

**Proceedings of the Dolores County Board of
County Commissioners**

February 20, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held in the boardroom in Dove Creek, Colorado on February 20th, 2018. Present for the meeting were Chairperson Steve Garchar, Commissioner Floyd Cook and Commissioner Kibel. Also, present for the meeting were; County Attorney Dennis Golbricht, Special Projects Manager Margret Daves and Deputy Clerk to the Board Jody Gardner.

Guests

CSFS Contractor Ellen Roberts, USFS Representative Anthony Madrid, CSFS Representative Kent Grant, Montrose Forest Products Representative Norm Birtcher, Dolores County Extension Agent Gus Westerman, DWCD Representatives Mike Preston and Ken Curtis, DWRP Collaborative Representative Becca Samulski, Colorado Division of Water Resources Representatives Doug Pickering, Marty Robbins and Rob Genualdi, Colorado Water Conservancy Board Celene Hawkins, District 58 Candidate Seth Cagin, BLM Representative Connie Clementson, USFS Representative Tom Rice, Dolores County Clerk Larita Randolph, Mandatory Weed District Manager Oma Fleming, Deputy Assessor Takara Harrington

Pledge

The meeting began with everyone standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of February 15, 2018 Payroll

The following is a list of total payrolls by Department:

County Commissioners:	\$7,065.67	6 Employees	
County Commissioner Other:	\$387.87		1 Part Time
Transfer Station:	\$557.54		1 Part Time
County Clerk:	\$2,656.63	3 Employees	
County Treasurer:	\$2,311.04	2 Employees	
County Assessor:	\$3,961.16	4 Employees	
GIS:	\$1,626.14	2 Employees	
County Maintenance:	\$1,330.95	1 Employee	
Traffic Enforcement:	\$1,539.69	1 Employee	
County Sheriff:	\$10,838.38	8 Employees	4 Part Time
EMA:	\$1,059.13	1 Employee	
Extension:	\$1,260.61	2 Employees	
DCTV:	\$1,264.82		7 Part Time
News @ Noon:	\$678.77		2 Part Time
Veterans Office:	\$480.22		1 Part Time
Senior Services:	\$9,078.80	3 Employees	14 Part Time
Health & Nurse:	\$2,852.83	2 Employees	
Mandatory Weed:	\$516.01	1 Employees	1 Part Time
Admin Other:	\$21,438.69	21 Employees	2 Part Time
Social Services:	\$6,151.18	5 Employees	
TOTAL:	\$76,028.69	62 Employees	33 Part Time

Agenda and Payroll

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept the agenda and payroll.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Minutes

Approval of the BOCC February 5, 2018 minutes and the BOCC January 17, 2017 Re-Organization minutes.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept the above listed minutes.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Forest Health Activity

Colorado State Forest Service Representative Kent Grant and Contractor Ellen Roberts, Montrose Forest Products Representative Norm Birtcher, San Juan National Forest Representative Anthony Madrid, DWRP Representative Becca Samulski, Dolores County Extension Agent Gus Westerman and DWCD Representatives Ken Curtis and Mike Preston were present to discuss the health of the San Juan Forest, its waters and biomass utilization. All of the entities involved share a mutual desire to increase the scope and pace of biomass utilization and forest product harvesting which will protect watersheds. The severe pine beetle epidemic has raised the need for immediate action, therefore an environmental assessment study of approximately 30,000 acres is being conducted around the Lake Canyon area to determine the extent of the damage. Timber and biomass health are necessary to control fires. With the minimal amount of winter moisture to date catastrophic wildfires are a serious concern for the upcoming season. Montrose Forest Products has sampled product from the San Juan Forest and is interested in harvesting product measuring 10” and greater as well as shipping product after some equipment is added to their Montrose mill. Maintenance costs on County roads throughout the infected areas is a concern for the County since Montrose Forest Products is requesting the County to allow the same hauling overload weight limits that CDOT permits on highways. A map was provided pinpointing the forest areas and roads that will be most affected. The County will further investigate the roads that will be affected by the increased use and the costs associated with building up and maintaining those roads.

DWCD Update/Trucking Water Issues/Instream Flows and Water Administration

DWCD: Dolores Water Conservancy District Representative Ken Curtis gave an update as of February 1, 2017 on the water situation for the area. Obviously, we are still in a drought. The weather patterns started to change in January however the moisture received was still below average. The high-pressure system linked to La Nina seems to be breaking down allowing the small storms that we’ve been having. There is a 50/50 chance that if we receive normal spring storms there will be a full supply of irrigation water. The summer monsoons will be a determining factor in next year’s lake level and irrigation outlook.

Truck Water: “Truck water” is the water the County hauls to perform road maintenance in the non-incorporated areas of the County (for example Groundhog, West Fork and Disappointment). The County does not currently have senior water rights to make a call from the upstream waters. However, in working with DWCD the County can access upstream waters. DWCD has the ability to make an “upstream exchange” with the waters that flow into McPhee Reservoir, meaning that DWCD will replace waters that are used upstream to the entities that receive water downstream.

Instream Flows and Water Administration: The process of establishing water rights on an instream flow was explained to Commissioners. Historic use does not warrant priority appropriation of waters; however, conditional water rights could be established.

House District 58 Candidate

Seth Cagin introduced himself and shared his desire to represent southwest Colorado for House District 58. Mr. Cagin gave a brief explanation of his personal history and discussed his point of views on several issues that affect southwest Colorado and Dolores County.

Executive Session Requested by Council

An Executive Session was requested pursuant to CRS 24-6-402 (b)(3) to receive legal advice from Counsel regarding current litigation. Per Attorney Golbricht, the matter constituted attorney client privileged matters and therefore no recording or minutes would be made.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to enter into an Executive Session.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

The executive session began at 11:58.

The Commissioners came out of Executive Session at 12:11.

Social Services Update

Social Services Director Malynda Evans presented the January 16, 2018 Record of Proceedings and January financials.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept the Record of Proceedings and financials.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Social Services Director Malynda Evans received a request for monies from the Clara Ormiston Trust Fund. It was found that the application met the conditions for distribution from the Clara Ormiston Trust Fund in the amount of \$1000.00 to assist with cancer treatment. Resolution #2-18-01 will be prepared granting the funds.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept Resolution #2-18-01.

Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

BLM Update

Bureau of Land Management Representative Connie Clementson and Forest Service Representative Tom Rice were present to discuss the current happenings of the two entities.

- Ms. Clementson asked Commissioners if they had any recommendations or requests for better communication or services from the agency after having been representatives of the County for a year now. Local community approval is of the utmost importance to the federal agencies.
- The Ansel Field Trip that was scheduled for February 27th will be postponed until a later date when weather is not an issue.
- Ms. Clementson will be sharing a link from an interesting survey recently conducted by Colorado Mesa University regarding the community's issues and desires with the use of public federal lands.
- The BLM recently received new direction on how it will proceed with Oil and Gas leases. The new process will require good communication between the BLM and Counties to correlate and shorten the lease process to 6 months. The previous process took 9 months.

Forest Service

- US Forest Service Representative Tom Rice handed out a map from the Rico area. A newly established group known as the Rico Trails Alliance (RTA) based out of Rico is interested in pursuing the expansion of trails in the Rico area. RTA would like to re-establish the Circle Trail as a non-motorized connector from Rico to Silver Creek to Colorado Trails. The RTA has initiated the Circle Trail Designation Project and may be seeking approval from the County Commissioners.
- There was discussion on the Ferris and Cabin Creek campgrounds progress. The County completed fall weed spraying late in the season due to the openness of the fall. Montezuma County was to share in the costs/duties of the campgrounds; Attorney Golbricht will contact them.
- Commissioner Kibel questioned Mr. Rice on the Forest Service's Point of View regarding the potential impact and costs associated to roads within the Forest Service area and Dolores County. County roads could potentially receive increased overweight hauling if the Forest Health program that was recently presented is implemented. Mr. Rice was uncertain of which roads would be affected, but will look into it.

