

Custer County  
Special Meeting Proceedings  
August 17, 2022

The TUSA Kick-off meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Wayne Butts. Attending were:

Wayne F. Butts	Comm. Chairman	(208) 833-2332	<a href="mailto:wayne_butts@hotmail.com">wayne_butts@hotmail.com</a>
Steve W. Smith	Commissioner	(208) 339-1220	<a href="mailto:cccomsmith@gmail.com">cccomsmith@gmail.com</a>
Randy Corgatelli	Commissioner	(208) 879-2432	<a href="mailto:ranchers4life@yahoo.com">ranchers4life@yahoo.com</a>
Tina Hawkins	Deputy Clerk	(208) 879-2978	<a href="mailto:thawkins@co.custer.id.us">thawkins@co.custer.id.us</a>
Norm Folger	TUSA	(817)343-8288	<a href="mailto:Norm.Folger@TusaConsulting.com">Norm.Folger@TusaConsulting.com</a>
Jeff McNally	TUSA	(913)620-6077	<a href="mailto:Jeff.McNally@TusaConsulting.com">Jeff.McNally@TusaConsulting.com</a>
Levi Maydole	County Disaster Services	(208) 993-9522	<a href="mailto:CCDS@custertel.net">CCDS@custertel.net</a>
Stuart Lumpkin	Custer Co. Sheriff	(208) 993-3100	<a href="mailto:custersheriff@gmail.com">custersheriff@gmail.com</a>
J D Bennetts	Custer Telephone Co-op	(208) 833-6000	<a href="mailto:JDBennetts@custertel.com">JDBennetts@custertel.com</a>
Blain Aldous	School Dist. #181	(208) 879-5088	<a href="mailto:sd181transportation@custertel.net">sd181transportation@custertel.net</a>
Mark Nelson	USDA Forest Service	(208) 721-4156	<a href="mailto:mark.nelson@USDA.gov">mark.nelson@USDA.gov</a>
Alex Kohlepp	USDA Forest Service	(208)756-7154	<a href="mailto:alexander.kohlhepp@USDA.gov">alexander.kohlhepp@USDA.gov</a>
Larry Garey	Challis Fire Dept.	(208)308-5111	<a href="mailto:larry.garey@idpr.idaho.gov">larry.garey@idpr.idaho.gov</a>

*Invited to attend, but unable to make the meeting were:*

Randy Ivie	Mackay Fire Dept.	(208)527-3038	<a href="mailto:mackayfire@yahoo.com">mackayfire@yahoo.com</a>
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(Randy is also the one that handles the S. Custer Ambulance District)

Steve Rembelski Challis Area Health Center (208) 879-4351 also knowledgeable about N. Custer Ambulance Dist.

*Entities that also need communications in the Custer County area:*

Idaho Fish & Game	Salmon Regional Office	208-756-2271	
Lost River Electric Co.	Mackay, Idaho	(208)588-3311	
Salmon River Electric Co.	Challis, Idaho	(208) 879-2283	Ken Dizes, Manager
Idaho State Police – Highway Patrol	Dist. 6	(208) 525-7377	
Idaho Dept of Transportation	Dist. 6	(208) 745-7781	

Chairman Butts asked for introductions around the meeting to help get everyone acquainted. He then explained the impetus for this Kick-Off Meeting and the communication issues within Custer County. Norm introduced himself with a brief overview of his job history. He then gave some background on the TUSA Consulting Company and their track record of work done. Jeff assisted with technical explanations when asked. “Phase I – Needs Assessment” is the purpose of this meeting. TUSA will Investigate, Interview and Inspect the current communication system within Custer County. TUSA will send an on-line questioner to all who have attended to begin fleshing out their “investigation”. “Phase II – Procurement” will not begin until the first phase is completed. At that point they will build an RFP that will be tailored to the needs of Custer County. Vendors really don’t like the RFP process, and they tend to lose money when they are required to compete with each other for your business. “Phase III – Installation & Project Management” will be the final installation and TUSA will handle the project oversight of contractors. Their goal is to establish a communication system that will be beneficial for at least 15 years.

General discussion was held on present communication coverage and areas that are needing improvements. Norm asked for a single point of contact, and Chairman Wayne Butts agreed to do the job. He will then update Clerk Lura Baker and others as needed. The current communications repeater sites were listed and each one discussed.

Potaman Peak – ownership shared between BLM and USFS – solar power is used

Windy Devil – ownership by Lost River Electric Co.

Basin Butte – ownership by State of Idaho

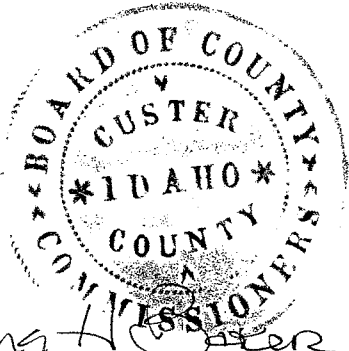
Grouse Peak – 3 buildings/ ownership State, USFS, County

Blain Aldous/School Dist. #181 explained his current radio system, and that he has 95% coverage within his school bus routes. JD Bennetts/Custer Telephone Co-op. Inc. has assisted Salmon River Electric Co-op. with their radio issues during the past year. The Teton Communications systems in this area were also discussed.

Transportation to reach each repeater site was then discussed. At a minimum a 4 x 4 vehicle is required, and Potaman requires either a horse or a helicopter for access. It was decided to visit the Grouse Peak repeater this afternoon. Larry Garey/Challis Fire Department was brought up to speed, and encouraged to hold off on purchasing any new N Custer Fire Dept. radios until they could be included in this project, to enjoy a large savings in cost. The current communication system configuration between Custer Co. Sheriff/Custer Telephone/USFS was explained. All agreed it is antiquated and needs to be updated and simplified. Mark offered to provide a tour of the local Forest Service Microwave Radio Room before the trip to Grouse Peak. The Sheriff's Office dispatch system will also be toured and inventoried with Sheriff Stu Lumpkin. JD Bennetts/Custer Telephone offered to continue community services, and his assistance where ever possible. Levi Maydole made arrangements with the Probation Office to use the 4x4 Durango to help get folks up to the Grouse Peak site for a tour. Larry Garey also offered his 4x4 truck for transportation. The meeting was recessed at 11:30 AM to tour the Sheriff's dispatch system.

Norm and Jeff toured the Sheriff's dispatch area, antennae system, communications room and the emergency generator system with the Commissioners and Sheriff Lumpkin. They did a photo inventory for their records. The tour then continued at the US Forest Service Microwave Radio Room with Mark Nelson. A photo inventory was completed there also.

Levi then hosted Norm and Jeff for lunch at the 7C Junction where the TUSA representatives, Chairman Butts, and Levi will gather to continue their site visit to Grouse Peak. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.



Attest:

Lura H. Baker  
Lura H. Baker, Clerk

Wayne F. Butts  
Wayne F. Butts, Chairman