

# Intergovernmental Executive Committee

## Fallon Range Training Complex

### Final Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

2:00 p.m. PDT

**Virtual Meeting and In-Person at the:**

**Nevada Department of Agriculture**

405 21<sup>st</sup> St

Sparks, NV 89431

This meeting was also held virtually pursuant to NRS 241.023.

Join the meeting online: <https://mantech.zoomgov.com/j/1604859482>

Call in by phone: 1-669-254-5252

Webinar ID: 160 485 9482

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, the Agenda for this meeting was posted at the following locations: State of Nevada Website (<https://notice.nv.gov/>), the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Modernization website ([www.frtcmodernization.com/IEC](http://www.frtcmodernization.com/IEC)), the Clearinghouse website (<http://clearinghouse.nv.gov/>), and the Churchill County Administration Building (155 Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406).

Please Note:

- Public Comment was limited to three (3) minutes per person. The Committee reserves the right to reduce the time or limit the total time allowed for public comment.
- Presentations should be approximately 15 minutes in length plus 15 minutes for questions and answers.
- Items on the agenda may be taken out of order, combined, or removed, or discussion delayed, at the direction of the Committee.
- Documentation and supporting agenda items are available on the FRTC website at [www.FRTCmodernization.com/IEC](http://www.FRTCmodernization.com/IEC)

| <b>Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC) Elected Positions</b> |                                                          |                  |             |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>Government/Agency</b>                                             | <b>Name</b>                                              | <b>In Person</b> | <b>Zoom</b> | <b>Not Present</b> |
| Nevada Department of Agriculture                                     | Chair J.J. Goicoechea                                    | √                |             |                    |
| Churchill County                                                     | Vice-Chair Bus Scharmann                                 | √                |             |                    |
| <b>IEC Members</b>                                                   |                                                          |                  |             |                    |
| <b>Government/Agency</b>                                             | <b>Name</b>                                              | <b>In Person</b> | <b>Zoom</b> | <b>Not Present</b> |
| Department of the Navy                                               | Shane Tanner, Captain                                    | √                |             |                    |
| Department of the Navy                                               | Dan Muller, Commander                                    | √                |             |                    |
| Bureau of Land Management                                            | Jon Raby, State Director                                 |                  |             | √                  |
| Bureau of Land Management                                            | Kim Dow, District Manager                                | √                |             |                    |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs                                             | Colleen LaBelle, WNA Superintendent                      |                  |             | √                  |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs                                             | Seann Woster, Regional Archaeologist                     |                  | √           |                    |
| Nevada Department of Wildlife                                        | Alan Jenne, Director                                     |                  |             | √                  |
| Nevada Department of Wildlife                                        | Matt Maples, Habitat Division, Wildlife Staff Specialist | √                |             |                    |
| Nevada Department of Wildlife                                        | Tony Wasley, Director                                    |                  |             | √                  |
| Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources              | James Settelmeyer, Director                              | √                |             |                    |
| Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources              | Chad Stephens, Deputy Director                           |                  |             | √                  |
| Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources              | Dominique Etchegoyhen, Deputy Director                   |                  |             | √                  |
| Nevada Department of Agriculture                                     | J.J. Goicoechea, Director                                | √                |             |                    |
| Nevada Department of Agriculture                                     | Doug Farris, Division Administrator                      |                  |             | √                  |
| Nevada Division of Minerals                                          | Mike Visher, Administrator                               |                  |             | √                  |
| Nevada Division of Minerals                                          | Rob Ghiglieri, Deputy Administrator                      | √                |             |                    |
| Churchill County                                                     | Bus Scharmann, Commissioner                              | √                |             |                    |
| Churchill County                                                     | Jim Barbee, County Manager                               | √                |             |                    |
| Lyon County                                                          | Scott Keller, Commissioner                               | √                |             |                    |
| Lyon County                                                          | Andrew Haskin, County Manager                            |                  | √           |                    |
| Mineral County                                                       | Cassie Hall, Commissioner                                |                  |             | √                  |
| Pershing County                                                      | Shayla Hudson, Commissioner                              | √                |             |                    |
| Pershing County                                                      | Larry Rackely, Commissioner                              |                  |             | √                  |
| Nye County                                                           | Bruce Jabbour, Commissioner (1069)                       |                  | √           |                    |
| Nye County                                                           | Meagan Labadie, Natural Resources Director               |                  | √           |                    |

|                                                           |                                                                         |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Eureka County                                             | Rich McKay, Commissioner                                                |   |   | √ |
| Eureka County                                             | Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager                                | √ |   |   |
| Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe                              | Cathi Tuni, Chairwoman                                                  |   |   | √ |
| Walker River Paiute Tribe                                 | Andrea Martinez, Chairman                                               | √ |   |   |
| Walker River Paiute Tribe                                 | Elveda Martinez, Water Resources Coordinator                            |   | √ |   |
| Yomba Shoshone Tribe                                      | Marisa Weaselboy                                                        |   |   | √ |
| Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe                                 | James Phoenix, Chairman                                                 |   |   | √ |
| Lovelock Paiute Tribe                                     | Debbie George, Chairwoman                                               |   |   | √ |
| Duckwater Shoshone Tribe                                  | Warren Graham, Tribal Chairman and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer |   |   | √ |
| Duckwater Shoshone Tribe                                  | Debbie O'Neil, Vice-Chairwoman                                          |   |   | √ |
| Battle Mountain Band Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone    | Clorinda Guzman, Chairwoman                                             |   |   | √ |
| Elko Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone       | Danena Ike, Chairwoman                                                  |   |   | √ |
| Elko Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone       | Leah Brady, Council Member                                              |   |   | √ |
| Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes                 | Arlo Crutcher, Chairman                                                 |   |   | √ |
| Reno-Sparks Indian Colony                                 | Arlan D. Melendez, Chairman                                             |   |   | √ |
| South Fork Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone | Duane Garcia, Chairman                                                  |   |   | √ |
| Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California                     | Serrell Smokey, Chairman                                                |   |   | √ |
| Wells Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone      | Harvey Healey, Chairman                                                 |   |   | √ |
| Wells Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone      | Andrea Wood, Vice Chairwoman                                            |   |   | √ |
| Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada                        | Judy Rojo, Chairwoman                                                   |   |   | √ |
| Summit Lake Paiute Tribe                                  | Randi Lone Eagle, Chairwoman                                            |   |   | √ |
| Summit Lake Paiute Tribe                                  | Nedra Crane, Vice Chairwoman                                            |   |   | √ |
| Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone                         | Joseph Holley, Chairman                                                 |   |   | √ |
| Yerington Paiute Tribe                                    | Elwood Emm, Chairman                                                    |   |   | √ |

### ***IEC Liaisons and Support***

| <b>Government/Agency</b>  | <b>Name</b>                                             | <b>In Person</b> | <b>Zoom</b> | <b>Not Present</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Naval Air Station Fallon  | Toni Burton, Tribal Coordinator                         | √                |             |                    |
| Naval Air Station Fallon  | Robin Schofield, Community Planning and Liaison Officer | √                |             |                    |
| ManTech                   | Allison Turner, Moderator                               | √                |             |                    |
| Bureau of Land Management | Melanie Hornsby, Military Liaison                       | √                |             |                    |

### **Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call of Committee Members**

- Chair J.J. Goicoechea, Nevada Department of Agriculture, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
- Ms. Toni Burton, IEC Liaison, called roll. The list of attendees/absentees is above.

### **Verification of Agenda Posting**

- The agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with NRS 241.020.

### **Approval of Agenda**

- No additions or corrections to the agenda were noted.

### **Public Comment**

- Chair Goicoechea opened the floor for providing public comments on the agenda, noting a three-minute time limit per person.
- No public comments were made during this comment period. The public comment period was closed.

