

SPECIAL MEETING

January 26, 2011

A Special Meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Tom W. Bruce presiding. Present for the meeting were Commissioners: Tom W. Bruce, Lenard D. Seeley, Marty Ertman and County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank, Commissioners Jerry Shepperson and Randy Rossman were absent.

The purpose of this Special Meeting was to gather information from Oneok Partners regarding a Natural Gas Liquid Pipeline Project that is proposed to run through Weston County.

Mick Urban, Government Relations for Oneok Partners and Brad Borrer, Corporate Communications for Oneok Partners made the presentation to the Commissioners. The proposed Bakken Pipeline Project is approximately 500 miles long, and would start in Sidney, Montana, and stretch to Weld County, Colorado, where it would connect to the Overland Pass Pipeline in Northern Colorado. Mr. Urban began by stating that Oneok, an Oklahoma based company, is over one hundred years old, with over 4,700 employees. Approximately 3,000 of those employees are on the utility side of the business. The approximate start date of construction for the pipeline would be April of 2012, with a tentative completion date of one year thereafter. Natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) that are being flared off could be utilized with the Bakken Pipeline Project. Processing plants could refine natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) and bring these products to market. The natural gas liquid (NGL) would be piped to a processing plant, via a 12 inch coated steel pipe, buried below ground.

The presentation now complete, Chairman Bruce opened the meeting for a question and answer period. Commissioner Bruce expressed concerns regarding landowners and the establishment of easements before any survey work begins. Both presenters agreed that working with landowners is a top priority. Commissioner Ertman suggested that the Oneok representatives contact Tom Barritt, Director of the Upton Industrial Park, to inquire about using the park as a storage option for the materials of this project. Both representatives took the information down. Commissioner Ertman asked a question regarding how many pump stations would be needed for the project. Mr. Urban responded that the entire 500 mile long project would probably require only two or three pump stations and it was unclear at this time if any pump stations would be located in Weston County. Commissioner Ertman also asked about any permanent jobs that may be created in our county. Mr. Urban answered that there would be a need for people to maintain the pipeline on a long term basis and approximately two to three jobs would be created in Weston County. Will Lambert, Weston County Rancher, asked about the noise level of the pump stations, and increased travel on roads near his ranch. Mr. Urban and Mr. Borrer both stated noise levels were unclear but would collect more information and report back to us. They also commented that traffic would be increased for a short period of time during construction. Commissioner Seeley inquired about the ownership of the pipeline, once the project is complete. The presenters answered that the pipeline would be owned by Oneok Partners. Commissioner Seeley reiterated the importance of working with landowners and referred to his own involvement with the (DM&E) Dakota Minnesota & Eastern Railroad project, which was not popular, greatly due to problems between the landowners and the company. Jim Darlington, landowner, asked if local subcontractors would be used on the project. It was stated that local subcontractors would be used whenever possible. Jim Darlington also brought up concerns of the spread of noxious weeds. Oneok Partner representatives stated they were willing to work with us on the issue and would put it on the agenda to check for regulations.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Tom W. Bruce
Chairman