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Commissioners opt not to hire consultant at this time for landfill review

Written by Dee Holzel

Wednesday, June 08 2011 14:47

WINNEMUCCA — The Humboldt County Commissioners opted to take no action at this time to hire a private consultant to review Jungo Land & Investment's operating plan for a class 1 landfill and provide feedback to the county.

The item was on the agenda for Monday's meeting (June 6), but the commissioner who requested the item changed his mind.

Commissioner Jim French said the operating plans have changed many times, and may change again, it would be better to wait than have the taxpayers pay for multiple reviews as the plans continued to change.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection previously announced they would hold a public meeting in Humboldt County this month for the purpose of allowing the community to comment on Jungo's application for a class 1 landfill, but that meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Commissioner Tom Fransway aired his opinion public meetings should not be held while the issue of the conditional use permit (CUP) extension is making its way through the federal courts.

For those unfamiliar with the issue, Jungo Land & Investments applied for and received a conditional use permit in 2007 to construct a class 1 landfill on Jungo Rd.

In 2010 the company applied for an extension to the CUP, which was granted by the Regional Planning Commission, but was later revoked by the Humboldt County Commission on appeal.

The matter of the CUP extension will now be decided by the federal court. Jungo Land & Investments was granted a stay on the CUP extension, which froze it in place as it was when granted by the RPC.

Quoting the Nevada Environmental Commission, which oversees NDEP, Fransway said their policy was not to proceed to public comments until Jungo obtained all local land-use controls.

He commented, "If NDEP sets any public hearing contrary to the direction of the State Environmental Commission than this county needs to interject a thought that they're going beyond their scope."

However, that may be a matter for the lawyers to fight over since Jungo's CUP extension was stayed by the federal courts.

Since NDEP appears ready to move forward with a public hearing, Commissioner Mike Bell expressed concern the commission would be unprepared without a consultant.

He reminded his fellow commissioners they were advised by legal counsel to hire the consultant.

Bell quoted the lawyers as saying, "If you don't have your expert sitting at that table -- you're in a world of hurt."

He later added, "NDEP could carry on, go through the public hearing, without issuing the final permit, and contrary to what Commissioner Fransway believes, we would be in a bad position."

French said if worst case scenario happened, and it looked like NDEP would move forward with the public hearing, the county could request an extension that would give them time to get their expert on board.



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EVENTS...

Sat Jun 11 @11:00

[Winnemucca Basque Festival Parade](#)

Sat Jun 11 @12:45

[Basque Festival Performances, Contests,](#)

[Shepherders Picnic, and Community](#)

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Sun Jun 12 @09:00

[Winnemucca Basque Festival mass and breakfast](#)

Thu Jun 16 @18:00

[Grief Relief](#)

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- R.J. Gillum
- Zach Jones
- Kate Marshall
- Jacques Maye
- Nancy Price
- Rex Ricks
- Undecided

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