

Custer County  
Commissioner Special Meeting Proceedings  
May 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 AM by Chairman Wayne Butts, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance. Also attending were Brandon Jones/Road & Bridge and Brett Plummer/Weed Dept. Chairman Butts asked that a moment of silence be observed on behalf of the recent tragedy that befell the Corgatelli family.

**Road & Bridge:** Brandon Jones, Supt. brought in the agreement letter received from Ray's Heating & Plumbing that requests permission to place bentonite/sand waste materials in the County gravel pit until dried out. The materials will be removed once they dry out. The Board approved the arrangement. The recent classes sponsored by Custer Co. Road & Bridge through the LHTAC Program went very well. Brandon felt his crew was able to increase their skills. A letter to Leonard Petroleum/Idaho Falls concerning the fuel island system installation problems has been mailed by the Board. Brandon has received a response phone call from them. Commissioner Smith inquired about the access road through the Custer County Fairgrounds for the Lambson Family. It has been an item of contention in the past and he would like to see their access route completed. The big wooden gate at their property entrance is a memorial for Gary Lambson and needs to be respected. Brandon will check his summer calendar for a possible date to connect with Kathy Lambson and get up to speed on the project progress. Commissioner Butts inquired about the spring time issue of "water on the roads" that is dealt with annually. Brandon has had an informational add in the paper this spring, and is working with sprinkler owners.

**Weeds:** Brett Plummer/Supervisor has signed up for an Advanced Training class in Idaho Falls. He reported that his two USFS RAC Proposals were approved and will be funded. The Shiloh Ranch near Challis has a new ranch manager. Brett has worked up a contract with him to get the leafy spurge and Canadian thistle on the property sprayed. The County will be doing the spray work once the paperwork is signed. It should be about 3 weeks' worth of work to complete the job. Brett is replacing the door knobs on the Weed Office and on the pump house. It was requested that a master key be delivered to the Courthouse for their safekeeping. The County herbicide purchases will be much bigger this year, as Twin Peaks Spray will be purchasing all their product through the county. Brett has completed spraying the County Fairgrounds, and it is looking very good. He has contacted Pat Silvers to do the "gopher purge" at the fairgrounds again this spring, and will set it up to be done every spring. In the past it wasn't requested until just before the Fair in August and wasn't very successful. The Madsen Ranch in Pahsimeroi has been leased by Glen Elzinga this year. Brett is approaching Glen about using some organic controls for weeds on the property as Knapp weed has been a problem in the past. The 4-wheeler is all repaired and back into service, and the trailer tires are installed and in use. He has a part-time employee that will be starting as soon as he turns 18 years old. Clerk Lura Baker answered some USFS/RAC fund questions for Brett. They reimburse funds once the project costs are known.

The Board discussed the information gleaned from the Bio-fuels meeting they had with the USFS, Chuck Mark. The minutes of 5/5/21 were reviewed, and one correction was noted. "Kelly McCandles was in the commissioners meeting room when the meeting began" will be added to the second paragraph. Commissioner Butts moved the 5/5/21 minutes be approved with the above correction, and the 5/10/21 minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. The Law Enforcement, Mutual Assistance Compact agreement was reviewed. The Sheriff and the Prosecutor have both reviewed and approved the compact and requested Commissioner approval and signatures. Commissioner Smith moved that the Mutual Assistance Compact Agreement be approved and signed. Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion carried.

Longtime Planning and Zoning Board member Selma Lamb has submitted her resignation due to health constraints. The Board of Commissioners accepted the resignation with deep regrets.

Clerk Lura Baker provided the CD with the Wildland Defense's Appeal of the Challis BLM Upper Pahsimeroi-Goldberg allotment grazing decision for the Board to review.

**Canvass of Election:** Deputy Clerk Kristen Walker attended the meeting and presented the poll books for the Board to review. Commissioner Smith moved that the canvass of the Lost River Highway District Director Election be approved as presented. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed.

