

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
October 21, 2025

The regular meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Nathan Todd at 9:00 a.m. at the Weston County Courthouse. Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Marty Ertman, Garrett Borton and Vera Huber, Attorney Michael Stulken and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Commissioner Garrett Borton opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Vera Huber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Todd asked to remove Rare Earth Update from the agenda and at the request of Attorney Michael Stulken add an Executive Session – 16-4-405 (a)(ii)/(iii) – Personnel and Potential Litigation at this time. Chairman Todd would also like to add Chairman’s signature on Tax Roll Correction #1696 under New Business. Chairman Todd asked to have Painted Hills update added under Old Business. Chairman Todd added Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson, asked to have Homeland Security 2025 Plan Updates removed from the agenda, but the Board would like to leave them. Commissioner Ertman would like to add Report on Victim Witness Services and Airport Board account under Old Business. Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Koep spoke during public comment.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2025

Commissioner Borton moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2025, as amended; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2025

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the executive session minutes of October 7, 2025, as amended; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

CHAIRMAN’S SIGNATURE ON CMAQ FINAL ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATE

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Chairman’s signature on the CMAQ Final Acceptance Certificate; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Discussion ensued. Carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to appoint Eric Kregel to the Mallo Board; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman moved to appoint Dee Dee Stumpff to the Travel Board; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

BOARD’S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2025-23 – AMENDMENT TO THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Commissioner Ertman asked Attorney Stulken questions about the VOCA accounts. Commissioner Borton moved to approve the Board's signature on Resolution 2025-23 for the Fairgrounds Repair Wall only; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Discussion ensued. Ayes: Wagoner, Borton, Huber, Todd. Nays: Ertman. Carried.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2025-24 – OPEN BURNING RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve Resolution 2025-24 – Open Burning Restrictions Lifted; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Discussion ensued. Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – W.S. 16-4-405 (a)(ii) – PERSONNEL/W.S. 16-4-405 (a)(iii) – POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Commissioner Borton moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii) & W.S. 16-4-405(a)(iii); seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried. Executive Session began at 9:46 a.m. and reconvened into regular session at 9:59 a.m. Matters concerning personnel and potential litigation were discussed in Executive Session, no action was taken.

UPDATE ON NEWCASTLE BLM RMP REVISION, BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION, THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLANDS & GREATER SAGE-GROUSE EIS

Dru Bower-Palmer with Dru Consulting and Jeanne Whalen with Whalen Consulting, visited with the Board about the Newcastle BLM Resource Management Plan Revision, Black Hills National Forest Plan Revision, Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Greater Sage-grouse EIS, BLM EIS & Forest Service Old Growth.

CITY DOG ORDINANCE EXPANSION INTO COUNTY

Cody and Becca Flayler came before the Board asking for the City/Town dog ordinance expanded into the County. The Board explained there was no way to enforce the ordinance and that is why the previous resolution was rescinded per recommendation of the County Attorney. The Board suggested the Flayler's having a conversation with the Sheriff.

CREDIT CARD POLICY DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued on changing the current credit card policy. The Board will look this over and this will be added under Old Business to the next agenda.

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

Daniel Anderson, Workforce Center Manager, came to see if the Board could possibly provide them an office space. Mr. Anderson explained he has currently checked with the library. The Board feels this would be the best option.

PREDATOR BOARD APPOINTMENT DISCUSSION

Dennis Crew came before the Board to answer questions they had pertaining to the Predator Board. Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to appoint Dennis Crew to the Predator Board; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

HOMELAND SECURITY 2025 PLAN UPDATES

Commissioner Ertman had Chairman Todd read the email that Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson sent to the Board. The Board and Coordinator Nelson discussed the plans, and it was decided that updates will be made to them, and they will be added under Old Business at the next meeting. Chairman Todd asked about his grants being \$70,000 in the red. Coordinator Nelson will get with Treasurer Overman to figure this out.

Commissioner Ertman moved to have the Homeland Security supervisor be the Commissioner's instead of the Sheriff; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Discussion ensued. Ayes: Ertman. Nays: Wagoner, Borton, Huber, Todd. Failed.

PERMISSION TO USE SIDEWALK FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

Natural Resource District Office Administrator Erin Witcher met with the Board to obtain permission to use the sidewalks in front of the Courthouse again this year for Story Walk during the Trunk or Treat. Administrator Witcher announced the reveal of the permanent Story Walk at Centennial Park the first week of November.

OLD BUSINESS

TITLE 25 DISCUSSION

George Head came before the board to discuss his interest with them to do Title 25 transfers for the County. Mr. Head has experience as a former law enforcement officer. Attorney Stulken did not have the requirements for Title 25 transportations or a copy of the current contract for the Board to review. This will be added under Old Business to the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON TAX ROLL CORRECTION #1696

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Board's signature on Tax Roll Correction #1696; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Discussion ensued. Carried.

AIRPORT BOARD SINKING FUND

Chairman Todd updated the Board on the Auditor's opinion on the Airport Board having a separate checking account. The Board would rather see the Airport Board budget for this and say what they are going to spend the unanticipated funds on. Commissioner Borton will reach out to the auditor with additional questions as Mondell Airport is unique as it is shared between the County and the City of Newcastle.

PAINTED HILLS UPDATE

Attorney Stulken reported that all easements have been found for Painted Hills and now a resolution needs to be done to officially make it a County Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Trandahl spoke during public comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Ertman would like to schedule to have the parking lot sealed again and to also have the non-compliance districts added to the November 4th meeting. Commissioner Borton feels the Homeland Security Coordinator gave the Board a lot of information.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Nathan Todd
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk