

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
May 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 AM by Vice Chairman Randy Corgatelli with Commissioners Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones, Karma Bragg-Custer Soil & Water Conservation District and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance. Chairman Wayne Butts attended via phone connection.

Weeds: Brett reported that he completed the local road side spray work before the rains arrived, and he is expecting a good success. As the weather warms up they are expecting to get very busy. Commissioner Smith inquired about having spray work done on the outlying cemeteries that are doing fence work. Brett agreed that he would spray them when he was in the area.

Road & Bridge: CWSCD Director Karma Bragg updated the Board on the Garden Creek wetland mitigation revegetation project. All the plantings are completed and it is looking very good. (she provided photos) The CSWCD will do the monitoring for the first 5-years. All sections of the project came within the budget allotted. She would like to see photo monitoring set up on the projects. Commissioner Smith moved that the invoice for \$16,3374.00 for the revegetation work be paid. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Karma then reported on the BPA funding changes that are in the works within the state of Idaho. CSWCD still has a "habitat Contract with BPA, but the new OSC option has been declined by the CSWCD.

Brandon has met with landowners affected by the Garden Creek Road 2023 summer project work. They now understand the survey marker meanings and are OK with the survey results. They would like to have an approach put in and Brandon will work with Prosecutor Oleson to get the agreement drawn up. The proposed school to work program discussed at the last meeting has been put into limbo due to insurance issues. The Hamm Roller is still not working correctly. Brandon was able to get it repaired, but upon unloading the machine it went down again due to DEF problems. It is looking like \$5,000.00 to keep the machine running. The USFS is working with the Road & Bridge Dept and letting them use their roller on the East Fork road job, until the Hamm Roller can be repaired to run. Brandon has started on the paperwork required to replace the Hamm Roller when the contract is up. He then explained the tool box and fuel tank that is needed for the crew trucks. The Board agreed they were necessary for smooth operation of different crews within the County. Brandon also requested clearance to purchase a basic set of "adjustment tools" to be used by each grader crew, so the Shop tools aren't always being taken out to jobs. He plans to get them through Harbor Freight at a reasonable cost. The Board agreed that shop tools need to remain in the shop, but crews should keep their equipment in adjustment. The tool purchase was approved. One of the crew members bought a basic set of tools at his own expense last year, and it was also agreed that he should be reimbursed, as well as thanked for his forward thinking.

Brandon then reported that his applications for bridge replacement LHTAC Grants on Squaw Creek were successful for two of the three bridges. The lower bridge #KN-73130 will be paid at \$950,000.00 and the upper bridge site #KN-73140 will be paid at \$850,000.00. Neither of these grants will require any matching funds be paid by Custer County. Brandon suggested holding a town meeting to inform residents of the upcoming bridge replacement work. All agreed that getting these bridges rebuilt will be a great benefit when the Thompson Creek Mine opens back up for full production. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Bridge Grant Applications #KN-73130 and #KN-73104. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Butts commented that it was so good to have such an effective Road & Bridge Superintendent, and a hard working and dedicated Road Crew.

Clerk: The CPR Training being offered to County personell was discussed. Commissioner Butts commented that defibrillator equipment is needed within the courtroom/courthouse. Road and Bridge has 5 to 7 people that would like to attend the training. Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Corgatelli both added their names to the list. Lura has received notice from Conflict Attorney Treavor Castleton that he will be leaving Custer County in August. He did give her some possible replacement names. Tyler Dodge has sent his resume, which was reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the hiring of Tyler Dodge as Conflict Defender for Custer County.

Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Progress on the removal of the surplus buildings was reviewed. Striping of the interiors of the buildings is about complete, next is the roof.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer, Treasurer provided her monthly report to the Board, there were no questions.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal at 9:45 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Ayes. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts (via phone), Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Prosecutor Justin Oleson, Assessor Jacquell Bruno, Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 10:13 AM.

Assessor: Jacquell Bruno attended with Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia, Commissioner Wayne Butts, Commissioner Steve Smith, Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Jim Hawkins and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins for the Tax Equalization session at 10:15 AM.

NRAC: Committee Chairman Jim Hawkins attended and discussed the May 10th meeting scheduled with the Lemhi County Board of Commissioners at the Dusty Mule Café at 2:00 PM. He suggested that Custer County reach out to Butte County Commissioners also. The required Economic Study for the Forest Plan Revision was then brought up. It is understood that Lemhi County is taking the lead. Jolie Turek/CCEDA and Tammy White/LCEDA are working on the project. Jolie will be invited to the next commissioners meeting for an update on the socio-economic study progress. The Greater Sage Grouse/BLM Land Use Planning was then discussed, and their response that they did not have Custer Counties comments available. It was agreed that Mary Darling/Darling Geomatics would provide the response for Custer County. Commissioner Corgatelli asked why the millions of buffalo that were residents of America are never considered when the agencies are trying to remove cattle from the land? Commissioner Smith will work up an e-mail response for Clerk Lura to forward to Mary Darling and the rest of the Board.

Animal Damage Control Board: A request for support for the 2023 fiscal year has been received in the amount of \$5,500.00. Discussion was held and it was noted that Cliff Hansen is the current Custer County representative on the ADC board. Commissioner Smith made a motion that the \$5,500.00 be paid to the ADC. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed unanimously. It was mentioned that the ID Fish & Game has not provided the Annual Wolf Report as promised, so a G-2-G meeting was suggested.

Clerk: The beginning Budget Meeting was scheduled for June 2nd, 1:00 PM for the Clerk and Commissioners. The meeting was then recessed for South Custer Ambulance Board at 11:00 AM. The meeting reconvened at 11:04 AM.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal at 11:05 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Ayes. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts (via phone), 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 11:35 AM.

Civil Defense: Levi attended and provided a copy of the TUSA Proposal for the Board members. He reported that the County Flood and Recovery Storage area is 95% complete now. The 40' Conex storage trailer is stocked with sand bags; there are piles of sand at each site to be used to fill the bags; and the signage is in place. The Red Cross Shelter and Food Distribution areas have been set up. Both of the Mackay Schools, the Challis High School and the Challis Economic Development Center are approved sites. Levi has been asked by the South Custer Fire Department to provide funding for purchase of 9 hand held radios for their department through the SHSP Grant funds. After discussion Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of hand-held radios for the SCFD in the amount of \$5,400.00. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Levi then reported on the condition of the Custer County Law Enforcement body armor. The department currently uses soft-body armor, and they need to also have ballistic vests that are rifle rated. A thorough discussion with the Board on life span of armor and future needs was held. Commissioner Smith made a motion that rifle rated body armor and new soft-body armor be purchased with SHSP Grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00 for Custer County law enforcement officers. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

The meeting was recessed at 12:05 for a lunch break. The meeting reconvened at 1:30 PM with Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins attending. Attending from the federal agencies were Heath Perrine/CYFRD/USFS, Lance Stavast/LRRD/USFS, and Josh Travers/BLM.

Agencies: USFS Challis Yankee Fork Ranger Dist. Heath Perrine updated the Board on the Firewood Meeting they held at the FS Offices. The 3rd Party Permits are being phased out and replaced with a larger amount available for personal use and commercial use permits. There is a new 8-foot length restriction for firewood also. After discussion with the public at the meeting, the Ranger District now has a Commercial Dry pole cutting permit available. The maximum is 1200 rails/fence poles per person at a cost of \$.25 cents per rail. The standard post and pole permits are for cutting of green trees, and many do not want green fence poles. They are still working on the prescribed fire plan, especially in the South Big Lost and Wino Basin areas. They are working with the grazing permit holders to remove the grass fuels with cattle before the burns are staged. The Sawtooth Wildfire Collaborative meeting will be held in Stanley on May 31st. (also the Commissioners regular meeting) The YCC program has been accepted by 5 local students for the summer. Heath is still searching for a Deputy Middle Fork Ranger, and will have another acting ranger for the summer it seems. He then let the group know that Chuck Mark/District Ranger is retiring in December 2023. Heath added later that the main interest in drones within the USFS is for fire control, although there are many application options available.

Lost River Ranger Dist. Lance Stavast reported that there has been some flooding in Antelope Creek this spring near the Cherry Creek tributary. They have received the draft decisions on the Borah Trailhead proposal and hope to begin work at the end of the year. The YCC program will be hosting 10 students in the Mackay area, with 6 seasonal workers.

BLM – Josh Travers updated the Board on the \$290 Million in funding that is coming into the Idaho area through the BLM offices. His office has submitted project proposals for the Upper Salmon River that have NEPA completed. Stream habitat restoration, aerial cheatgrass spraying, riparian area fencing, water conveyances, and tributary weed suppression have all been submitted. When asked about "allotment fence rebuilding" he suggested that it may come out of the next phase of funding. The annual spring BLM grazing turnout date will be this week. They are working on a list of supplies needed for the water conveyance improvements. The 2023 wild (feral) horse census showed 212 horses (including 5 or 6 foals) on the range. The upper limit count for the area is 253 horses, so they are still planning a gather this season. They will either use a helicopter gather or the winter bait & trap system to remove the problem horses along State Highway 75.

Clerk: A date to meet with the SNRA personnel about the remodel of the Sheriff's office building in Stanley was set for May 26th @ 2:00 PM. An onsite walk around will answer many questions about additional deputy housing. The propane tank that is in the Stanley Solid Waste Transfer Site building needs to be paid for. Clerk Lura will research the information for the Board.