### **New/Old Business**

- *FRTC Modernization Website Update.* Ms. Robin Schofield, IEC Liaison, noted that the FRTC Modernization website has been updated since the August IEC Meeting. She also noted that several public questions from the August IEC focused on air and water quality, and pointed out where documents with information on those topics are located on the website.
- *Navy Access Protocols.* Ms. Schofield noted that at the August IEC there was a request for the Navy to review its access protocol agreements. She requested on behalf of the Navy that this be pushed to the February IEC as one access agreement is currently being finalized.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 8, 2023**

- Ms. Schofield noted that there was one change made to the August IEC draft meeting minutes. Chair Goicoechea asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. James Settelmeyer, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, motioned to approve the August meeting minutes; Commissioner Scott Keller, Lyon County, seconded the motion. Chair Goicoechea asked if any IEC member was opposed; no opposition was given and Chair Goicoechea adopted the minutes.

### **Discussion/Possible Action: BLM Update**

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

Mr. Mark Mazza, BLM Stillwater Field Office, provided the IEC with an update on livestock grazing.

- BLM is continuing its efforts to review relevant historic documents relating to the grazing permits that will be affected by range closures.
- The last grazing permittee letter for B-16 was received on July 13, 2023. Therefore, the two-year notification period will end July 13, 2025.
- BLM reiterated that they are trying to maintain the grazing operations as long as feasible, working with the Navy to determine the closure timeline and having good communication with permittees.

Mr. Mike Harmening, BLM Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Nevada, provided the IEC with background information on BLM Cadastral.

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

- As the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Mr. Harmening oversees the land status and title records, analogous to the County Recorder's office and the Assessor's office, tracking titles and documents for the federal government.
- BLM Cadastral tracks land it controls and land that leaves its control. They keep track of the initial patent document, and also keep track of withdrawals affecting federal interest land, such as a National Forest or a military withdrawal.
- Cadastral surveys are required after passage of legislation due to the following reasons: protection of valid existing rights or conveyances of parcels that don't conform to the public land survey system.
- The first step BLM takes when legislation is passed is to reach out to stakeholders. BLM reads the legislation to understand the legislative intent. If BLM can't reach an understanding on the legislative intent with stakeholders, then they have to go back to Congress for clarification.
- BLM is focused on surveying the FRTC boundaries and getting the wilderness areas on title plats.
- Cadastral surveys go through an intensive process before BLM will approve them by a formal decision, as they must be able to defend their decision against any protests.
- Mr. Jake Tibbits, Eureka County Natural Resources Manager, asked if BLM can be more granular than 40-acre surveys for some of the bombing ranges where there's a smooth line, such as for the weapons defense zones. Surveys can be more granular than 40-acre plots. BLM can survey to one and a half acre parcels.
- Forty percent of Nevada is pre-1910 rectangular surveys. The 1910 date is important because that's from the direct system. There was a contract era where surveys were not reliable and boundary certainty in those areas is questionable.
- Mr. Tibbits asked if a Cadastral survey is required for the fencing of a bombing range. Mr. Harmening responded that when the legislative intent is to follow boundaries, and when there are competing interests, BLM has to locate those boundaries in accordance with the rules. The FRTC ranges are interesting because they have non-conforming boundaries and there are also areas where there are valid existing rights being bisected by the FRTC boundaries.
- Commissioner Scharmann, Churchill County Commissioner, asked if boundary surveys need to be completed before consideration can be given to reimbursement for grazing rights. BLM does not

believe that boundary surveys need to be completed prior to grazing reimbursements. There may be Cadastral concerns for improvements such as a water well.

- Early delays to Cadastral surveys were because the BLM needed to make sure they understood the intent of the legislation.
- Mr. Tibbits asked what types of valid existing rights would not show up on a master title plat, then clarifying that to pre-Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) conveyances or rights of way. Mr. Harmening stated that pre-FLPMA right of way grants may not be displayed on BLM title plats. If it's not a valid right getting the research can be hit or miss. If someone sees something they think should be on the title record, let BLM know.
- Mr. Tibbits asked if all federal land withdrawals, whether a presidential order or secretarial order, are they on the master title plats. Mr. Harmening responded that they should be, and that the BLM is working hard to get the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) notations up.
- When BLM re-acquires land, agencies are supposed to notify BLM of any right of way grants. If BLM doesn't receive those notations, they don't know about the rights of way.
- BLM Cadastral is working on cleanup work currently, but there are a lot of latent errors on title plats.
- Commissioner Scharmann asked if BLM has started any of the processes to transfer the lands included in the Churchill County Lands Bill. Ms. Kim Dow, Carson City Field Manager, stated that it would be a good question for after the BLM realty presentation.

Ms. Shedra Rakestraw, BLM Stillwater Field Office, provided the IEC with an update on the four real estate actions.

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

- **B-16 Sand Canyon Road Realignment**
  - The planned realignment was identified on a map and updates were provided on the status of land management responsibilities, the SF-299 application and Plan of Development, and the PR package.
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs – Walker River Paiute Tribe Trust Land**
  - The parcels of land to be conveyed to the Tribe were identified on a map and an update on the environmental site assessment was provided.
- **Section 2907 – Churchill County Land Conveyances and Exchanges**
  - Recreation and public purpose land conveyances and land exchanges were identified on a map and updates were provided on the legislative processes for each land classification.
- **Section 2908 – Checkerboard Resolution Area**
  - The Checkerboard Resolution Area was identified on a map and an update on the Implementation Strategy Plan was provided.

There were no questions from the IEC on the real estate presentation.

#### **Discussion/Possible Action: Navy Update**

- **Thanks and Introduction**
  - In light of the Thanksgiving season, Captain Tanner began by giving thanks to the many people and teams that have been working on the Modernization effort.
- **Natural Resources Update**

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

Ms. Ann Schofield, Conservation Manager at NAS Fallon, provided the IEC with an update on the Navy's natural resources program.

- Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)
  - The Navy is working with their contractor, ManTech International, to update the INRMP.
  - The Navy has held a kick-off meeting with the contractor.
  - The Navy is currently waiting for a formal schedule and work plan for how the plan revision will be executed.
  - The revision of the INRMP will incorporate newly acquired lands, all of the biological studies that were completed during the EIS, and any existing data that is available from stakeholder agencies.
  - The Navy is also planning to update the INRMP goals and objectives, as well as update the species list to ensure it is comprehensive.
  - The INRMP will also have the recently completed Wildland Fire Management Plan and the Agricultural Greenbelt Management Plan incorporated into it, along with an amendment for the current INRMP dealing with the Dixie Valley toad, which is currently being finalized.
  - The INRMP will require an Environmental Assessment (EA) level analysis to ensure public review of the INRMP and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document.
  - Stakeholder involvement in the INRMP process is critical and the Navy is looking for active participation from Sikes Act stakeholders as well as County and Tribal stakeholders.
- Wildland Fire Management Plan
  - The Wildland Fire Management Plan along with its NEPA document were finalized for existing range lands. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed in July 2023.
  - The Navy has secured funding to revise the plan to the additional acreage now that modernization has passed, as well as to implement the original plan.
  - The Navy will provide schedules and work plans to stakeholders (Sikes Act, County, Tribal, etc.) and encourages feedback for both the Wildland Fire Management Plan revision and the implementation projects.
  - The Navy will incorporate the new lands, evaluate fire risk of those new lands, and propose fire breaks and treatment areas based on fire risk.
  - There will be an EA for the new Wildland Fire Management Plan, which will allow for public input. That effort will kick-off in 2024.
  - The Navy secured funding for implementation through its Installation Climate Resiliency program.
    - The Navy started implementation of the plan in 2023 and they have funding to start fuel breaks. B-17 will be the priority for fuel breaks, as that is the highest risk fire area.
    - The Navy will also be working on fire scar restoration in B-17.
    - A map was shown with indications of fuel break and fuel treatment areas on the existing B-17 range.
    - The Navy will be working with the contractor to determine the extent of what can be covered.
      - Highest priorities will be first.

- ManTech will be providing the Navy with a work plan shortly that the Navy welcomes feedback on.
- The fire scar footprints were identified on a map. There were two fires that overlapped on the eastern side of B-17 and that is the area where the Navy is focusing on doing fire scar restoration.
- Fire scar restoration is foreseen as being a multi-year effort, dependent on funding.
- **Cultural Resources Update**  
*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

Mr. Mike Baskerville, archaeologist at NAS Fallon, provided the IEC with an update on the Navy's cultural resources program.

- B-20 cultural resource survey:
  - The total inventory area is 118,000 acres.
  - There was a delay in surveys due to weather and environmental conditions, but surveys have resumed, resulting in approximately 73,122 acres (approximately 62%) surveyed to date.
  - The inventory to this point has recorded 487 sites and 705 isolates. Isolates are typically lone pieces of glass or pottery unconnected to a site.
  - Sites documented include Paleo-Indian sites, at this point 11,500 to 7,500 years BP, along with historic mining sites, roads and other things like that.
  - Each field crew usually has four archaeologists and one Native American archaeological technician assigned.
- B-17 cultural resource survey:
  - Currently around 35,000 acres are under contract for survey, of which 19,767 acres have been surveyed so far.
  - An additional 30,000 acres have just been submitted.
  - There are a total of 197,349 acres to be surveyed.
  - Work plans are updates as new acreage is added, and those work plans are made available to the Tribes for review.
- Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan and Programmatic Agreement (PA):
  - The Fallon ICRMP is under contract and is expected to start soon. Originally anticipated to have already been started, but there were some contracting issues that are being worked through.
  - The PA has been finalized.
  - The PA will be sent to Tribes and available for public comment before formal consultations with the State of Nevada and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Consultation will be completed by December 2024.
- Commissioner Scharmann asked if cultural resource surveys can be reviewed by the counties. Mr. Baskerville stated that, under the Archeological Resources Protection Act, there are restrictions on who can view survey information. Surveys can be shared with Tribes and the state, but not the counties.
- Chairwoman Martinez of the Walker River Paiute Tribe asked if there are any Native Americans involved with the B-17 inventories. Mr. Baskerville confirmed that there are.

- **Tribal Engagement Update**

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

Ms. Toni Burton, Tribal Relations Coordinator at NAS Fallon, provided the IEC with an update on the Navy's Tribal Engagement program.

- Tribal Access Memorandum of Agreement (MOA):
  - Communicating with the Tribes about the MOA has been one of the main priorities of the Tribal engagement office and started at the beginning of the modernization proposal.
  - The Tribal memorandum of agreement (MOA) is nearing completion. It's been an inclusive process with the Tribes, making sure that their comments are received and reviewed and incorporated by the Navy.
  - Ms. Burton reviewed the recent timeline for Tribal engagement since the NDAA was approved in February.
    - A Tribal Leadership discussion was held in April, and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe took leadership of the Tribal MOA to ensure Tribes provided input and ensure all were included in the process.
    - The Navy met with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, Walker River, the Washoe Tribe, the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, and the Yerington Paiute Tribe on Oct. 16. A general discussion was held covering the list of Tribal priorities, including the Tribal MOA. During the meeting, the Navy reviewed the Tribes' comments to address and clarify them.
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Consultation and Coordination:
  - The Navy is in possession of remains that have been with the base for a while.
  - The Navy completed an Inventory Collection Study which they've been reviewing with the Tribes for input, ensuring that the Navy is consulting with the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, their cultural committees and representatives, and Tribal leadership.
  - The Tribes had a Tribal-only meeting to have a free discussion to determine which Tribe they feel would have the right to repatriate the remains.
  - The Navy had a site visit in September and is moving forward with the guidance of the Tribes.
  - The Navy hopes the consultation will be posted in the Federal Register by the end of November to move forward with repatriation of the remains to Tribe(s).

- **Legislative/Implementation Update**

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

Ms. Liz Barris, Navy FRTC Modernization Program Manager, provided the IEC with a status update on recent accomplishments, B-16 execution, and the overall project timeline.

- Recent Accomplishments:
  - Several contracts were awarded in September at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

- The Navy transferred funding to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the State Route (SR) 361 relocation for B-17.
  - The Navy funded the pipeline NEPA efforts to Great Basin for B-17.
  - Ms. Schofield covered awards for the Wildland Fire Management Plan.
  - The Navy has provided funds for Sand Canyon environmental analysis to BLM to start that effort.
- The Navy met with Churchill County to review requirements for Sand Canyon and Lone Tree roads.
- The Navy met with BLM, BOR, and grazing permittees to answer questions and discuss plans for B-16 grazing permit modifications.
- B-16 Overview:
  - The Navy is adding 31,000 acres of BLM land; there is no private land acquisition for B-16.
  - Cultural resource surveys for the fence have been completed.
  - Upon receipt of Naval Special Warfare's plans for target areas, the Navy will ensure there are minimal or no impacts on cultural or natural resources.
    - There will be additional natural and cultural resource surveys once the range improvement plan is received to ensure the Navy meets its Record of Decision (ROD) commitment.
    - The FRTC Modernization EIS will be looked at again to ensure the target area and any roads were adequately covered. If not, the Navy will evaluate what additional analysis may be needed.
  - Letters were sent for the grazing permit modifications for the B-16 areas.
  - There are nominal mining claims on the timeline for FY25 or later because Navy funding for the mining claims is an appropriation in FY25.
    - This appropriation, like all military construction (MILCON) appropriations, is valid for five years. Payments may happen the first year, but the Navy has up to five years to make payments.
  - The B-16 fence is an FY21 appropriation and funding expires in FY25. Fence construction is on track. The Navy is working with BLM on boundary surveys to start fence construction.
    - Chair Goicoechea asked if it needs to be on contract or complete by FY25. Ms. Barris stated that it needs to be on contract; the Navy has time to expend money after FY25.
  - The Navy met with Churchill County and NDOT to discuss Lone Tree Road widening plans. Churchill County is working on cost estimates for NEPA work, design, and relocating Sand Canyon Road.
    - Both road relocations are at FY25 on the timeline as the Navy pushed to accelerate that MILCON to get the ranges online as soon as possible.
    - Previously Sand Canyon was tracking for FY28, but the Navy was able to accelerate. They are taking the same approach with Lone Tree Road, trying to move it to FY25.

- Ms. Barris noted that the relocation of both roads are on the unfunded priority list for FY25 and, although this is a high priority for the Navy, there is some risk.
  - The Navy has received Churchill County's cost estimates and will be talking to Congress to have them included. The Navy is moving as if it's happening in FY25 because that gets the ranges online soonest; however, until appropriations are made there is risk, as other priorities may occur.
- Ms. Barris displayed the B-16 schedule timeline; color coded by action lead.
  - BLM is the lead on the Sand Canyon NEPA analysis. For design, Churchill County has provided the cost estimate to start to get funds; the Navy expects to include in the FY25 submittal. It's the same for Lone Tree Road, 3.1 miles of the road which serves as an access road to B-16, along with the change in ownership.
- Mr. Rob Ghiglieri, Nevada Department of Minerals, asked if a formula has been determined for how nominal mining claim payments will be allocated. Ms. Barris responded that the Navy looked back at the EIS and an appropriated amount was set aside in the MILCON 1391. The Navy is still discussing how the payments will be calculated internally. Mr. Ghiglieri then asked if it would need to be a valid existing claim at present, or when the bill became enacted, so would claimants need to continue to pay their claim fees? Ms. Barris responded that it needs to be a valid claim. If claim fees are dropped claimants would not be eligible for payments.
- Commissioner Shayla Hudson, Pershing County Commissioner, asked if the Navy met with all grazing rights permittees affected, or only permittees for the affected bombing ranges. Commissioner Hudson noted that Pershing County has some permittees. Chair Goicoechea affirmed that they had met with all permittees and would continue to do so.
- Range Overview:
  - All private land acquisition appraisals are starting now.
    - The Navy is looking to appraisers to determine fair market values for land to be acquired.
    - The Navy is prioritizing Dixie Valley draft reports first, planning for March 2024.
    - Dixie Valley will remain unfenced and open to the public. It's difficult to know when the Navy will receive appraisals or who will come to an agreement, but ideally Dixie Valley will be first.
    - The Navy has three MILCONs to purchase land, up to the last MILCON in FY26. The assumption is the Navy will use the appropriation they have now to purchase Dixie Valley land.
  - After BLM Cadastral finishes the boundary surveys at B-16, they will move to B-17, followed by B-20.
  - Grazing appraisals are starting now with B-16 first, but B-17 and B-20 appraisals may be completed sooner than indicated on the timeline.

