

March 20, 2014

The special tri-county meeting of the Weston, Crook and Campbell County Commissioners convened at 11:10 a.m. with Chairman Seeley presiding. Present for the meeting were:  
Weston County: Commissioners: Lenard D. Seeley, Chairman, Randy Rossman and Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk.

Crook County: Commissioners: J.W. Hadley, Chairman, Kelly Dennis, Vice-Chairman and Jeanne Whalen; Joe Baron, Attorney and Linda Fritz, Deputy Clerk.

Campbell County: Commissioners: Micky Shober, Matt Avery, Garry Becker and Mark Christensen; Bob Palmer, Commissioner Admin. Director; Carol Seeger, Deputy Attorney and Susan Saunders, County Clerk.

Thunder Basin Grassland Prairie Ecosystem Association (TBGPEA): Laurel Vicklund, Vice-President; Dave Pellatz, Executive Director and Frank Eathorne, Board Chair.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss County Governments dealing with Federal Agencies.

### **Sage Grouse Management Plan**

#### **Thunder Basin Grassland Prairie Ecosystem Association (TBGPEA)**

Dave Pellatz, TBGPEA Executive Director, gave a power point presentation on the TBGPEA conservation strategy. Mr. Pellatz presented a land management strategy for an area comprised of the five North Eastern Wyoming Counties; including: Campbell, Crook, Converse, Weston and Niobrara. The five county region is approximately 10.8 million acres and is comprised of 90 percent rangelands. Mr. Pellatz discussed collaborative efforts for the conservation of sage and short grass habitats and enhanced nesting for Sage Grouse core areas. Three agreements through TBGPEA were discussed: Candidate Conservation Agreement Assurance (CCAA) for private lands, Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for Federal lands and Conservation Agreement (CA) which addresses future mineral/coal or oil and gas development. These agreements are specifically for species that are not currently listed as an endangered species. Chairman Seeley, Weston County, discussed Federal Government policies and the difference between coordination and cooperation. Chairman Seeley gave copies of two documents entitled: "Public Lands Council, A Beginner's Guide to Cooperating Agency Status" and "Public Lands Council, A Beginner's Guide to Coordination" to each County and the TBGPEA. Chairman Christensen, Campbell County, discussed County Land Use Plans; stating that a well written plan can be a tool to gain standing when challenging the US Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. Chairman Christensen reported that Gregory Cowen, WY County Commissioners Association (WCCA), is in the process of drafting a Land Use Plan that could be customized by any county wishing to update their existing plan. The science behind many government studies was discussed as well as the disappointment that only one page of the existing Sage Grouse Management Plan is devoted to predation. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank  
County Clerk

Lenard D. Seeley  
Chairman