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Description automatically generatedSouth Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley held on October 5, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at The South Valleys Library – 15650A Wedge Parkway, Reno**

1.  **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** David Snelgrove, Robert Dunbar, Wesley Mewes, Marge Frandsen, Tom Burkhart

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –** Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The Citizen Advisory Board will also hear public comment during individual action items marked as “For Possible Action,” with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to Board as a whole. [For Discussion Only]

There was no public comment.

1. **ELECTION OF THE SOUTH TRUCKEE MEADOWS/WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR –** Members of the STM/WV CAB will elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve October 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024 term [For Possible Action]

David Snelgrove was elected as chair for South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley.

Wesley Mewes was elected as the vice chair of South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF August 3, 2023** [For Possible Action]

There were no minutes for approval.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE** – General Community Update from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and/or Washoe County Sheriff’s Office. [Non-Action Item]

Truckee Meadows Fire -

Mountain Rose crews removed approximately 800 downed trees to reduce fire hazards. Truckee Meadows Fire had 279 calls in The South Valleys, including 8 fires and 154 medical emergencies. Curbside chipping will start October 16th and go for one month.

1. **NORTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC HEALTH –** On Aug. 31, 2023, the Washoe County Health District changed its name to Northern Nevada Public Health. Communications Manager Scott Oxarart will give a brief update on what this change means, why it happened and what’s next. [For Discussion Only]

Scott Oxarart, the communications manager, announces the recent change in the organization's name from Washoe County Health District to Northern Nevada Public Health. He explains that the change brings a new look and feel to the branding and mentions the new website. He also assures that the services, employees, and phone numbers remain the same.

Scott discusses the various services offered by the health district, including clinic services, WIC program, back-to-school vaccines, permitting for air quality and environmental health, public health preparedness program, inspections for restaurants, pools, spas, child care centers, and land development.

Scott explains that the name change was initiated based on a request from the Washoe County Commission. The reason behind the request was to clarify that the health district is governed by the District Board of Health, not the County Commission. The decision to change the name was agreed upon by the District Board of Health.

A participant raises a concern about the name change and its implication on the geographic scope of Northern Nevada. Scott explains that the decision was based on survey results, which showed that people in Washoe County primarily associate Northern Nevada with Reno-Sparks. The health district's focus is on serving Washoe County residents, and they chose the name accordingly.

Question from CAB member - Participants expressed concerns about the trash disposal, specifically the correct disposal to avoid water contamination and the timing and frequency of pick-ups.

Answer - A suggestion is made to contact Waste Management or the City of Reno for further information on trash and garbage disposal.

Cliff Load – How much did the name change cost?

Answer - A firm was hired to develop a new name, and the cost of the project was $25,000.

The total cost of the name change project, including outreach materials, signage, and advertising, was approximately $225,000.

1. **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND EVACUATIONS** – How to plan for disaster and be personally prepared, by Kelly Echeverria Emergency Management Administrator for Washoe County. [For Discussion Only]

The County Emergency Manager presents information on the hazards in the region and the need for preparedness. The importance of personal preparedness is emphasized, including making a plan, building a kit, and staying informed. Specific examples of preparedness actions are discussed, such as having a meeting place for family members and knowing how to turn off the gas in case of an earthquake.

The speaker advises familiarizing oneself with the streets in the neighborhood to be able to use alternative routes if necessary. The speaker emphasizes the importance of having an in-town and out-of-town point of contact during emergencies. The speaker recommends keeping a full tank of gas to be prepared for evacuations or unexpected situations. The speaker suggests having two emergency kits, one for sheltering in place and another for evacuation, with different contents. The speaker highlights the importance of staying informed about potential risks and disasters, customizing emergency plans, and accessing verified sources of information.

The flow of events is important to understand for a big picture understanding of how decisions and evacuations are made. The Emergency Shelter Council is activated to determine the evacuation shelter location and include it in the alert. The Code Red tool is used for signing up for location-based notifications and allows choosing preferred notification methods. Multiple communication channels are utilized, including social media, email, texts, and voicemail, to ensure information reaches the community. Efforts are made to communicate consistently across jurisdictions and avoid confusion during evacuations. The type of information included in the alerts are the type of threat, the area being evacuated, where to go, and how to find information. Communication is identified as a challenge, but efforts are being made to improve it through training and the use of the perimeter tool. Situational awareness is emphasized, urging people to evacuate when asked and be aware of their surroundings.

The discussion provides factual information about the emergency communication app, its features, and its compatibility with different platforms. The team discusses the plan to create an evacuation video to help set expectations and provide information about evacuation procedures. A concern is raised about the difficulty of evacuating, especially when power is off. The speaker emphasizes the importance of practicing the evacuation plan and familiarizing oneself with the process. The speaker mentions that the app won a Verizon climate change award. The speaker highlights that the app is designed for use in low-connectivity environments.

She explains that they work closely with NDOT, the sheriff's office, and law enforcement partners to manage gridlock during evacuations. The team mentions the possibility of implementing contraflow measures during evacuations.

Citizen - She highlights that decisions regarding gridlock management are made in incident command and unified command in the field. A concern is raised about gridlock during evacuations and Kelly discusses measures to address this issue.

Citizen - A concern is raised about garage doors not opening during power outages and its impact on evacuations.

Citizen – If the power is out and there is an evacuation, how do people get out of their garages?

Kelly decided to add the topic of backup batteries for garage doors to their presentation. The speaker raises concerns about the lack of automatic backup batteries for garage doors and suggests making a plan or exploring grant opportunities for obtaining them. The speaker mentions the importance of adjusting garage doors for easy manual opening and shares a personal experience of a power outage where they had to manually open the garage door.

1. **CAB MEETING TOPICS 2024** – CAB Members will hold a discussion regarding topics of interest for upcoming meetings. Non-board individuals may submit items in writing to the CAB Chair for discussion. [For Discussion Only]

CAB member - The speaker mentions a personal topic related to difficulties in obtaining a well permit and suggests inviting relevant departments to discuss the process and potential improvements. The regulatory process involves too many rules, which slows down progress. The suggestion is to get rid of some rules.

The marijuana facility lounge ordinance has been completed and can be removed from the agenda.

The land bill issue involves creating conservation areas and moving land into those areas. The lands bill issue is an open meeting topic. There is a lack of information and maps regarding the lands bill issue. There are concerns about the lack of details and information regarding the lands bill.

There are concerns about the effectiveness of previous improvements on Mount Rose Highway.

There is a concern about the impact of the homeless and the Cares Campus on the region.

The Envision 2024 topic was taken off the list.

There is a decision to connect with the Department of Agriculture for an awareness campaign on feeding wild horses. There is concern about the issue of feeding wild horses and the risk of them getting hit by vehicles.

There is concern about public access to a neighbor's property. It is decided to have an update from NDOT on planned or recent lane or traffic changes within the boundary area.

Participants express concerns about the spread of homeless camps and suggest involving the Sheriff's Office or responsible authorities for cleaning. The strategic planning session will be held at the Sparks Library and will set the budget priorities for the next 12 to 18 months. It will also provide guidance to the staff based on the strategic plan.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING HUB** – Candee Ramos, Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, to share, if any, the latest community information on neighborhood development meetings. [For Discussion Only]

The planning department works with developers to notify residents about proposed developments within a certain area. Residents were encouraged to visit WashoeCounty.gov to access information about upcoming projects and neighborhood development meetings. Residents were informed that if they have something to say about a project, they can create an identity on ArcGIS and submit their feedback. They were also encouraged to sign up for notifications to receive information about neighborhood development meetings in their district.

The website mentioned has a search bar where residents can easily find information about specific projects. There is also a map available that allows residents to zoom in on their area and see what projects are taking place. The website also provides details about each project, including the developer, type of project, and meeting dates. Residents were informed that they could read about past meetings, view uploaded information, and submit feedback through the website. They were also encouraged to sign up for notifications to stay informed about upcoming neighborhood development meetings. Residents were informed that they can proactively learn about what is taking place in the community by visiting the website. They were also reminded to reach out for help if they need assistance with navigating the website.

1. **CAB BOARD MEMBER/BCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** — This item is limited to announcements by CAB members, Washoe County Leadership, and the Washoe County Commissioner(s). [For Discussion Only]

Manager Brown - On Oct 24th at the Sparks Library, the BCC will have a strategic planning session. This will be the second meeting due to the new Commissioners. The public is welcome to attend.

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Citizen - There is concern about public access to a neighbor's property. It is decided to have an update from NDOT on planned or recent lane or traffic changes within the boundary area. Participants mention specific addresses (16220 Mount Ozai Lake and 16250) and discuss the existence of public access roads and easements. The participants consider the topic of public access roads as a localized issue and question its relevance to the meeting agenda.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.