Claims: Commissioner Smith moved that the following claims be approved and paid with additions of \$5,500.00 for ADC, and \$1,100.00 for Tenex. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	33,561.79
Road & Bridge	16,078.69
Election Fund	61.80
District Court	2,098.37
Rodeo Grounds	446.11
Revaluation	85.97
Solid Waste	100.00
Weeds	2,653.75
Emergency Communications	1,121.57
Auditors Trust	<u>208.25</u>
TOTAL	56,416.30

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Seay Re-Zone Findings of Facts as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

Sheriff: Chief Deputy Crissi Gilchrist provided the monthly report to the Board. Commissioner Smith invited the Sheriff's Office to attend the May 26th meeting with the SNRA at the Stanley housing/office location. Clerk Lura Baker will confirm the date and time with the SNRA, Board and Sheriff's office. Crissi reported they have 6 deputies on staff now, but not second deputy for the Stanley area. The Board inquired about the condition of their equipment and if everyone was outfitted? Crissi informed the board that the (Wolf) body-cameras were wearing out and that they could use a few more sets of body-armor. She also reported that the process of getting new patrol vehicles is becoming a mess. The State bid system is 2 to 3 years out for delivery on a truck that is ordered today. Custer County is looking to change over to the Ron Sayer Dealership in Idaho Falls. She has been notified of delivery of a truck that was ordered in 2019. Clerk Lura Baker will get the payment paperwork ready in time to pick up the new truck. The computer programs utilized by the Sheriff's Department were then gone over, as well as the increasing cost for it all. Commissioner Smith made a motion that the Clerk's Office and Sheriff's Department remain with Harris computer programs. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Crissi then informed the Board about the available programs for dumping cell phone contents, as needed by the Prosecutors office. She would like to get the needed program and train someone inhouse to do the work.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the 4-26-2023 Commissioners minutes as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then moved that the Board of County Commissioners Tax Exemption minutes of 4-26-2023 be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried.

Indigent: Lyndee brought information on older cases that need to be assigned. Commissioner Smith moved that Final Assignments be done for #7C 2023-1, #7C 2019-00003, and #7C 2021-00001. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Lyndee then asked if any further cases arise how she should handle them?

The Law Enforcement Contract with Stanley was reviewed. Discussion was held on the costs incurred as well as the cost for additional housing and wage increases. Commissioner Smith made a motion to amend the contract to \$35,000.00 annually or \$2,960.67 per month. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion. A call was placed to Prosecutor Oleson about the Stanley contract. The contract will be provided to Sheriff Lumpkin for approval and signature before proceeding.

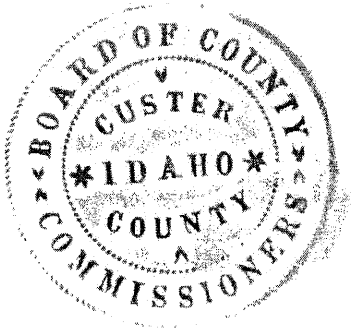
The Firewise Grant funds were then discussed and Clerk Lura Baker explained what they are to be used for and must be paid back if not utilized by 2026. Commissioner Smith made a motion to use the Title III percentage for Firewise Communities. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

Planning & Zoning: Jessica assisted the Board with choosing a date for the P&Z Board/Commissioners Luncheon of June 22nd or 23rd. She will check with her board and verify which date is chosen.

Christopher James attended with his manager Jason Lewis. Mr. James asked about future plans for housing in Custer County? Commissioner Smith informed him of housing projects that have been started in McCall, ID. Jason has been contacted repeatedly on the need for additional housing in the Challis area. All of their properties are currently filled with residents. It was agreed that it is the same story all around, in Salmon, Mackay, Stanley and Challis. Jessica suggested they contact the City of Challis about housing plans, as the city area is mainly zoned residential. The Planning & Zoning Board is standing firm on the protection of Custer County agricultural lands, especially any that have water rights. Christopher then inquired about a 5-year or a 10-year plan for housing in Custer County. The Board responded that it is not a duty of the county to provide housing and the Board did not want to become landlords. The crumbling road edges in Garden Creek were also discussed, and the Board assured them that the county process needs to be followed for public roads.

Clerk: Lura then reviewed the Personnel policy and how compensatory time is accrued and utilized. The Board agreed that compensatory time is only gained after 40 hours are worked. The 30-hour work weeks do not qualify.

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



Randy Corzattis For
Wayne F. Butts, Chairman
Custer County Commissioners

Attest:

Lura Baker

Lura H. Baker, Clerk