- Mining claims are scheduled for FY25.
- The Navy funded NEPA efforts for NDOT's relocation of SR-361 and Great Basin's pipeline relocation. Those projects will undergo environmental analyses, design, and then construction. Both projects are planned as FY26 construction projects. The Navy will obtain design funds prior to FY26, but construction is planned to begin in FY26.
- BLM is conducting an environmental analysis for Pole Line Road; the counties are responsible for construction.
  - Commissioner Hudson asked if Pershing County would be responsible for Pole Line Road. Mr. Jim Barbee, Churchill County Manager, stated that it would be split with Churchill County and they can coordinate offline. Ms. Barris stated it would likely be a split, or the Navy paying one county to make it one effort if the counties want that.
- Ms. Barris plans to continue to attend IEC meetings to update on major changes, as schedules shift.
- Three-Month Look Ahead:
  - Lone Tree Road and Sand Canyon Road cost estimates have been received.
  - BLM is working to get NEPA analyses under contract.
  - Navy expects B-16 draft grazing appraisals in January 2024.
  - Great Basin and NDOT are working to get NEPA analyses under contract for the pipeline and SR-361 projects.
  - Navy expects Dixie Valley Training Area appraisals in March 2024.
  - Website has updates on project-specific items.

#### **Call for Agenda Items for Next IEC Meeting**

- The Navy will discuss access protocols at the next meeting.
- If committee members have anything to add to the agenda, they can send to Chair Goicoechea, Ms. Schofield, or Captain Tanner to add to the agenda.

#### **Scheduling of Next IEC Meeting**

- The next IEC meeting will be held during the weeks of Feb. 12-16 or 19-23 in Fallon. A poll will be sent out for the members to vote for their preferred date and time.

#### **Public Comment**

- Chair Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments or public questions, noting the three-minute time limit per person. The IEC Moderator reviewed instructions for how to comment via Zoom.

- *Cortes Exploration Oil & Gas Lease.* Mr. Les Cufuade, manager of Cortes Exploration, updated the IEC on Cortes' activities and efforts to work with the Navy. Cortes has a rig being refurbished for \$500,000 that is scheduled to be onsite in a week. Mr. Cufuade stated that he is making his comment to save everyone money. If Cortes proceeds, their development schedule is 5-7 years of development wells, with 54 development wells in total, five above-ground facilities, and an expected 420,000 gallons of oil per facility, at a cost of \$70-100 million. Funding is from either debt equity financing or convertible note; therefore, Cortes would become a partner in the exploration, which would add to any compensatory damages. The life of the field looks to be 30-55 years. If Cortes will be unable to complete 55 years of development, Mr. Cufuade will confer with owners and avert any situation. He noted that BLM and Navy know how to get in touch with him, and he hopes everyone can work together to figure this issue out.
- *Complex Public Questions.* John Powell from JP Aerospace asked if a process has been put in place for questions too complex to be covered in a three-minute public comment period as discussed at the previous IEC meeting. Ms. Schofield stated that the process has been put in place, cards are provided at the back of the IEC room and commenters can fill those out and submit to any of the IEC staff to work through the more complex questions.
- *Aviation.* Mr. Jim Lee commented on the planned airspace expansion for the FRTC. Mr. Lee expressed appreciation for the aerospace update at the August IEC meeting that he requested. His intent is to keep aviation on the table as he does not hear much discussion about the topic. Mr. Lee then stated that the airspace proposal would lead to a larger blockade between Reno and Salt Lake City than currently exists. All aviators he has spoken to are opposed to the proposal, and public comments he has heard are primarily opposed. Mr. Lee suggested that the Navy work with the Air Force to use restricted airspaces 4606 through 09 between Tonopah and Las Vegas, which is approximately three times the size of the proposed FRTC airspace.

## Adjourn

- Chair Goicoechea made comments expressing his gratitude to the committee and to the Navy. Chair Goicoechea then adjourned the meeting by proclamation of the Chair at 3:48 p.m.