



October 26, 2017

The Board of Chaves County Commissioners held their special commission meeting in the Commission Chambers of the Joe Skeen Building, #1 St. Mary's Place in Roswell, New Mexico. Chairman Corn called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M. Those present were Commissioners Duffey, Corn, Cavin, Ezzell and Bilberry. Also present were County Manager Stan Riggs, Public Services Director Bill Williams, Chief Deputy Clerk Jeff Ortega, former Commissioner Kim Chesser, Dan Girand, Margaret Byfield, BLM representatives Jim Stovall, Ty Allen, Chuck Schmidt and Hector Gonzalez. Also present were news media, staff and guests.

Former Commissioner Chesser led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer.

DRAFT CARLSBAD RMP-REVIEW-BLM

The BLM representatives stated the Carlsbad RMP status hasn't changed. Washington has been briefed and recommendations have been made. The Carlsbad plan is a priority. Former Commissioner Chesser asked what the Administration priorities are. The BLM stated energy independence and family recreation with energy being the main focus. Chairman Corn asked when we would see an early copy of the draft. The BLM stated they do not have a copy yet. Mr. Riggs stated that the County has requested a copy of the draft at least 4 times in writing. Mr. Riggs also stated the online portal was difficult to use for comparing data. The BLM representative stated once the draft is completed they would hold a workshop. Stan stated coordination is why we adopted resolutions. The BLM stated they want to coordinate but they follow direction from Santa Fe. They also stated the process has not changed under the new administration. Margaret Byfield stated the policy gives us 60 days to review the draft to point out any conflicts. She also asked the BLM representatives why they couldn't provide a draft. They stated they would reach out to their director but not sure if he would allow them to release the draft. The BLM representative stated Michael Williams would contact Stan to discuss the status of the draft. Commissioner Ezzell asked why they are following IPRA and not FOIA. He read the definition of IPRA. Mr. Stovall said he would have to refer the County to their attorney.

ACEC STATUS

The BLM representatives were asked what the ACEC status was. They stated nothing has changed. Dan Girand asked if there were any changes from Washington. Ty Allen stated there has not been any significant changes. Margaret Byfield asked if the BLM shared the counties position of opposing ACEC's. The BLM representative stated they have.

LWC STATUS

The BLM representative stated nothing has changed. Commissioner Ezzell stated some LWC parcels are sites where military training is occurring. Commissioner Ezzell questioned why the BLM has not spoken to the military contractor to verify whether the activity is occurring over lands that have been inventoried as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. Mr. Stovall stated they would talk to the contractor and the Air Force and assured the Commissioners they would work with them. Margaret Byfield stated that some LWC's were looked at in previous plans during the 1988 inventory. The BLM stated some inventories were done in the early 2000's and more in 2013. Ms. Byfield asked what has changed to now classify these lands as LWC? Mr. Allen stated that numerous things might have been missed in original inventory and he would have to check the field notes etc. Commissioner Ezzell asked how do you determine LWC when you have power lines going across those lands. The BLM representative stated that "he turns away from the powerlines so as not to see them" then surveys the area. This way he can evaluate the area without the powerlines.

COORDINATION WITH THE U.S. AIRFORCE

The BLM representative stated they had an informal meeting with the Airforce and they would be increasing their flight deck from 400 to 500 feet. Commissioner Ezzell stated during the meeting at Flying H he learned those that did the inventory were not aware of the Airforce military operating area.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE

The BLM representatives stated they would abide by the rules and be in compliance with C.Q.

MICRO BIOTIC CRUST

Chuck Schmidt, field manager of the Roswell BLM stated Micro Biotic Crust is a white crust on the soil, is alive and helps preserve the soil. He also stated the micro biotic crust was not an issue in this area.

CHAVES COUNTY COORDINATION POLICIES R-17-040, R-17-041, and R-17-042

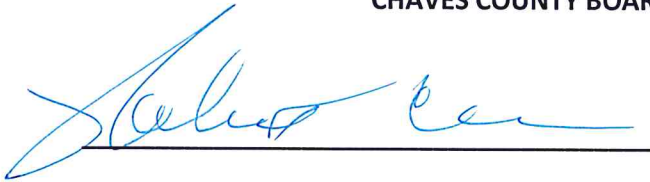
Mr. Riggs stated the coordination policies were approved at last week's meeting. He asked for the BLM's comments. The BLM representative stated they need time to visit with Stan pertaining to the coordination policies. They have lots of questions.

The Land Swap was brought up and Mr. Schmidt stated the lands exchanged are lands the State land commission will exchange with the BLM. Commissioner Bilberry asked how the lands for exchange are determined. Mr. Schmidt stated the trade is based on appraisals. Chairman Corn stated the State Land Office determines the land that will be traded.

Mr. Riggs, asked what level the plan is at. The BLM stated the plan is in Washington with Director Nedd and would let Stan know when the draft is ready. They are hopeful for January.

Chairman Corn adjourned the meeting at 2:35 P.M.

CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



ROBERT CORN, CHAIRMAN



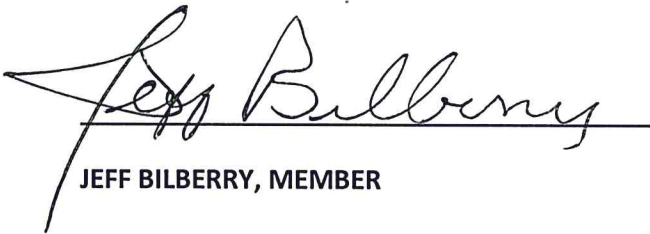
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T. CALDER EZZELL JR, MEMBER



JEFF BILBERRY, MEMBER

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JEFF ORTEGA, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

