

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
February 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 AM by Chairman Randy Corgatelli, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Clerk Lura Baker, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones, W. States CAT Rep. Ben Winder, Citizen Mike Niemeyer, SWCD Admin. Karma Bragg and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance.

**Weeds:** Brett has been unable to get sealed bids for the proposed road side spray truck from the auto dealers. He is working on completing the exemptions that are required for the spray drone. He is searching for another Noxious Weed Hay Inspector, as he is not sure that Linda Zollinger will be able to come back this summer. Commissioner Smith inquired about the Idaho Weed Conference in Boise? Brett felt it was beneficial and learned about new options on forest lands with rejuvenation and replanting. Commissioner Zollinger let everyone know about in person classes that provide credits for your weed license that are upcoming in the Salmon area.

**Road & Bridge:** Brandon introduced Ben Winder, the Sales Representative for Western State Caterpillar. The Hamm Roller that the County has had nothing but trouble with has reached the end of the lease and will be returned A.S.A.P. Ben has a 2024 CAT C554B Vibrating Roller available to replace the Hamm. The annual lease will be \$28,124.88 through Summit Bank. The retail cost for this Roller is \$256,672.00. The government fail safe warranty is \$10,463.00 and includes hydraulic systems, annual inspections and bumper to bumper. A replacement machine will be provided when a break down occurs, there is not travel time charged for the mechanic that comes, and it has a government buy back guarantee. The Source-well discount will be \$23,175.00 and the government discount will be \$49,824.00. The bottom line loan is for \$194,135.00 at %6.35 through Summit Bank. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2-24 CAT Vibrating Roller. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Ben will bring the official paperwork when the machine is delivered.

Commissioner Smith moved that the 1-26-24 Meeting Minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then moved that the minutest from the Public Hearing held 1-26-2024 be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried.

Brandon has been working with Day Wireless to get a set of phones that will work in remote corners of Custer County. He has a bid of \$1299 to \$1399 from Day Wireless for phones and service using the current line and sharing minutes. He is working to get Computer Zen to work with him. It will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. The Schedule A Agreements between the USFS and Custer Co. Road and Bridge are up for renewal. The Master Schedule A needs to be signed first and then the cattle guard agreement can be completed. Brandon is also working on finding a new gravel source in the East Fork area as the Spar Canyon pit is tapped out. He needs to know how to reach a geologist that will work in the Custer County area. Commissioner Smith gave Brandon the contact information for the State Lands Department. Brandon has a meeting scheduled with Don Weeks/Thompson Creek Mine about the three bridges on Squaw Creek that are being replaced. A right-of-way agreement needs to be reached for the by-pass routes that are required while the replacement is being done. The State is handling all the contracting and financial costs in replacing these bridges. The 4<sup>th</sup> bridge is not for sure, but may be included in this project. The big bridge across the Salmon River is scheduled to be re-decked next year. The Road & Bridge Dept. has been contacted about clearing the snow off of the Morgan Cr. Road clear to the summit. There are some badly stuck vehicles in the upper reaches of the snowy road and they need to get them out. Discussion was held on the legalities of the issues. Commissioner Smith felt it would be best of the reply letter came from the Board of Commissioners instead of the Road & Bridge Dept.

Brandon has gotten Truck #206 repaired in Idaho Falls. They completed the DEF repairs and did some computer updates for \$2,700.00. Truck #204 with the broken frame, has been repaired in the R&B Shop. The snow plow was taken off, and the frame plated and welded to support the hood and bumper. It will be utilized as a dump/water truck but no more as a plow truck. Most of the seasonal workers from last year will be returning, they will only

need to train two new ones. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about the LHTAC Safety Grant for the Morgan Cr. Road. Brandon explained the project and where the blasting will need to be done first.

Karma Bragg – SWCD provided the updated information for the Garden Creek Mitigation project in a packet for the Board. She has submitted the information to LHTAC and is waiting for their comments. Karma has talked to Brett about the weed control that is needed for knapweed and cheatgrass. The final decision will come out the 20<sup>th</sup>. Karma then submitted a funding request letter for the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District for \$5,000.00. When her office lost the Pahsimeroi contract she has been searching for additional funding to keep things open. Commissioner Smith made a motion to support the CSWCD in the amount of \$5,000.00 for FY 2024. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Karma will be promoting Ag Week in March, with the breakfast scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup>. They do presentations in Challis, Stanley and with home schoolers. The Board thanked Karma for all her hard work on their behalf.

The Board reviewed the ISP Forensic Services Agreement for the Custer Co. Coroner. Commissioner Smith moved that the Agreement be approved, pending Coroner Chad Workman's approval. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Certificate of Residency:** An application from Hohnstein of Challis was received and reviewed. The application was not complete as it had no signature. Clerk Lura Baker will contact the guardians and get the missing information. Commissioner Corgatelli moved that once completed the application be approved. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed.

**Treasurer:** Allicyn attended and provided her monthly report to the Board members. With a total of \$4,945,509.00 to be collected for 2023, her office has only \$1,405,593.00 left to collect. The funds are coming in with the bright pink reminders she has recently mailed out. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about how the new water heater is working, which is just fine. Ali then explained the different report accounts

**Assessor:** The tax appeals were done last week. One was upheld and one was repealed. George McQuiston will have \$114.20 in taxes cancelled on his home. Jacquell also informed the Board that Proud Source Water Co. has been sold and the new owners from Colorado have listed their inventory.

Commissioner Smith excused himself from the meeting. Vice Chair Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the Agenda be amended to move NRAC up to 10:00, Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion carried.

**NRAC:** Chairman Jim Hawkins reviewed his coordination encouragement process for the Lemhi Co. Commissioners. David Philips also attended the meeting. Discussion was held on the Grizzly Bear EIS as well as the Annual Wolf Report received from the ID Fish & Game. David brought his concerns about a road in Challis Creek above Mosquito Flats Reservoir that is slated to be closed. This road is within his grazing allotment and he would like it to remain open. David has visited with District Ranger Heath Perrine about the road. The FS plans to rebuild and repair the road that is across Challis Creek and then build a 4-wheeler trailhead where that road ended. They also plan to re-open the access road up to the timbered bench up behind Green's property for firewood cutting and post and pole gathering. Jim inquired of the Board about the reasons behind the private/government land exchange in the Leadore area.

**Jolie Turek/CEDA:** Jolie and Karys Clancy attended. They are working on doing more landscaping and fence around the Community Building. There will be some lawn, shrubs, trees and new fencing added. A small park area will be built and dedicated to Wayne Butts. Jolie asked if the cost of mowing the lawn (once established) could be added to the Courthouse lawn contract? Jolie then updated the Board on the Commerce Grant deadline in May, which will require Board approval. She will be sending Commissioner Zollinger the CEDA Agenda as it gets closer. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the Idaho Commerce E.D. Program Grant Application process being completed by Jolie and Karys. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. The Board was reminded of the Local Project Awareness Meeting scheduled Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Community Building. Jolie and Jake will do an orientation for his Board position on Thursday.

Credit Card use applications were then reviewed. The Prosecutors office needs to purchase a computer program for \$1,656.00 with the County card. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the purchase be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The Sheriff's office needs to purchase a 5GB external hard drive to handle photos for \$137.99. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the purchase be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Prosecutor:** Justin Oleson joined the meeting via Zoom at 11:08. He needs to be approved to appoint a deputy Prosecutor to cover for him as needed when he is unable to be in court. Due to a conflict he is unable to attend court in Challis and must have a Deputy Prosecutor. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to empower Justin to appoint a Deputy Prosecutor to fill in for him when necessary. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Corgatelli asked Justin how he felt about the Board hiring another attorney to assist them with writing contracts. Prosecutor Oleson stated it would be fine with him.

**Clerk:** Lura reported the N. Custer Rodeo Committee is looking into becoming a 501(C)3. Justin has been informed and stated that it is an option for the group as it opens up Grant opportunities. Commissioner Zollinger went over the relationship the Rodeo Committee has with the Custer Co. Fair Board. Both groups own some corral panels and they exchange use of them during events. All agreed that each group needs to have an inventory list of which panels belong to who. No decisions were made at this time, with Commissioner Smith needing to be informed.

**Coroner:** Chad was contacted via phone, as he has been home on sick leave. He explained the MOW with the Idaho State Police Forensic Lab. It renews each October 1<sup>st</sup> and is used to track overdoses nationwide. There are no financial charges involved for the county, and he recommends approval. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the MOU be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Claims:** The claims were then reviewed with additions of \$1,360.00 Big Ben Construction; \$518.95 Steve Smith; \$5000.00 Custer Soil & Water Conservations District. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the following claims be approved and paid with the additions. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	57,390.64
Road & Bridge	30,093.03
District Court	790.09
Rodeo Grounds	101.97
Health District	12,491.00
Revaluation	1,559.82
Solid Waste	3,577.69
Weeds	655.54
Waterways	62.54
Emrg. Communication	<u>2,085.46</u>
TOTAL	108,807.78

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 Noon and reconvened again at 1:30 PM.

**Agencies:** Attending were Kirk Flannigan and Michael Fuller/SNRA, Josh Travers and Randel Anderson/BLM, Johnathan LeBlanc/Lost River RD, Heath Perrine/Challis-Yankee Fork RD, David Philips and Mike Newmyer.

**SNRA:** Kirk Flannigan reported on summer construction projects at Redfish. They are working on new roads and parking areas. The Stanley Wildfire Collaborative group is working on the Wildland/Urban Interface with a meeting planed for May involving all the fire departments and agencies. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about the Stanley Sheriff office/storage building progress. The SNRA needs to know the square footage, color and height of the planned building. They will give the County an enlarged permit footprint so the building fits in. Kirk then inquired about the solid waste transfer site progress. Commissioner Corgatelli updated him on the County plans. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about any logging projects in the SNRA. Kirk listed Stanley Meadows, Stanley Lake, Beaver Creek, and Pettit Lake. Most are post and pole sales and firewood.

**Challis/Yankee Fork RD:** Heath reported that the scoping is closed on the Copper Mountain and Deer Creek Timber Sale. They are planning a new trailhead on Silver Creek up the Challis Creek Road. The NEPA begins on this project in March. Changes are being looked into for prescribed fire ignition. It will be decided by weather conditions and snow pack rather than just calendar dates. Personnel updates are Josh Milligan is the new Deputy Supervisor for the Salmon/Challis Forest, and Jeff Huntaman is the new Forest Planner. Heath has hired a new Deputy Ranger, John Runkle that he will bring in to meet the board. Heath will be going on a 120-day detail to the Nez Pearce/Clearwater RD. They still need to fill jobs in the fire crews. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about a proposed road closure in the Challis Creek drainage. Heath explained that the road in question is not on the Forest Service road system. The road goes through some big mud holes and he is unable to fix roads that are not on the system. He reminded all that they are opening a road up to the terrace behind the Green's property where there are posts, poles and good firewood. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about when this would happen? It would be in 2025 or 2026.

**Lost River RD:** Johnathan reported that they have begun hiring their seasonal personnel for YCC. They will hire about 20 seasonal and intern workers for the summer. He is going on a 120-day detail to the North Fork RD.

**BLM:** Josh introduced Randal Anderson, the new Assistant Area Manager for his district. Mineral claim interests are still on an increase. They have an application for a mechanized agate mine in the Darling Creek/Morgan Creek area. Three Rivers Stone at the mouth of the East Fork is researching a possible reopening. There is also an application for gold exploration with a placer mine at the mouth of the East Fork of the Salmon River. They are dealing with tribal issues as well as fish issues. The right-of-way application for the bridge replacement work to be done on Squaw Creek has been received by the BLM, and Josh sees no problems with approving it. The Range Dept. is doing preparation for the spring turnout. The Recreations Dept. has an application for a 10K Fun Run in and around Challis that will be using some BLM trails. They are looking into a request to modify the width restrictions on a connector route from Keystone and Bayhorse, that will allow wider ATV's. The Sheep Cr. bridge is still a go for this summer. Josh still has 10 vacancies in his office, but has had applicants for the Realty Specialist position. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about possible gravel pits in the East Fork area? They need to talk to a BLM geologist, and Mike Wilson from the Salmon office can be contacted. Commissioner Corgatelli then asked about the feral horse problems along highway 75? Josh has not had many problems this spring, but they are planning a bait and gather next winter for this group of problem horses. Commissioner Zollinger spoke on the good relationship between the County and BLM weed departments. They have many restoration projects planned for the next few years.

**SNRA:** Mike (Deputy Ranger) reported on road work in the Stanley area. The Redfish work is moving forward. The Iron Creek Road is in constant need of repairs due to the heavy traffic on that road. The road closure at the Boren property in upper East Fork is being negotiated for re-opening, and perhaps a re-route of the public access.

**Search & Rescue:** Audra Gilbert presented a request to put up a flagpole with a light at the Search & Rescue Building. They currently have 18 active members in the Search and Rescue program. Commissioner Zollinger moved that a lighted flag pole be approved with a cost cap of \$300.00 for the Search & Rescue. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

**Sheriff:** Stu reported that the Stanley housing will be done soon, but the wood stove needs the doors replaced. The new Stanley deputy Sam Wearp is in the hospital. He was scheduled for POST in May, but it will be decided once his health stabilizes. Stu verified the sick leave sharing policy that the County has in place. Once Sam is able to return to work the County law enforcement will be full staff again. Stu has received reports of vehicles that are stuck in the snow on Morgan Cr. summit. They are wanting someone to plow the road so they can get out, but this road is under Forest Service jurisdiction. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about how many inmates the County currently has? Stu responded that there are 6. Clerk Baker brought two Law Enforcement Contracts for review. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the Contract between USFS/Custer County Sheriff be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Zollinger then moved that the Contract between the BLM/Custer County Sheriff be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried.

The meeting was recessed at 3:50 PM to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The regular meeting was reconvened at 3:53 PM.

**E ID State Fair:** The annual report and appropriation letter for 2024 was reviewed. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the \$1,500.00 payment to EISF be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Planning & Zoning:** Jessica attended and updated the Board on the Kootenai Road situation. It was agreed that a survey is needed for both parties sake. Jessica will not be pressing charges on Mr. Wilson at this point. She has spoken with her P & Z Board about ideas for the county property around the Mackay Reservoir. Suggestions included another RV Campground. Her Board would like to meet with the Commissioners and suggested dates of March 1<sup>st</sup> or the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Emergency Services:** There have been two AED Units acquired by Dawn Maydole for the Custer Co. Courthouse. One has been installed on the ground floor, and one on the upper floor in the Courts. Dawn Maydole has an additional grant for two more units. She suggested putting one at the CEDA building and perhaps one at the Road & Bridge Shop. Several county employees have become certified to operate the AED units. She then provided a sample policy for the County to pursue on the AED units. Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve the Grant process for purchase of two more AED units. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Levi reviewed that all four units are the same, so any employee training received will apply to all four units. Levi provided his monthly report on the SHSP Grant funds. He has been notified that the manufacturer of the body armor he ordered is unable to fill the Custer County order at this time. Levi has requested a 6-month extension of the grant funding connected to this order. He then provided information on the renewal of the All Hazard Mitigation Plan that is required every 5 years. He has received two bids, one for \$11,000 and one for \$18,000. He would like to accept the LBYD Federal bid for \$11,000. The AHM Plan needs to be ready for 2025. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to accept the \$11,000 bid and pay it with \$7,000 from the contingency fund and \$4,000 from the SHSP Grant. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. TUSA Project was next on the list. He explained the county wide communications system project that is currently in process. TUSA has two companies that will be submitting bids for the project. Levi has been networking with JD Bennetts/Custer Telephone Co-op, and a partnership is available on the infrastructure at Grouse Peak and Windy Devil. The County would pay a rent of \$275.00 @ Grouse Pk, and \$125.00 @ Windy Devil each month in exchange for use of their towers and buildings. Levi has kept TUSA in the loop about the above information and both entities are good with the arrangement. (Clerk Baker will get copies to the Commissioners) Creative funding options were then discussed and are being searched for to cover the next phase of this Communications Project. TUSA will be coming to Challis on February 27<sup>th</sup> and the meeting is set for 11:00 AM at the CEDA Community Building.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.



  
Randy Corgatelli, Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:



Lura H. Baker, Clerk