

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
November 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Commissioner Jake Zollinger, with Clerk Lura Baker, Gordon Vaden, Will Naillon, Brett Plummer and Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia in attendance. Commissioner Vice Chairman Steve Smith joined the meeting at 8:12 a.m.

**Road & Bridge:** Supervisor Brandon Jones attended the meeting via phone connection. The sign grant came in and he has ordered the sign trailer with the message board on it. Commissioner Zollinger asked about the individual that was accused of knocking down signs, Jones advised that there are still signs being knocked over but hard to get answers without catching in the act. Will check with law enforcement and report.

Jones has talked with Karma with Custer Soil & Water regarding project on kinnikinic lower structure, planning stage on bridge structure or culvert. She had her meeting last week and these projects are still on the books.

East Fork Bridge – At road creek. State inspector doesn't like the size of the structure, would like to have a larger bridge installed, want to add more riprap underneath it as they say there is some rock movement under it. LTAC has some money left in bridge funding. Want to put this bridge on the list and looking into funding to be able to replace this, wants to know if commissioners want him to go ahead with allowing this and they will take this bridge and put it in another project such as kinnikinic. Commissioner Smith advised that he would like to have Jones put in for the funding, Commissioner Zollinger agreed.

Another funding source, PROTECT Program, planning grant – 100% funded for plans for projects. Commissioners agreed to have Jones look more into this program for future funding of projects.

ITD meeting scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. P&Z has been helping and will be posted this week, at the Community Events Center. Planning stage for approach from Hwy 93 South, across from Lanier Lane. Would like to have a Commissioner at this meeting.

Meeting for Bayhorse Bridge and Squaw Creek Bridge on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Mid-day after lunch, with LTAC. This is the funding options for Bayhorse bridge movement and issues that are coming up in regards to this project, would like to have Commissioner present at this meeting if possible. Will advise when more details are available.

Pressure washer at the shop died, burnt the pump up, have been using Jones's personal pressure washer, Commissioner Zollinger asked how much to replace. Jones advised \$3999.00 for electric 220 or gas powered would be \$4699.99. Commissioner Smith asked if there was one that had a CAT pump. Jones advised that the gas powered one would be better, looking through Northern Tool. Looking at the hot water options, Commissioner Zollinger made motion to approve purchase up to \$5000 for pressure washer, Commissioner Smith seconded and motion passed.

**Weeds:** Weed Supervisor Brett Plummer reported that 12000 acres, in conjunction with F&G and other agencies, were completed in aerial sprays. 2200 acres in Morgan creek to Morse creek. 188 acres in Big

Creek, 5600 acres at Ellis Creek to Watts Bridge, 4800 acres on Grouse Peak. Happy to report didn't have one complaint this year in regards to this aerial spraying, which is a first. Cannot get ahead unless they continue this large acreage aerial spray. Commissioner Smith asked about funding for this type of spraying, Plummer advised that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Wild Sheep Federation, Cheatgrass Challenge have put up a lot of the funding in the past year.

Plummer advised that the new sprayer worked well this season and has taken it off of the vehicle and stored so that it is out of the winter weather. This new sprayer will really help and speed up work with the amount of nozzles it has. Will be getting the flashers installed over the winter. All other equipment is serviced and winterized and put away for the winter season.

Discussion regarding treatment of quagga mussels within waterbodies in Custer County. EDNA testing in the water bodies is being used to help identify this invasive species.

Botti mayor of Stanley, wants County Weeds to join with the Sawtooth Coalition regarding weed control in the Stanley basin. Could have used Fire mitigation funding for weed control, but SNRA is the problem with this project going forward. Will be meeting with these groups in the Stanley area in March, will invite Commissioners to join in these discussions.

Agreement between Custer County Weeds and Salmon/Challis Forest has expired in October. Funds were exhausted in this agreement prior to the expiration. Working closely with Salmon/Challis to renew this agreement. BLM agreement is still in force for at least another year.

Drone updates: Plummer advised has 200 hours on drone – still not completely comfortable with the manual application. Automated application has been very proficient.

**Solid Waste:** Wendell Gohn advised that last year he asked to have the R&B excavator to be able to extend the life of the C&D pit, would dig the pit down as far as they can. He has an operator that can run the excavator if the Commissioners approve it. Commissioners advised that it would be ok as they had already approved, Gohn will get in touch with R&B Supervisor Jones to schedule the use of this.

Gohn asked about the status of moving the Mackay site, discussion ensued about the Landfill site and solid waste in Custer County for Mackay, Challis and Stanley. Commission Smith advised that this is all still under review. Gohn advised that the access road to the Mackay site is hard to keep open in the winter months with blowing snow. Reviewed the site map for the Mackay Site with the Commissioners regarding the access. Discussion regarding the Stanley site and the logistics of collection/transport of solid waste from that site.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Allicyn Latimer gave the ARPA report advising that all funds need to be obligated by December 31, 2024. There is more than 50% of funds that have been obligated, however \$771,914.96 has to be obligated by the end of December or it will be sent back to the Treasury. Baker and Latimer advised the Commissioners that they need to obligate these funds as soon as possible. Commissioner Smith advised that a special meeting needs to be called to discuss the ARPA and LATCF funds obligations so that the funds can be secured for the specific projects. Baker will contact Nolan and Taylor in regards to the Sheriff's Office Jail project. Commissioners will schedule a special meeting to discuss assigning the remaining funding.

Gave joint treasurer/clerk report and discussed any discrepancies. All funds balance at this time. Waiting for Assessors office to complete some figures so that the tax drive can be completed and tax billings can go out by next week.

Commissioner Zollinger made motion to go into Executive Session under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Personnel at 9:43 a.m., motion seconded by Commissioner Smith and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Gordon Vaden, Will Naillon, Clerk Lura Baker, and Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 9:54 a.m.

Commissioner Zollinger made motion to go into Executive under Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(i) Risk Management at 9:55 a.m., motion seconded by Commissioner Smith and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Gordon Vaden, Will Naillon, Clerk Lura Baker, and Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 10:05 a.m.

**NRAC:** Harriet Henderson, David Phelps, Mia Cauley, Preston Cutler and Bryce Jones joined the meeting.

Harriett advised that the Forest Service came to their regular NRAC meeting, will not be able to hire 30 of their temporary help in 2025. BLM did not attend. Moyer compound was burned, permittee was burned over and will have to find other range, range replacement was addressed but no solution. There is concern that permittees are being harassed and not being treated equally. David Phelps advised that there is documentation for Range fencing ISDA funding to be able to fund maintenance and building of range fence, this is under the Grazing Improvement Project.

Cutler addressed fencing, being written up for cattle not being in the correct allotments, but there is not any fencing and no maintenance of fences by the government agencies. Commissioner Smith advised that he would like to have copies of the noncompliance letters that Cutler has received, Cutler also advised he has received a notice of suspension for grazing rights ending earlier, this would be from his normal removal date of Oct 10 to an earlier date of Sept 15th, he plans to submitted a notice of appeal. Commissioner Smith advised that any appeal correspondence should be cc'd to the Commissioners. Bryce Jones is assisting Cutler with submitting the appeal paperwork to the Forest Service. Biological assessments and allotment management documentation is being requested in the appeal. Commissioner Smith advised that there may have to be some individual monitoring and data submitted. Jones advised that he has done some personal monitoring and could assist. Commissioner Smith advised that once there is a meeting scheduled for the appeal, he would like a Commissioner to be present. Commissioner Zollinger stated that he would advise that Cutler start more documentation to be able to verify what his operation is doing. Commissioner Zollinger also suggested that Seth McFarland in Lemhi County can also help Bryce with monitoring. Commissioner Smith advised that they would be meeting with Federal Agencies later today and could discuss the MOU for monitoring. Discussion regarding which entities are involved, Photo 123 with ISDA, BLM, USDA and Public Lands Council.

Harriet advised that this needs to be consistent with the Multiple Use Plan and it hasn't been, the Agencies need to be reminded of this.

**Elections Canvassing:** Elections supervisor Kristen Walker gave report of the most recent election of November 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners reviewed the tally books and poll books for each precinct. Discussion regarding one issue that came up that will need to be addressed, but the SOS office has been notified. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the canvas results for election November 05, 2024. Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**LRED:** Michael Evans and Robert Bagley submitted an invoice to the Commissioners for support funding from Custer County. An Activity Overview was summarized by Evans of Marketing and Grant Utilization, Business Development, Event Coordination & Community Engagement, Industrial Collaboration and Future Planning. He reviewed activities that LRED has coordinated and supports in the Lost River area. Reviewed a list of the future events that are being planned for the remaining of 2024 and to start the 2025 year. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to allocate \$6000 to support the LRED organization, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 Noon and reconvened again at 1:34 PM. Commissioner Zollinger, Commissioner Smith, Gordon Vaden, Will Naillon and Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia attended along with Dan Patten/BLM.

**Agencies:**

**BLM-Dan Patten/Acting Field Manager** gave report that there are not many projects in the works, have new range con and there is some re-arranging of how allotments are being managed. Field Manager position should be filled in the near future, have done interviews for Challis and Salmon and sent recommendations for a permanent Manager.

Addressed the Wild Horse issue on Hwy 75, could discuss with ITD the need for fencing of the right of away. Mentioned signage, round up, any other solutions to protect people and property.

Commissioner Smith questioned Patten about Photo 123, USDA or ISDA range monitoring. Per Dan, as long as you are following a recognized protocol, the BLM will accept the data that an individual producer collects. USGS established protocols are out there – calling it AIM Data. Would need to coordinate where the location is that the data is collected, establish a plan with the BLM range con program. Commissioner Zollinger reviewed the NRAC copy of the County Multiple Use Management Plan and read the portion pertaining to the cattle industry in Custer County. Commissioner Zollinger and Smith addressed the issue a producer brought to the Commissioners regarding a suspension and a Reduction of AUM. Per Dan, the reduction can be negotiated if the producer actually comes to discuss this. Temporary suspensions can come out of suspension status if a producer is in compliance for the term in the suspension notice. The producer in question has been a consistent violator and has blatantly disregarded his agreements and notices. Would like to see some communication.

Employment Status: Do not have a range tech, maintenance technician, weeds, GIS technician, natural resource specialist, admin individual. Just got a geologist a couple of weeks ago.

Newest information on new building for BLM to be built – title 40 us code 33-12– Gave the highlighted copy of this code to Commissioner Smith for review. Default to Federal not local zoning laws, Federal Attorney advises that they cannot apply for the local Planning and Zoning ordinances as they do not apply to Federal agencies.

**Un-named Lake:** Clerk Baker advised that Matt Yavorsky has responded to their correspondence and would like to name the lake in Copper Basin Lake Tsanavuinde. Commissioners Zollinger and Smith, both advised that Clerk Baker could go ahead and respond to Yavorsky that this name would be preferred over Lake Cutie.

**Clerk:** Clerk Lura Baker discussed the Levy status, advised that Big Lost River Cemetery District is not in compliance and will not receive their 3% tax increase. Computer Arts/Harris computer contract there was an error in the contract – Computer Support resulted in an increase of \$1310.16, Commissioner Zollinger made motion to approve the increase for computer support, motion seconded by Commissioner Smith, motion passed.

Commissioner Zollinger made motion to approve \$5500 to State of Idaho Animal Damage Control, Seconded by Commissioner Smith, motion passed.

Daughters of American Revolution, Idaho State Society requested that Custer County publicly support military and veteran caregivers, they would like to see a County Resolution stating that the County is in support of this group. Clerk Baker advised that this would be Resolution 2024-13 if the Commissioners' approved. Commissioner Smith would like to discuss this with the spokesperson of Daughters of American Revolution, this was tabled for later in the day.

**Sheriff:** Kathy Rodgers gave a presentation to the Commissioners regarding the concerns of the Custer County Dispatchers regarding the Holiday Pay Employee Policy. The current Dispatchers feel that they are being paid less to actually work the holiday than to stay home with their families. Commissioner Smith advised that he felt that this would be a policy that can be revisited by the incoming Commissioners during the next budgeting period. Commissioner Zollinger thanked Rodgers for the job that the Dispatchers do, he advised that he does not want to discount the job that is done by the dispatchers but he wondered if Rodgers had an example from any other counties on how they compensate their dispatch department. Rodgers advised that she did not have examples. Discussion ensued regarding other aspects of the policy that need clarification, such as the bereavement leave. Another area she would like to see addressed is the minimum amount of time an employee has to notify a supervisor that they will not be able to report for a shift. Commissioner Smith advised that this would be given to the incoming Commissioners for review.

Sheriff Maydole – Discussion regarding the Law Enforcement Contracts. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the contract between Custer County, Custer County Sheriff and the City of Challis as written, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioners decided to table the decision on the contract with the City of Mackay until further review. There has not been a contract submitted by City of Stanley

Sheriff Maydole gave status report –

- Jail inmate status, explanation of out of county housing.
- Laundry service, still waiting on bid from Rays Heating & Plumbing, currently outsourced
- Received a quote from Axon Enterprise Inc. for new Law Enforcement body camera and information storage systems. Cost over 5 years of \$45,099.20, or \$9019.84 each year for 5 consecutive years. There is an Axon grant that can be applied for, so there is the potential that

after 2025 the cost could be covered under grant. Will upgrade the camera every 2.5 years, is a 5-year contract. Commissioner Smith made motion to approve the Axon contract as a 5-year contract of \$45,099.20, Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and motion passed.

**Emergency Management:** Lisa Benson/Emergency Manager reported that she has reviewed the Federal SHSP Grant Funds and has gone through and closed out some grant funds that have been received. Agreement for the IOEM Grant for the Mackay Reservoir with Lost River Irrigation has not been received and so Commissioners will not sign the Grant paperwork until they receive the contract between Custer County and LRID. TUSA Consulting still in discussion and looking into Grant funding. Community Wildfire Protection Plan, will continue to forward this information to Commissioners. NQS Plan (National Qualification System Plan) will be working on this and submit for Commissioners review in the next month.

Commissioner Zollinger made motion to go into Executive Session for indigent information at 3:56 p.m., motion seconded by Commissioner Smith and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Gordon Vaden, Will Naillon, Clerk Lura Baker, and Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia. Commissioner Smith made motion to approve the indigent case #0902 payout on the lien in the amount of \$10,000 to Custer County and \$1363.96 to the State of Idaho, Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion, motion passed by unanimous roll call. The board returned to regular session at 4:09 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning:** Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen attended and gave report that an appeal hearing has come in. P&Z also had a rezone hearing, info has been given to Commissioners – do not have to have a hearing until May on this as the owner will be out of the area. She went to repeater site on Willow Creek and there is building in process, notice has been sent to the contractor of this building that permitting needs to be completed. Informed Thompson Creek that accessory dwellings are not allowable on the site they have chosen on Squaw Creek. Would have to re-zone to be able to put accessory dwellings on the agricultural zone. BLM stance on their building site is that they feel that they can go forward and this will have to be addressed. Corrine Jones is retiring at the next meeting, there are other issues that may arise with members in the future. Gordon Vaden has also submitted his resignation from the P&Z board. Commissioner Smith read a letter from Rick Mauthe, advising that he would like to be considered as a P&Z Commissioner. Commissioner Zollinger made motion to appoint Rick Mauthe as a Custer County Planning and Zoning Commissioner. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Clemenhagen will advise Mauthe of the appointment.

**Probation:** Probation Officer Aletia Straub Workman advised that the Juvenile Justice annual Financial Report has been completed for the year. Commissioner Smith made motion to approve the annual Juvenile Justice Financial report, Seconded by Commissioner Zollinger, motion passed. Officer Workman advised that the Juvenile Justice Annual Statistical Report to the Department of Juvenile Justice has been completed. Commissioner Smith made motion to approve the annual Juvenile Justice Statistical Report, Seconded by Commissioner Zollinger, motion passed

**Coroner:** Coroner Chad Workman and Commissioners entered discussion on a vehicle for the Coroner. Workman would prefer a truck, but if a van was available would need a sealed partition between back

and cab. Commissioner Smith asked Workman to seriously look for a vehicle to purchase as they feel this is a necessity, discussed possible avenues for obtaining a vehicle and advised that there is funding in the budget for this expense. Workman would also like to look at purchasing a cot that would allow lifting large individuals, and also a Sked Rescue System to be able to retrieve victims, this would be around the price of \$600 to \$900. Commissioner Zollinger made motion to approve the purchase of 2 Sked Basic Rescue System for Challis and Stanley, at a \$2000 cap, motion seconded by Commissioner Smith and motion passed. Workman would also like to have neck lanyards with badges for professional identification purposes, will look into this and bring back to the Commissioners for review. A separate County cell phone for the Coroner's office was also discussed, Workman doesn't feel like it is professional to have Coroner calls coming through his personal phone. Commissioner Smith advised to have Workman go to Custer Telephone and get quotes on phones and plans for next meeting.

The previous minutes were then reviewed for approval. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the Minutes of 10-15-24 Regular Commissioners Meeting as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

The meeting was recessed at 4:47 p.m., to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The meeting was reconvened at 4:50 p.m.

**Claims:** Commissioner Zollinger moved that demands for FY 2025 be approved in the amount of \$37,071.63.37, seconded by Commissioner Smith, motion passed.

Commissioner Zollinger moved that the following claims for FY 2025 be approved in the amount of \$427,149.02, including the addition of Cesar Hernandez \$2000, Animal Damage \$5500, LRED \$6000, COMDATA \$3634.61. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	89,023.70
Road & Bridge	112,992.54
Election Fund	1,365.89
District Court	15,558.01
Revaluation	1,064.99
Weeds	124.65
Waterways	330.00
LACTF	258,232.49
Emerg. Comm. Fund	2,058.12
Auditors Trust	<u>604.87</u>
TOTAL	481,355.26

Commissioner Zollinger moved that the following claims for FY 2024 be approved in the amount of \$35,441.39. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	34,780.18
Road & Bridge	331.21
Waterways	<u>330.00</u>
TOTAL	35,441.39


Commissioners contacted Janice with the Idaho DAR for Military Caregivers via telephone. After receiving answers to questions they had regarding this program, Commissioner Zollinger made motion to approve Custer County Resolution 2024-13 as presented, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. Resolution 2024-13 was signed.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 P.M.



  
Steve W. Smith, Vice Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

  
Lura H. Baker, Clerk