

**Proceedings of the Dolores County board of
County Commissioners
February 26, 2015**

A Regular meeting of the board of County Commissioners was held in their boardroom in Dove Creek, Colorado February 26, 2015. Present for the meeting was Chairman of the Board, Julie Kibel, Commissioners Ernie Williams, and Doug Stowe. Also present for the meeting was Lorraine Hancock, Deputy Clerk to the Board, and Margret Daves, Manager of Special Projects.

Guests

LaRita Randolph, County Clerk, Oma Fleming, Weed District, Sheriff Martin Martin, County Sheriff, GIS, Amber Fisher, GIS, Berna Ernst, County Assessor.

Pledge

The meeting was started by everyone standing and saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the agenda as written with the addition of In Stream Flows.

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted yes.

Department Head Meeting

Gus Westerman, Extension Agent said he has been busy lately. He attended the San Juan Basin Beef Symposium and he will be attending the Weed Symposium in Farmington next week as well as the Pruning Workshop and Specialty Crop Workshop. He is also working on a computing grant with the National Science Foundation to update the school's computer systems and to get a mobile lab with about 20 laptops to the school. He is working with Kinder Morgan on a STEM Robotics grant and he is also waiting to hear back from a few grants.

Commissioner Stowe asked about the 4H shooting program.

Gus said that they are waiting for a leader and the new DOW officer might be interested. He said that they do have possession of the rifles already.

Commissioner Stowe said that with the new RBSC they will need to move the Sheriffs shooting range. He said that maybe we could combine the two shooting ranges out by the fair grounds.

Gus said that they are thinking of re-grading the fair grounds and that might be a good time to start building a berm out there. He said that there is a grant available to support shooting ranges.

There was discussion on the shooting range.

Amber Fisher, GIS has been making maps and recently held an address training class for the fire department. She also submitted the road inventory to CDOT.

Commissioner Stowe and Commissioner Kibel said that they have received feedback that the training was very helpful.

Oma Fleming, Weed District said she is meeting with the Forest Service soon because the agent she worked with is retiring. She signed her compliance for the MPDS and it's off in the mail.

Sheriff Martin Martin, County Sheriff had a good meeting with the Fire Department and he is continuing to work with the emergency services to get better cooperation. Sheriff Martin said that he is aware that

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the shooting range will need to be moved for the new RBSC building and he wants to talk to Gus to discuss shooting range plans.

Berna Ernst, Count Assessor is working on the re appraisals. Regarding the closure of the Court House this week because of snow, she discussed the advantages of a text tree for the county in case of bad weather and more closures of the Court House.

Commissioner Kibel said that we are working on a new website where we can post closures.

LaRita Randolph, County Clerk discussed having a two hour automatic delay if the schools close for the day.

There was discussion about an employee who had a long commute to work the morning of the storm. Commissioner Kibel suggested that the county employees should do what they feel comfortable with and to come in when they can. She said that the department head should do what they feel is right for their departments.

There was discussion on the roads being plowed.

Commissioner Williams said we all understand that we live in Colorado and it might take people longer to make it in.

There was discussion on having an automatic delay.

There was discussion about if a snow day falls on a day off, do employees get another day and the decision was that they do not get an extra day off.

There was discussion about the text tree for notification and the commissioners are going to look into it.

Margret Daves, Special Projects Manager said that we are moving ahead on the RBSC and we have signed an MOU with UC Denver. We have meetings scheduled with the Doves Nest and the Town. We are also working on a Site Assessment. There will be a Planning Commission Meeting tonight since the last one was canceled due to snow. She said that the county now has a conference call number.

Commissioner Kibel asked about the Workshop with Mr. Johnson and the development near the Family Dollar.

Commissioner Stowe said that it is coming along but the details have not been worked out. He said that everyone needs to get together to go over the benefits for everyone.

Solar Farms

Commissioner Kibel met with Larry Don Suckla, Montezuma County Commissioner and he said that Montezuma County and La Plata County have a neat opportunity with solar farms and Empire Electric. Alamosa has gone to solar farms and they have really helped them. Empire Electric wants to take the transmission of electricity and sell it to California. In Alamosa, there is a million dollar a year return to the county on personal property taxes. She discussed the components that you need in order to have solar farms.

Commissioner Williams said that they had a map that showed all the best possibilities for a solar farm and all of the best places are here in this area. Montezuma County has already worked with the Planning Commission to pass solar farms.

Commissioner Kibel said that the Utes are looking into this also.

Commissioner Williams said that coal fired plants are having problems with the EPA and there will be a need for more energy, but there are some problems with the solar farms that need to be addressed.

Commissioner Williams said that we need to have a meeting with Montezuma County. He said that there is a water shortage at Lake Powell and this might help relieve some of that.

The commissioners will be meeting with Montezuma County to further discuss solar farms.

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OHV Regulations

Commissioner Kibel said that Montezuma County has passed regulations for OHV usage. She discussed the rules. She said they want Dolores County to follow what they have adopted so people can ride from county to county. She has some concerns with kids and people following rules and said that it is a huge enforcement responsibility for the sheriff.

Sheriff Martin, County Sheriff said that when you write a simple OHV regulation, it just builds and all of a sudden you have all of these laws and regulations. He thinks that the town needs to do a designated route out of town. He discussed the use of ATV's for farm use vs. recreation riding. He said that it could be a full time enforcement issue.

Commissioner Kibel asked if all the kids that are riding ATV's on the county roads are breaking the law and Sheriff Martin said yes unless they are doing farm work.

There was discussion on the potential rules and regulations.

Commissioner Williams said that we need to have some workshops with the town on this.

Sheriff Martin said that we have had 5 fatalities on four wheelers in our county.

The commissioners said that at this point, our county will stay how it is and not adopt ATV regulations.

River Rim Tear Drop Support Letter

Tim Rossiter, River Rim Tear Drop was here to discuss a support letter needed for a grant opportunity. Tim said that he was recognized by the governor as an up and coming business. He said that there is a REDI grant (rural economic development initiative) that is available for his business and with this grant, they will hire additional people. The REDI grant is asking for support letters from the county commissioners and the grant must be submitted by Sunday, March 1, 2015.

There was discussion on the support letter.

Tim said that currently he can only work on one trailer at a time but they are looking into a larger space to be able to build more at a time, and to possibly even build full size trailers. He said that his philosophy is to build them so they can be passed down to other generations. He said that several local subcontractors work on the trailers. He said that he wants to keep as much business locally as possible. He invited the commissioners to come out to see how they are built.

Dental Insurance

Lenore Carhart, County Bookkeeper was here to discuss the county's dental insurance. She said last year they upped the rates mid contract in June and they were supposed to send us a renewal in December but never did. She said last week they upped the rates without giving us notice and we have the option to change providers.

Commissioner Kibel asked if the deductibles can be carried over and Lenore said that they probably won't be carried if we go with another company.

Lenore said that the rate will go up between \$3-9 per person or family depending on the plan. She said that Sun Life has been pretty good other than the rate increases.

There was discussion on the dental insurance options.

Lenore suggested renewing with our current dental insurance with a contingency that we renew with them at the same time that we renew health insurance plans.

Lenore discussed difficulties with the San Juan Clinic and our health insurance that Todd Toner helped out with. She said that if anyone receives a bill from San Juan Clinic that has been denied that they need to bring it to her.

There was discussion on co pays.

Lenore will move forward with the current dental insurance with a contingency to renew in November with a December start up.

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IT Contract/Server

Lenore said that Keith Kessler, County Dispatch is great with computers and he has helped us out with computer issues that our current IT didn't fix.

Commissioner Kibel said that Sheriff Martin pays him contract hours already to fix issues. She said that it's much better to have someone local that can get the job done.

Lenore suggested dropping our contract with Farmer's and to start paying Keith \$500 for 10 hours of service per month and \$40 per hour after 10 hours and the commissioners agreed.

Lenore also discussed getting mini servers for each office.

Commissioner Williams asked about the cost.

Margret said that Keith said that he can get fairly cheap.

Lenore said that she also recommends getting a server at Senior Services since everything they do is stored on a flash drive.

Commissioner Stowe said that Sheriff Martin said that if we have an emergency situation, Sheriff Martin would work it out so that Keith could come down.

There was discussion on if this needs to go to bid and the commissioners decided that since this will be done in house, it will not require the bid process.

Lenore will talk to Keith to get a bid on servers and we will vote on the IT Contract Monday, March 2, 2015.

Water Lawyer

Commissioner Williams said that there are a lot of questions that we can't answer with the NCA. There are questions about what will legally happen with the water with this NCA and how it will affect in stream flows. He said that they could request the help of a water lawyer to get an opinion on the NCA, however that would cost around \$10,000-\$15,000. He would like to pursue partnerships to split the cost, especially since the NCA will be forever.

The commissioners agreed that Commissioner Williams can pursue partnerships to split the cost of a water lawyer.

In-Stream Flows

Commissioner Stowe said that he attended a Southwestern Water Conservation District meeting in which they discussed instream flows. He said currently there is no protection for future development in the instream flow proposal and no guarantees as to what will happen with the instream flows unless the fish in the river are declared endangered. There is a lot of support to get future development for the water from the Colorado Water Congress. Right now the instream flow goes from the confluence of the Dolores River and the San Miguel River down to Gateway and there is already instream flow on the full length of the Dolores River as well as instream flow from the damn down. There is opposition from San Miguel County because they don't want the instream flow messed with. San Miguel County is afraid that if they can't meet the instream flow they will take all of the junior water rights from the San Miguel River and all of those people will lose their water. There is a proposal from the Colorado Water Congress that they can call water through the damn (McPhee Dam) on junior water rights, which will affect the Town of Dove Creeks water rights.

There was discussion of having the water lawyer comment on instream flows as well.

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RBSC Workshop

The commissioners held a workshop on the Road and Bridge/Senior Center building.

Adjourned

Commissioner Stowe made the motion to Adjourn.

Commissioner Williams seconded the Motion. All three voted yes.

Meeting ended at 10:46 am.

Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners

Attest:

Deputy Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners