

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
October 15, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 AM in the American Legion Hall by Commissioner Vice Chairman Steve Smith, with Commissioner Jake Zollinger, Clerk Lura Baker, Gordon Vaden and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance. Commissioner Chairman Randy Corgatelli attended via phone connection.

Road & Bridge: Supervisor Brandon Jones attended the meeting via phone connection. He reviewed the LHTAC – Special Bridge Agreement as well as the blueprints of the project and the service agreement. The cost has changed from \$28,000 to \$31,000 which also changed the 7.374% match amount to \$26,906.00. This will include a daily camera fee of \$15.00. Commissioner Smith made a motion for approval of the Special Agreement from LHTAC. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed. Brandon will get all the paperwork taken care of with assistance from Clerk Baker. Supervisor Jones then reported that the Mack water truck is costing more to operate than it is worth. The front main seal is out and it is using 1 ½ gallon of oil per day. He offered the solution of utilizing the dump truck with the repaired front frame as the water truck, and putting the Mack up for sale on Idaho Surplus. After explanation, the Board all agreed that it was a good plan and supported Brandon. The Road & Bridge crew has finished partnering with the LRHD zipper work in Mackay. The LRHD will be bringing three dump trucks all with pups to partner with CCo.R&B in hauling road surface materials for the Custer Road near the Lost River Summit. The rest of the crew is finishing the grading work and prepping for plowing snow this winter.

Clerk: Clerk Lura Baker provided information on Solid Waste for Wendell Gohn/Blue Mountain Refuse. Wendell has purchased a 50 cubic yard roll-off unit on behalf of Custer County at a cost of \$28,078.00. He will look into picking it up on a back haul, but if it doesn't work out, we will have to add delivery charges. He has also purchased two new batteries for the Mackay site scale at a cost of \$378.58. The Mackay solid waste site space used for the dead animal pit is nearly full and a new pit needs to be dug. Gohn requested a map of the site to assist with a location to dig the new pit. All agreed that the new solid waste property will need to be utilized soon. Clerk Baker provided a copy of the ICRMP Insurance Policy for Custer County to the Board. Older county vehicles that are no longer utilized were discussed. Clerk Baker let the Board know that the blue Ford that the Assessors office retired is wanted by the N. Custer Rural Fire Department. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion that the Blue Ford be gifted to the N. Custer Rural Fire Department. If the truck doesn't fill their needs, then the truck will be sold on Idaho Surplus. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. The Board verified all the county buildings were listed in the ICRMP insurance policy. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the Custer County Joint Powers Agreement/ICRMP Insurance Policy for 2024/2025. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Solid Waste Fees: The 2024 total figure for Solid Waste of \$97,265.00 was received from the Assessor's Office. Plans for a needed increase will be handled during the upcoming 2025 year. Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve \$97,265.00 for Solid Waste Fees. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Clerk: Lura Baker then presented the information on Operation Green Light, supporting & honoring our veterans. Resolution 2024-12 was reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve Resolution 2024-12, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. The Budget Resolutions that were adopted at the last meeting were reviewed and verified. Signatures were affixed to Resolutions #2024-07, #2024-08, #2024-09 and #2024-10. Commissioner Zollinger then moved to amend the FY2025 Salary Order with "drone pilot" additions. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

United Fleet Service/Clete Carter: Mr. Carter presented his information on vehicle and equipment leasing opportunities for small government. The lease options include 2-year or 3-year plans and optional buyout options, as well as a 5-year capital lease program. At the end of the lease, all extra funds go back to the county. Large equipment or specialty equipment can be leased for up to 15 years. They offer a customization and up-fitting option for fire departments and sheriff's departments. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about "service

requirements"? Clete responded that the first three years the vehicles are under warranty. They have no cap on mileage. Deputy Ethan Kelly inquired about the up-fitting for light bars and other law enforcement equipment? Clete explained that the silicone plugs they use now make it much less problematic. The example given was for a half-ton Ford XLT. With United Fleet Services would cost \$9,500.00 per year and if you purchase it outright it would cost \$11,500.00 per year. Commissioner Smith inquired about their inventory. You can get on their mailing list and you can also give them a wish list of needed vehicles.

Commissioner: Commissioner Smith reported that he is having a horrible time finding someone in the HVAC business to hook up the wood heating stove in the Stanley deputy housing. He had no luck with Ray's Heating. Two additional HVAC installer names were provided for him. Han's at Mackay Lumber and Wiemer Heating & Cooling from Idaho Falls. Smith has contacted the CHC Foundation about grants and they suggested he get in on the next grant cycle that begins in January. Steve will get the application filled out and make the request on behalf of Custer County. Commissioner Smith has found 5 cooler units on E-bay that may be what the Custer Co. Fair Board is needing. He passed the information on to Commissioner Zollinger who attends the Fair Board Meetings.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer/Treasurer provided her monthly report to the Board, there were no questions or concerns. She also provided her investment returns report that showed interest income for 2024 of \$899,879.69. The Board thanked her for her efforts on the county's behalf. Latimer reported that the Court Annex building is progressing. Wunch Electric is currently working on the electrical installation. The water connections with the City have been completed. The doors are being finalized, per safety requirements. The roofing is also in process of being installed.

Un-named Lake: The unresolved issue of naming a small lake in the Copper Basin area was revisited. Mr. Yavorsky would like to honor his wife with the name of the lake. Commissioner Smith didn't feel that any of the name options given were acceptable, and requested additional choices. Clerk Baker will forward this request.

Probation: Clerk Lura Baker reported on behalf of Aletia Straub-Workman and provided copies of her report for each Board member. She currently has 10 juveniles on probation. Her misdemeanor probation caseload is 28 cases. Aletia is also assisting the District 7 Treatment Court with getting applications submitted in a timely manner. There is once Child Protection case she is working with currently. She has been informed that she may be subpoenaed for a CPS hearing in Bonneville County. Aletia has purchased a replacement console for the 2017 Dodge Ram and will be picking it up soon.

Fire Incidents: Commissioner Zollinger reported that the local Fire Incident Command Center has been moved to Salmon. The City of Salmon is having real problems with mob-shoplifting. They have up to 200 people come into a store all at once and some of them leave with stolen items. Store owners are having to hire extra employees for security.

NRAC: Chairman Jim Hawkins and Louise Stark attended. Louise updated the Board on her FOIA request to the Bonneville Power Administration on 10/9/2024. The BPA has a FOIA Public Liaison, James King that has contacted her. She requested a copy of the Special Use Permit, any and all Permit Amendments', the comments that were given for the Categorical Exclusion, and a copy of (or link to a digital copy) of the MOU with the USFS. She was given a January 15th, 2025 response date, of which she asked "Why so long?" Louise has also visited with the contractor on the site, who is from Gig Harbor, Washington. They have contracts for work on Grouse Peak, Windy Devil and Willow Cr. Summit. They are finished on Grouse Peak for this year and will return next spring to continue. Louise inquired about the size of the building that is being built, and was told it would be 1800 Sq Ft. Even the contractor agreed that it was "overkill". When given a blank copy of the permit application that was required for this project she found that it is the very same application that local recreational outfitters use. She has visited with Custer Telephone about what size of installation they have at the site for their repeaters. Their building is approx. 400 Sq. feet and they have a 250 gal. propane tank for winter heating. The BPA project has cement pads for three (3) 1000-gal propane tanks. Louise has also talked to Salmon River Propane and they have agreed to provide the propane for the project. She then inquired if this BPA project falls under Custer County

Planning & Zoning. It will require a Conditional Use Permit, as the C.E. was signed in 2023. There are still no signs on the road informing the public of what to expect ahead.

Chairman Hawkins provided his draft copy of the Custer Co. response to the Government to Government meeting that was held with the BLM State Director. Wording in the letter was discussed, as well as the information received by nearby residents that were sent letters by the BLM about the project in 2022. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the letter and it be sent to all attending members of the BLM. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed.

The Acting Field Manager asked what talents we want to see in a new Challis Field Manager. 1) A Resource Education in Range/Mining/Forestry; 2) Common Sense; 3) Community minded individual; 4) Understands the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act; 5) Longevity of tenure in area; 6) Working knowledge of Co-ordination. The Board requested that Hawkins pen the letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Zollinger understands that the Cherry Creek grazing allotment is being sold by Shiloh Warm Springs Ranch to the Clark Ranch. The Shiloh Ranch grazing allotment in Challis Creek needs to be looked into for local availability. Zollinger then reported that the ID State Dept. of Lands is getting pressured to use their school sections for solar power leases, rather than grazing livestock. A decision has not been made as yet.

The meeting was recessed at 10:50 AM to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The meeting was reconvened at 11:55 AM. Commissioner Zollinger moved to amend the agenda and add Sarah Baker/University of Idaho at 11:00 AM. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

U of ID/ Sarah Baker: Extension Educator Sarah Baker inquired about the MOU between Custer County and the University of Idaho. The cost amount was discussed and the actual amount of carry over from last year. The exact figure will need to be verified. Custer County has not received the 2nd Invoice for FY2024 from the U of I. Sarah will encourage the new employee to get the invoice sent before the month is over. Commissioner Smith re-stressed that Custer County is not able to pay for any part-time employees until the full-time Extension Office position is filled. Baker reported that she currently has three applications from out of the area, but she is putting out more inquiries to the local population. The 4-H year begins on October 1st and her office is getting the leaders re-certified for the upcoming year. The market animal sale collections are coming in, but two large buyers have not paid as yet. The 4-H members checks will not be sent out until everyone can be paid in full. The Fair Board is looking for a new secretary, as Natalie Tiechert has stepped down from the job. The Board of Commissioners requested Baker to utilize a position application. Sarah has received a call from Rulon Weller about the concrete that is needed for projects being done at the Fair Grounds. They are shooting for this fall to get the concrete portion of the work completed. Commissioner elect Gordon Vaden offered to help with his personal backhoe. Commissioner Smith inquired about any in-person weed training classes? Sarah confirmed that most are offered on-line for recertification credits. All agreed that there is a bad leafy spurge problem forming in the Mackay area of Custer County. The Extension Office will be working on more public education as well as enforcement. She will be working with Brett Plummer/Weed Supervisor to set up some local trainings. Clerk Lura Baker will get the 2025 Agreement corrections made and contact Sarah Baker to get it completed. Sarah Baker reminded all of the U of I Bread Heifer Sale that is upcoming on October 25th. They will be sold in lots of 5 head at the Nancy M. Cummins Center near Salmon, ID.

The minutes were then reviewed for approval. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the Minutes of 9-30-24 Regular Commissioners Meeting as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Zollinger then moved to approve the Minutes of the 10-10-24 Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 Noon and reconvened again at 1:30 PM. Commissioner Zollinger, Commissioner Smith, Gordon Vaden and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins attended along with Dan Patten/BLM and Lance Stavast/Lost River Ranger Dist. and Chris Waverek/Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger Dist. Commissioner Corgatelli was unable to attend for the afternoon.

Agencies:

Lost River Ranger Dist./Lance Stavast reported that the Mount Borah Campground plans have been approved. They will be rebuilding the parking to 37 spaces and have moved the camp sites to safer areas. Commissioner Smith inquired about the gravel that the ID Dept. of Transportation donated for the project. It has not been claimed as yet, but they will utilize it. The CCC crews are working on the Leatherman Peak and Pass Lake trails. The trail to Lake Creek is being prepped for ATV's. Seasonal workers are finishing up and cattle are coming off the ranges.

Challis/Yankee Fk. Ranger Dist./Chris Waverek reported on wildfires. The wilderness Birch Cr. fire is slowing, as is the Red Rock fire in the Panther Cr. area. The Fire Incident Team has moved their headquarters to Salmon. A group of recreationists are assisting with rebuilding the Cape Horn Guard Station. The Ramey Cr. road reroute has gotten public access off of private lands. Waverek has worked with the ID Dept. of Parks and Rec. to repair the ruts in the Buster Lake road. The cheatgrass spray program is continuing in the Grouse Peak and Pahsimeroi area. They sprayed 4500 acres this season. The fish program has put in bridges to facilitate public access at Winnemucca Creek and Copper Mountain. The Wino Basin burn treated 2500 acres. The Forest Service has received mixed reactions from the public. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about any future controlled burn plans? He also asked why it was started during such a windy day? Ranger Waverek responded that the burn did stay within the black-lines of the planned burn area, and it was the only opportunity they had for this year. The Goal of controlled burns is "forest health", as it removes mistletoe and opens up the canopy. Commissioner Smith asked if the USFS would be utilizing drones for cheatgrass spray work in steep rough country? Custer County Weed Dept. has recently acquired a spray drone and would like to partner with the USFS on area weed control.

Questions were asked about the communications project that is being done on Grouse Peak by Bonneville Power Administration. Ranger Lance Stavast replied that the BPA applied in 2017 for USFS permits on Grouse Peak, Windy Devil and Willow Creek Summit. Ranger Waverek inquired about what the concerns are? The BPA has not contacted Custer County Planning & Zoning to get the needed Conditional Use Permit for their project. The Commissioners are wanting to know why such a large building is being built, as well as why there is no safety signage on Grouse Peak Road during the busy construction phase? Commissioner Zollinger then inquired if there will be a post and pole sale in the Yankee Fork area? Ranger Chris Waverek agreed to look into the issue. Commissioner Smith then asked about "fire insurance" for area loggers that lost decked logs in this year's fires? BLM Acting Field Manager Dave Patten responded that logging payments are calculated on what logs have been removed by the logger. Any decked logs that are not hauled out, will not be billed. Commissioner Smith then asked how many timber sales were burned this summer. The Dry Creek sale with 11,000 board feet burned in the Wapiti Fire.

BLM-Dave Patten/Acting Field Manager listed possible projects his office is planning. 1) BLM has started on the EA's for stream restoration in the Challis/Salmon areas. 2) The Bayhorse townsite bridge replacement has begun. 3) Installation of beaver dam analogs on Burnt Creek in Pahsimeroi Valley. There are easement renewals being processed for the OHV Trail in Penal Gulch and the Sweeney Bridge to facilitate public access. In recreation there is an official boat ramp being proposed at the mouth of the East Fork River. Motorized designation is being placed on one of the foothills trails. The 3rd loop of campsites at the Joe T. Fallini campground by the Mackay Reservoir is progressing. Wildlife monitoring stations that are driven by the University of Idaho are active. There is one in the Challis area, one in the Chili Slough and they are planning to put out two more. Commissioner Smith put in his request that they begin tracking predators, especially crows and ravens that destroy so many Sage Grouse nests. Dave Patten then reported that the BLM will not be completing the Greater Sage Grouse Management Plan until after the election is over. Commissioner Zollinger then brought up the proposed location for a new Challis Area Field Office. He stressed that no local residents want it put along Highway 93 on Corrigan Road. Commissioner Smith updated everyone on the Quagga Mussels that have been found in the Snake River. The ID Fish & Game is doing a 2nd treatment in the Twin Falls area to eradicate the invasive mussel. The six new cattleguards that the Custer Road & Bridge installed in partnership with the Forest Service look great. All appreciate this good working relationship. It was verified that all unused funding from annual budgets goes back to the main office and is reallocated for other projects. Commissioner Smith reported on his recent NACO travels. He went to the Public Lands Center in Washington D.C. NACO is instrumental in getting the W.I.R. program started up. Commissioner Zollinger updated all on the resurfacing work being done by CC Road & Bridge and LR Hwy. Dist. Ranger Waverek inquired about any USFS roads that need work?

Sheriff: Deputy Ethan Kelly provided the Sheriff's report. They have received applications for the recent job openings. All of the brush guards have been installed on the patrol vehicles. Deputy Kelly provided a photo of the vehicle decals that have been selected as well as the new uniform colors of tan. The evidence technicians have been training with Malcom Clemenhagen/ID F&G. The new larger monitor has been installed for jail security and is working well. The Sheriff's office is working on better protocol for storage of body-camera footage records. Currently there are 8 inmates at the Challis jail and 4 inmates that are housed off-site. A department clean-up and repair day is set for Oct. 19th. They will set up a space for interviews. The washer and dryer will be installed in the kitchen area and will provide a cost savings for inmate laundry. Waterways Dept. is finished for this season and all boat maintenance and repairs have been made. The Law Enforcement Contract with City of Mackay is being reviewed and needs Commissioner approval at the next meeting.

Emergency Management: Lisa Benson/Emergency Manager reported that all the local fires have had their status removed. The 3,020-acre Frog fire is listed as 100% contained and the 127,260-acre Wapiti fire is listed at 80% contained. Commissioner Zollinger suggested some common-sense County restrictions for local fire responses. Commissioner Smith suggested putting proper wording into the Resource Management Plan. The 2022 SHSP Grant shows uncommitted funds of \$1,576.59. Lisa inquired if it could be used to purchase a computer? Susan Cleverly/FEMA has updated the Mackay Dam Grant changes. Meeting with the Big Lost River Irrigation District will need to be scheduled in November. Clerk Baker and Lisa Benson will research the situation to see just what is needed to progress. Commissioner Zollinger felt everyone needed to be updated on the current situation. Benson then reported on her search for communication system funding. Other counties have partnered with each other, as well as charging the sub-entities a small fee for use of the system. (ie: RFD's, EMT's and S&R groups) Benson then inquired about who is putting in the improvements on Grouse Peak/TV Hill. Commissioner Smith informed her that the BPA is doing the \$2 million project with a 100' tower. Lisa then asked if this big BPA installation would interfere with the TUSA/TAIT project she is working on? She would like to talk to JD Bennetts at Custer Telephone and the Board agreed. The other grant possibilities were then reviewed and will be pursued. Lexipol, CBDG Community Building Development, High Country C&D and Steele Reece Foundation. Lisa inquired about the CWPP work that NW Management was working on with Custer County. It is currently in a holding pattern, due to the wildfire activity in Stanley. All agreed that the USFS will be taking care of the materials that they cut down. Commissioner Zollinger suggested the Commissioners and Sheriff go evaluate the area once the USFS is finished. There is an IOEM Workshop scheduled in Blackfoot that Lisa would like to attend. The registration fee is \$200.00 and the Board approved her attendance on October 24th.

Planning & Zoning: Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen attended and presented an amended subdivision plat for an area along Houston Road. She has contacted the Road & Bridge Dept. as well as the Canal Company. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the Alder Creek Estates amended plat be approved as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Jessica then put in her request for vacation time from Nov. 22nd thru Dec. 1st. Both Commissioners approved the request. Clemenhagen was then informed of the BPA building/tower project on Grouse Peak. She will get photos of the site and work that has been completed. The Agriculture Ordinance was then discussed and the January 1st deadline for competition.

Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 3:55 PM. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Clerk Lura Baker, Gordon Vaden, Lisa Benson and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 4:10 PM.

Commissioner Zollinger moved that Lisa Benson become the Emergency Manager for Custer County. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. A memo will be sent to Levi Maydole and Josh before October 18th at 5:00. Lisa Benson attended the Stanley Mayors meeting and had questions about the portable command center that she utilized during the Wapiti fire. It belongs to the Emergency Services Office.

The E-911 telephone payments were then discussed. They have been paid out of the Sheriff's budget and should have been paid with Emergency Communications funds. This will be put on a spreadsheet and rectified.

The Elections Department needs to have Wi-Fi hotspots at each precinct for the e-poll books. It was requested to pay for this with the County credit card. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the payment for hotspots with the credit card with a budget top of \$100.00. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed.

Claims: Commissioner Zollinger moved that the following claims for FY 2024 be approved in the amount of \$368,405.23. including one addition of \$221.07. Commissioner Smith and the motion carried.

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| Current Expense | 17,494.13 |
| Road & Bridge | 107,681.91 |
| Battleground Mosquito | 11.72 |
| Election Fund | 435.00 |
| District Court | 298.85 |
| Rodeo Grounds | 150.51 |
| Revaluation | 674.47 |
| Solid Waste | 2,098.19 |
| Weeds | 1,405.28 |
| Waterways | 16.06 |
| PILT | 13,417.55 |
| LACTF | 224,325.56 |
| Emerg. Comm. Fund | <u>396.00</u> |
| TOTAL | 368,405.23 |

Commissioner Zollinger moved that the following claims for FY 2025 be approved in the amount of \$136,957.25. including additions of \$28,456.58 for Blue Mountain Refuse. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Current Expense | 37,360.37 |
| Road & Bridge | 17,733.96 |
| Battleground Mosquito | 1,200.00 |
| District Court | 1,036.42 |
| Revaluation | 5,724.00 |
| Solid Waste | 28,456.58 |
| TORT | 39,531.00 |
| Weeds | 1,212.42 |
| ARPA | <u>4,702.50</u> |
| TOTAL | 136,957.25 |

The Agreement between the University of Idaho and Custer County was then reviewed. An estimated 2024 carryover of \$26,000 was used during the 2025 budget formulation, leaving a set-aside of \$28,000. The original amount was \$50,000. Commissioner Zollinger called Extension Educator Sarah Baker and walked through the contract figures. It was agreed that the carry-over plus the budget amount will total \$50,000.00. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the University of Idaho 2025 Agreement for \$28,000.00, pending notice of the 2024 carry over of \$26,000.00 to total \$50,000.00. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve and sign the 10/15/24 Govt. to Govt. response letter. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried. The letter will be sent out to the BLM representatives. Upcoming holidays were then discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Zollinger to give the County employees extra days off on November 29th, December 24th and December 31st. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried. The Board schedule was looked over to find a date for the public hearings when a full board can attend. Late November was being considered.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.




Steve W. Smith, Vice Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest: 
Lura H. Baker, Clerk