

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
November 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 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.

Weeds: Brett will be going to Boise on Tuesday for the School Board Convention. He is currently working on BLM Grant paperwork for Grants to be announced on Dec. 10th. He has submitted herbicide orders to three companies and is awaiting their bid prices. The newest noxious weeds that are showing up are puncture vine and viper's bugloss. Brett would like to use the BLM grant for intense roadside spray work. He has been trying to get the SNRA to come onboard with an "invasive species boat inspection wash station" but is getting no cooperation. All agreed once quagga-mussels get into Redfish Lake it will be late for the entire watershed. Brett has also talked to the Idaho Fish & Game about this issue. He is aware of the BLM having (5) five weed wash stations that are waiting to be installed in the right locations. The ID State Dept. of Agriculture and Idaho Fish & Game are trying to get legislation passed that requires all boats to stop at Port's of Entry for invasive species inspections. Brett has submitted all the required exemptions for the spray drone, and is awaiting the final permits. He still needs an FFA Instructor to come and give him a flight review before he can put it to work spraying weeds. The drone has a gross weight of 171 pounds; with the machine weight at 62 pounds. The spare tanks, pumps, nozzles and required maintenance was also discussed.

Road & Bridge: Brandon reported that the Lost River Highway Dist. is bringing up their roadside mower to use in Morgan Cr. and Challis Cr. on the weeds & brush. This is in trade for helping them with applying mag this summer when their equipment went down. The new plow truck from Diesel Depot has a final cost of \$67,027.76 that includes the sander and plow equipment. Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the final cost of \$67,027.76 for the truck, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal at 8:35 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, 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 8:45 AM. Brandon reported on the IACRES convention that he and Alex attended. They both attended all the different classes they could and felt it was good information. Brandon attended the CDL class and learned about the possibility of "in house training" for CDL's. They require an entity to have an "in-house trainer" and a curriculum. The trainer must ride with the student trainee for all the hours needed. Trainers may only "train" within their own entity. Commissioner Corgatelli suggested all the county road departments try to work together on training and testing. While at the IACRES Convention, Brandon was selected at the District Representative for District #6. They are trying to get the District Commissions back up and running again. Wall Oil Company is closing down and the bulk plant has been sold. Currently Brandon is working with four different fuel suppliers. 7C Junction was the best price this time. The Road & Bridge fuel storage is currently an 8,000 tank for Gasoline, a 10,000 and 8,000 tank for Diesel. The Weed Dept. has two 1,000-gallon storage tanks. The fuel storage containment space is full, but the fuel amount seems to be adequate. Brandon has been working with Mandy on the Road & Street Report, which is nearly complete.

Wendell Gohn/Blue Mountain Refuse: Wendell attended and discussed the study being done by Travis Pyle/ Great West. He would like the Board of Commissioners and Travis to tour the site and see the distances and slope for themselves. The actual footprint of the proposed landfill was then discussed. Wendell expressed his desire for a waste to energy plant, but understands how difficult it is to get one up and running. He is currently paying \$295.00 per ton to have waste tires hauled off. They have been going to Salt Lake City for recycling. The Mackay solid waste transfer site was then discussed. Wendell needs to dig a new "dead animal pit" and needs direction on just where to dig it. The Board felt it would be best to move it to the new piece of property.

Indigent: Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(d) for Indigent at 9:41 AM. 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 9:44 AM. Commissioner Smith made a motion to offer a payoff of \$150.00 to #07-11. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

Clerk: Lura reported on an e-mail she received from Rebecca Boyle expressing her thanks for the great Community Firewise work in the Stanley area. The next Commissioners meeting is scheduled to be held in Mackay on November 29th. It was agreed to schedule the Public Hearing on the Fairground RV site rent fee increase at 4:00 PM at the Mackay City Hall. The December 11th Commissioners meeting will also have a Public Hearing scheduled at 6:00 PM. The Drug & Alcohol Test Policy Resolution amendment was reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that Resolution #2023-13 be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Public Defender contract with Manuel Murdoch was then submitted for commission signature. Clerk Lura Baker has received the 2023/2024 Stanley Law Enforcement Contract from Mayor Steve Botti. The annual fees were back up to \$56,000. Mayor Botti is quite happy with having two deputies in the Stanley area. Rachel Cohen has contacted Clerk Lura Baker about the Stanley Solid Waste Transfer Site. Rachel has heard rumors about a re-opening of the site. The Board of Commissioners suggested Lura give her their phone numbers for further discussion.

NRAC: Jim Hawkins, Chairman attended and requested direction on inviting adjoining involved counties to participate in the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear EIS process. Commissioner Smith agreed to call their commissioners and visit with them to get a better understanding of their opinions. Clerk Lura Baker suggested contacting Mary Darling to see what she would prefer. Commissioner Smith is meeting with Josh Uriarte/Office of Species Conservation and Mary Darling/Darling Geomatics in Boise. The move to establish Natural Asset Companies and put public lands on the Stock Exchange was discussed. American Stewards of Liberty have provided important information on this land grab.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 10:40 AM. 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 10:50 AM. The IT situation that Custer County is currently having was discussed. A Zoom meeting was scheduled for 2:00 PM on Nov. 17, 2023. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal Review at 10:55 AM. 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 11:05 AM.

Emergency Services: Manager Levi Maydole attended and updated the Board on the Mackay Dam. Repairs are being done on the head gates while the water level is low and irrigation has been shut down. Levi provided copies of the Emergency Preparedness Guide to the Board and Clerk. He has the 2024 SHSP Grant completed and ready for signatures in the amount of \$22,402.87. After review, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the 2024 SHSP \$22,402.87 Grant. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Levi then presented the 2024 EMPG Grant in the amount of \$9,994.47. Commissioner Smith moved that the EMPG Grant also be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Signed copies will be kept in the offices of Clerk and Emergency Management. Grant possibilities were discussed and the timeline of decisions for the receipt of funds. Levi then informed the Board about the offer from Custer Telephone Cooperative to rent building space at Grouse Peak North, and Windy Devil repeater sites for \$400.00 per month, or \$4,800.00 per year. The Board discussed the offer and cleared the way for Levi to pass this opportunity information on to Norm Folger with TUSA. Commissioner Smith moved that the contract process be started for Custer County renting space at the Grouse Peak North and Windy Devil repeater sites from Custer Telephone. Discussion then turned to the used generator that was proposed to be installed at Windy Devil repeater site. The Board agreed that it should still be installed, any changes needed after this contract is completed will be made at that time. The constant threat of cyber attacks was then discussed. Currently the County has a "firewall system" that protects their information.

Lura reported that the Idaho Courts are working on building a totally separate computer system that will not link into the counties systems in any way to help control cyber threats. Everyone agreed it was a huge problem.

CWPP: The Community Wildfire Protection Plan meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 15th at 10:00 AM. This will be a ZOOM Meeting and the Board members will attend.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:15 and reconvened again at 1:30 PM. Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins were in attendance.

Agencies: Attending were David Hilliard/BLM, Jonathan LeBlanc/USFS, Lost River Ranger Dist., Chuck Mark/USFS Forest Supervisor, and Ryan Hilton/ID Fish & Game.

BLM Dave Hilliard reported on behalf of Josh Travers as he is at the Cattlemen's Convention in Sun Valley. The EA's for Idaho Basecamp and Challis Foothills Trails have been signed. The RHA is being written for the Garden Creek Allotment, and the Bayhorse Allotment will be next. An enclosure fence is being rebuilt with jack leg fence in the Burnt Creek area. The campground expansion for the Mackay Reservoir is being planned. The land swap for Ray Simons near the Buffalo Jump is coming along. It is in Boise for final decision. The BLM has many vacant jobs that they are still looking to fill. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about bait/trapping the problem feral horses along Highway 75. They were a problem last winter and have returned to the area. Commissioner Smith asked what the feral horse count was for 2023. Dave thought there were about 180 head counted, and they hope to begin with the bait trapping again soon.

Lost River Ranger Dist. Jonathan LeBlanc reported that the contract for Mt. Borah trailhead campground has been released. They have had 5 contractors respond with interest. Commissioner Smith reminded them of the gravel pile donated by the State Highway Dept. The Bear Creek road re-route has been completed this summer. The Muldoon Bridge has also been removed. They found extensive creosote contamination that had to be cleaned up. USFS Forest Supervisor Chuck Mark attended and reported that the new Forest Supervisor will be coming on soon. Commissioner Smith mentioned that Custer County has not received any response from the Regional Office on their request to be included in the hiring process. Chuck reported that the process is fairly far along. Commissioner Smith then asked about the Forest Service Resource Advisory Committees? Chuck reported that they have expired and all the charters have also expired. Chuck then gifted "FCRONR Wilderness Area" collectors' quarters to each Board member and Clerk Baker.

Idaho Fish & Game Ryan Hilton attended and reported that Idaho has had a second case of Chronic Wasting Disease reported in deer. It was a mule deer south of McCall. The first case was a whitetail near Riggins. The Fish & Game Commission is meeting in Lewiston. The 5-year Statewide Elk Plan is coming up and he encouraged everyone to submit comments. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about last winter and its effect on this seasons' hunting success. Ryan responded that the 2023 hunter success was down, but the warmer, milder weather had a bigger effect than last winter. Central Idaho didn't get the winter kill like southern Idaho did. The steelhead fishing is pretty good this year and numbers are about double of last year. They need to hire another employee in the screen shop. The public access issues on the Boren property at the head of the East Fork have been problematic this year. It is completely closed now due to public vandalism and trespassing. The SNRA has a right-of-way through the private property, but it is not on the roads. They are trying to get things worked out. Ryan apologized for not attending the NRAC meeting, and will put it on his schedule for next month. Commissioner Smith asked about the new approved "Idaho Wolf Management Plan". Ryan informed all that it is available on the web site and the Fish & Game goal is to get the wolf numbers back down to around 500. It is believed that there are around 1200 wolves in Idaho, and there were as many as 1500 before. The Commission has made the wolf hunting regulations as liberal as they possibly could trying to reduce the numbers. They allow year around hunting seasons, trapping, thermal imaging can be used for night hunting and well as liberal tag numbers.

Sheriff: Stu attended and discussed the updated Idaho drivers license renewal process. They are working through the problems as best they can. Clerk Lura provided copies of the Stanley Law Enforcement Contract which was reviewed. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired about the Stanley office remodel progress. Stu has talked to Damon and it could be finished by the end of November. Commissioner Smith moved that the Stanley Law Enforcement Contract in the amount of \$56,000.00 per year be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Clerk Lura then reviewed the E-911 items that were ordered with the Custer County credit card in the

amount of \$260.58. The Grant funding used had date deadlines that had to be met. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the total E-911 purchases of \$2,188.17 and \$260.58 that were done with the credit card. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Sheriff Stu reported that the new trucks should be delivered perhaps next week. The used patrol vehicles will be kept by the County and utilized by other departments. Discussion was held on just how to delegate the use of the vehicles between the Assessor, Emergency Management and Coroner departments.

The meeting was recessed at 3:25 PM to go into South Custer Ambulance Board proceedings. The regular meeting reconvened at 3:28 PM.

Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes of the 9-30-2023 Special Meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then moved that the minutes of the 10-30-2023 Special meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the minutes of the 10-10-2023 regular Commissioners meeting as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried. The minutes of the 10-23-23 regular Commissioners meeting were then reviewed and one typo was found. Commissioner Smith moved that they be approved as written with the one correction. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. The Collection Agreement that was received from the USFS concerning the use of radio frequencies by the Search and Rescue was reviewed. It involves repeaters on Flat Top, Windy Devil, Sunset and Potaman Peak. Clerk Lura Baker agreed to do further research on this matter.

Planning & Zoning: Jessica attended and presented an official request for a road name. This road is located off of Highway 21 past Stanley. The road is currently un-named and they have requested "Old Corral Road" as their first choice. It will service three different homes. After discussion Commissioner Smith moved the request for "Old Corral Road" be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Jessica then reported that a Re-Zoning Hearing has been held by the Planning & Zoning Board, their suggestion was that the applicant apply for and Conditional Use Permit. The Board of Commissioners will now be holding a hearing on this issue. Height restrictions on new homes were then discussed. There is a two-story structure that Jessica is afraid over the limit. The Board asked her to proceed with getting the facts before any action is undertaken.

Assessor/Clerk: Both office leaders made a joint request to have security blinds installed across the front of the Courthouse. Commissioner Smith made a motion that blinds be purchased and installed across the front and east end of the Courthouse for security reasons. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

Election: Clerk of Elections/Kristen Walker provided the abstracts from the Nov. 7th election. She reported that the process went very well and the E-Poll Books were well received in the Mackay and Stanley areas. The Board of Commissioners then reviewed the tally books and E-poll books from the city elections in each town. Commissioner Smith moved that the canvass of the Nov. 7, 2023 election be approved as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Smith provided his comment letter on behalf of Custer County to the Idaho Congressional delegation concerning the Natural Asset Companies and the Securities Exchange Commission. Commissioner Corgatelli approved the letter and moved that the letter be sent, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Claims: Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the following claims totaling \$246,348.81 be approved and paid. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	88,368.89
Road & Bridge	144,114.42
Battleground Mosquito	256.03
Election Fund	15.63
District Court	3,779.08
Rodeo Grounds	421.97
Revaluation	1,138.66
Solid Waste	2,098.19
Weeds	1,249.34
Waterways	103.57
LATCF	3,495.55
Em Communications	<u>1,305.39</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$246,346.72</u>

The letter from Eastern Idaho State Fair was reviewed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Corey Foster as a Board member for the E. Idaho State Fair in a 4-year term. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. This will be sent to them in a letter from Custer County.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.


Randy Corgatelli, Vice Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:


Lura H. Baker, Clerk

