batteries project outside of Jackpot, NV has attracted the attention of housing developers. **Bob Potts** asked how many units are being built. Sheldon stated there will be 16 initially, but in three phases there will be a total of 146-150 units. Sheldon said that once AB540 is in place, he hopes it will help Ely and Eureka as well. Sheldon said they are trying to capture some of the \$133M that was funded in the bill. He further stated there are two developers looking at properties in Wells, NV. **Rob Ghiglieri** said I-80 gold is looking to expand the Ruby Hill mine by 2030-2032 and how an operation like this will bring a couple of hundred jobs to the region. **Sheldon Mudd** said there is a developer that is looking into that area right now and now Eureka is an area the needs to be focused on. **Stephanie Hallinan** asked what is in mind for the aerospace and defense sectors and whether they are associated with Nellis. **Sheldon Mudd** said no, and he thinks that they have recognized the terrain here mimics the theater that we have been in for the last 20 years. He states that since we are so remote and rural there is a benefit, that there are a lot of companies that are doing secure operations, and they are worried about their classification and encroachment. Sheldon also mentioned “dark sky” needs, the ability to look into space, we have the darkest skies in the continental US. He also says there are some individuals in the area with great connections in the defense space and one of them is in Wells, NV, and they are considering manufacturing military clothing for women in Wells.

B. AML Update

Sean Derby briefed the commission on updates in the AML program. The AML interns are now using heat detection monitors to measure field conditions for work stoppages. **Rob Ghiglieri** mentioned that there was a state law that passed which requires the agency to monitor heat conditions for field staff, among other things. **Garrett Wake** said that the regulations aren’t developed yet but will be within a year or two. **Sean Derby** discussed the intern safety plan and daily safety discussions, safety drills which were conducted, and increased the number of daily check-ins with staff. Sean then showed summer intern performance statistics for hazard, securing, revisit and non-hazard visits, and how the use of lidar played into the summer program. He then provided an update on the “Jimmy King” digital media, public safety program, including demographics and view statistics. Sean then showed current federal grant funding. **Rob Ghiglieri** discussed the future national AML hardrock program grant opportunity. **Sean Derby** concluded his presentation.

Bob Potts asked if we expect the funding to go up from OEPC. **Rob Ghiglieri** says he doesn’t expect that number to go up. **Garrett Wake** mentioned the heat illness regulation goes into effect next year. **Garrett Wake** clarified that the Nevada heat injury regulations were codified this past year, but a new air quality monitoring statute was passed this legislative session and would need regulations to be developed. **Sean Derby** talked about an upcoming environment project in partnership with the BLM in the Freiberg mining district. He said people have been camping there for years near potential historic mine contamination and that we’re doing a survey there to assess this. **Rob Ghiglieri** said that this is in the Great Basin National Monument and that it’s telling that the BLM came to us to assist with this project.

C. Annual Status and Production Report

Robert Ghiglieri presented to the commission updates on the 2024 annual status and production report. He stated that Nevada was #1 in non-fuel mineral production at \$9.97B (USGS estimate) and \$9.7B (NV Dept. of

Taxation estimate); Rob is going to look into the difference between the two. Rob showed slides highlighting Nevada's gold production, gross proceeds of minerals by county, and a 20-year history of net versus gross proceeds. Rob detailed the state's gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, barite, lithium, diatomite, gypsum, oil, and geothermal energy production using the NDOM open data website (ndomdata.com). Rob then showed slides highlighting potential upcoming or near-term mineral projects.

Randy Griffin asked about the Centerra project and whether it is operating. **Rob Ghiglieri** said that they are planning to go into operation within the next few years. **Bob Felder** commented that AngloGold Ashanti changed the name of the Silicon project to Arthur and that the project may pass Round Mountain in its endowment, potentially more than a 30-year mine life. **Bob Potts** mentioned that Loneer hit the pause button and asked Rob if he had heard anything. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that they are trying to raise capital and trying to get the final investment to go in to building the development. They did a lot of public outreaches to try and get a fire station. Outside of that he hasn't heard too much. Between Thacker Pass and Loneer could potentially get Nevada to be one of the largest producers of lithium in the world.

D. NGM Update

Christina Erling and **Dan Worthy** from Nevada Gold Mines (NGM) briefed the commission on NGM updates. Christina gave an overview of NGM's projects. Dan discussed NGM's safety culture and programs. Christina and Dan discussed NGM's employment, turnover rate, partnerships with Nevada colleges and vocational programs, workforce development, mine production. **Rob Ghiglieri** asked if there were any plans on building more processing infrastructure at Cortez or elsewhere. **Dan Worthy** said they're looking at an ore-transport process between Carlin and Cortez. Dan continued to discuss NGM's production profile, project highlights, the Goldrush/Fourmile projects, recent technological advancements in assaying, and permitting. Christina talked about NGM's community investments, impacts, and partnerships.

Bob Potts asked how the heritage fund is used. **Christina Erling** said there is a list of approved nonprofits that their employees can pick from and the company will match the donation. **Nigel Bain** asked why they disconnected the Four Mile gold deposit from the Gold Rush deposit. **Dan Worthy** said that when NGM was formed, Four Mile was not understood, and there were a couple of projects that were in the Newmont portfolio that were not fully understood and were not able to be valued to come into the joint venture at that point in time. **Bob Potts** asked what they see as the biggest challenges on the work force development side. **Dan Worthy** states that bringing technical people in and getting them excited to live in places that are more remote is a challenge but that goes for mechanics, electricians, etc. and getting people interested in those trades and is not just important for them but everywhere. **Christina Erling** said they brought broadband internet to the area to get people plugged in, but childcare and long shifts are a challenge. **Bob Potts** asked about demand for labor with more automation. **Dan Worthy** said that the demand for labor isn't currently decreasing. **Robert Ghiglieri** noted that on a tour of a mine in Wyoming recently he saw that three D-11 bulldozers were being operated remotely by one person. **Randy Griffin** asked NGM about having a degree for their jobs and skilled laborers and stated that certain positions require a college degree and it seems that some companies don't value work experience as much. **Dan Worthy** says they have roles throughout the business where people are moved so that they can gain experience and move upwards through just experience. Dan also noted that their company will assist their employees with continuing their education if it is work related. **Robert Ghiglieri** noted that the State of Nevada recently removed the degree requirement to receive an interview to improve hiring.

E. Kinross Update

Stephanie Hallinan presented updates from Kinross and Bald Mountain to the commission. Stephanie gave an overview of the history of the Bald Mountain Mine, the current mine plan, employee programs and a more detailed view of the mine's North and South Operations Areas and nearby pits and leach facilities. Stephanie then gave an overview of ongoing reclamation sites at the Bald Mountain mine.

F. Agency Budget Update

Garrett Wake updated the commission on the agency's budget. Garrett focused on the closing of fiscal year 2025, including the current reserve balance, mining claim filing fees, fiscal years 25 and 26 actual and forecasted revenues and expenditures. **Stephanie Hallinan** asked about plan of operation fee revenue payments. **Rob Ghiglieri** described what the payments were for and where they originate in NRS and NAC 519A. Rob further stated that the agency may look into modifying how the fees are assessed, to possibly an annual model instead of a one-time model. **Stephanie Hallinan** stated that mines already pay an annual fee to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that the current fee structure is hard to forecast and doesn't adequately fund the AML program. **Garrett Wake** stated that the fee funds are there, it's just not consistent because it's a one-time fee. Garrett also said that the fee isn't listed in the reclamation permit, and that the Division is working on getting the fee language added. **Bob Potts** asked if it would be easier on industry if it was in the permit. **Rob Ghiglieri** said that chapter 519A is very long and our portion is small. **Bob Potts** asked why were forecasting a drop in mining claim filing fees. **Rob Ghiglieri** said that we had to forecast for this fiscal year two years ago and at the time the BLM was raising mining claim fees. **Garrett Wake** continued detailing the agency financials. **Robert Ghiglieri** said that the agency had to hold back on conducting some hard closure work because we didn't receive certain federal funding and we haven't received approvals for some projects. **Garrett Wake** finished showing the financials for the Division's Reclamation Performance Bond Pool account and provided an overview of the bond pool.

Robert Ghiglieri noted that our bond pool is relatively small, that the NDEP bond pool is upwards of five billion dollars. **Stephanie Hallinan** asked if anyone has ever defaulted in the bond pool. **Garrett Wake** said it doesn't happen often, but it does happen from time to time. **Robert Ghiglieri** said that participants have to pay a 2% fee even when their bond is whole to sustain the program. **Garrett Wake** said that even if a notice level bond defaults, they are already paid in for the whole amount of their bond, so there is no loss to the State. **Robert Ghiglieri** reminded the commission that they approved \$30,000 to be presented to the Nevada State Museum for a project, but they were unable to receive the funding. **Garrett Wake** said that we will now have to go to the interim finance committee to approve the funding next fiscal year, whereas it would have been much easier for us to transfer the funds this fiscal year. **Josh Nordquist** asked if they were still planning to complete the project. **Robert Ghiglieri** affirmed and said they haven't bought any equipment yet.

G. Kingston Mill Reclamation Project

Garrett Wake briefed the commission on the Kingston Mill Reclamation Project. Garrett stated that the company that held the bond, Western Mine Development, defaulted on the bond in 2006. **Robert Ghiglieri** stated that this started when Mike Visser was the administrator. Western Mine Development didn't mine any of this site, they acquired the property but the bond was under funded, and eventually defaulted. **Garrett Wake** continued in saying that the Division had the funding to conduct reclamation but it took several years to receive approval from the BLM to perform reclamation. Garrett said that the project moved quickly on the project and finished within the budget. **Stephanie Hallinan** asked about the reclamation of a septic tank. **Robert Ghiglieri** said the tank was used for an office building and not mine processing. Robert said that this is one of three parts of this mine that need to be reclaimed and the remaining funds may be used for this. **Bob Potts** asked where this site was located. **Robert Ghiglieri** replied Kingston, Nevada. **Garrett Wake** finished the presentation by discussing the new bond pool database funded by the commission.

Stephanie Hallinan said that this is a great project for the Division to complete. **Rob Ghiglieri** said that we will assess the other sites and possibly use additional bond pool funding to reclaim the other sites. **Garrett Wake** mentioned that Keith Hayes, project manager for NDOM, did a lot of work on this project.

H. Administrator's Report

Robert Ghiglieri provided his Administrator's report to the commission. Rob introduced new commissioner Bob Potts to the commission. Rob also mentioned that four commissioners went through the re-appointment process. Rob informed the commission that the Division of Minerals has a new logo and that new swag will be ordered with the logo. Rob noted that SB 464 was passed by the last legislative session, making Nevada a full member of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. Rob also discussed the development and near-term

release of a copper report partially funded by the Division of Minerals; he believes the final report may be released soon at the Critical Minerals Forum. Rob then discussed the near-term release of the Hardrock AML report that the Division has participated in generating; this will be the first comprehensive nationwide hardrock abandoned mine lands report produced. Rob reminded the commission that the regulation workshop for NACs 513, 519A, 522, and 534A is scheduled for August 26th and briefly described the changes. He discussed the AML Good Samaritan bill, where the Division is working with NDEP to reclaim a historic mining site owned by UNR located between Reno and Carson City. He further said the site is getting an initial evaluation right now and there is an engineering firm that may be willing to provide the closure design specifications at no cost. Rob said that an application must be provided to the EPA as early as October to further determine whether this site meets the criteria and may be one of only a maximum of fifteen projects selected in the U.S. Rob concluded his report by notifying the commission that the Division conducted the annual Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Award tour in July and the three awarded mines will receive the award during the NvMA mining convention in September.

Art Henderson asked Administrator Ghiglieri if the Division could present on thorium-fueled nuclear reactors at the next meeting. **Robert Ghiglieri** thinks we can find a subject expert to present on this topic. **Bob Potts** agrees with this.

IV. Commission Business

A. Vice Chair Selection

Josh Nordquist mentioned the commission needs a new vice chair since the departure of Mary Korpi. **Bob Potts** said he would think about taking on the role but would want the rest of the commission to agree with that.

B. Correspondence to the Commission

No items were submitted to the commission since the previous meeting.

C. Review of Staff Monthly Reports

The Commission reviewed staff monthly reports. **Bob Potts** said he appreciates the Division submitting monthly reports.

D. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Location

The next commission meeting is scheduled for November 6th, and all commissioners have agreed on this date. The commission agreed to hold the next quarterly commission meeting in Northern Nevada.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

4:27 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.