

January 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Seeley presiding. Present for the meeting were Commissioners: Lenard D. Seeley, Jerry Shepperson, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt and County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank. Commissioner Randy Rossman was not present for the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Shepperson gave the Invocation and Commissioner Ertman led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 8, 2013 as advertised. Carried.

Wyoming Wolf Coalition

The Commissioners discussed an email received from Harriet Hageman, Hageman & Brighton, P.C., regarding lawsuits filed against the Wyoming Wolf Plan. Ms. Hageman questioned whether the Commissioners wanted to be named as an "intervener" in the matter or just contribute funds. The Commissioners decided to contact Ms. Hageman to discuss the issue further. No action was taken, this issue will be re-visited.

Wyoming County Commissioners Association

The Commissioners were made aware of an existing vacancy on the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, to appoint Commissioner Marty Ertman to the WCCA Board. Discussion ensued, carried.

The meeting recessed at 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 9:37 a.m. with all present.

Prairie Dogs

Chairman Seeley briefed the Board on a Joint Ag Committee meeting which he attended in Cheyenne. The meeting was attended by the Forest Service representatives and discussion included Mountain Pine Beetles and Prairie Dog Management. The consensus of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was that the Record of Decision for Prairie Dog Management should be overturned. No action was taken.

Rare Element Resources

Mike Finn, Rare Element Resources (RER), met with the Commissioners and discussed the high attendance of the company's recent open houses which were held in both Upton and Sundance. The Commissioners discussed Weston County's progress on the BRC Traffic Study to be conducted in the Upton Logistics Center. No action was taken.

Proposed Legislation-Senate File 104

The Commissioners discussed an email from Cindy Hill, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Proposed Senate File 104 would take authority away from the elected position and create a Director's position which would be appointed by the Governor. A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to draft correspondence in opposition of proposed Senate File 104. Discussion ensued, carried. The letter will be distributed via email to members of the Wyoming Legislature.

Proposed Legislation-House Bill 69

The Commissioners discussed proposed House Bill 69 which is a fuel tax bill.

Commissioner Shepperson left the meeting at 10:42 a.m. and returned at 10:45 a.m.

Commissioner Ertman explained that the revenue generated by the bill would not cover the costs of needed road improvements and would place the burden on private citizens. Revenue generated from the Mineral Severance Tax has funded highway maintenance in the past. A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, to draft correspondence in opposition of proposed House Bill 69. Carried. The letter will be distributed via email to members of the Wyoming Legislature.

The meeting recessed at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 11:16 a.m. with all present.

Commissioner Ertman left the meeting at 11:23 a.m. and returned at 11:25 a.m.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Colvard and Doug Jorrey, Homeland Security Coordinator, met with the Commissioners. Sheriff Colvard discussed proposed legislation dealing with firearm rights in Wyoming. Mr. Jorrey discussed proposed updates to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Mr. Jorrey spoke about utilizing volunteers and the knowledge gained from recent emergencies and fires this summer. Sheriff Colvard discussed a mobile repeater which was purchased with Homeland Security funds and will be a useful tool for Weston County. Additional radio frequencies and coordination efforts between Wyoming and South Dakota were discussed. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with all present.

US Forest Service

Tom Whitford, US Forest Service, met with the Commissioners to introduce himself and as the new District Ranger based out of Douglas, WY. Chairman Seeley discussed a phrase used by Phil Cruz described as the *Greater West Plan*. Mr. Whitford stated he would get information regarding this plan to the Commission. Mr. Whitford commented that he would like to have a more open line of communication with the Commissioners and would work toward this goal by visiting more regularly and providing quarterly updates from the Forest Service. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Whitford for his honesty and efforts to improve communication. No action was taken.

Road & Bridge Department

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and discussed various bridges and culverts. Work on the Lone Tree Creek Bridge has been completed. Equipment was also discussed. No action was taken.

Wyoming Wolf Coalition

The hour being 2:15 p.m., Harriet Hageman, Hageman & Brighton, P.C., joined the meeting via conference call. Ms. Hageman provided background information regarding the Wyoming Wolf Management Plan and pending litigation. The Commissioners decided to discuss "intervener" status further before making a decision which may obligate Weston County financially. No action was taken, this issue will be re-visited.

Solid Waste

Bob Hartley, Newcastle Engineer, met with the Commissioners to invite them to a meeting with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding solid waste. The meeting will be attended by Mr. Robert Doctor of the DEQ and will be held at the Forest Service Building in Newcastle on February 5, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Hartley for the invitation. No action was taken.

Wyoming Wolf Coalition

A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to table the discussion of Weston County becoming an intervener in the current Wyoming Wolf Coalition fight. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 3:25 p.m. and reconvened at 3:40 p.m. with all present.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Lenard D. Seeley
Chairman