Pioneer Center Rental Discussion

- Senior Services Director Nita Purkat presented a proposed drafted Pioneer Center Rental/Use application. Attorney Golbricht suggested some additions be added to the draft. Rental rates were discussed. Director Purkat will make the discussed changes and resubmit for approval.
- The Pioneer Center vehicle shelter has been completed. USDA has been billed for their portion. The total structure cost was \$58,800. Duane Dell will inspect this week.
- Director Purkat handed out a two-page inventory list of various pieces of office furniture and kitchen equipment from the Cahone Center that they no longer need. The Dolores County Schools will be contacted first to see what they could potentially have use for. A possible donation from the school was discussed in lieu of a more realistic purchase pricing. A silent auction was also discussed for the pieces that the school is not interested in. It was suggested that local non-profits be contacted to donate too.
- Director Purkat spoke with the local Orkin servicemen Dakota Cressler. Interior and exterior rodent devices and insect spraying had been completed three times in the last 6 months. We are currently six months into a one-year contract. With the maintenance employees currently on staff at the Pioneer Center the need for Orkin's services are minimal. Commissioner Garchar will contact Orkin.
- The number of meals provided to Seniors at the Pioneer Center has continued to increase. Funding for the program is currently questionable due to the Federal Government situation.

Board of Health

The County Commissioners opened as the Board of Health at 3:05pm

Dolores County Health Nurse Mary Randolph discussed the immediate need for an appointed medical officer. Contact had been made with a local Doctor practicing at the Community Health Clinic. There were also a couple of other names presented as possible options.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to exit as the Board of Health.

Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor ending the Board of Health meeting.

New Business

- County Clerk Larita Randolph requested that she be permitted to hire two employees to fill the one open position in her office. There are foreseen staff changes coming soon in the clerk's office that warrant the request. With this being an election year and Ms. Randolph choosing to not run for clerk; having a trained staff is going to be imperative for the office to function properly after the election.
- Weed District Secretary Oma Fleming shared the Weed Boards preferred employee choice as well as all of the submitted resumes received. After review and discussion, the Commissioners supported the Weed Board in its decision of whom to hire for the full time weed sprayer position. Ms. Fleming will proceed with the hiring process. A meet and greet will be planned at a later date.
- Attorney Golbricht had received a complaint regarding the lack of a designated County Surveyor. Numerous small counties do not staff a surveyor. The surveyor was invited to provide contact information for further County consideration when projects arise.
- HR Specialist Lenore Carhart discussed the Coroner position salary. The elected Coroner had been out of compliance with state mandated trainings and was not allowed to receive his part time salary for over a year. The Coroner recently provided a certificate of compliance. County Auditor Chris Majors will be contacted to assist with budget distribution issues regarding the unpaid salary from previous budget years.
- Deputy Assessor Takara Harrington explained a Petition for Abatement that was presented for Board approval. An over valuation had been made on a QEP Energy Company Oil and Gas personal property paid tax notice, therefore, the need for the abatement was justified and necessary.
Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept the presented abatement.
Commissioner Cook seconded the abatement.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business

- Attorney Golbricht updated the Board on the previously discussed West Fork mining claims. Claim owners' Attorney Erin Johnson is proceeding with deed changes. County Septic Inspector David McCart had been contacted and will allow holding tanks with level indicators to be installed in the spring. County Mapping and Addressing Director Amber Fisher is working on the driveway permit process.
- The Special Events renewal permit for Groundhog was discussed and policy was reviewed. Fireworks will not be used for the 2018 celebration. The fishing tournament will be cancelled. A public hearing will be held 14 days after publication. Attorney Golbricht recommended that a five-year approval with no changes to the application be approved for future use.

Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners

- The bear mount currently housed in the Commissioners Board Room was considered for purchase. Commissioners agreed that for display purposes the mount was acceptable for as long as the owner chooses to have it housed in the meeting room, however, to purchase would be an unacceptable use of tax payer funds. Several mounts are housed at the Public Service Center as well as at the Pioneer Center for display purposes only.
- A list of all the trash services and dumpster sizes paid for by the County will be put together so that a bid can be submitted by all service provides.

Meetings and Information

Commissioner Garchar shared details from a recently attended SWCOG meeting.

- A grant for broadband funding is in the process of being completed.
- CDOT is cutting funding for transit in the Durango area due to a previously distributed excessive overpayment.
- An Assessor training will be offered. County Assessor Berna Ernst was given the training details.

Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Garchar recently attended a COGCC meeting.

- Natural methane seeps in the LaPlata area are being used to generate electricity as a renewable energy source.
- New regulations will be implemented to monitor the leakage of flow lines for product and water using infrared cameras.

Commissioner Cook shared the details of his recent trip to Washington DC to present the West Fork Fire Station bill to the House.

Commissioner Garchar adjourned the meeting.

Chairman to the Board of County Commissioners

Attest:

Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners