

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
August 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Vice Chairman Randy Corgatelli, with Commissioner Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance. Jonathan LeBlanc, Lost River Ranger was also in attendance. Commissioner Smith moved that the agenda be amended to move Jonathan LeBlanc up into the 9:00 AM time slot if he so chose. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

Weeds: Brett Plummer reported they are still spraying weeds very steady, as well as doing a lot of weed free hay inspections. He has received notice of \$5,000 in available funding from the BLM. Brett had the UTV specifications all ready, so the BLM will get the machine ordered. The Forest Service has agreed to purchase the spray tank equipment that is required. Brett has been studying for the Aerial Applicators Exam, and plans to take the test after spray season is over. He will then continue fulfilling the other licensing requirements for the use of a drone. The CWMA process has become very cumbersome, but Brett is keeping up with the agreement due to the cost share benefit received on chemicals we purchase.

Road & Bridge: Brandon reported they are catching up with repairing the damage done during last weeks cloud bursts. The Spar Canyon road has been destroyed for about a 5-mile stretch. The Road Creek road was also washed out at the junction with the East Fork Road. Culverts have been replaced and the residents now have access to their homes. The new chip seal work was peeled back and ruined for quite a stretch. Morgan Cr. Road and the Yankee Fork Loop Road were also damaged, but are now re-opened and the mud/rock slides removed. Clerk Lura Baker verified that the County did a Flooding Disaster Declaration. Brandon has closed the Spar Canyon Road with signage at both ends and signs and barricades in the good turn-around areas. Cloud-bursts are continuing in the affected areas and keeping everyone on edge. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 8:30 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Ayes. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 8:55 AM.

Commissioner Smith moved to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(d) for Indigent at 9:00 AM, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the roll call vote was all ayes. Attending this session were Clerk Lura Baker, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session and the board returned to regular session at 9:10 AM. Commissioner Smith moved that #21-11 be approved as the last resource, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer, Treasurer presented her monthly reports. Federal funding in the ARPA account was discussed and the lack of rules for its use. Local banks are tightening the control of cash transactions and withdrawal limits for personal accounts on medium to large amounts. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about the 2020 tax collections. Allicyn reported that they have collected 96% and have only \$69,738.40 yet to collect. The best they have ever done at this time of year. 2019 taxes still owed total \$23,274.94, and 2018 taxes still to collect are \$9,164.39. She has sent reminders out to these people yet again.

Assessor: Jacquiel Bruno, Assessor attended but had nothing to report.

NRAC: Jim Hawkins, NRAC Chairman attended and discussion was held on range conditions and feed availability within the county. The proposed "conifer thinning/sage grouse habitat" project on Willow Cr. summit was reported on by Commissioner Smith. He has met with the BLM and learned about the project goals. Jim suggested the County work out a land exchange with the BLM to benefit the Chilly Butte Cemetery and the Fish Hatchery Cemetery using the county property along the Mackay reservoir for exchange. The Forest Plan Revision progress was then reviewed. It is understood that there will be two forests plans, the Salmon Forest and the Challis Forest.

The USFS would like Custer County to partner with them to get the required Socio-economic Study completed for the Challis Forest. Jim requested a letter be sent to the USFS to keep moving forward and get the study started. Mary Farnsworth/Regional Forester asked for the expectations of Custer County to be put in writing. Jim offered to pen the letter on behalf of the Board after review of their expectations. Jim also requested a copy of the Bio-Fuels report that was done by the Forest Service. To date the county has not received a copy. Commissioner Smith reported on the RDA meeting he attended. The local "Bailey's Tire Shop" building that was vacant has been purchased and there is a vehicle restoration business starting up in the facility.

Claims: After review and the addition of JUB Engineering for \$52,330.58 as a demand, the following claims were approved as presented by a motion from Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli. Motion passed.

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| Current Expense | 25,704.34 |
| Road & Bridge | 65,446.18 |
| Election Fund | 1,787.50 |
| District Court | 5,380.70 |
| Rodeo Grounds | 102.90 |
| Indigent & Charity | 1,204.08 |
| Solid Waste | 100.00 |
| Weeds | 7,742.71 |
| Waterways | 1,069.79 |
| Emergency Comm. | 2,093.45 |
| Auditors Trust | 93.25 |
| S. Custer Ambulance | <u>8.98</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 110,733.88 |

The meeting was recessed for a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending the meeting were Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith, and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins.