**Coroner:** Chad Workman/Coroner brought his request for additional equipment that will facilitate the moving of deceased persons. Commissioner Butts inquired about the remaining budget balance and Chad verified that the funds are available. Commissioner Smith moved that the walk-board and the EZ slider purchase be approved for the Coroner's office. Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion carried.

John Haugh/Waterways has requested approval to apply for the waterways grant with the Sawtooth Society for up to \$5,000.00. Commissioner Smith moved that the application be approved, Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion passed. The meeting schedule for the next 2 weeks was reviewed and cleared due to the absence of Commissioner Corgatelli and Commissioner Butts. The schedule will be re-set when the Board Members are available after June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**USFS Mary Farnsworth:** Intermountain Region, Regional Forester Mary Farnsworth and her Deputy Regional Forester Ryan Nehl attended the meeting at 10:50. Introductions were provided all around for those present. Challis Messenger reporter, Hunter Diel was also in attendance. Commissioner Butts opened by stating his appreciation for all open honest conversations. The recent meeting, he attended with the USFS on forest products was extremely interesting and had very good information on future predictions and products. Ryan agreed that a working partnership with industry is the key to successful production. Mary stressed the importance of everyone meeting and seeing where to go next. The Forest Plan Revision is currently hanging in limbo. Custer County needs to know what is coming, and Mary has it on her plate of things to do, right at the top. She realizes that a decision is needed soon, to stop the spinning.

She then asked what the wishes of the Board members were? Chairman Butts responded with 1) Two separate forests, the Challis and the Salmon, 2) No short pieces of "wild & scenic river segments". A stream is either a wild and scenic river or it is not. 3) NO more wilderness. 4) What worked in the current Forest Plan? 5) Why are livestock grazing numbers ever decreasing? Commissioner Smith expressed his concerns about 1) The USFS employee turnover rate. Custer Co. has had 76 different Rangers to deal with in 18 years. 2) Stay with separate Forest Management Plans, Challis Forest kept separate from the Salmon Forest. Retain the plan portions that are working. 3) Why are the USFS employees removing items from the JMJP Wilderness such as culverts, fences and roads? If wilderness characteristics are not there, why was it declared wilderness? 4) Hear the local voices of people that live here, not just the NGO's opinions. 4) There is no current Socio-economic Impact Study and one is required by NEPA. 5) Keep the multiple-use requirement on forest lands.

Mary asked if Custer County would be willing to do the "socio-economic impact study"? Chairman Butts responded that we had one completed for our Land Use Plan, but it probably needs to be updated. She then asked, "What if no revision is done at all?" Both Board members felt that would be better than a complete revision. Commissioner Smith asked just what pushed the FS into Forest Plan Revision? Mary responded that this Plan is one of the oldest, and it has not been changed since 1988. It does not keep up with the many policies and rules that have changed since then. She then tried to explain the fine line between "revise" and "amend". The Forest Plan requirements and policies that are not met due to being outdated, are a major cause of lawsuit problems. Ryan stated that objective criteria from the affected county is very important, but it is Mary that will make the decision.

Mary then inquired if county and agency relationships have improved? The Board responded with YES, both Kirk Pindell and Heath Perrine are very well liked and work hard at communicating with the Commissioners. Commissioner Butts has enjoyed being able to have good conversations with the forest rangers. Commissioner Smith stated his wish that all Commissioner correspondence be read and responded to. Mary then requested the Board members communicate with her and allow her the opportunity to respond to their concerns. She also requested they understand that they will not always agree, and when they disagree, to do it respectfully. The constant movement of personnel has been addressed by the Forest Service, as it is a problem for them also. She then asked if more "LISTENING SESSIONS" would be helpful? Commissioner Butts requested face to face meetings

with NO masks. The Zoom Meeting format is not working for him. Mary then asked the board "What is going well?" Commissioner Smith responded with "Co-ordination between the County and the USFS is working and needs to be continued". He inquired why the efforts of previous USFS employees are not being utilized. EXAMPLE: Sharon Bradley's 50 Year Timber Plan for the Challis forest, or Faith Ryan's grazing plan. When the Commissioners inquired locally about seeing these documents, it seems they can't be found in the local offices.

**Homeland Security:** Mike Graham brought information on Genics Fire Mesh Fire Retardant Barrier for the Commissioners to review. Mike has also contacted three companies about a communications plan. IWATS is willing to provide an Engineering Audit/User needs assessment for public safety radio-paging communications systems. IWA Technical Services, Inc from Dallas Texas has submitted a proposal for Custer County to review the county needs and weak spots. Ken Dizes/SREC Manager is also in support of a Communication Plan that the whole county can utilize, and would like to work with the County. A community partnership will help with any upcoming funding requirements. Mike requested direct personal contact with Chairman Butts, to handle any communication questions as they come in. A grant opportunity has become available for Covid expenses that has a 50% match requirement. The Board isn't aware of any needs for such at the present, so the grant will not be pursued. The new Fire Department building has some furniture needs. Board members suggested contacting the INL or Federal Surplus in Boise for such items. The Fire Dept has also graciously offered office space for Homeland Security to establish the Communication Center/ Emergency Dashboard, which Mike plans to accept. The proper amendment process of the AHMP was then discussed, and he was asked to contact Lori Paul and get the process completed.

**Claims:** Claim reports for the May Election and the Jury Trial were presented and reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that both reports be approved as presented. Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion passed.

<b>Election</b>	<b>2,918.01</b>
<b>District Court</b>	<b>993.24</b>

The following claims were reviewed, one account number corrected, and approved by a motion from Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Butts. Motion passed.

Current Expense	17,248.20
Road & Bridge	68,266.47
Election Fund	348.80
District Court	566.50
Rodeo Grounds	12,700.50
Solid Waste	3,294.15
Weeds	532.00
Waterways	187.93
S Custer Ambulance	<u>1,919.60</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 105,064.15</b>

Clerk Baker has been informed that the Fair Board would like to increase fairground fees. She will set up a public hearing as required by law. Debra Dikeman, manager of the Challis Senior Center has contacted the County about possibly covering the registration and insurance costs of an additional Senior Center van. They are working on the purchase of a new van, but would like to keep the current van as a backup. The Board agreed that they would help and cover the registration and insurance costs for both vans on their behalf. The Budget Meeting that was scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> will be changed to June 17<sup>th</sup> so Clerk Lura Baker can be in attendance. Funds that are due to be sent to Custer County via the American Rescue Plan were then discussed. It was decided to have Treasurer Allicyn Latimer be the #1 County Representative, and Clerk Lura Baker be the #2 County Representative for the funding paperwork. Discussion was held on putting in another Budget Line of Unanticipated Funds. The Resolution will be worked up. The Board agreed that the County is the responsible party. Commissioner Smith moved that the American Rescue Plan Account be set up with Allicyn Latimer as #1, and Lura Baker as #2 representatives. Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion passed.

Mike Graham called into the meeting at 12:05. He has spoken to Lori Paul about the AHMP amendments. She has all the paperwork in hand. It is not confirmed as they haven't all gone through everything as yet.

**Indigent:** Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session for Indigent Review under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d), the motion was seconded by Commissioner Butts and the roll call yes vote was unanimous. Those attending were Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Smith, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session. Upon return to regular session at 12:23 PM Commissioner Smith made a motion for #21-03 – Denial / due to non-compliance, and #21-02 – Denial/Incomplete application - no cooperation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Butts and the aye votes were unanimous.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to return to executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b )for Personnel at 12:25, Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending this session were Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Smith, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 12:38

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

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Wayne F. Butts, Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

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Lura H. Baker, Clerk