

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
February 13, 2023

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

**Weeds:** Brett reported on the classes he will be attending this spring. The herbicide bids have come in, Wilber-Ellis at \$66,000.00 and Nutriena Ag at \$56,000.00, both way up from last year. He will split his order and take the best prices from each bid. Commissioner Butts attended the meeting. Brett is in the process of updating the Weed MOU with Lemhi County. They are taking the "Cheatgrass Challenge" that will treat 5000 acres of cheatgrass with a helicopter; 3500 acres of BLM ground, 1000 acres of USFS ground and 500 acres of private lands. This is a collaborative effort of Lemhi Co., Custer Co., BLM, and USFS.

**Road & Bridge:** Brandon updated the Board on the new EFT payment requirement for matching funds for the Garden Creek Road LHTAC Grant of \$389,594.00, and provided copies of the agreement for their review. Brandon has the road crew pushing back the huge drifts on Custer Road and Summit Cr. with the dozer and graders. Spar Canyon road has drifted in as well and they will begin working the drifts back next week. Mike at LHTAC was called on the conference phone and the payment methods discussed. Clerk Lura Baker contacted Nancy Luthy at ITD and has made arrangements for payment by County warrant for these matching funds. The wing plow ram on the grader is showing signs of severe wear from the deep snows this winter, and needs to be rebuilt. Road & Bridge has had a lot of trouble with diesel fuel jelling. Fuel has even jelled in the diesel pump before it gets to the vehicle tanks. All agreed that the mixtures have changed in the fuel being purchased. Commissioner Smith moved that the Garden Creek MOU be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The 1995 Ford L8000 dump truck has required a reconditioned radiator and a new head on the engine. Brett Plummer was a huge help getting the valves installed and the truck up and running again. Brandon will double check everything in a week, to be sure all is well. The Gates Hydraulic Hose Press is being set up in the old shop. It came with a set of 6 die sizes, organizational bins and many, many fittings. All agreed it was a great purchase at the price. Commissioner Butts recommended getting the machine calibrated by a Gates supply representative and having the crimp specifications printed out. Brandon has been contacted by the new Road Crew Boss at USFS, Shane. They want to work on the access road up to the Grouse Peak/Flattop Repeater. He has asked if the County Road & Bridge Dozer could be used, as they do not have a dozer. The Board felt it would be OK to work with them as possible. Brandon plans to write up an equipment use agreement to cover any repair issues or operational problems. The USFS is working on plans to fund more projects through Schedule A agreements to keep their road system in useable condition. The time line involved makes it possible to work through the County budget process. Commissioner Smith inquired about the Conex box storage facility progress. Brandon will need to get the boxes placed before they can get the frame for the fabric cover put up. Commissioner Butts inquired about the Stanley area Museum/Cemetery Road. The meeting in Stanley on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> will have this on the agenda and Brandon plans to attend.

**Treasurer:** Allicyn Latimer, Treasurer attended and provided copies of her monthly report to the Board. Commissioner Corgatelli made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(I) for Risk Management at 9:00 AM Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Ayes. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Treasurer Allicyn Latimer, Deputy Treas. Verla Harvie and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 9:17 AM. Prosecutor Justin Oleson attended at 9:12 AM. Clerk Lura Baker brought the Treasurers Dept. up to date on Idaho Statute §67:2061-1: Payment of matching funds over 100K to the State of Idaho.

**Assessor:** Jacquell Bruno attended and asked the Board for clarification on exemptions for solid waste fees, on which accounts should be classified as commercial and which should be exempt. Clerk Lura Baker provided copies of the BOE applications the Clerk's Office has received back to the Board. Jacquell receives requests quite often for items to be added to the Custer County website. The Board felt that the website is for "Custer County" business only. Chairman Butts suggested adding Kristen Walker to the web site team to assist Tracy Barrett. Jacquell felt it would work out well, as Tracy is very busy with work in the Assessors Office. The possible addition of a cell tower in the Yankee Fork area was then discussed and suggestions offered.

**NRAC:** Jim Hawkins attended and gave a synopsis of the proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern designations for Greater Sage Grouse recently published. He felt it would be a major blow to the agricultural producers of the region. Range fence condition is a major topic at the local NRAC meetings. The committee is working on getting a definitive answer about NEPA requirements for the repair/rebuilding of these 60-year-old fences from the agencies. After discussion it was agreed that the chain of command needs to be followed, and a letter needs to be sent out. Jim agreed to draft the letter on their behalf.

The Board and Prosecutor reviewed possible designs for the Sheriff's Office and jail. Commissioner Smith updated the Board on the legislative representatives that he visited with in Boise. Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes of the 1/13/23 Special Meeting be approved as presented, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was recessed for a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith, Challis Dist. Ranger Heath Perrine, Lost River Dist. Ranger Jonathan LeBlanc, BLM Field Director Josh Travers and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins.

**Federal Agencies:** BLM Field Director Josh Travers asked if the Right-of-Way Agreement for the East Fork Solid Waste Transfer Site was accepted. The Board let him know that they approved it at the last meeting and it will be returned to the BLM. Josh then offered his personal cell phone number to the Board members for future contact purposes. He informed the Board that the Rally-N-The Pines group as send in a permit application for their event this summer. This is a step forward from last years event. The feral horses that have been hanging on and around highway 75 have been hazed and driven back from the roadway. The BLM is attempting to use hay baits to keep them off highway 75. If the bait plan doesn't work, then the next plan will be implemented. Josh clarified they were holding off with trapping the horses due to problems with finding a place to keep them once caught. Chairman Butts explained the forthcoming letter from the Board of Commissioners on grazing allotment fences and Greater Sage Grouse ACEC's.

Lost River Ranger Johnathan LeBlanc reported that his district has hired a new Range Specialist, Matt Wheeler. They have also hired two new members for their fire crews. The Castle Creek NEPA is nearly complete. Snowpack is looking very good at 151% to date. The engineering for the Mt. Borah trailhead facility will not be complete until next year. Commissioner Smith is concerned that the ITD donated road materials are disappearing quickly from the stockpile.

Challis District Ranger Heath Perrine reported that the Deputy Ranger position left by Clayton Collins will be filled with a temporary shortly. The Bayhorse timber sale is on hold again since the listing of the White Bark Pine. Riley Rhodes is the new team leader for the project now. Heath reviewed the MOU the USFS has with the ID Public Lands Council. It gives permittees the ability to do their own monitoring. The ISDA is working with the USFS to complete the monitoring standards. In recreation the Bayhorse Lake boat docks are still needing replacement. Heath reviewed his plan for placing the new docks at the boat docking site, and getting the fishing docks along the marshy edge of the lake extended out further into the lake. He would like to improve the docks in both lakes during the 2024 season. Commissioner Smith suggested finding replacement docks through the Idaho Fish & Game for the extensions. The USFS is looking at increasing campground fees this year. They plan to offer Indian Springs and Bonanza Guard Stations for sites, as well as the Basin Butte Look-Out. The Sawtooth Wildfire Collaborative was formed after the Hallstead Fire in the Stanley area. It has been 10 years and they are working on getting it up and running again. Firewise CUPP was discussed. Northwest has done the Custer County Firewise Program in the past. A date in the week of February 27th is being proposed, and Heath will get back with the actual meeting date.

Heath is working to expand the Schedule A road agreements to work through the County to get projects completed. These include road brushing and a resurface of the Big Hill Road. Chairman Butts suggested including the Grouse Peak Road also. This is a maintenance level #2 road that meets the USFS needs, but not the needs of SREC or Salmon River Propane. USFS has received requests for improvements and possibly a re-route. The closures for road work on the Boundary Cr. Road will be during daylight work hours, 9:00 AM to 4:PM

**Sheriff:** Chief Deputy Crissi Gilchrist attended and provided the monthly report. The MOA Law Enforcement contract with Salmon-Challis National Forest was reviewed and Crissi verified that Sheriff Lumpkin had approved it. Commissioner Smith moved to approve and sign the MOA, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Crissi reported that the ID State Police P.O.S.T. will be held in May and September. Chris and Gavin are scheduled to attend the May training, with Ethan scheduled to attend in September. Their office is still short one deputy in the Stanley area. They have had good applications, but the lack of housing is the problem. Commissioner Corgatelli has visited with the SNRA about additional housing and it will be addressed at the 2-22-2023 meeting.