AGENCIES: BLM Director Matt Marsh let the board know that they will be sending out a letter to grazing permit holders due to the drought conditions. There will be a use percentage change, based on the range conditions in September. The feral horse numbers will also be considered and dealt with. Matt has been contacted by DOT for help with mitigation of the mud/rock slides across highway 93. The BLM has been working on the UTV trail system from Challis City to the Challis Hot Springs. Ideas have been exchanged for getting the UTV's across the river bridge and highway 93. All agreed that the best solutions are the most expensive. Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation are spearheading the project. There will be a landowner meeting for the residents of the Red Cliff's area to work on access routes. The Plan of Operations submitted by Konnex Mining was deemed incomplete by the BLM, due to the lack of an adequate water source. Commissioner Smith inquired about the amount of water that they will be needing, and asked for a copy of the BLM response letter to Konnex Mining.

Middle Fork Ranger Clayton Collins reported that the last directive received from the Regional office has left decision making discretion to the local Ranger Districts on drought conditions and responses. They will be checking the water sources closely and will be working with the permittees closely on forage and water supply. Commissioner Smith asked if he could have a copy of the letter that is being sent out to permittees. Clayton plans to provide advance notice to grazers on any changes that will be made due to drought conditions. Wildlife Services has notified his office that they are having wolf depredation problems in Copper Basin and Antelope Creek. They have begun control measures, but no details are being released as yet. The two large fires in the district; Chilcoot Fire on the border of the Boise Forest, and the Scarface Fire in the wilderness area have been knocked down by the recent rains. They are monitoring both fires, but no active suppression is being done currently. The TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) as been completed for the Morgan Creek Summit area, and maintenance of the area can begin.

SNRA: Josh Newman reported that there was quite a lot of damage done by the recent cloud burst rains at Smiley Creek and Frenchman's Creek. There is a 1-acre fire burning above Alturas Lake with minimal expansion. They do a daily helicopter bucket water drop when they monitor the fire. It is not being manned. Their district is finalizing their 2023 Great American Outdoor Act proposals. 1) New headquarters building at Ketchum. 2) Fish hook nature trail. 3) Board walk, are being submitted. There have been some law enforcement issues within the White Clouds Wilderness with motorbikes and ATV's. There was one arrest made due to an assault.

Lost River RD: Jonathan LeBlanc the new District Ranger attended and introduced himself. A family man that came to us from Taos, New Mexico and is currently housed in Challis. With such a short time on the ground he is leaning on the local information as to what works. Past experience has proven that hauling water to livestock is very hard to sustain, and he will be sending letters to the permittees about the drought conditions. There have been a few small lightening fires start and they have been caught and extinguished. The Forest directive is for "full suppression" in the western forests.

Sheriff: Sheriff Stu Lumpkin and Chief Deputy Justin Mitchell attended. They reported on the Custer County Fair that went well although attendance was down from last year. Stu has sent a letter to the cities of Challis, Mackay and Stanley about the Law Enforcement Contracts. No response has been received from anyone. Discussion was held on the jurisdiction of county law enforcement and city law enforcement. The impact upon the 2022 County Budget was also discussed. If no contracts are made with the Sheriff's Office, then each city will be responsible for their own ordinance and traffic issues. Commissioner Smith asked Stu how they would manage without the contract funds? Stu felt they could not lay anyone off as they are all quite busy.

Planning & Zoning: Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen presented a valid flood plain application to the board for signature. Commissioner Smith verified the Public Hearing sign that he posted in the Mackay area with photos. The necessity for all fees to be paid at the time of any P&Z transaction, such as a lot split application was reinforced by Commissioner Smith. Jessica will research the rules, regulations and fees due. Jessica has also discovered quite a few zoning violations, that she will soon be sending out violation letters for. The heavy work load, and requirements for signage out of the office, may require Jessica to find someone to help cover the office when she is out doing field work. Jessica found the name of "no name road" per a citizen's request. The original subdivision plat has it named as Chinook Drive, and she will notify the landowner. Commissioner Corgatelli asked about flood plain rules and standards for subdivided properties? Jessica reviewed the rules and requirements and found a \$100 per day fine for an illegal lot split, from the date of recording until the correction is complete.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Wayne F. Butts, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

Lura H. Baker, Clerk