

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
October 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM by Vice Chairman Randy Corgatelli, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance. Commissioner Chairman Wayne Butts attended via phone.

**Weeds:** Brett reported on the 4900 acres of cheatgrass and knapweed that he assisted on spraying in conjunction with the USFS and BLM. The aerial spray work was funded by Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation and Foundation for North American Wild Sheep NGO's. He plans to get his 2024 herbicide order done this fall to keep ahead of the ever-rising costs. The BLM grant for \$385,000.00 is in process. This will be paid over a period of 5 years, requiring a total match of \$56,000 over the 5 years. His annual reports are showing that his department has completed 2200 acres of spray work this season. All the rain sure makes it look bad. The leafy spurge on the Warms Springs Ranch has been knocked way down from 90% to about 20% with the county spray program being used. The UNAV Drone is currently being built and Brett has begun his simulator drone training program. The final license will require actual flight of the drone. The CWMA is still in process of getting back up and running. Discussion turned to the Quagga Mussel problem in Idaho. Brett has been after the SNRA to get a full-time boat check station up and running in Stanley. He will be sending them another letter about the issue. The older white Ford truck did not sell on the Federal Surplus site. Ideas were exchanged on what to do next. A local sale will be explored. Brett will be off work on October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as November 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 18<sup>th</sup>. Steve passed on information about the Mackay area cemeteries weed issues. Brett will work with Holly Sayer this winter to formulate a weed plan.

**Road & Bridge:** Brandon brought information on the grader upgrade. The oldest grader is at the 5-year mark and the replacement will be arriving this coming week. All the snow gear will be re-installed on the new grader. The new lease agreement was reviewed and signed. Commissioner Smith moved that the new lease agreement in the amount of \$400,748.00 be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed with three ayes. The Garden Creek Road Project that was completed this summer was then discussed. Issues have been the whole gamut from trivial on through dangerous. The walk through on the competition will be tomorrow and Commissioner Corgatelli agreed to attend. Brandon has requested bids for a trailer to move the new Skid-steer, and will provide that information at the next meeting. The next Commissioners meeting date was then reviewed and changed from Wed. to the 25<sup>th</sup> to Mon. the 23<sup>rd</sup> due to a conflict with the BOE Appeals meeting. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 8:46 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 8:54 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli excused himself from the meeting for a medical appointment at 8:55 AM. Brandon will be attending the ID Transportation Department Annual Conference along with one member of his crew. The winter plowing equipment is being installed on the dump trucks as they become available. Getty Excavating has agreed to do the clean up of the slide area on the East Fork Road before winter arrives. Brandon was able to secure another truck for snow plowing. He will provide additional information at the next meeting.

**Probation:** Aletia attended and requested an executive session. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 9:04 AM. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and the roll call vote was Smith-Aye and Butts-Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts, Clerk Lura Baker, Probation Officer Aletia Straub-Workman and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 9:12 AM. Aletia reported that she has received her new office printer. The 2023 Juvenile Report shows that her case counts are up, well above the neighboring counties. She is having problems with the electronic key fob for the Durango vehicle. The Board suggested she get a new one.

**Clerk:** Commissioner Corgatelli returned to the meeting. Prosecutor Justin Oleson also attended the meeting. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal Review at 9:32 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Prosecutor Justin Oleson and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 9:52 AM.

**Treasurer:** Alicyn Latimer, Treasurer delivered her monthly reports. The payroll hacking discrepancy was discussed and the problems that it has spawned. Fraud assaults on local governments have gone through the roof and policy has been adjusted in response.

**Assessor:** Jacquell Bruno attended and presented the Solid Waste amount for FY 2023 of \$97,040.00. Commissioner Smith moved that the Solid Waste Fee be approved as presented, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**NRAC:** Chairman Jim Hawkins attended and discussed the next meeting with the Lemhi County Commissioners. Possible dates in late Oct. or early Nov. were suggested. He will get the meeting date and time set up. He inquired about any progress getting a Stop 30 X 30 Resolution at the state level? Commissioner Smith stated that it was not done during the IAC Annual meeting. The MOU with US Fish & Wildlife on the development of and EIS for the Grizzly Bear Bitterroot Ecosystem is ready for Commissioner approval and signatures. Mary Darling has agreed to assist Custer County with this EIS development and will be attending today's meeting at 5:00 PM – via Zoom connection. Commissioner Smith moved that the MOU between Custer County and the US Fish & Wildlife on the Grizzly Bear recovery EIS be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with 3 ayes. Commissioner Smith then inquired about the Stop 30 X 30 Conference that Jim attended in Texas? It covered the many ways that the 30 X 30 Agenda is still pushing the old Agenda 21 goals. Jim then suggested sending USFS Mary Farnsworth an e-mail with bullet points on forest supervisor qualifications that Custer County would like to see. Commissioner Smith agreed to formulate the e-mail with the following bullet points. \*Resource background, \*Coordination knowledge and experience, \*Proven leadership skills, \*Community minded. Custer County would also like to sit in on the interviews of final candidates.

**Emergency Services:** Manager Levi Maydole attended and updated the board on the plumbing costs for the bathroom in his office. He has a new quote from Adrienne Hall in the amount of \$900.00. This is to install a sink, water heater, utility sink, and toilet. Commissioner Smith moved the bid be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. The Grant Projects are starting up again with the new fiscal years budget. The SHSP Grant funding for FY2024 is \$22,402.87. IOEM has lowered the amount for Emergency Manager wages by \$2,000.00. Forward progress on the deputy housing in Stanley was then questioned. Contractor - Damon Burk will be contacted by the Board. The Board members all expressed their appreciation of Levi's efforts on the county's behalf.

Commissioner Smith was able to confer with Barbara Petty/U of I at the IAC meeting in Boise. She updated him on the situation of changing districts by an Extension Educator. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of 9/5/2023. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then made a motion to approve the 9/15/23 Commissioners Special meeting minutes. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Travis Pyle/Great West:** Travis attended to discuss the scope of work for a Custer County solid waste plan. The current situation was laid out and options noted for exploration. The "Small Community-Exempt" type of land fill recently opened in Butte County was also discussed. County property that is available for such use was verified, and current garbage services within Custer County were discussed. Travis pointed out that division of solid waste volume between collection agents will create an unfair cost allocation to the public. The Stanley area garbage is mainly hauled by Clear Creek Collections of Sun Valley and tipped in southern Idaho. Mackay area garbage is often hauled by a different business, and the Challis area garbage is handled by Blue Mountain Refuse. The current solid waste fees were reviewed and Travis suggested any future fees include an inflation adjustment scale as well as

being reviewed on a regular basis. A future "Directional Kick Off" meeting is needed to nail down where you are now and where you want to go. Commissioner Butts made it clear that Custer County did not want to have the problems with Great West that they are currently experiencing with Pivot North and their ever-increasing costs on the court annex project. The \$24,500.00 contract with Great West was reviewed, as well as the tasks involved.

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

**Agencies:** Attending the meeting was Jonathan LeBlanc/Lost River RD, Heath Perrine/Challis-Yankee Fork RD, Josh Travers/BLM and Bill Cobbley.

**USFS Heath Perrine:** Heath reported on the final timber sale of the season. It was for commercial firewood and went very well. Scoping is out on 3 upcoming projects. (1) Dry Creek timber sale of 250 acres in the Cape Horn area. (2) Morgan Cr. thinning in West Fork and Sawmill Cr. (3) Copper Mtn. Road reroute & bridge work on Winnemucca Trail. The Big Hill timber sale will be closing out soon. The FS has been successful in hiring for their Range Dept. with 4 new employees on board. Heath then inquired about the wording for the Search & Rescue use of their radio system. The Board wanted to delay until they heard from the Prosecutor on this matter.

**USFS Jonathan LeBlanc:** The bid meeting for Mt. Borah Trailhead is scheduled for the year end. He is glad to report the project is still moving, although very, very slowly. There have not been any major range issues this year with the good rains and abundant grass.

**BLM Josh Travers:** The funds that were promised earlier are being delegated for about \$6 million dollars' worth of projects. He has been able to fill two positions within the Challis area, but still has 8 vacancies. Commissioner Smith inquired about local hiring pathways? Josh agreed that lack of housing is one of the problems. The EA's have been done for "Idaho Base Camp" and they received no negative comments. The Foothills Trail System EA will close on October 12<sup>th</sup>. This will affect around 50 miles of trails near Challis. The aerial spray project in the Pahsimeroi Valley has been completed. (Commissioner Wayne Butts attended the meeting at 1:50 PM.)

Commissioner Smith inquired about working with the BLM and USFS to get weed spraying done with a drone? Both Josh and Heath gave favorable responses in working on mutually beneficial weed programs. The BLM is still working on plans for the Mackay Dam and the Cat Creek LLC proposal for more power generation. All were reminded that the FEMA funds that Custer County Emergency Services has procured can NOT be used for any hydro-electric generations programs.

**Bill Cobbley:** Bill attended in hopes of talking to the SNRA ranger. He was clearing the right-of-way for a private ranch and was stopped from working by the TMA-Mr. Nelson. A phone call was placed to the Acting SNRA Ranger Michael McGee at (208-774-3000. It was requested that he respond to the Custer County Commissioners about this matter.

Commissioner Smith reported on his visit to the Challis area Transfer Site with Travis Pyle. The Great West Consultation Agreement was then reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the agreement, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Signature was affixed.

The meeting was recessed at 2:25 PM to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The regular meeting was reconvened at 2:28 PM.

**Sheriff:** Sheriff Stu Lumpkin attended and inquired about progress on the Stanley deputy housing. A phone call was placed to Contractor Damon Burk and a message was left by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Corgatelli has received a recent call from Stanly Mayor Botti concerning the housing. Stu reported that a new deputy has been hired for the position, but housing is the main problem. He is a family man and needs a decent place to live. A request for use of the county credit card was reviewed. The Sheriff's Office needs a 10 pk of memory sticks to be used for case files at a cost of \$86.51. Commissioner Smith moved that the card use be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Smith updated Sheriff Lumpkin on the Permit Application that has been sent in to the SNRA for increased storage and an office space. Clerk Lura Baker asked Stu if he has received Law Enforcement Contract from Stanley or Mackay? The City of Challis has completed and returned their contract, but nothing has been forthcoming from Stanley or Mackay at this time. Stu then inquired about Board clearance to look for two additional patrol trucks? Discussion was held on how to dispose of the used patrol vehicles to best benefit the county. It was decided that other departments would get the 1<sup>st</sup> option to utilize

the used vehicles, then they would be sold rather than traded in. Stu also reported that his department needs to purchase two new computers. The Stanley area office computer will not stay powered up, and the Challis office computer isn't working right. Commissioner Smith moved that the Sheriff be allowed to purchase two new computers. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Clerk Lura and Sheriff Stu will work out the details of such a purchase. Damon Burk returned Commissioner Smith's phone call, and building priorities were laid out. The upstairs living space in the old office building needs to be completed first, so Deputy Pitts can move into the office building. He is willing to let the new deputy with a family move into the current deputy housing. Commissioner Butts requested that Damon keep the Board updated on his progress and he agreed. The process of enforcing "city ordinance's" was explained to the Board, and how a Judge needs to have all their information before he can do any enforcement. Clerk Lura Baker updated Sheriff Stu on the E-911 Grant funds. \$423.95 has been used to purchase a special keyboard, but there is still 3K left to utilize before another E-911 Grant can be applied for in FY2024.

**Clerk:** Issues with the Public Defenders were shared with the Board of Commissioners. Lura has visited with the Judges trying to solve the problems. Lura presented the Custer County Drug/Alcohol Testing Policy and explained the needed edits. Commissioner Smith moved that the new edited policy be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Lura has worked with ICRMP on the editing process.

Commissioner Smith moved that the 9/11/23 minutes of the Regular Commissioners meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Claims:** Commissioner Smith moved that the following FY 2023 claims be approved and paid with the additions of \$112,595.80 (see list below). Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

2023 Additions		FY 2023 Claims & Demands	
Linda Hatzenbuehler	\$ 810.00	Current Expense	179,876.95
Young Automotive	\$44,345.00	Road & Bridge	439,946.13
JUB Engineers Inc.	\$16,996.00	Battleground Mosquito	8,018.22
Gavin Jones	\$ 530.00	Election Fund	160.95
Hyllo, Inc.	\$46,800.00	District Court	13,859.01
Jury payments	<u>\$ 3,004.80</u>	Revaluation	12,017.78
TOTAL	\$112,595.80	Solid Waste	100.00
		Weeds	47,227.11
		Waterways	174.04
		Em. Communications	334.42
		Auditors Trust	<u>209.50</u>
		TOTAL	\$701,924.11

Commissioner Smith then moved that the following FY 2024 claims and demands be approved and paid. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

FY 2024 Claims & Demands	
Current Expense	19,314.18
Road & Bridge	9,092.23
Battleground Mosquito	1,500.00
District Court	7,343.17
Rodeo Grounds	82.63
Revaluation	5,400.00
TORT	26,844.10
Weeds	1,440.24
Em. Communications	<u>1,121.57</u>
TOTAL	\$ 72,364.22

**Clerk:** The Public Defender contract for Tyler Salverson at \$100 per hour was reviewed by Clerk Lura Baker. Commissioner Smith moved that the contract be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. The 2024 Budget Resolutions were then reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that Resolution #2023-09 – South Custer Ambulance Budget be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved that Resolution #2023-10 – Battleground Mosquito Dist. Budget be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved that Resolution #2023-11 – FY 2024 Custer County Budget be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved that Resolution #2023-12 – Transfer of Funds for 2024, PILT \$2,520,303.00 into General Fund; Indigent \$131,581.00 into General Fund; Election \$\$104,500.00 into General Fund be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Wayne Butts excused himself from the meeting at this time.

Judge Darrin Simpson attended and Clerk Lura Baker introduced him around. He visited with the Board on options for setting court dates to assist with the Public Defender issues plaguing the county. All agreed that something needs to be done.

**E-911 Grant:** The FY 2024 IPSCC Grant application was presented in the amount of \$19,720.00. Commissioner Smith moved that it be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

The ICRMP Insurance policy was then reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Smith moved that the Joint Powers Subscriber Agreement through ICRMP be approved for 2024. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Election:** Deputy Clerk Kristen Walker brought the new E-Poll Book to demonstrate for the commissioners. Different scenarios were walked through and she answered the Board's questions. There are HAVA funds available to assist with the purchase of the E-Poll Books needed. Kristen then explained the MiFi units that are needed for secure use of the E-Poll books. Commissioner Smith moved that purchase of (4) MiFi units and (12) E-Poll Books be approved (utilizing the HAVA funds available of \$20,000.00) at a cost of \$40,734.00.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 4:45 PM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, 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 4:48 PM.

**Mary Darling:** Mary attended the meeting via Zoom connection at 5:00. Also attending was NRAC Chairman Jim Hawkins. Mary reported that the Sage Grouse EIS is now under court order to get it completed. To facilitate the process, she would like to come to Boise and meet with Josh Uriarte to present their comments/suggestions together. Commissioner Corgatelli suggested that the Board of Commissioners request the Sage Grouse information that the BLM will not send to Mary. Mary agreed to assist with writing the letter. The next scheduled Sage Grouse meeting will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed that she should meet with Josh in Boise. Mary also reported on the media hit piece by a retired biologist, that has been recently done on American Stewards of Liberty. The Grizzly Bear meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Mary let the Board know that rules on "taking a problem bear" need to be addressed from the very beginning. The original grizzly recovery plan was done in 1983. Jim reminded all that the grizzly bear ESA's are under 10J, and include lethal take for problem bears in the experimental populations. Mary asked for the GIS coordination location of the latest bear sightings in the area. The Zoom connection was ended and Commissioner Butts retired from the meeting.

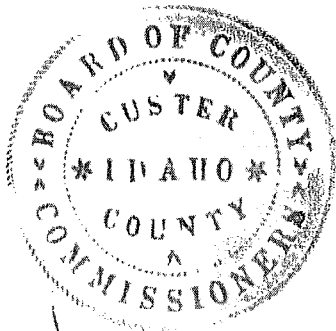
**Pathology Agreement:** After review of the agreement, Commissioner Smith moved that it be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 5:43 PM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Prosecutor Justin Oleson and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 5:47 PM.

The housing improvement permit application with Sawtooth National Recreation Area was reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that it be approved and signed, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The application will be sent to the SNRA by Clerk Lura Baker.

The additional holiday dates usually provided to Custer County employees were reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that they be the same as last year. The day after Thanksgiving, as well as an extra day for Christmas and New Years Day. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.



Attest:

Lura H. Baker

Lura H. Baker, Clerk

Wayne F. Butts For  
Wayne F. Butts, Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner