



OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

February 21, 2019

3:00 p.m. – Special Session
219 E. Cherry Ave.
Second-Floor Conference Room
Flagstaff, Arizona

Present: Vice-Chair Lena Fowler, Supervisor Jim Parks, Supervisor Elizabeth Archuleta, all present via phone

Also Present: Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Forest Restoration Director Jay Smith, Management Analyst Gregory Nelson, NEXXUS Consultants Bob Holmes and Ana Ma were also present via phone.

Vice Chair Fowler convened the meeting at 3:10 pm

Special Session - Work Session:

1. Discussion, update and possible direction to staff regarding federal policy priorities and schedule of advocacy visits. **Public Affairs**

Director Peterson began discussion on the Washington DC talking points and how Public Affairs will produce a leave behind folder that will incorporate individual topic leave behinds for congressional offices and administrative visits. Director Peterson noted that a letter has gone out to 4FRI stakeholders for requests in DC.

Director Smith discussed how a potential ask could be having Congress or the Forest Service classify 4FRI as a pilot project. He noted that at the regional level there needs to be support of directives by Forest Service that could extend to 5 years. Another possible issue is a request for amending regional Forest Service Handbooks to dial down a handbook that is specific to the Southwest. Director Smith noted that additional appropriations may be required to managed

federal lands. Director Smith also brought forward a discussion on Federal Highway Administration to see if pilot project designation would allow for the hauling of heavier weights within heavier weights and the market in Phoenix.

Mr. Holmes discussed how having single project has been successful in the past and noted the example of the widening of Lake Mary Road in which there was laser focus. Discussion ensued on transportation and expanding CFL appropriation and possible inclusion forest restoration.

There was discussion on economic development funding on NGS. Vice-Chair Fowler discussed how about 25% of NGS is federally owned and that the ask in DC should be to seed economic development money in a similar way to how federal assistance flowed to local communities when military bases closed.

Mr. Holmes discussed how at a staff meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation staff leadership is supportive to help mitigate the pain of the possible closure, but there is resistance at the Bureau about NGS being classified as federal facility.

There was discussion on the need for broadband investments and how the visits with congress can be a place where the county initiates the conversation that it will pursue grants and will be requesting support letters.

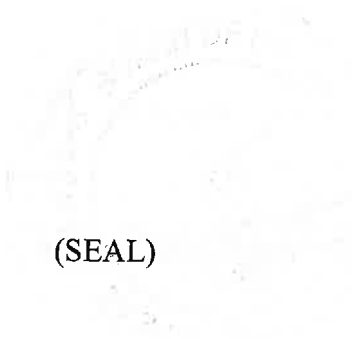
Vice-Chair Fowler discussed how it is important to let Congress know about the North Rim Economic Impact Study. Director Peterson and Mr. Holmes discussed that for now this conversation should occur at the agency level, but that Congress should be aware of the study and the request to expand the season at the North Rim by 2 weeks on each side.

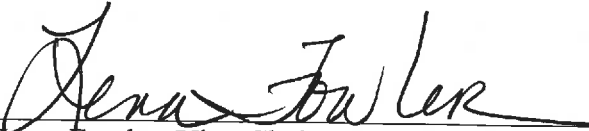
Director Peterson discussed the ask to prioritize uranium cleanup and remediation as an environmental justice issue. Supervisor Parks discussed the importance of keeping the ask separate from the ban on uranium cleanup. Supervisor Archuleta iterated that the Board has taken a position on banning uranium mining around the Grand Canyon. Supervisor Parks iterated that the ban on uranium should be treated independently from the from the issue regarding the ongoing uranium mining at Grand Canyon. Vice-Chair Fowler discussed how Milton Bluehouse has come to the Board to discuss ongoing cleanup efforts. Navajo Nation has 5 federal agencies working on the Navajo abandoned uranium mine cleanup. Supervisor Archuleta would like an item on the legislative agenda regarding active uranium mining and the moratorium and the bill that Congressman Grijalva will be introducing. Supervisor Parks iterated that he does not want the issue of cleanup to get confused with the issue of active mining. He discussed how the abandoned uranium mines are not just on Navajo Nation, but also exist on private property like owned by the Babbitt Ranches. Supervisor Parks would like to see appropriations to cleanup. Supervisor Archuleta discussed how she would like a discussion at a future board meeting about the possibility of a ban and the supporting the Grijalva bill that will be coming out to end mining around the Grand Canyon.

Director Peterson began discussion on administrative asks regarding Forest Service, Transportation, Economic Development, Public Health, Uranium.

Discussion turned to the schedule in DC. Director Peterson noted that the meeting targeted rates is 6 to 8 meetings on Thursday. Vice-Chair Fowler asked for NEXXUS to give overview of the schedule. NEXXUS led discussion on the schedule. Supervisor Archuleta noted that she will be in DC on Monday and wants to be in the meeting with NRCS either on Monday or Tuesday.

Vice-Chair Fowler Adjourned at 4:13 pm.






Lena Fowler, Vice-Chair

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Greg Nelson, Public Affairs and Community
Relations Management Analyst

