

PAHRUMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Pahrump Environmental Management Advisory Committee
January 07, 2022
scheduled - 11:30 AM / actual – 11:43 AM

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Call to Order.

2. Roll Call: John Pawlak, Robert Adams, Debra Perna, Bill Stremmel
Absent: Mike Smith, Dale Griffin
Guests: Heather Freeman

3. Approval of the Agenda for January 7, 2022

Bill S. – 1st Debra P. – 2nd 4 – yay / 0 - nay

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person)

Heather Freeman said that the UNR Extension had completed its third interview of candidates for a Southern Area educator after Deborah Allen of Tonopah was hired for the Northern Area.

5. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of Minutes of the Pahrump Environmental Management Advisory Committee (PEMAC) meeting of December 3, 2021.

With no errors noted or changes requested, there was a motion to approve: Debra P. – 1st Robert A. – 2nd 4 – yay / 0 - nay

6. Announcements (first) - Robert A. said that today was the deadline for the BLM to receive comments to be compiled into the EIS for the Copper Rays solar project. Bill S. said that he had been informed by Whitney Wirthlin of the BLM's Las Vegas office that comments were also being accepted for the Rough Hat solar project in advance of its formal submission period.

John P. said that the U.S. Drought Monitor for Nevada had moved our area from the "Exceptional" to the "Severe" drought category in the wake of recent precipitation over the West Coast and interior regions.

7. Committee Comments -

Robert A. reported that he had observed "Lots of dumping in the desert," and that he suspects it is "Due to a change in the recycling program", asking "Do they need a dumpster in town?" Heather Freeman asked if grant money was available to pay for a billboard advertising that the public dump on Mesquite Avenue is open seven days a week? She said new residents may not be aware of this facility, and thus resort to dumping in the desert.

Robert A. went on to say that people who should be recycling now may consider it "Just not worth the effort anymore due to [low] prices. Bill S. observed that on his first trip to recycling since the new procedure there was no wait, but expressed concern about scalability due to lack of systemization, and that he was not questioned about

certain items he was unsure as to their acceptability. Heather Freeman said that only grades 1 and 2 plastic could be recycled, expressing disappointment that yogurt containers, being grade 5 were not. She said the grade number is displayed "Inside of a triangle imprinted" every plastic container.

8. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to accept applications to the Pahrump Nuclear Waste and Environmental Advisory Committee, due to two vacancies. The applicants are: Robert Adams and Dale Griffith. There was a motion to accept the applicants was approved unanimously: Debra P. – 1st Bill S. – 2nd 4 – yay / 0 - nay

9. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation – Regarding 2022 work plan for the Pahrump Nuclear Waste and Environmental Advisory Committee

The Committee passed on this item on the recommendation of Chair John P.

10. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation regarding 2022 Earth Day/Arbor Day event is the highlight on next year's calendar. Motion to commence discussion:

Bill S.– 1st Debra P. – 2nd 4 – yay / 0 - nay

John P. said there would "Never be another Earth Day in Discovery Park" due to recent relocation of the Rubalcaba Taco Shop there. Heather Freeman asked if the other end opposite the restaurant? But John P. responded that he "Just does not think it would work."

This year Earth/Arbor Day will happen in Deutch Park and "Proceed as if it will be a full-blown event," as stated by John P. Set-up will be finished by @ 9:00 am for a five hour event: 10:am – 3:pm. John P. is anticipating funding by the Southern Nevada Conservation District to reimburse purchases of "Chicago-style" hot dogs, buns and relish. He was critical of plastic, preferring that beverages be in recyclable metal cans. Heather Freeman suggested selzer or "Anything besides soda" as a liquid refreshment. John Klenke will cook the hot dogs. He said he would "Find someone to run the solar oven concession." There will be a non-monetary raffle for the solar oven, some of the cost for which would be defrayed by donations for the hot dogs.

She also said the event would be advertised at the Farmers Market.

Participants will include:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Debbie Woodland – Great Basin Water Company

Carol Cantino – Red Rock Audubon

Tamilyn Taylor – NYECC. Also from NYECC – Rebecca Hayward to discuss gleaning.

Donna Lamm - Pottery

John P. asked: "Do we want Jenifer back to sing karaoke?" Question remained open.

Heather Freeman said she would be representing the Master Gardeners as for the Extension, and mentioned Jamie Domina with email: jdomina@unr.edu as well as Doyle [Wayman ?] as possible contacts.

Heather Freeman said she would contact Emily Smith at the Nye County School District (NCSD) office about "Flyer permission tabs" to post notices about the event on school bulletin boards. She said they would be "Making a statement for Earth/Arbor Day."

Heather Freeman suggested that Jason & Jennifer Riende could lead an exhibition by high school robotics team under the auspices of the 4-H club.

11. For Possible Action – Discussion regarding future informational presentations to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Committee agreed to pass on this item.

12. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation – Regarding Environmental issues in Southern Nevada and within the Town of Pahrump to include comments to the Board of Nye County Commissioners

Bill S. expressed concern over the declining water table after seeing a Great Basin Water Company rig at work drilling a well farther down into the ground. John P. said his well at his house is at 155 feet with water levels dropping almost one foot per year.

13. For Possible Action – Regarding Nuclear issues in Southern Nevada and within the Town of Pahrump to include comments to the Board of Nye County Commissioners.

Chair John P. reported that a representative of the NNSS spoke to the Commissioners during their Tuesday meeting to state that the Site Specific Advisory Board is "Looking for new members," particularly from Nye County, as "There are plenty of people" from Clark County.

Bill S. recalled reading in an engineering journal that DOE was reclassifying certain types of nuclear waste so that they would no longer be considered as "High-Level". Bill speculated that this action could open up the NNSS to receive more waste than the low level shipments currently being trucked into that facility.

14. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Second)

--- none ---

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Second) -

Applications were needed from two members, Dale G. and Robert A., whose terms were close to expiration. Robert A. had submitted his application.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Bill S. – 1st Debra P. – 2nd 4 – yay / 0 - nay 12:24 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 4, 2022 @ 11:30 am.

Date signed: 13 JAN 22

Signature of Committee Chair: