

Goshen, Niobrara and Weston County Board of County Commissioners

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Tuesday October 19, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners of Niobrara, Weston and Goshen Counties, Wyoming met for a duly published special meeting on the above date at 10:00 A.M. at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds, Lusk Wyoming. The following Commissioners were present: Goshen County: Chairman John Ellis, Vice Chairman Cody Cox, and Commissioner Justin Burkhart; Niobrara County: Chairman Pat Wade, Vice Chairman John Midkiff, and Commissioner Elaine Griffith; Weston County: Chairman Marty Ertman, Vice Chairman Nathan Todd, Commissioner Tony Barton, and Commissioner Don Taylor. Weston Commissioner Ed Wagoner may attend via zoom later if possible.

The sole purpose of the joint meeting was to appoint a replacement for the Wyoming House District 2 seat vacated by Hans Hunt. The following County Clerks were also present: Niobrara County Clerk Becky Freeman, Weston County Clerk Becky Hadlock, and Goshen County Clerk Cindy Kenyon.

Niobrara County Commission Chairman Pat Wade welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Wade explained the statutory appointment process. The joint meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM. Goshen County Chairman John Ellis led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Niobrara County Commissioner Pat Wade introduced the County Clerks and County Attorneys present at the meeting: Niobrara County Clerk Becky Freeman, Weston County Clerk Becky Hadlock, Goshen County Clerk Cindy Kenyon, Weston County Attorney Michael Stulken, and Niobrara County Attorney Anne Wasserburger.

Chairman Wade stated the candidates to be considered are: Gregg Matney, Allen Slagle and J.D. Williams. County Commissioners present included:

Goshen County: Chairman John Ellis, Vice Chairman Cody Cox, and Commissioner Justin Burkhart
Niobrara County: Chairman Pat Wade, Vice Chairman John Midkiff, and Commissioner Elaine Griffith
Weston County: Chairman Marty Ertman, Vice Chairman Nathan Todd, Commissioner Tony Barton, and Commissioner Don Taylor. Commissioner Ed Wagoner may attend via zoom later if possible.

Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to approve the agenda including discussion of the weighted vote as suggested by Niobrara County Commissioner Pat Wade, seconded by Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis, motion passed with no dissenting votes. Commissioner Wade said the group will discuss the weighted vote later after it is established whether Weston County Commissioner Ed Wagoner will attend.

Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to appoint Niobrara County Commissioner Pat Wade as the Chairperson for this joint meeting, seconded by Niobrara County Commissioner Elaine Griffith, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis moved to allow Chairman Wade to vote, seconded by Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Chairman Wade discussed the interview and question procedure of candidates. Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to have the candidates leave the room for the questioning period of other candidates, Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis seconded, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The Commissioners discussed a runoff of the top two candidates if a 50% majority was not reached. Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis moved to conduct a runoff of the top two candidates if a 50% majority was not reached, seconded by Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman asked if the weighted vote would change if Weston County Commissioner Ed Wagoner was unable to attend. Niobrara County Attorney Wasserburger stated the percentage of weighted vote is based on county population and not by individual commissioners.

Chairman Wade recommended the Niobrara, Weston and Goshen County Clerks be appointed as tellers to count the votes. Niobrara County Commissioner Elaine Griffith moved to appoint the three county clerks to be the tellers, seconded by Weston County Commissioner Tony Barton, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Names were drawn for order of the candidates. The order shall be: Allen Slagle, Gregg Matney, followed by J.D. Williams.

The Commissioners discussed who would be asking questions. Weston County Commissioner Nathan Todd moved to have the Chairman Pat Wade ask all the questions, seconded by Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The Commissioners discussed asking clarification questions and follow up questions. Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to allow only clarification questions upon the guidance of the chair, seconded by Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to approve the nine questions as attached, seconded by Niobrara Commissioner John Midkiff, motion passed with no dissenting votes. Weston County Commissioner Tony Barton moved to allow each candidate five minutes for opening comments, seconded by Niobrara County Commissioner Elaine Griffith, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

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Weston County Commissioner Tony Barton volunteered to act as timer. Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to appoint Weston County Commissioner Tony Barton as a timer, seconded by Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Goshen County Commissioner Burkart asked if there would be a time limit for answers. Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to allow three minutes to answer each question, seconded by Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Weston County Clerk Becky Hadlock volunteered to be timer for opening comments and answer periods. Weston County Commissioner Tony Barton moved to replace himself as timer with County Clerk Becky Hadlock, seconded by Niobrara County Commissioner John Midkiff, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Nominee Allen Slagle was allowed five minutes for opening comments. Nominee Allen Slagle was then asked the series of nine questions.

Nominee Gregg Matney was allowed five minutes for opening comments. Nominee Gregg Matney was then asked the series of nine questions.

The meeting recessed for 10 minutes at 11:24 A.M. The meeting reconvened at 11:34 A.M.

Nominee J.D. Williams was allowed five minutes for opening comments. Nominee J.D. Williams was then asked the series of nine questions.

Chairman Wade accepted comments from the board. Niobrara County Commissioner Elaine Griffith thanked the candidates for representing the party and volunteering for public service. Weston County Commissioner Nathan Todd thanked the candidates for taking part in the process.

Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to accept the weighted vote percentages as presented: Niobrara County Commissioners each receive 8.42%; Goshen County Commissioners each receive 8.88%, and Weston County Commissioners each receive 9.62 %; seconded by Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis, motion passed with no dissenting votes. The Clerks have previously agreed the weighted vote is correctly calculated.

Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis moved to enter the voting period, seconded by Niobrara County Commissioner John Midkiff, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Weston County Commissioner Ed Wagoner joined via Zoom. The Commissioners discussed how to enter the vote provided by Weston County Commissioner Ed Wagoner via Zoom. It was decided the Tellers will duplicate his Zoom vote onto paper. Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman moved to allow Weston County Commissioner Ed Wagoner to enter his vote via Zoom and the Tellers will duplicate it onto paper, seconded by Niobrara County Commissioner John Midkiff, motion passed with no dissenting votes. The votes were cast.

Niobrara County Clerk Becky Freeman delivered the Teller's report to the Commissioners. Chairman Wade read the report as listed below:

Votes cast by the members are for:

J.D. Williams:	8 votes/72.34%
Gregg Matney:	1 vote/8.42%
Allen Slagle:	2 votes/19.24%

The votes were duly counted and Chairman Wade announced J.D. Williams as the appointee to the Wyoming Legislative Representative to House District 2.

Weston County Chairman Marty Ertman read Weston County Resolution 2021-13 specific to Weston County. Weston County Commissioner Nathan Todd moved to approve Resolution 2021-13 as presented, seconded by Weston County Commissioner Tony Barton, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Goshen County Chairman John Ellis read Goshen County Resolution 2021-08. Goshen County Commissioner Cody Cox moved to approve Resolution 2021-08 as presented, seconded by Goshen County Commissioner Justin Burkart, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Niobrara County Commissioner Pat Wade read Niobrara County Resolution 2021-14. Niobrara County Commissioner John Midkiff moved to approve Resolution 2021-14 as presented, seconded by Niobrara County Commissioner Elaine Griffith, motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Weston County Commissioner Marty Ertman thanked Niobrara County for hosting the event and also thanked everyone taking part in the process. Commissioner Ertman encouraged everyone to ask their legislators to keep counties whole or as whole as possible during redistricting. Goshen County Commissioner John Ellis echoed the thankfulness of Chairman Ertman. Niobrara County Commissioner Pat Wade thanked the County Clerks and County Attorneys for their assistance with this process.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

Attest:

Cynthia Kenyon
Goshen County Clerk



Patrick Wade

Patrick Wade, Chairman
Niobrara County Commission