

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
April 8, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Randy Corgatelli, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Commissioner Jake Zollinger, Clerk Lura Baker, Road & Bridge Supt. Brandon Jones, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, Will Naillon, Ron Bloxham and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance.

Weeds: Brett Plummer informed the Board that the weed spraying drone is here. He will be doing training with Fremont & Bonneville counties. He has all the required licenses completed except for one, which he will be testing for soon. The new roadside spray truck is here also. He is designing the spray unit so it will slide in and be easily moved to another truck when required. The Spring Weed Superintendents meeting is on April 10th, and he will be attending. The sterilization requests are being started, as temperatures and moisture allow. Linda Zollinger and Brett Plummer both have their Weed Free Certifications and will be certifying hay crops. Weed Free twine is available this year and Brett has plenty in stock. The herbicide orders have arrived and will be used as soon as the temperatures allow. The new Noxious Weed List is available, and the required ad will be published in the paper. Brett is working on getting a postcard of the 5 most un-wanted weeds in Custer County put together to send out. Commissioner Smith inquired about phone calls concerning leafy spurge in southern Custer County, but Brett hasn't received any as yet. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about his crew, and it will be the same as last year.

Road & Bridge Dept: Brandon Jones verified some meeting dates with the Board. The Bridges upriver near Thompson Cr. will be selected on 4/9/24 at 11:00AM, it was agreed that Randy would attend the meeting. Garden Creek Road Phase II meeting will be 4/16/24 at 9:00, and Jake will attend via Zoom connection. Supt. Jones has looked into "Frost Solutions" that makes a mini weather station you can connect with via phone. It records temperatures, wind speed, precipitation as well as a 10 day forecast. They are used to check on weather conditions at remote sites. The annual lease fee is \$3,000.00 per unit. Brandon would like to try a unit in the Goldberg Area and one in the upper East Fork area. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the trial of one unit for the cost of \$3,000.00. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed. The road crews will begin capping the lower end of Custer Road in the Pahsimeroi next week. They will be using materials from the Grouse Flats gravel pit. The new culvert installation and preparation work is being done this week. Supt. Jones has been searching for a new gravel source in the East Fork with the BLM geologist and his crushing contractor. They have three possible sites and are working on permissions. The crushing costs are way down from 2023, but it is a good offset for the oil costs that have gone way up. They have been able to get permitted for a rip-rap source in the East Fork. The BLM personnel have been very good to work with. In researching purchase of satellite phones for the Road & Bridge Dept. Brandon found that they "require" automatic credit card payments monthly. The Board asked about getting an annual payment set up? Brandon will contact the company. There are (4) trailers that have been stored at the R&B Yard, as well at the County van that was totaled. Brandon would like to get the yard cleaned up and needs to know who to contact? The "Safe Roads to All" program offers grants for message billboard trailers and traffic counters. Brandon would like be approved to apply for the grant program, as both items would benefit the R&B department. The entire Board of Commissioners agreed that he should proceed. Commissioner Zollinger asked about the ownership of the Donkey Hills Road. Old records have been reviewed and it is leaning toward being an RS-2477. Further research will be done.

Clerk: Lura Baker provided the bid received for Courthouse lawn maintenance to the board for opening. Jordan Oerke bid \$2,830.00 for 2024 courthouse lawn maintenance. Commissioner Zollinger moved to accept the bid of \$2,830.00 from Jordan Oerke. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Certificate of Residency: Clerk Baker provided the Klinger application for review by the Board. Commissioner Smith moved that the application be approved, Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion carried.

Clerk Lura Baker then updated the Board on the computer failure that has happened in the Supreme Court system. The unit has been delivered to Boise and is not repairable. The Supreme Court IT representative is here at Custer County and is doing all he can. Our Deputy Court Clerk worked with the IT crew on Saturday trying to get things up and running. There will be a court reporter coming to Custer County to assist.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal at 8:47 AM. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Zollinger, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 9:02 AM.

N. Custer Rodeo Committee: Krista Koeppen and Myla Naillon attended the meeting. Krista presented a quote they received from Ollar Construction to upgrade the Rodeo bathrooms in the amount of \$6,700.00. A ceiling will be put into the entire building with 10" blown in insulation. Lights, and an exhaust fan will be installed. Commissioner Smith moved to accept the upgrade quote and approve the work on the rodeo bathrooms. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it carried. Krista then updated the Board on the fencing projects planned for this summer. The next Rodeo Committee meeting will be May 7th at 6:45 PM at the Custer Telephone Cottage. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about who was taking care of the lawn mowing? Krista Koeppen has been doing the mowing at the Rodeo grounds. The old unreliable tractors have been sold, and the Committee is searching for a new tractor they can afford. Commissioner Zollinger asked if the Board could get an inventory of the equipment and fence panels that the N. Custer Rodeo Committee owns? Krista agreed to get the list for him. Discussion on the purchasing threshold of \$750.00 was held. The Commissioners rely on their committee members to keep them informed and appreciate all information they are given.

Postage Machine: Deputy Clerk Hawkins presented the information for the updated Pitney Bowes postage machine that meets the new IBI (Information Based Indicia) US Postal Service requirements effective June 2024. The Send Pro Mail Center 2000 will have a lease payment of \$921.00 per quarter. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the postage machine upgrade to the Send Pro Mail 2000. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed.

Mackay Search & Rescue: Clerk Lura Baker has received a copy of the "USFS Collection Agreement" form from Jim Gregory for the Mackay Search & Rescue group for USFS radio communications and possible chopper use. Levi Maydole/Challis Search & Rescue explained the situation from the past and how it affects today. Clerk Lura Baker will get the form completed on their behalf.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer, Treasurer provided her monthly report and informed the Board that there will be no tax deed sales required this year.

The meeting was recessed to go into Tax Exemption Hearing/BOE at 9:30 A.M. and returned to regular session at 10:00 A.M.

Assessor: Jacquell Bruno reported that the court decision upheld Custer County's position for no exemption on the Confluence application. Their attorney has requested additional tax exemption options for wildlife and charitable. The solid waste fees were then discussed. Assessor Bruno will provide a solid waste information packet for the Board. All agreed that the solid waste department needs to be self-supporting. A meeting date will be set up.

Commissioner Smith moved to amend the agenda and move NRAC up to 10:15 AM from 10:30 AM. Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion passed.

NRAC: Chairman Jim Hawkins attended as inquired about the progress with a "Collation of Idaho Counties" that are dealing with the Grizzly Bear issues? Commissioner Smith has heard from Cassia Co. and Idaho Co. but the other counties are only verbally supportive at this time. Commissioner Smith updated the Board on a Bill S-2571 that has been introduced by Senator Risch to delist the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states. He suggested comments be submitted. Hawkins reviewed the EPA proposed regulation changes for small meat processing plants that will

affect the national food supply. He has sent the information to the Idaho Cattle Association and the Idaho Farm Bureau. It is a delicate balance between private property rights and planning & zoning regulations. Hawkins then inquired about the Forest Plan Revision? Has USFS Forest Supervisor/Heather DeGeest attended a Custer County Commissioner meeting as yet? She will be contacted and invited to attend.

Commissioner Smith moved to amend the agenda to move Emergency Management up to 10:45 AM, from 11:00. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed.

Emergency Management: Manager Levi Maydole reported that the IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert Warning System) Certificates are here. There will be an IPAWS training tomorrow. Custer County is partnering with Butte and Blaine Counties on this system. The BRIC Grant for the Mackay Dam is at 99%, but there are still questions that Maydole is answering. It is slowly moving forward. Maydole reported on TUSA progress with the Communications Project. He has had no response on the CWPP and will contact them. The upgrades in Tactical Armor for the Sheriff Department has been ordered and will be delivered soon. The Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK's) for the Sheriffs Deputies have been ordered and delivery will be soon. Renewal of the AHMP is required every 5 years and it is currently being handled by LBYD. FEMA has had a 9% cut in 2025 funding for the county, so their share of expenses will be \$20,000 not \$22,000 as in the past. It will be addressed in the budgeting process. The Search & Rescue breakroom still needs to have a sink installed. The Board agreed that he should proceed with Commissioner Smith informed Maydole on the abandoned trailers that are stored in the Road & Bridge yard. Maydole updated the Board on the history of the trailers and their intended use by Search & Rescue.

Commissioner Smith provided copies of a floor plan sketch of the proposed Stanley Sheriff/Waterway/S&R Office building. Discussion was held on the most cost-effective heating method to use. Commissioner Smith will get the 40' x 60' reviewed floor plan to the SNRA for approval.

The billing statement for the Road & Bridge Satellite phone purchase was received and a request for use of the credit card for payment. There was a \$520.00 discount for making it an annual payment. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase from Connecta Satellite Solutions, LLC at a cost of \$5,291.34 for two satellite phones for the Road & Bridge Department. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed.

The meeting was recessed at 11:50 AM to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The regular meeting was reconvened at 11:55 AM.

Claims: Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the following claims be approved and paid with an addition of \$28,299.02 – Summit National Bank for the new Cat roller payment. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed.

Current Expense	27,950.97
Road & Bridge	70,148.99
District Court	2,844.97
Health District	12,491.00
Revaluation	756.00
Solid Waste	100.00
Weeds	48,329.63
LACTF	1,742.73
Emergency Communications	1,219.14
Auditors Trust	<u>1,774.00</u>
TOTAL	167,357.43

The meeting was recessed for a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending were Commissioner Zollinger, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Ron Bloxham, Will Naillon, Riley Rhodes, Lance Stavast, John Runkle, Cody Kidd, Dave Hilliard and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins.

Agencies: Lost River Ranger Dist. Lance Stavast/Acting Dist. Ranger reported that the Mount Borah Trailhead specifications have been approved and construction will begin next summer. Funding for the project is positive. They have no staff hired for the Fire season and the fire engine is down for repairs. The range permittee meetings are currently on going.

Challis/Yankee Fork Ranger Dist. John Runkle/Assistant Dist. Ranger reported on the projects that have cleared the NEPA process. The Winnemucca Bridge and the Copper Mountain Road reroute. Range meeting within the USFS are ongoing and the horse grazing has been approved for the Diamond D. The USFS road crews are cleaning out cattleguards, and the archeologist position is still empty.

Challis/Yankee Fork Ranger Dist. Riley Rhodes/Fuels reported the local timber crew members have been stepping up in responsibilities. Erin Pierson is the new Timber Management Assistant. They have completed a small controlled burn in the Big Gulch/Pahsimeroi area.

Challis/Yankee Fork Ranger Dist. Cody Kidd/Zone Fire Mgmt. Officer reported the snowpack water content is around 90% of normal. They have filled 10 of the 17 positions for the Challis zone. The Clayton zone has 7 position of 14 filled. Mackay is not staffed and will work closely with the S. Custer Rural Fire Department. The Mutual Aid 5-year agreement will expire on May 1st. The fire helicopter will arrive in Challis on June 12th this year. They will be working with Minuteman Helicopter Service from Missoula.

BLM Assistant Director Dave Hilliard reported they are still trying hard to fill positions. Kevin Lloyd is still working with the feral horses. Their office is working with IOGA and the ID Fish & Game on critical habitat access. Commissioner Smith requested copies of the Fish & Game requests for BLM to close road access? Commissioner Zollinger inquired about the comment period for the Bayhorse / Keystone connecting road. Dave reported that the OSC and ID F&G have backed off on closing the road for winter access. Commissioner Zollinger also informed the BLM of a sign in the Darling Cr. drainage that states the road is closed for "elk calving – November through March". That is not when cow elk calve. Dave then reported that Josh Travers has taken a Recreation Position in Grand Junction, Colorado and his final day will be May 1st. Martha Price will be the 120-day detailer to cover his position.

Commissioner Smith moved to amend the claims motion to include a demand payment to Dry Creek Hydro in the amount of \$4,637.00. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Stanley Sheriff Office: The old R.V. sewer hook up was checked on Tuesday by and is not useable. Tad Berry /Challis Septic agreed to look into the problems and report back to the Commissioners. Commissioner Smith has set up a final inspection date with Big Ben Construction/Damon Burk on April 13th for the remodel job that was done to increase Stanley Deputy housing.

Sheriff: Stu Lumpkin attended and provided his monthly report. Commissioner Smith inquired about the working relationship with the new mayor in Mackay? Sheriff Lumpkin said things were going fine. The floor plan for the proposed Stanley Sheriff's office was then shared. The ID State Police officers utilize the Stanley office almost weekly. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about how the new grill guards for the Sheriff vehicles were progressing? Stu will contact Coach Works and get an update on the delivery date.

Commissioner Smith moved that the 3/27/24 minutes of the regular Commissioners meeting be approved as printed. Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion passed. A Special Commissioners Meeting was scheduled for 1:00 PM on Thursday 5/16/24 to take care of needed policy housekeeping duties

Commissioner Corgatelli made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 3:00 PM. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 3:20 PM.

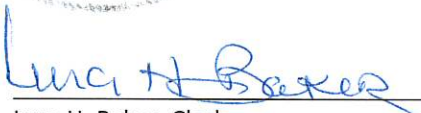
Commissioner Smith inquired about a rumored legislative bill that has been presented for delisting of the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states? He encouraged everyone to comment as soon as possible. The information will be researched and sent to the full board. Public notice requirements were then discussed and how and where to find the information from the federal agencies. It is a problem for the public to locate the notices

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.




Randy Corgatelli, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:


Lura H. Baker, Clerk