

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
January 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Randy Corgatelli with Commissioner Will Naillon, Commissioner Gordon Vaden, Clerk Lura Baker, NRAC Chairman Jim Hawkins, and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance.

Lura provided the e-mail she received from Heather DeGeest/USFS asking for a meeting with the Board of Commissioners for their review and consideration. Commissioner Vaden moved to amend the agenda and put NRAC in at 8:00 AM as the Road & Bridge and Weed Departments will not be attending. He also moved that Rodeo Committee be moved up to 2:30 PM from the original 4:30 PM time slot. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed.

NRAC: Jim Hawkins reported that the "Perry Amendment" to House Bill HR471 "Fix our Forest Act" has passed. This amendment striped out the natural asset language with a vote of 279-141. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. Chairman Hawkins then inquired how the Board felt about the Joint Custer/Lemhi NRAC meeting about Coordination. They responded it was informative and positive. Hawkins has fielded many questions from Lemhi Co. during the last few days. Commissioner Naillon suggested that Jim invite Ray Henderson to a Custer Co. NRAC meeting. The letter to USFS Forest Supervisor/Heather DeGeest requesting a Government to Government meeting on Land Use was approved by the Board. It was suggested that Custer Co. take the lead with any questioning.

Clerk: Lura Baker reported that the Big Lost River Irrigation District (BLRID) is working with ALTURA on their requests for proposals for the Mackay Dam repairs. The process is moving slowly forward. Clerk Baker then presented Credit Card Use Requests for the Board members attending the NACO meetings in Washington D.C. Commissioner Naillon made a motion to approve the credit card use for VBO Lodging @ \$2,075.31, and NACO Registration costs for Commissioner Naillon @ \$590.00 and NACO Registration costs for Commissioner Vaden @ \$590.00. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion and it passed.

The **Eastern Idaho Public Health Department** sent the paperwork for appointment of a new member to their board. The next EIPH meeting will be held on Feb. 6th. Commissioner Naillon moved that Commissioner Gordon Vaden be officially nominated as the Custer County representative on the EIPH. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. The form will be completed and returned by Clerk Lura Baker.

The Sawtooth Society/Melinda Markin is applying for a Community Wildfire Defense Grant and has requested a letter of support from the Custer County Commissioners. Clerk Baker will inform her of the Firewise Commissions efforts with Tucker Flatten. Commissioner Naillon inquired if the Hailey and Stanley chapters of the Sawtooth Society were one and the same? Clerk Baker will contact Melinda to learn about their plans for the grant funds.

The meeting was recessed at 8:40 AM to go into South Custer Ambulance District business. The meeting was reconvened at 8:42 AM.

Commissioner Vaden reported on attending the Eastern Idaho State Fair budget meeting. He felt it went well and was able to meet all the other members involved. The EISF has been in operation for 123 years and is doing well financially. The Court Annex is coming along. The window "frames" are in and the siding will be installed next. The HVAC system is being installed also. Clerk Baker explained that the Supreme Court is funding the installation of the electronic systems that they require for a jury. Commissioner Vaden then reported on his search for information on the Star Link Systems. He wasn't able to find much information on the Star Link web-site. He was directed to ask Best Buy, a dealer of Star Link. There are different plans that you can purchase, Basic subscriptions is \$250 per month, video subscriptions are \$1000 per month and the top subscription costs \$5000 per month. The equipment needed for a solid location is \$350, the equipment for a moving vehicle is \$2500.

The Commissioners discussed putting a system on a Road & Bridge plow truck to test the coverage in the upriver areas. Clerk Baker will update Brandon Jones on this possibility. Commissioner Corgatelli will talk to his son-in-law who currently uses Star Link.

Planning & Zoning: Jessica Clemenhausen/Administrator attended. Discussion was held on the benefits and problems of increasing the P&Z Board membership to 9 from 7. A quorum would require 5 members instead of 4 members. She will verify these issues with her P&Z Board before any decision is made. Jessica then provided two letters of reconsideration on the appeals (Whipple) and (Thurber/Wilson) she has received. Decisions are required within 60 days. The Commissioners would like to confer with the Land Use Attorneys and the Administrator before any decision is made. Commissioner Naillon suggested Feb. 10th as a date for the Commissioners to confer with the Land Use Attorney. A Zoom meeting will be arranged if possible. Commissioner Naillon then reported on meeting with the P&Z Board Chairman, Brant Tritthart about needed updates on Ordinances and the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Naillon asked if Administrator Clemenhausen could get the priority list from the P&Z Board for the Commissioners. The P&Z Board must do the update work needed on the Comprehensive Plan, but they can recruit a sub-committee to assist them. Commissioner Naillon then reported on the CEDA meeting that he attended, as well as the Stanley City Council meeting. Employee housing is the #1 issue in both arenas. Every plan offered seems to have issues. Commissioner Naillon made a motion to table any decision on the Letters of Reconsideration that were received, for further review and possible advice from council. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion and it carried.

Travis Pyle/Great West Engineering: The Zoom connection between the Board of Commissioners and Travis Pyle was made at 9:28 AM. Travis began with an assessment of the solid waste fees that Custer Co. is currently charging. Residential - \$25.00 and Business - \$50.00. These rates are way to low to cover coming expenses, as well as far under any adjoining county fees. Commissioner Corgatelli reported that Lemhi Co. charges \$130 for Residential.

Needed changes that are being considered are;

- A) Re-open the Stanley Transfer Site;
- B) Up-date current transfer sites in Mackay, Challis, Stanley, & E. Fork
- C) Possibility of Challis Land Fill – small, rural unlined site. Small community exemption for 20 ton per day.

Travis explained the financial costs of doing any of the above listed changes would require the solid waste fees to be raised, ie; Residential from \$25.00 to \$100.00; and Business from \$50.00 to \$200.00 based on the volume of trash generated. He has conducted research with some Custer county business and the Challis and Mackay refuse haulers. He was unable to get any response from Clear Creek Disposal in Stanley. Commissioner Naillon inquired if Great West Engineering was in on the feasibility study, and could he explain what they found? Travis was the lead on the study and the finding was that the current solid waste fees were way to low to support any changes. Currently Custer County is hauling their solid waste into other landfills in Lemhi Co., Jefferson Co., and Blaine Co. Those tipping fees are the engine of solid waste financing. Travis has looked into opening a Small Community land fill in Custer County, but it will be very challenging. You have an existing site that is mostly OK. There is a lot of permitting required for a small community land fill, and you must be self-funding which will require a large increase in the solid waste fees. A county landfill must be used by the entire county for their solid waste plan to be successful. No solid waste should be shipped out to other counties. More solid waste personnel will be required. Commissioner Naillon suggested that the Stanley transfer-station needs to be re-opened before anything else can be accomplished. He suggested one day per week during the winter and 2 days per week during the summer. Clerk Baker reported that Custer County has already purchased two 50-yard roll off containers for use at Stanley and the 2025 special use permit from the USFS has been renewed. Ads have been placed for an employee for the Stanley site with no response as yet. The previous Board of Commissioners had asked for a meeting with the Assessor to get updated figures on the actual number of Business and Residential solid waste accounts. Commissioner Naillon floated the idea of lumping some solid-waste hours into another county part time job, to get the Stanley site up and running. Other options discussed were perhaps using Blue Mountain employees. Commissioner Naillon offered to discuss the options with Wendell Gohn. Travis then listed the priorities as he sees them. #1 Raise the Solid Waste Fees as possible; #2 Find funding for Capital Improvements; #3 Settle on a long-term solution within

the next 3 or 4 years. Commissioner Naillon then inquired if moving the Mackay Transfer Site onto the new location was included in the assessment? Travis understands that Custer County has \$300,000 set aside for solid waste, but no specific plan in place. The new Mackay site needs an access road, perimeter fencing and a scale-transfer building. Commissioner Naillon plans to tour some small solid waste sites in Montana and will stay in contact with Travis. The Zoom connection was ended at 10:15 AM

Probation: Officer Aletia Straub-Workman provided her monthly report to the Board. She still has nine juveniles in her probation program, and a misdemeanor case load of 31 cases. The 2017 Dodge Ram truck that was transferred to the Probation Office was reviewed. It is operating OK, but the gas mileage is not great. The Durango that the Probation Dept. and Coroners Office share is beginning to have some mechanical problems, as well as the odor issues. Aletia inquired about trading the Dodge Ram truck in for something that would get better mileage. The Board gave her the go ahead to check on the trade-in value of the 2017 Dodge and get the cost of a vehicle that would better serve her office. Purchase options were discussed as well as repair shops for the Durango. Aletia then reviewed her P.O.S.T. Certification and other qualification's and training for the new board members.

Clerk: Lura Baker-Clerk reviewed the computer problems that her Chief Deputy Tamra Glampedraglia is having. She has contacted Snake River Computers about getting a replacement. The Board agreed with the need and Commissioner Naillon made a motion to approve up to \$1,300.00 on the cost of a new computer. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion and it passed.

Walt Johnson/Butte SWCD: Walt Johnson attended and presented medallions from the Butte Soil and Water Conservation District that commemorate the 80th Annual Conference of the ID. Assn. of Soil Conservation Districts to the Board of Commissioners. Walt then reviewed some of the projects that they are working on. The upper 6 miles of the Burnett Ditch is being put into a pipe. This is to reduce the amount of pumping as well as actively re-charging with the excess spring runoff. The Butte Co. SWCD does encompass the entire Lost River drainage. Walt then asked the Board of Commissioners for a contribution to the BSWCD for 2025. Commissioner Naillon made a motion to add \$500 to the 2024 contribution of \$4,725.00 for a total of \$5,225.00 for the Butte Soil and Water Conservation District. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion and it passed. Clerk Baker will get the official paperwork completed.

Claims: Commissioner Naillon moved that the following claims be approved and paid with one addition of \$5,225.00 for Butte SWCD, Commissioner Vaden seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	48,269.76
Road & Bridge	22,553.63
Election Fund	532.84
District Court	6,613.62
Rodeo Grounds	60.44
Jr. College	3,450.00
Revaluation	24.69
Solid Waste	5,081.25
Weeds	1,592.83
Waterways	4.54
Emer. Communications	18.00
TOTAL	\$ 88,201.60

Discussion returned to solid waste issues, and the Board members agreed to continue getting needed information. The Blue Mountain Refuse Contract is coming up for renewal in March of 2025.

The meeting was recessed for a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30 PM.

Emergency Services: Administrator Lisa Benson attended and provided her monthly report. She has learned that Brad Ritchey, Idaho State Director of Emergency Management is retiring. Benson then reported that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is now signed and complete. This Plan has to be renewed every few years. Lisa has been working on the old files and has the county reimbursements coming. She has received a price for a laptop computer of \$1,600.00 which will include a new mouse from Snake River Computers. This will be paid from the 2022 SHSP funds.

Lisa has met with JD Bennetts- General Manager of Custer Telephone Co-operative Inc. about the Star Link phone systems. She learned that this is a system that is here to stay. It was suggested by JD that the county needs to just try a couple of the units, in either the Road & Bridge Dept. or the Search & Rescue Dept. The Board expressed a real concern that if Custer County spends millions on updating the current radio system, that it may be obsolete before it is even paid off. Lisa suggested the Board members take advantage of Thursday morning "coffee with JD" at the CTIC cottage and get their questions before him.

Administrator Benson then informed the Board of an event planned for May 29th & 30th by the SVWLCSC. They are looking for what the community wants and taking suggestions for projects. Commissioner Naillon offered to attend their next meeting with Admin. Benson. It is scheduled for Feb. 26th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Lisa then reviewed the work she has done with the Small Business Administration. (SBA) In the aftermath of the Wapiti Fire she received 14 applications for their SBA Loan program. She sent them all on to the SBA, and has since learned that they only approved one loan in the area. She was disappointed with the results of her efforts. Commissioner Naillon inquired about who is the provider for telephone service in the Stanley area? He was curious about why Custer Telephone was not servicing the area. The Board encouraged Lisa to continue her research on the Star Link system facts.

The minutes of the January 13, 2025 regular Commissioners Meeting were then reviewed. Commissioner Naillon made a motion to approved the 1/13/25 Commissioner minutes as presented. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion and it carried. Commissioner Vaden then made a motion to approve the payment of \$1,600.00 for a laptop computer for the Emergency Services Dept. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed.

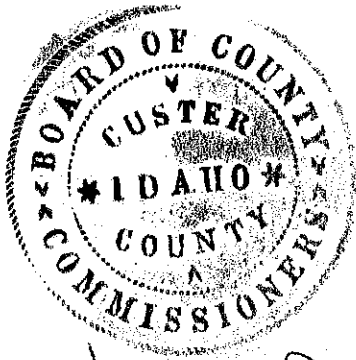
Rodeo Committee: Committee members Myla Naillon and Krista Koeppen attended. Commissioner Naillon recused himself from any board decisions as a member of the RC&D Board as well as the family relationship. Myla let the Board know that the Rodeo Committee is searching for a grant to purchase a tractor. The High Country RC&D has such a grant, but the applicant must be a municipality to apply. She asked if they could be under the county umbrella for such a grant application? The Grant application is due by February 26th, 2025. Clerk Baker verified that the county has done this type of grant work before, and was amenable to do it for the Rodeo Committee. Commissioner Vaden made a motion that Custer County assist the Rodeo Committee with the Application. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. The Rodeo Committee then informed the Board about their plan to put in 20 RV space hook-ups at the N. Custer Rodeo Grounds. They have received a cost estimate of \$60,000 for the installation of the sewer and power systems. They would like to apply for a GEM Grant that will be used for this project. They would like to be able to compare with the Mackay Rodeo Grounds and the Salmon Rodeo Grounds.

Commissioner Naillon moved to amend the agenda to move U of ID – Sarah Baker up to 2:30 PM from 3:30 PM. Sarah was called to let her know of the change. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion and it passed. A Special Policy Meeting was scheduled for February 12th at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Room for the Board to work on policy updates with Clerk Baker. Clerk Baker will get the policy information ready for them for review.

U of I – Sarah Baker: Extension Educator Sarah Baker introduced herself to the new Board members. She also passed out information from the University of Idaho as well as a list of Fair Board responsibilities. She has been the Custer County Extension Educator for 16 years, with this being her 17th year. The agreement between Custer County and the University is a contract. All her expenses are paid through the University with the exception of the photo copier she has in her office which the county pays for. She is salaried but is asked to be available in her office 20 hours per week. Her responsibilities include 4-H Programs, County Fair, Ag. Management, Beef Management, Beef Schools, Applicator Classes, and Range Monitoring Classes. The livestock projects are by far the largest in the 4-H and FFA programs. Non-animal projects have dwindled but are beginning to rebound. The Fair Board covers all

the costs of the County Fair, such as ribbons and judges. The Market Animal Sale Committee operates the Sale and they collect 1 to 1.5% of the proceeds to operate on. Sarah then reported that the Market Animal Sale payment checks to the exhibitors went out on December 30th. This was way to late and many folks are very upset. This has become an ongoing problem that they have tried to solve by offering on-line bill pay and requiring "buyer paperwork" to be signed before the sale begins with a deadline for payment. She is open for suggestions. Baker offered to attend Commissioner meetings more than just quarterly, if the Board would like.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.




Randy Corgatelli, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:



Lura H. Baker, Clerk