Walt Johnson attended the meeting at 2:45 PM. Commissioner Smith moved that the 1-25-23 Commissioner meeting minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then moved that the 1-25-23 Public Hearing-Seay Rezone minutes be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Butte County SWCD:** Walt Johnson, Board Member of the Butte County Soil and Water Conservation District reported on the merging of the Blaine County SWCD office with the Butte County SWCD office. The county boards still operate separately, but the Butte office is the busiest SWCD office in the state. Commissioner Smith moved that the Custer County 2023 contribution to the Butte SWCD be in the amount of \$4,500.00. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Butts thanked Walt for his 30+ years of service on the Board of Directors for the Butte Co. SWCD. Walt then thanked Wayne for his 20+ years of service on the Custer County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Smith moved to amend the agenda and add Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation at 4:30 PM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Paperwork requesting the East Idaho State Fair 2023 Contribution was reviewed. Commissioner Smith reported on his meeting attendance. Commissioner Smith made a motion that \$1,500.00 be sent to the E. ID State Fair for the 2023 Custer County Contribution. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(i) for Risk Management at 3:21 PM Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Ayes. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts, 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 3:25 PM.

**Claims:** Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the following claims be approved and paid with additions of \$453,266.93, (Comtech \$16,822.67 – JUB Engineering \$46,196.00 – Steve Smith \$654.26 & LHTAC Match of \$389,594.00) Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	81,423.02
Road & Bridge	267,855.67
Battleground Mosquito	200.12
Election Fund	39.49
District Court	1,202.49
County Fair	14,000.00
Rodeo Grounds	80.17
JR College	1,500.00
Revaluation	778.99
Solid Waste	3,394.15
Weeds	2,451.83
Waterways	164.39

PILT	189,594.00
EM Communications	1,601.57
Auditors Trust	<u>86.50</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 564,372.39</b>

**Planning & Zoning:** Jessica attended Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal at 3:30 PM Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Ayes. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, P&Z Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 3:37 PM. Commissioner Smith requested copies of the updated Planning & Zoning forms for his binder, Jessica will get copies for each board member.

**Emergency Manager:** Levi attended and gave his SHSP Grant updates. He has received responses to his request for bids to install the generator at Grouse Peak/Flattop repeater site from Ray's Heating & Plumbing and Salmon River Propane. Salmon River Propane has taken their bid back for review, as an employee issue has changed things. The TUSA bid of \$39,930.00 for Phase II was reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that TUSA Phase II be approved with payment through ARPA Funds, pending Treasurer notification. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. The Custer County Search & Rescue command trailer that was acquired through Federal Surplus is currently being used for storage only. Levi has talked to the Search & Rescue group and they are agreeable to it being repurposed as his Emergency Management Command Center. The Board all agreed that this was a better use of the equipment.

The meeting was recessed at 4:28 PM to go into South Custer Ambulance, and reconvened at 4:30 PM. Applications for event dates at the Rodeo Grounds were reviewed. Commissioner Corgatelli made a motion to approve the Spank Martiny Memorial Bronc's & Bulls application for use of the Rodeo Grounds on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The approved name list for the Idaho Bureau of Federal Surplus Property was looked over. The Sheriff's Office representative needs to be updated from Justin Mitchell to Crissi Gilchrist. The Board approved the change and Hattie King, Technical Records Specialist will be contacted to add Crissi. Commissioner Corgatelli made a motion to approve the Idaho Parks & Recreation Waterways MOU for 2023. Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion passed. The forthcoming changes in postage regulations were gone over. The current Pitney Bowes postage machine will need to be replaced as it is not IMI compliant. We have until Dec 2024 to get a new IMI compliant meter system in place. The Clerks office is checking into options for replacement meters.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.



Attest:

*Lura H. Baker*

Lura H. Baker, Clerk

*Wayne F. Butts*

Wayne F. Butts, Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner