

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
May 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM in the Custer County Commissioners Room by Chairman Randy Corgatelli with Commissioner Gordon Vaden, Commissioner Will Naillon, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, Road & Bridge Supt. Brandon Jones, Probation Officer Aletia Workman and Secretary Tina Hawkins in attendance.

Weed Dept: Brett reported that his chemical sales are way up. He has received a request for assistance from the BLM and is helping with weed control in their campgrounds. The Mackay reservoir campground was in dire need of weed control. The Idaho Fish & Game has also requested help. He has assisted Lemhi Co. by taking his roadside spray truck to Salmon. Their truck is down and the airports all needed spray work. He is planning spray days for the summer, Mackay in June and Stanley in August. The backpack sprayers he has are older and wearing out. He needs to purchase two new ones at a cost of \$299.00 each. These are the Dewalt electric type with batteries that can be recharged. The tablets that he purchased were paid for by CWMA funds and didn't reduce his budget as was originally thought. The BLM will be asked to cover the cost of doing the mapping applications. His new crew member will be coming on staff next week. They have a lot of spraying work on the schedule.

Probation: Officer Aletia provided her monthly report, listing the caseload of 5 juveniles and 30 formal probation cases. She has hired Hailey Provence for part time work, and she will begin on June 1st. To equip this additional help, Aletia requested a computer and printer for her office. She provided a quote from Snake River Computers of \$1,930.00 for this equipment. Commissioner Naillon moved to approve the purchase of the Dell desktop computer, HP LaserJet printer and needed accessories for the Probation Office. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Aletia then asked if her phone line #3 can be taken off the Courts system, as they have moved over to the new Annex building. She is having to field calls when lines #1 and #2 are not being answered. The Board agreed that it should be updated. Aletia is working to lower the lab costs for her required drug testing. The lab invoice costs are increasing, so she is changing some of the types of tests.

Road & Bridge/CS&WCD: Karma Bragg with the Custer Soil & Water Conservation District provided information on the lower Kinnickinnic Road culvert replacement for the Board to review. She has met with the residents and miners that use the area. The original plan was for a bit smaller bottomless culvert, but the "Buy American" rule caused an upgrade to a slightly larger culvert to comply. The 2nd culvert replacement will be much more complicated, with water pipes, power lines, phone lines and federal properties nearby. Brandon inserted that the Custer County portion of the project funding will be paid with "in kind work". Karma has agreed to negotiate the contracts. The CSWCD would pre-approve the bids, and she would prefer the County Commissioners actually award the bids. The Board agreed to have Karma handle the paperwork details for these culvert replacements. Karma updated the Board about her office being under ID Dept. of Water Resources and no longer under the USDA. To date the IDWR director has been good to work with. Working with the ID Fish & Game engineer has also been a big help for Karma. Commissioner Naillon moved to approve R&B Supervisor, Brandon Jones to sign the #404 Permit paperwork for the Kinnickinnic Road culvert. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Brandon provided a copy of the Supplemental Agreement for Garden Creek Road Phase II. The county portion of the costs will be \$3,817.00. Brandon explained the drainage plan that will prevent serious issues in the future. He also went over the agreement that was made with the property owner to handle the waste rock from widening the road base. This will save a lot of trucking cost and overhead for the county. Commissioner Naillon made a motion to approve the Civil Science Agreement #24351 for the Garden Creek Road Phase II project. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Brandon then brought the lease agreement with CAT for the new 2026 Motor Grader. The 2021 Grader is being traded in on the 2026 Grader, with a value of \$320,918.00. CAT Financial is being used instead of Summit Bank, as their 4.99% interest rate is much better than the 7% charged by Summit. The lease terms are being changed to 3500 hours/5 years to match our actual use figures. Commissioner Naillon moved to approve the Lease return and buyback of the 2021 Grader and Lease of the 2026 Grader from Western States CAT, for 5-years and 3500 hours. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Board approved for Chairman Corgatelli to sign all needed paperwork. Commissioner Naillon spoke on the PILT Fly-In held in Washington D.C. scheduled for June. The Legislature needs to know how important the SRS Funding is to small rural counties. The R&B Dept. and Lost River Highway Dept will provide informational letters for him to take to the PILT Fly In. Brandon reported on his 3 crew members that attended the LHTAC grader classes. He has 2 CDL drivers that are moving from class B licenses up to Class A as well. He has hired 2 for his seasonal help but still has a vacant full-time job opening. The R&B crew is working with the forest service road crew getting the Mill Creek detour route up Challis Creek into condition. They have completed the zipper work for LRHD ahead of schedule and are helping them with other work as possible. Brandon is working up a "replacement schedule" for all the Road & Bridge departments equipment, to help with the annual budgeting process. The Board gave full approval of this plan.

Solid Waste: The Stanley Drop Box Site is going well. They are getting more use as the news of the site being open is moving around the valley. Brandon still needs to contact Michael Fuller/SNRA Ranger about using the blow down trees to do some fence repair. The Design Summary for the Challis Transfer Site was discussed and will be put on the next agenda for a virtual meeting with Great West Engineering.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer gave her monthly report and requested one solid waste fee cancellation. Commissioner Naillon moved to approve the cancellation of \$100.00 solid waste fees for property #RP000370020070A. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chief Deputy Treasurer Verla Harvie is retiring at the end of June after 43 years. Hailey is starting part-time work in the Treasurer's office on June 1st. Hailey will also be working part-time with the Probation Office.

BOE: The Board of Commissioners recessed the meeting to go into BOE at 10:03 AM. Attending were Commissioners Corgatelli, Naillon and Vaden, Secretary Hawkins. Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia, and Assessor Jacquiel Bruno attended via phone connection. The Living Waters Ministry application was reviewed. Commissioner Vaden moved that the Custer County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Board of Equalization, deny Living Waters Ministry's application for a property tax exemption. The Board finds that the applicant did not meet its burden of proving eligibility for exemption under Idaho law, which requires exemptions to be strictly interpreted in favor of taxation. The Board further finds that the property's current use is substantially the same as previously reviewed by the District Court in related litigation involving the same property and applicant, and that there has been no material change in facts, property use, or law to justify a different outcome. Based on the record and the absence of changed circumstances, the application for exemption is denied. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Assessor Jacquiel Bruno stated that the values will be rolled, starting tomorrow. The BOE meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.

The meeting was recessed to go into South Custer Ambulance at 10:10 AM and returned to regular session at 10: 15 AM

E ID Public Health Dept.: Commissioner Vaden reported on learning about "Kratom" at the last meeting he attended. This substance is being abused throughout Idaho and has caused several deaths. The Idaho Legislature has 2 bills on this substance, but neither has passed. James Corbet attended and presented the FY2027 Budget figures. Custer counties share for FY2026 - \$51,837.00 and FY2027 - \$50,083.00 - a small reduction in costs. These assessments are set by committee, based on 70% population and 30% tax value. The Budget Meeting date is June 18th at 9:00 AM and will be accessible via Zoom connection. Commissioner Vaden asked what changes have been made since the DEQ has taken over Solid Waste. Mr. Corbet reported that it has saved EIPH about \$20,000 per year, as landfills were a big job. They will continue to support the DEQ as much as possible. The Board thanked James for his attendance and budget report.

Commissioner Naillon moved to amend the agenda and move NRAC up to 10:40 AM from 11:00, and Planning & Zoning to 2:00 PM from 4:30 PM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

NRAC: Jim Hawkins and Louise Stark attended. Jim asked if there was any truth in the rumor that the Challis Creek Road would be closed to vehicles pulling trailers starting May 18th? This will be the detour route for traffic that cannot get through the Mill Creek Road work closure. He also understands that the US Forest Service is currently going through the re-organization process. Commissioner Naillon has heard from Forest Supervisor Heather DeGeest that limited chain-saw use has been authorized for trail clearing withing the Frank Church wilderness area through August 1st of this year. Everyone in attendance was pleasantly surprised. It was decided to send a letter of thanks to the Forest Service for assisting with this process.

Elections: Emily Schwarting and Dawn Maydole attended and informed the Board of Battleground Precinct numbers. Currently they contain 138 registered voters, but once a precinct contains 140 voters it can no longer be a mail-in precinct. The equipment needed to have a physical precinct has been priced and the bid received is \$7,173.00 for the electronic poll-books, printers, software and necessary connections. Emily reported there is still \$3,000.00 left of the HAVA funds that can be used. A Star-link connection will also be needed to connect the electronic poll-books and laptop. Commissioner Naillon made a motion to approve the bid of \$7,173.00 for equipment for the Battleground Precinct to be ready for the general election in November. The HAVA funds will be used first. The Stanley Precinct electrical power situation was then reviewed. Emily has talked to Chuck Wunch/Wunch Electric and Russel Clark/Stanley business owner about having the portable generator up and operational. Emily will be at the Stanley Precinct on the morning of the primary election.

Claims: Commissioner Naillon moved that the following claims of 5/11/26 be approved in the amount of \$78,464.63. Commissioner Vaden seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	22,133.51
Road & Bridge	23,866.40
Election Fund	746.58
District Court	2,689.83
Rodeo Grounds	156.88
Revaluation	1,039.23

Solid Waste	24,348.59
TORT	1,500.00
Weeds	1,721.22
Waterways	<u>262.39</u>
TOTAL	78,464.63

The meeting was recessed for a lunch break at 12:00, and reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending were Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Naillon, Commissioner Vaden, Secretary Hawkins and from the agencies Lance Stavast, John Runkle, Mike Stewart and David Hilliard.

Agencies: Challis National Forest: John Runkle introduced the new Fire Management Officer Mike Stewart. Mike reported on the equipment that they have available for this fire season. Three fire engines; 1 in Mackay, 1 in Challis, and 1 in Clayton that are all fully staffed. They also have a Type 3 helicopter available for the fire season. Challis forest staffing is at 90% and they are expecting to have a early fire season. Mike excused himself to get back to the fire training that is being done.

John Runkle went over the signage that is being put up for the detour involved with the Mill Creek Road work. The signs "recommend" no vehicles towing trailers over 20 feet to continue. One will be on Main Street, Challis, one will be in Challis Creek, one will be at Sunbeam, and another will be at the Custer Townsite. The Mill Creek Road closure will run from May 18th through Oct. 29th. If the work is completed sooner the closure will be lifted. John has been in contact with Scott Hardin and the motorcycle group that is coming to Challis July 17th to 19th. They will be doing the loop ride through Bayhorse while in the area. June 3rd will be their "Trail Day" and the volunteers will be working on trails in the Potato Mountain area. John asked if the Commissioners could assist with scheduling the 4th of July parades in Challis, Clayton and Stanley, so interested parties could participate in all if they wanted to? The Board agreed to inquire about better timing. Commissioner Naillon thanked the Challis National Forest personnel for their efforts and assistance in getting limited chain saw use approved for trail clearing within the wilderness areas. Naillon then addressed the sheep hunting issues within Area #19 near Challis. He understood that the new Forest Plan Revision was going to improve the situation, but there is no plan revision work being done currently. The USFS rules make it impossible to stay legal for any outfitters and guides using the adjoining areas. John agreed to investigate the matter.

Lance Stavast: reported that June 5th would be their Trail Day in the Lost River Ranger Dist. They do have some seasonal workers. out working on trails now. There is a controlled burn going in the south zone, clearing out mistletoe infested trees. The USFS – RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) has not been provided with a charter yet, so is still inactive.

David Hilliard/BLM: Dave updated everyone on the new National Director for the BLM is Steve Pearce. The Idaho state offices are still being sorted out. The feral horse gathering is still set for Sept. 2026. They will keep the herd on the low end of the AML's allowed. They are replacing culverts on Mahogany Creek in the Pahsimeroi Valley. This will cause road closures July 15th for a maximum of 3 days, possibly shorter. The BLM – RAC meeting has been held. New fees have been set for BLM campgrounds. The Joe T. Fallini campground at the Makay reservoir will be \$20.00 per day. This fee will be charged for the East Fork campground as well as the Cottonwood campground. If you have a double campsite, it will cost \$40.00. The bike skills park is still on track for the public practice with their equipment. Commissioner Naillon asked if the BLM trails group is aware of the police shooting range that is located within the Challis solid waste site. He wanted everyone to be aware and keep safety first.

Planning & Zoning: Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen and Assistant Lynsey Robbins attended. The public hearings for the moratoriums will go before the P&Z Board on July 2nd and August 6th. The P&Z Board will get their recommendations to the Commissioners at that time. Jessica is still searching for another Board member and has had no responses yet. She will advertise the opening. The letter from Stanley Mayor about the area of City Impact was reviewed. Jessica will respond and CC the Commissioners. The ongoing RV Park issues involving Mr. Brad Whipple were then discussed.

Commissioner Vaden made a motion to approve the 4-27-26 Commissioner meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Credit Card Use: Commissioner Naillon moved to approve credit card use by Clerk Baker for purchase of blinds for the Court Annex in the amount of \$550.57. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion, and it carried. Commissioner Naillon moved to approve the credit card use for payment for cabinets for the Court Annex in the amount of \$445.18 by Clerk Baker. Commissioner Vaden seconded the motion, and it passed. Commissioner Corgatelli moved to approve the credit card payment of \$1,071.92 for the lodging at IAC Annual Conference for Commissioners Vaden and Naillon. Commissioner Vaden seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Naillon moved to amend the agenda and move Emergency Services to 2:30 from 4:00. Commissioner Vaden seconded and the motion passed.

Emergency Services: Administrator Lisa Benson is still having problems with her e-mail. Commissioner Naillon let her know that most of the WIR meetings held in Hawaii that he attended were about Emergency Services, and the response to catastrophic fires. Keeping strong communications lines established and working was very important. Lisa has talked to Chuck Wunch about the Stanley power generator system. She has also talked to Ken Dizes/SREC and he assured her they would assist, but she is still awaiting a final notice that it is ready to be used. She then promoted the Elevate Academy Tour that is being sponsored by CEDA. She needs names of anyone that would like to attend.

Sheriff: Levi Maydole attended and reported that the Grouse Peak repeaters are dropping their calls. He has White Cloud Communications out of Twin Falls on site to get things working. The cost is \$3,037.20 for their work done keeping the system operating. The privacy wall between dispatch and the driver's license area is being built. This change was approved at a previous meeting. Commissioner Vaden provided some S. Custer S&R information from Jim Gregory to Sheriff Maydole concerning the recent Mount Bora rescue. Levi then contacted Deputy Clerk Tamra via phone to verify the remaining budget funds to support his next request. Due to injuries and reassignments, the Mackay area is short staffed. He is needing to put on another Patrol Deputy. He explained that hiring full time staff would not be as expensive as paying out overtime and time and ½ to cover the area patrols. After discussion Commissioner Vaden made a motion to approve the hiring of one more patrol officer, to keep the overtime hours to a minimum. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion, and it passed. Star-link plans were then discussed. Tamra has learned that they do have plans for government emergency services that cost \$55.00 for the original application and \$25.00 for each additional link. If a link is not being used, you can lay it up for \$5.00. The Sheriff's office would need 13 links; Road & Bridge could use some as well as Elections. This will be checked out by the Clerk's Office. Levi then reported that the incentive program grant application through ITD was successful. The E-ticketing equipment for each patrol vehicle will be provided by ITD, saving the Sheriff's Office a lot of funds.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.



Randy Corgatelli
Randy Corgatelli, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

Lura H. Baker

Lura H. Baker, Clerk