

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

PERSHING COUNTY CHECKERBOARD LAND CONSOLIDATION

Nearly four years ago, Nevada Land and Resource Company, LLC (NLRC) began working with the people of Pershing County to arrive at solutions for the checkerboard lands of NLRC located within Pershing County. After wrestling with a myriad of issues, we have a consensus on an approach to consolidating the checkerboard lands and stimulating economic activity within the County.

The Pershing County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution dealing with the consolidation and has forwarded it to Senator Dean Rhoads and requested that the Nevada legislature join Pershing County in endorsing the concept of consolidation as outlined in their attached resolution. The following are the specifics of the checkerboard land consolidation which are, for the most part, premised in local control and retaining the multiple use theory of public lands management as overriding considerations.

The specifics of the Pershing County checkerboard land consolidation need to include the following:

- 1) The conveyance from NLRC to BLM of approximately 250,000 to 300,000 acres of checkerboard land in Pershing County.
- 2) The conveyance from NLRC to Pershing County of approximately 2,500 acres of checkerboard lands for immediate County economic development needs.
- 3) The conveyance from NLRC to the Pershing County Water Conservation District (PCWCD) of lands for the consolidation of PCWCD lands around Rye Patch Reservoir.
- 4) The conveyance from NLRC to Lovelock Meadows Water Company of approximately 2,000 acres of checkerboard lands for wellhead protection and tank locations.
- 5) Crediting NLRC with the fair market value of the lands conveyed pursuant to items 1 through 4 above in the form of a ledger account with the BLM for use only at public auctions of federal lands in the state of Nevada.
- 6) NLRC shall provide Pershing County with twenty years of ad-valorem taxes attributable to the items 1 through 4 properties to allow Pershing County the time to transition auction lands into private ownership, encourage development and expand the county tax rolls and employment base.
- 7) Provide for the expansion of existing utility corridors within Pershing County to facilitate utility upgrades through the County and northern Nevada.
- 8) Insure that certain designated sensitive lands and lands providing public recreational benefits are set aside and not subject to auction.
- 9) Provide that, not less frequently than every 24 to 36 months, there be an auction of federally managed public lands within Pershing County in accordance with the Pershing County master plan in the areas and priority determined by Pershing County.

PERSHING COUNTY CHECKERBOARD LAND CONSOLIDATION

- 10) Provide that existing preferential rights including access on the public lands shall be maintained and there will be no impairment of recreational access to the public lands.
- 11) Provide that the concept of "multiple use" and its principles be maintained for the public lands in Pershing County and that it constitute the overriding policy of public lands management.
- 12) Provide that all grazing preferences and permits shall be maintained in accordance with the numbers of permitted livestock, periods of use and horse free management practices for the affected allotments and management areas and that there be no suspension of grazing rights on the consolidated lands solely because of the acquisition of the checkerboard lands.
- 13) Provide that there shall be a fair and equitable sharing of the public lands auction proceeds between Pershing County and the Bureau of Land Management from the auction of designated federal lands in Pershing County.
- 14) Insure that not less than 50,000 to 100,000 acres are ultimately auctioned from federally managed lands within Pershing County to insure that the county is made "whole" from a taxation and development perspective, knowing that such a process could take in excess of 20 years.
- 15) Insure that existing land owners be afforded modified competitive sale opportunities to protect their holdings and operations.

The county has appointed a working committee of approximately seven individuals, although there are rarely fewer than 12 to 15 participants, to review the county master plan and the areas designated as growth areas within the County in order to provide a rationale schedule and plan for the future auction of federal lands as the community grows and expands.

Attached to this synopsis are two maps depicting the checkerboard lands in Pershing County as they exist today and the initial draft by the Pershing County committee as to location and the priority which they project for future auctions and development within their county over the foreseeable future and within the master plan that currently guides the Pershing County.

A resolution is being drafted for this legislative session which hopefully will find its way through the process before the end of session in early June, 2003. Senator Rhoads has indicated his willingness to travel to Washington to meet with all members of the delegation if that is the delegation's pleasure.

With the limitation relating to land exchanges and the immediate needs to create rural economic opportunity, coupled with the willingness of Nevada's largest land owner to assist in a solution we believe that we can act in a responsible manner to create a positive resolution for Pershing County, BLM and NLRC.