

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
July 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Vice Chairman Randy Corgatelli with Commissioners Steve Smith, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins, Road & Bridge Supt. Brandon Jones and Weed Supt. Brett Plummer in attendance.

Weed Dept: Brett Plummer reported that the spray work for leafy spurge on Shiloh Warm Springs Ranches is done. They applied 2000 gallons of spray. The Challis area roadsides were sprayed over the weekend and are looking very good. The crew is headed to Mackay next to spray spurge in that area. Absentee owners in the Houston Road area have been very hard to get ahold of. The Pass Creek area is on the list of projects that need to be completed this year. There is a UAV Class being held in Salmon on use of drones for spray work that Brett plans to attend. Bannock County will be bringing their drones, and they have offered to come and do instruction for other counties. Brett will be slowly working on getting his Part 107 License so he can legally operate a drone. The cost of a fancy drone to be used for weed spraying is about \$60,000. This includes 10 batteries and all the GIS software. Discussion was held on just how such equipment could be utilized in our steep rugged canyons.

Road & Bridge: Brandon Jones attended and reported that the new cattle guard is now installed at West Double Springs Road. His crews are currently working on grading the Morgan Creek Road and the Mill Creek Summit Road. The Hamm roller is giving them problems with re-starting once it gets hot. They had the same issue last year, but there are two more years left on the lease agreement. The new grader had some of the blade valving missing when it arrived. CAT is getting the needed valves installed, they will cover the labor but Custer County will be paying for the valves and parts. Road & Bridge will be doing the “chipping” work on Clinic Road and Piva Road on July 26th through 28th. Informational ads will be placed on the KSRA Radio as well as on Custer Classified and the Custer County website. Brandon then inquired about any progress on the water truck proposal for the Rodeo Committee. The army truck can no longer be used to lift loads due to hoist problems. If the Rodeo Committee is not interested in the army truck it could be sold through the Federal Surplus program. The USFS funding possibilities that have been pursued with Josh Milligan were discussed, and could be utilized for equipment. Brandon is writing his letters of request for culverts, the backhoe, and possibly oils for Morgan Cr. Road. Brandon has been approached by a landowner about installing a cattle guard to keep range cattle off of a section of County road in Pahsimeroi. The adjoining landowner has been contacted and is agreeable toward the proposal. Costs for cattle guards run between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Brandon will get a copy of the policy that Lemhi County has developed for such situations, for review. He will bring a Custer County proposal to the next meeting. Road damage caused by the ever-increasing weight of heavy vehicles was discussed. Some truck licenses are now good for up to 120,000 pounds. The Jervois Mining Company that now owns the Panther Cr. Cobalt Mine is hauling ALL of their heavy equipment over the Morgan Cr. road, rather than use the Deep Creek road from Salmon. The actual weight limit for the bridge and the condition of the culverts on Morgan Cr. will be researched by Brandon for safety. Brandon has opened conversation with Getty Excavating about hauling materials from the pile near Dickey, for use in the Challis area for the Road & Bridge Dept.

Indigent: Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 9:05 AM for Indigent Review under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d), the motion was 2nd by Commissioner Corgatelli and the roll call yes vote was unanimous. Attending the session were Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session. Upon return to regular session at 9:13 AM Commissioner Smith made a motion for #21-06 – Denial / due to non-compliance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli and the aye votes were unanimous.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 9:15 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 9:26 AM.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer handed out the monthly report, and answered all questions directed her way.

Assessor: Jacquell Bruno attended and the meeting was recessed for BOE at 9:35 AM. Those attending were Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Assessor Jacquell Bruno, Treasurer Allicyn Latimer and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:37 AM.

Clerk Lura Baker provided the Professional Services Contract for the N. Custer Rural Fire District Phase II project with the East Central Idaho Development Company. Commissioner Smith moved that it be approved and signed, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

NRAC: Jim Hawkins, Chairman attended and reported on their last meeting. The agencies are doing what they can to help the local permit holders get through the grazing season. The recording sites for forage utilization were discussed, and how these sites are selected. Sage Grouse management was also discussed and the science that is behind the proposals.

The minutes from 6/28/21 and 6/30/21 were reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes of the 6/30 meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Commissioner Smith then moved that the minutes of the 6/28 meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

Prosecutor: Justin Oleson attended and Clerk Lura Baker provided him with a copy of the BOE appeal information for the 7/23/21 BOE appeal hearing. The Board of Commissioners will attend the hearing with the Prosecutor. Commissioner Smith inquired about Justin's opinion of the "Constitutional County" Resolution from Nevada. It was reviewed and discussed. The RFQ and RFP requirements for the Custer County courtroom annex and the sheriff office trailer were then discussed. Justin pointed out that they need to know exactly what you want before they can provide a bid. The needed increase in the law enforcement contracts with the cities was discussed next, and the balance of needs versus abilities. The problem of hiring deputies for the first time, then having them transfer elsewhere immediately after completing POST was talked over. The county needs a way to recoup the costs involved in getting a young officer through POST, if they transfer so quickly.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:15, and it was reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins, Clayton Collins and Heath Perrine/USFS and Matt Marsh/BLM.

Agencies: Matt Marsh reported on the Trails Meeting they had with the Trails Committee to work on an UTV trail from Challis Hot Springs to the City of Challis. They will need to institute a UTV Crossing for the highway and good signage will be needed for UTV use of the concrete bridge across the Salmon River. The next meeting will be July 24th. He then inquired about the progress on the LHTAC Bay Horse Bridge project. Commissioner Smith informed him that working through the second application process will take some time. The BLM is moving into Stage #1 Fire Restrictions on Thursday July 22nd, which include no open fires outside of campgrounds with metal fire rings. Only stoves that use gas or liquid fuel are approved. They are interviewing for the BLM weed position today and hope to get the position filled. They still have two vacancies in their range division. The feral horses in the Alkali Spring area are still on the loose. The bait traps will be re-baited now that the range cows have moved on. The Konnex Mining Company on the Mackay mine hill has put in their Plan of Operations. Mention was made of the electric power that they will be needing, and how they plan to put in a system of generation using the ore conveyor. Commissioner Smith inquired about the "Head House" that has been there for many, many years, and if it will be preserved. Matt was not sure, as it is on private property. The mine will be utilizing 157 acres of BLM ground, 77 acres of USFS ground, and 103 acres of private ground as well as their patented mining claims. Thompson Cr. Mine is now selling moly at \$18.00 to \$19.00 per pound, and are looking to add 300 more employees. The BLM is issuing a right-of-way permit for the re-painting of the word "CHALLIS" on the hills above town. There is no permit for painting numbers (year of graduation) just the word Challis. The Rally in the Pines ATV gathering begins July 15th – 18th, with the second gathering planned for July 28th – Aug. 1st. They are expecting 400 people, so the BLM and the USFS both plan to have a strong law enforcement presence. Commissioner Smith asked Matt about the science used for the conifer encroachment project in the Willow Cr. Summit area. Fuels

reduction and Sage Grouse habitat are the driving forces for these projects. Commissioner Corgatelli asked that predator reduction be included in any project designed to assist the Sage Grouse.

Clayton Collins spoke on some control measures that the USFS has used in Southern Idaho for ravens, to benefit the Sage Grouse. Clayton just returned from a 3-week fire assignment. The most active fire in the district is the Mud Lick Fire on Panther Cr. The Challis/Yankee Fork Ranger Dist. has hired Jonathan LaBlanch and he will be reporting to work on Aug. 2nd. Applications for the 2023 Great American Outdoors Act funding has been made for the Mt. Borah Trailhead with an updated design, and the Trails Strike Teams. Currently the river outfitters are having to deadhead down to Thompson Cr. airstrip to launch their trips due to low water conditions.

Heath Perrine reported on the 2022 GAOA funding that was received by his ranger district for 1) Trails Strike Teams, 2) Partnerships in Trail Work, 3) Rebuilding bridges on trails, and 4) Seafoam road repairs. Heath reported that the Heritage Surveys are now complete on the Bay Horse project, and they should have answers by September. He requested that when the Bay Horse Bridge does get funded that it is clear that loaded logging trucks will need to be able to cross any new bridge. The Wino Basin/Crane Basin area has also had the Heritage Survey Report completed and will be moving on to the next step in the process. Commissioner Smith commented on the extreme fuel load in the Lake Basin area up Trail Creek. His family held their reunion in the area and they commented on how all those dead trees could be used for firewood. Heath agreed to look into the situation. The Mud Lick Fire is now a Type II Fire, and the winds in the area are pushing it south. There is a fire crew assigned. The Furnace Cr. Fire/ Camas Cr. drainage has been contained, as well as the Aspen Fire/Bay Horse drainage and the Bachelor Fire/ Lucky Boy area. There are two fires in the backcountry, Honeymoon Fire/Sulphur Cr. drainage and the Countess Fire/near the Flying B Ranch that are being monitored but not manned. Heath reported on the Trap Burn Field Trip with the Salmon River Collaborative. They were able to view the actual fire breaks in the area and see how they work.

Sheriff: Sheriff Stu Lumpkin attended and reported on the day's events. Commissioner Corgatelli reported on the Stanley City Council meeting he attended. Stanley City Council has requested a list of the costs involved in maintaining a Deputy. The current wage scale was compared to other Idaho counties, and the problem of keeping new deputies that have completed POST training discussed. Stu presented the E-911 Grant application to the Board for signatures. He will catch up with Commissioner Butts when he returns from Washington D.C. The Rally in the Pines ATV gathering was discussed, and the estimated 400 to 600 persons expected to attend. There are currently 5 persons in the Custer County jail, with none lodged out of county.

P & Z: Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen gave the board members copies of her response letter to the Squaw Cr. zoning request. She will be completing the finding of facts. The next public hearing will be August 5th for special use. She requested additional guidance for proceeding on the "special use" zoning ordinance. Commissioner Smith suggested she talk to Lemhi Co. planning & zoning for help. Jessica has also received an application for an address on an unnamed road. She will talk with other area residents and gather additional information.

Claims: After review the following claims were approved as presented by a motion from Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli. Motion passed.

Current Expense	37,682.80
Road & Bridge	30,646.76
Battleground Mosquito	127.15
Election Fund	4.83
District Court	4,626.58
Rodeo Grounds	804.49
Health District	7,201.75
Indigent & Charity	43.38
Revaluation	677.09
Solid Waste	100.00
Weeds	467.92
Waterways	214.82
Emergency Comm.	3,201.09

Auditors Trust	106.50
S. Custer Ambulance	<u>59.12</u>
TOTAL	85,964.28

Agent: County Extension Educator Sarah Baker attended and introduced her new office assistant Terry Richards. Terry visited with the Board about her job. She is currently living in a rental and is needing a builder for her home. Commissioner Smith inquired about the number of inquiries they are receiving? Terry verified that folks are liking the fact that the Extension Office is open regular hours. Sarah then handed out draft copies of the proposed annual agreement between the County and the U of I for the board to review. She then reviewed the projects that they have done this year. Planting the flower barrels as a 4-H fundraiser; Teen Group attended state and two Custer County 4-H members now hold state offices; Sponsored a “Lamb Camp” at the County Fairgrounds; assisted with a state “military camp” at the Living Waters facility with the National Guard; Livestock weigh-in count for the County Fair show higher numbers; Beef – 25, Hogs – 34, Lambs – 19; Hosted the U of I President at their office. The Ag Week program was very successful, they taught in all the elementary classrooms at the schools. The BQA Class they sponsored in Pahsimeroi was very well attended. Their office has been doing a lot of nitrate testing on feed, and the on line “applicators classes” have been well received by local producers. They will be hosting the Eastern District Faculty Meeting this fall at the Living Waters Facility and expect about 35 people. Sarah’s travels have revealed that the drought conditions worsen as you travel south. Lemhi County range condition is somewhat better than Custer County. The added pressure from wildlife is not helping the situation anywhere.

Hunter Diel/Challis Messenger reported attended the meeting. The meeting was recessed for the Public Hearing on Fee Increases for the Custer County Fair Grounds at 4:00 PM and returned to regular session at 4:10 PM. Those attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins, Reporter Hunter Diel, Agent Sarah Baker, and Office Assistant Terri Richards. With no dissenting comments received, Commissioner Smith made a motion that the new fees be adopted as proposed in Resolution #2021-10. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the roll call vote was unanimous ayes. Wording for the RV Space rental fee needs to state “per day” on the application. The Fair Board secretary Natalie Teichert was called and notified of the wording that needs to be changed.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Wayne F. Butts, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

Lura H. Baker, Clerk