

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
January 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Wayne Butts, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones, Coroner Chad Workman, Assessor Jacquell Bruno, Treasurer Allicyn Latimer, Deputy Assessor Tracy Barrett and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance.

Chairman Wayne Butts presided over the official swearing in of the re-elected County Officials; Commissioner Dist. #2 Randy Corgatelli, Commissioner Dist. #3 Steve Smith, Assessor Jacquell Bruno, Coroner Chad Workman, and Treasurer Allicyn Latimer. Clerk Lura Baker was sworn in earlier in the day, by Judge James Barrett. Commissioner Smith made a motion that the Chairman position remain with Commissioner Butts and the Vice Chairman position remain with Commissioner Corgatelli. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Road & Bridge:** Brandon has received the insurance payment for the wrecked 2015 Cat Roller. The replacement 2021 Cat Roller will be an additional \$66,732.00. Brandon requested permission to pay for it outright from his Capital Equipment fund instead of getting a loan and paying interest. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the outright purchase agreement for the 2021 Vibratory Single Smooth Drum Roller, SN #CS543. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried. Truck #215 needs the final approval for a tank and pump kit. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of the poly lined steel tank and pump kit at a total cost of \$31,500.00 from Diesel Depot. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The LHTAC Safety Grant has been received for the Morgan Creek Road. This grant requires a \$4,000.00 deposit to lock the Grant in. Payments will begin in 2024 on the \$1,236,000.00 Grant. There is a 7.4% match requirement that totals \$90,722.00. Commissioner Smith moved that the \$4,000.00 be paid to lock in the LHTAC Safety Grant for work on the Morgan Cr. Road. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. The STBG Grant Program application was then reviewed for the bridge on SQ Creek. This grant for \$1,329,000.00 has a 0% match requirement and will be utilized for the refurbish and resurface of the SQ Creek Bridge. Resolution #2023-01 was also reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Smith moved that the STBG Grant Application be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Clerk Lura Baker will complete the required resolutions. The STG Rural Program Grant for Phase II of the Garden Creek Road was then brought forward. This Grant is for \$2,985,000.00 and has a 7.35% match requirement amounting to \$219,397.50. This will be applied to the section of Garden Cr. Road from the bridge to the Living Waters driveway. Commissioner Smith moved that the application be approved and signatures affixed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Clerk Lura Baker will get the required Resolution #2023-02 completed for the application. Brandon is working with the SNRA on their plans for improving the Iron Cr. Road. The SNRA has put in for \$50,000, and plan to use \$21,000 for reimbursement to the County Road & Bridge for labor. The actual costs involved will be discussed further to make sure it will meet all requirements. Commissioner Butts inquired about the snow plowing that is being done on Morgan Creek Summit. Property owners from over the summit are the ones that have requested the snow plowing permit, not the cobalt mine. The City of Challis has requested help sanding from Road & Bridge, their sanding truck is down. The Commissioners agreed that the County should assist whenever possible. Commissioner Smith asked about the HIAS road materials request. They have contacted Joe Piva, and his road materials will be available next spring. The County will do the hauling when they are able. The plow truck that had a battery fire is now repaired and back in service. The damage was not as drastic as first feared, Brandon will take some crew to Idaho Falls to get the needed parts off of the totaled roller, to be used on the newly purchased roller. The purchase paperwork for the 2021 roller will be completed during the same trip.

Chairman Butts brought the Risk Manager position forward. There were trainings with PRIMA available through ICRMP in the past, now they offer online classes. Commissioner Smith moved that Clerk Lura Baker remain the Custer County Risk Manager, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Lura will look into a backup person. The regional committees that each Commissioner serves on were discussed, and it was decided they should remain the same. Commissioner Butts will serve on CEDA, Magistrate, Dist. 7 Health, and N Custer

Rodeo committees. Commissioner Corgatelli will serve on High Country RC&D, Aurora Development Co., and as Fair Board backup. Commissioner Smith will serve on Fair Board, RDA, CITC, LRED and E. ID State Fair committees. The County Committees that serve under the Board of Commissioners were then reviewed. Custer Co. Fair Board, N. Custer Rodeo, Waterways, Planning & Zoning and the Natural Resource Advisory Committee. It was decided that the Commissioners will schedule meetings with the Waterways Committee and N Custer Rodeo Committee. The Planning & Zoning Board will be invited to a luncheon.

**Solid Waste:** Wendell Gohn attended and was asked for his response to the new Right-of-Way Agreement for the East Fork Transfer Site, provided by the BLM. Items discussed were signage requirements, weed washing requirements, site hour restrictions, and sage-grouse mitigation restrictions. All agreed that it could be a very difficult agreement to live by and the BLM should be questioned during their visit later today. Chairman Butts commended Wendell on the dirt work that he has completed at the Challis Solid Waste site. It has greatly improved and extended the life of the site. Wendell inquired about maintaining the scale decks at the county solid waste sites. It was decided that Wendell will contact the scale companies to arrange for a "replacement deck" if at all possible. Wendell expressed his desire for all garbage to be utilized for power generation for the community.

**NRAC:** Chairman Jim Hawkins attended and reviewed the current members of the NRAC committee. Commissioner Smith moved that the NRAC committee members remain the same for 2023, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried. Chairman Butts explained the ICRMP requirements for committee members to be provided the Custer County Employee Handbook with a signature page. Jim reported the JM/JP Wilderness Charter writing has not begun as yet, and the Salmon Forest Plan Revision has shown no progress either. Ed Schriever/ID Fish & Game Director is retiring soon, but the Commissioners need to schedule a meeting with the Fish & Game per code. The WOTUS "Water of the United States" synopsis that Jim reviewed shows possibilities of huge problems for private land owners and needs to be responded to. Commissioner Corgatelli reviewed the original SNRA agreement, and it states that "donated lands" aren't included in the allowed 5% private land purchases. Currently only 75% of the private lands that were within the SNRA when it was begun, remain private. The tax base of Custer County is continually eroding away and a BLM/ PILT type system needs to be set up for USFS acquisitions.

**Treasurer:** Clerk Lura Baker provided copies of the monthly report on behalf of Allicyn. The tax exemption that was done for South Custer Historical Society at the last meeting included deleting the \$50.00 solid waste fees. Commissioner Smith made a motion to retain the \$50.00 solid waste fee for the S. Custer Historical Society. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

Salmon River Propane tank rent contracts for the Old Firehall were then reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that the contracts for \$10.00 per year rent be approved and signed, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried. Commissioner Butts then called AirGas Inc. about the purchase of (4) 125 oxygen bottles for South Custer Ambulance at a price of \$97.00 each. This purchase will end the monthly rent fees the County has been paying. The USFS invoice for the annual land use fee of \$1,536.37 for the Stanley Solid Waste transfer station was reviewed. The Commissioners accepted the invoice for payment. Discussion was held on the City of Challis requirements for the proposed Court Annex and Sheriff's Office upgrade. Chairman Butts has provided plans to the City secretary. The location of power lines and need to get building materials was also reviewed.

**Prosecutor:** Justin Oleson attended the meeting at 11:20 to see if he was needed.

The meeting was recessed at 11:37 AM to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The meeting was reconvened at 11:40 AM.

**Claims:** Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the following claims be approved and paid with additions of Day Wireless \$780.00, Darling Geomatics \$1,089.00, Martha Overdorf \$75.00, Computer Arts \$2,465.86, USFS – SNRA \$1,536.37, Idaho State Dept. Weights & Measures \$300.00, and Challis Messenger \$511.00. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	22,833.37
Road & Bridge	2,803.03
District Court	5,879.80
Rodeo Grounds	80.05
Health District	13,308.75
Revaluation	1,146.31
Solid Waste	1,936.37
Weeds	921.00
Emergency Communications	2,109.22
Auditors Trust	<u>213.00</u>
TOTAL	51,230.90

Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes for 12/28/22 Commissioners Meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Discussion was held on the Challis Main Avenue property that the Idaho Dept. of Transportation needs to transfer to Custer County, and thence to the City of Challis per Idaho State Statute. The meeting was recessed for a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30 PM.

**Agency:** Attending the meeting were Jonathan LeBlanc/Lost River RD, Josh Travers/BLM, Mike Krupski/SNRA, Heath Perrine/Challis-Yankee Fork RD, Clayton Collins/Middle Fork RD, and Maggie Schmidt/USFS.

SNRA – Mike Krupski provided a copy of the \$51,000.00 RAC proposal for the first mile of repairs on the Iron Creek Road. It badly needs quality surface materials and the SNRA would like to partner with Custer County Road & Bridge on the job. The road materials will be purchased by the SNRA from a Construction Co., and the Road & Bridge crew will do the hauling and provide the water truck and roller. The SNRA will provide the grader, which could possibly be operated by the R&B. This job is scheduled for June 2023 and it has been estimated to take about 2 weeks. The SNRA needs a letter of support to the USFS-RAC Committee from the Custer County Commissioners for this project. The private property gate closure at the head of the East Fork has generated 50 to 60 phone calls. The SNRA has surveyed the site to verify where the “fee strip” for access is located. The current gate is located on private property, the USFS access is on the west side of the property and the SNRA hopes to provide land access to their Bowery ranger station. The snowmobile trail from Redfish to Stanley is being groomed as is the Park Creek trail. The Ranger Station will be having regular hours of 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM now. The IOGA Management Plan is now out for objection for a 45-day comment period. Mike agreed to e-mail the IOGA Guidelines to the Board members. The Sawtooth Fire Collaborative Group is scheduled to re-start on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Dist. Ranger Jake Strohmeier will be attending, and Commissioner Corgatelli agreed to attend as well. Phase III of the Fiber Optics plowing will continue this summer with more fiberoptic cable being installed to residents.

Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger - Heath Perrine asked for a meeting to be scheduled with the Board of Commissioners and the Road & Bridge Department about future road work, snow plowing and cattleguards. A date of Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday at 9:00 AM was chosen and they will meet at the Forest Service office in Challis. Heath introduced Maggie Schmidt/Land Resource Administrator. The Schedule A Permit for communications was reviewed and the main problem is that the County system and the USFS system are not completely compatible. The Board explained the TUSA Communications Project that is currently being worked on. Maggie would like to see the TUSA Proposal and be kept apprised of any changes to be made. Heath then inquired about maintenance of the Grouse Peak Repeater site road? The current condition of the road makes it nearly impossible to do maintenance on site buildings. Maggie will double check the radio inventory in the USFS buildings at Grouse Peak next spring. Heath reported the Bayhorse Project is out for scoping and objections. Commissioner Smith inquired about progress on the Forest Plan Revisions as well as the JM/JP Wilderness Charters? Clayton reported they are still on internal planning, as the Challis Ranger District has to Wilderness person.

Middle Fork Ranger – Clayton Collins reported that the Morgan Prairie grazing permit BA is in process. The finalized draft should be ready for the meeting scheduled with the permittee next week. The Cow Creek BA is drafted for review, as it is two years old. They are working hard on better communications with permittees. The MOU with the Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture is providing the monitoring protocol for allotments, and range improvements.

Lost River RD – Jonathan LeBlanc reported that the Mount Borah Trailhead engineering is about 70% complete. He will know the amount of road materials needed soon, and communicate with the ID Dept. of Transportation.

Bureau of Land Management-Josh Travers reported NEPA is complete on the East Fork Solid Waste Transfer Site Permit and the E. Fork Rip-Rap Permit. His office is hiring seasonal workers, but housing is a continuing problem. Work is continuing on the Challis Trails System with archeological work still to be completed. Temporary signs have been placed for the wild/feral horses along Highway 75. The Range Dept. is working on permit renewals and range improvements. He reviewed the letter of support for the Bayhorse Bridge Project sent from the BLM. They are applying for an IDP&R Grant to use for campground improvements, and the BLM needs a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners. The permit application for an outdoor youth school along the Trail Creek Road has been accepted. The East Fork R of W permit for the solid waste transfer site was then discussed and problems and concerns voiced by the Board. Josh agreed to look into the concerns that were voiced.

**Sheriff:** Stu Lumpkin attended and discussed the proposed new Sheriff's office with the Board. Getting assistance for moving, dates for closures needed for the transfer of radio systems and power sources, and secure storage of office items while work is being completed was reviewed. Stu inquired about the TUSA Communication Plan results, and a copy of the disc will be forwarded to him.

**Planning & Zoning:** Jessica inquired about the legality of operating a salvage yard on property zoned as agriculture. She updated the Board on her visit with the land use attorney on timing of applications and public hearing dates. The Board offered their complete support on her inquiry with the attorney.

**Emergency Manager:** Levi has received the official close out letter from FEMA for the 2020 EMPG grant. The storage Konnex for Mackay area is scheduled for delivery January 17<sup>th</sup>. He needs an approved location to unload the unit. The FEMA – BRIC Grant application is now completed. He has contacted Ray's Heating about a generator for the Flat Top repeater site. He has the Red Cross updates in progress. Steve Stringham – IT Dept. has given his opinion about computer needs for his office, Clerk Lura Baker also needs to get another computer for her office. The roof leak has been stopped, but the damage to the walls and paint still needs to be repaired. The cabinets for his office have come in at a cost of \$500.00. Commissioner Smith moved that they be accepted and the invoice paid. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The EOC "Emergency Operations Center" location for Custer County was then discussed. The Challis Fire Department has offered space, and the Board suggested that their offer be accepted. The regular Fire Dept. meeting is tomorrow and Levi will attend. Chairman Butts placed a phone call to Mackay Mayor Wayne Olson and requested permission to unload the Konnex unit at the Mackay Solid Waste Site. Mayor Olson agreed and a letter of request will be sent to the Mayor of Mackay.

The annual agreement with the University of Idaho was reviewed and the Board approved. Clerk Lura Baker will complete the letter of reply. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 3:55 PM Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Butts, 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 4:15 PM.

**Certificate of Residency:** Applications from Warner and Hotchkiss were then reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Smith moved that the applications both be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Corgatelli moved to approve the purchase of a new computer for the Clerk's office. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved to appoint Clerk Lura Baker as the Administrative Assistant for the Government Management System. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. The Opioid Settlement funds to be distributed were then reviewed. These funds can only be used for opioid treatment and re-education purposes. Commissioner Smith asked for more time to research the funds. The deadline for application is March 2023.


**Planning & Zoning:** Jessica provided the term end dates of her Board for the Commissioners. Two of the members terms are up, but they have both agreed to serve another term on the P&Z Board. Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the Planning & Zoning Board membership be re-affirmed as it stands. Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion passed. Idaho State Code was reviewed on the legal terms of P&Z Board members, as well as the difficulty of finding and keeping volunteers for the positions.

Custer County Election Precinct boundaries and the Commissioner District boundaries were then reviewed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to keep the Election Precinct Boundaries and the Commissioner District Boundaries the same as before. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.


The Board of Commissioners and Clerk were requested to visit the Sheriff's office by Dispatcher Brandi Hammack. She voiced her concerns that the County has a shortage of dispatchers, and it is a huge safety issue. The shortage of deputies is also a concern. The Commissioners agreed, and have tried to offer higher wages to attract more applicants. Other issues were then gone over and solutions will be applied as soon as possible by the Board of Commissioners. The Board requested a list of specific problems be made and forwarded to Chairman Butts so the Board can find specific solutions. The Board of Commissioners then toured the jail.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.



  
Wayne F. Butts, Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:



Lura H. Baker, Clerk