

Custer County
Special Meeting Proceedings
November 21, 2022

The Bayhorse Bridge Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM at the BLM Bayhorse Campground on Highway 75. Attending the meeting were Commissioner Chairman Wayne Butts, Commissioner Steve Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins/Custer County. Chad Fealko /National Marine Fisheries, Jerrod Bragg/Idaho Fish & Game, Karma Bragg/Custer Soil & Water Conservations Dist., Nina Scheffel and Joe Fihe/Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Jeremy Johnson/ITD-Arco and Cody Schmidt/ITD-Mackay. Supt. Brandon Jones, Ryan Devine and Tristan Devine/Custer Co. Road & Bridge, Josh Travers and David Hilliard/ BLM, and Kyle Jones/Harper Leavit Engineering.

Commissioner Butts and Brandon Jones/R&B Supt. have had a meeting with Gary Peterson, the adjoining landowner. Gary is very concerned with the traffic issues caused by ATV's and UTV's that travel Highway 75 between the Bayhorse campground and the Bayhorse Bridge across the river. Gary is agreeable to provide enough of his property to make the bridge relocation work for all involved. Moving the boat dock to the other side of the river was also a possibility.

Brandon thanked everyone for attending the meeting and is eager to get input from all. There are still grant opportunities available with a \$0 match requirement up to 3 million. The grant application deadline is December 30th 2022.

Cody/ITD asked about how many entrances would be needed for the campground and bridge? Brandon/R&B responded that they hoped to use the existing access points. Commissioner Smith asked if "turning lanes" could be included for traffic on highway 75? The summer traffic counts show that the Bayhorse Bridge has up to 150 cars per day crossing it. Cody/ITD offered to get the ITD traffic counts. The BLM was asked about the campground use numbers and will research the figures for this project. Commissioner Butts verified that the Tribes will be contacted and invited to participate in the Bayhorse Bridge project as well as ID Dept of Water Resources and the USFS. Brandon requested support letters from all attending to submit with the grant application. They are needed by Dec. 15th.

Josh/BLM inquired as to "why" the bridge needs to be replaced? Commissioner Butts reviewed the history of the bridge and why it was near the end of it's useful life. If there was any damage to the structure, it would close winter access to the Bayhorse area. The original FLAP Grant application for replacement of the bridge was then discussed. The adjoining property owner, Gary Peterson was not included in the planning stage and he refused to agree with putting a new bridge in the same location. The unsafe access point on Highway 75, as well as all the traffic coming right through his front yard were his reasons. Josh asked for the recent traffic count data. He informed all of the BLM plans for improving the Bayhorse Campground, and showed the recent campsite work that has been done.

Karma/CSWCD expressed her concern about the safety of ATV's entering Highway 75 at the campground and then quickly turning off at the Bayhorse Bridge. Traffic flow is usually around 60 to 65 MPH, and trucks are not able to stop quick enough. Nina/ID P&R felt the locals would

be pleased about increased safety for UTV's. She likes the idea of turning lanes, and asked that they be researched thoroughly.

Jerrold/ID F&G inquired about the existing irrigation system? Karma explained the fish screen and diversion system. The point of diversion for the irrigation ditch must remain the same. Jerrold stated that the Fish & Game would like to see NO in-channel bridge piers that would impede water flow. The new bridge will be a 2 lane/2-way bridge, and the access roads would remain unpaved. HLE is working on concept ideas. ITD stated that they would like to see controlled access points for the bridge. The site that was pleasing to most attending was upstream from the current boat ramp. Location of parking for day use ATV riders was discussed and could be upstream from the bridge site, or possibly on the other side of the river.

It was requested that any and all concerns and ideas be sent to Brandon Jones, Superintendent of the Custer County Road & Bridge. Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.



Attest: Lura H. Baker
Lura H. Baker, Clerk

Wayne F. Butts
Wayne F. Butts, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner