

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OCTOBER 2011 SESSION**

Fourth Day

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Angenie McCleary, Vice Chairman Tom Bowman, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Operations Director Char Nelson; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ITD Road Improvement Complaint – Rod Kegley

Coyote Bluff resident Rod Kegley said there were many complaints about the mess ITD construction crews left at the entrance to their subdivision. Other complaints:

- A dangerous steep lip of asphalt on the shoulder of the road running the length of the newly-improved roadway;
- The road wasn't properly crowned, causing pooling on the roadway;
- Cars in the construction area were splashed with road tar.

Nelson will follow up with ITD.

Blaine County Housing Authority – BCHA Executive Director David Patrie

Patrie introduced himself as the new Housing Authority Executive Director. He related his experience in land planning and project development in affordable housing with a local engineering firm

EXECUTIVE SESSION – §67-2345 1(d) INDIGENT - Consideration of records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in Chapter 3, Title 9, Idaho Code

- **Case # 11-03-032**

Present were: Blaine County Welfare Director Wilma Colter and Assistant County Welfare Director Connie Kacalek.

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 1(d) to consider indigent medical applications. Schoen (aye), Bowman (aye), and McCleary (aye). Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to accept notice of cancellation of hearing and final determination of denial on Case #11-01-022. Motion carried unanimously.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to accept notice of cancellation of hearing and final determination of denial on Case #11-08-053. Motion carried unanimously.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve Case #11-03-032, with the stipulation that the applicant will make a \$150 monthly reimbursement, based on staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

Claims – Last Payment of FY2011 Bills – Schar Boyd

- Deputy Auditor Schar Boyd presented the claims.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve the last payment of FY2011 bills, dated October 20, 2011, plus two additional claims. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk's Report – JoLynn Drage

Primary focus right now is on election preparation.

County Administrator – Derek Voss

- Leadership Team attendees participated in an exercise demonstrating that leaders need to live strategic anchor points if they want their employees to live it every day.
- Four employees will participate in a Train the Trainer program early next year, and will pass on what they learn in a series of presentations.

Operations Director – Char Nelson

- The ERC is working with Hemingway Elementary 4th graders who are developing recycling PSAs. Nelson has been asked to judge the PSAs, and will be sure they are accurate. The PSAs could be shown in the local theater for a month if funding can be found. BCC would consider paying for the PSAs if they have a little more input into the PSAs.

- A Carey resident is concerned about the lack of recycling opportunities in Carey. Schoen suggested there needed to be education and outreach before putting in a recycling location.
- In response to a citizen request, delineators are now on the first mile of Gannett Road and chevrons mark all the curves.
- Rancher John Peavey requested cattle guards be installed on Laidlaw Park Road and Hough Creek, and the county pay for one of them. Former County Commissioners said the County had never paid for a cattle guard. Nelson suggested Peavey apply for a permit with Road and Bridge, which would then erect the cattle guards and bill Peavey.
- Road and Bridge has ordered 15 narrow band radios, which are in the budget, and will bring them in compliance with 2013 narrow band regulations.
- Blaine Manor is getting new carpeting for common areas, paid for by the levy. Sidewalks and patio areas will be improved later in the fiscal year.
- Waterways Board semi-annual meeting will review projects approved by the BCC, and schedule volunteer effort to do the projects.
- Nelson is attending Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) grant workshop.
- Five cars donated by the Sheriff's Office will be processed by the Clerk's office. Clerk is drafting a policy on fleet management

BOARD REPORTS, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

Idaho Association of Counties District IV Elected Officials meeting – Bowman and Drage

Meeting was mostly routine business, There was some discussion about repealing address protection legislation. The Legislative Committee has to reduce their 12 issues down to 10..

Site visit to Heart Rock Ranch – McCleary

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin and Code Compliance Specialist Megan Stelma .

The site visit gave BCC a better understanding of the project and its history. McCleary was concerned about the use of so many trees for the project. Schoen was not pleased with the significant creation of a new channel for Crystal Creek, which he thought was artificial and would breed mosquitoes.

Gateway West Power Line – Schoen

The BCC supported the comment letter drafted by County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin.

Croy Canyon Ranch Foundation Board meeting – McCleary

The Annual Board meeting luncheon was well attended. Fund-raising success in the last year was encouraging, but there's still a long way to go.

Snake River Juvenile Detention Joint Powers meeting – McCleary

The Counties will be renewing Joint Powers Agreement with Snake River.

The number of days Blaine County youth are spending at Snake River is significantly higher this last quarter than in past years.

Extension Agent Evaluation – Schoen

McCleary has been in touch with Extension Southern District Director Patrick A. Momont about improving communications with the Extension Office. Schoen will initially fill out the annual evaluation form for the Extension Agent and then review with other BCC Commissioners.

Veterans Tribute Steering Committee meeting – Schoen

Schoen will draft the committee's policy outline for the project, describing the tribute monument and proposed site.

Blaine County Community Drug Coalition (CDC) – Schoen

The CDC has hired a new coordinator for a five-year federal Drug Free Communities grant; and a development director to assist with additional fund-raising. The CDC is working directly with the Blaine County School District to help encourage and possibly facilitate a new evidence-based and scientifically-tested educational curriculum at elementary schools titled Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence at two Hailey elementary schools.

National Association of Counties (NACo) – Schoen

Schoen was reappointed by NACo President to the Environment Energy and Land Use Committee, and has been newly appointed to the Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee. When appropriate, he will share calls for federal action emails with the BCC.

AIRPORT PROJECT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

• FAA Visit

Also present: Friedman Memorial Airport Manager Rick Baird and Airfield Operations Chief Pete Kramer; Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; County Planner Kathy Grotto; Sawtooth Board of Realtors Government Affairs Director Bob Crosby; Richard Fassino; and Dick Fenton.

FMAA members and consultant team recently met with FAA District Office decision-makers about possible solutions and costs to meet FAA airport design standards and minimums for reliability. One option, shifting the runway south of the existing alignment, should achieve the standard runway safety area and might improve minimums of reliability. This option would get all aircraft parking out of the object-free area, but Highway 75 would still be within the object-free area. This option would not achieve full compliance with the 400-foot required separation from the runway center line to the parallel taxiway centerline on the west side.

The FAA considers operational considerations as limitations and is hesitant to consider concessions to its design standards. The main issue is that FAA is unlikely to continue to invest money in Friedman if it cannot improve minimums. If reliability can be improved, the FAA recommends that Friedman see if it can develop an airport layout plan that, over a number of years, can comply with FAA design standards. This would require every single existing building being moved away from the runway, which would be very expensive but not as expensive as a replacement airport

Any future modification or any change to the airport will require a Safety Management System Review (SMS), an independent analysis of safety by all lines of business within the FAA, which means any change the FMAA suggests, or any change in aircraft by Horizon or SkyWest, will incur an in-depth safety inspection and review. This SMS could have the unintended consequence of uncovering an otherwise unknown safety breach.

Baird's recommendation is that the FMAA first try to determine if reliability can be improved at the existing airport. All other study should wait until improved reliability can be determined.

If the FMAA can determine that minimums can be increased, the FAA is probably willing to discuss the current airport. But all proposals for modification will be subject to safety management system reviews.

Bowman said the general tenor of the FAA is a systematic nationwide program to fix aviation safety. The FAA wants to partner with the FMAA, but Friedman is a difficult airport, and that's why it hasn't already been fixed. FMAA and its consultant team need to meet with airlines to see what they are doing to improve their reliability, and then take that information to the FAA.

BLAINE COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER PROJECT PLAN DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin, County Planner Kathy Grotto, and County Grant Administrator Michele Johnson; and Clear Creek Disposal Managing Member Mike Goitiandia; Cathy Tyson-Foster; Environmental Resource Center Executive Director Tom Wirth;

Blaine County Operations Director Char Nelson presented a project plan to assist the BCC in evaluating the cost-benefits of the Recycling Center. The project plan also outlines the formation of a Recycling Advisory Committee to the BCC.

Blaine County took over operation of the Recycling Center at Ohio Gulch in October 2010 from the Southern Idaho Solid Waste District. The Recycling Center is a free service that accepts plastics 1-7, newspapers, mixed paper, glass, and aluminum/steel, as well as computers, household hazardous waste and household batteries. The Center receives materials, weighs and bales them, and ships them.

Over half of the revenue in the FY2012 budget is projected to come from the sale of recyclable materials. The remainder comes from tipping fees, which were increased by the BCC a year ago.

Staff is responsible to:

- develop a project plan and timeline with the deliverables;
- coordinate opportunities for community input;
- identify community members and stakeholders to participate on a Recycling Advisory Committee; and
- facilitate Advisory Committee meetings and align the committee's values, strategic objectives and tasks with BCC goals.

The Advisory Committee then will:

- conduct a review of literature for recycling best practices,
- identify recycling options and costs/benefits/feasibility, and
- develop outreach and education materials for the current recycling program;

Schoen suggested staff and the advisory committee research the fundamental existential question of reduce vs recycle in Blaine County, before addressing education and outreach, per previous BCC guidance. McCleary said the overriding need in the community was for outreach. Bowman said the current program was beneficial, but the community needed to understand what they were doing and why they were doing it before putting a lot of money into outreach. McCleary asked staff to provide a plan and budget for outreach.

Staff hopes the BCC will have enough guidance to make major direction decisions by early next summer. The overall goal of the project plan is to optimize the economic and environmental benefits of the Blaine County Recycling Program; and to get the Blaine County community to actively participate in the recycling program.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

CONSENT CALENDAR

- **Resolution 2011-75 Sheriff Budget Adjustment** Record #591609
- **Blaine County/Intermountain Facility Agreement** Record #591611
- **Contract for Services Agreement between Lamar Waters and Blaine County** Record #591553
- **Independent Contractor Agreement with Jim Koonce** Record #591552

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve the Consent Calendar for October 25, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

BREAK

LAND WATER AND WILDLIFE LEVY:

- **Barton Bar B Ranch Funding Request**

Bar B Ranch Pioneers Conservation Easement with partner, The Nature Conservancy: A public hearing on and consideration of an application for funding from the Land, Water & Wildlife Levy for \$108,151 (25% of the total cost) to protect 721 acres of the Ranch with a perpetual conservation easement that will be held, monitored and enforced by The Nature Conservancy.

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; Blaine County Levy Advisory Board (LAB) consultant Clare Swanger, and members Ben Sinnamon, Trent Stumph, Tom Page and Lili Simpson; Wood River Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Keri York; The Nature Conservancy Conservation Manager Mark Davidson and Silver Creek/Big Wood Watershed Manager Trish Klahr; Carey residents Rick Baird, Jim and Sues Barton, Laurie Fiscus, and Raymond Baird.

This funding request does not require public notice beyond the posted agenda. Land Use posted notice on the site and sent letters to neighbors of the project.

DISCLOSURES:

McCleary visited the Barton Bar B Ranch. The Nature Conservancy representative was present and explained the nature of the project.

Schoen discussed components of the project with Blaine County Levy Advisory Board (LAB) consultant Clare Swanger and The Nature Conservancy Conservation Manager Mark Davidson. He has driven past the site numerous times.

The Levy Advisory Board unanimously recommended the Land Water and Wildlife levy contribute \$108,251, or 25% of the total cost, to the purchase of a conservation easement on 721 acres of Bar B Ranch. The Bartons are generously contributing 25% of the price of the easement through a bargain sale. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is contributing 50% of the project funding.

The Bar B Ranch is a typical working cattle ranch. This conservation easement would extinguish all future development rights, except the 15-acre homestead, and continue the currently-existing agriculture practice and activities (passive recreation, hunting, etc.). There is a contiguous easement funded through the Grassland Reserve Program, so the entire ranch will be preserved. The U.S. Government through NRCS will retain a back-up monitoring and enforcement right, in the event the Nature Conservancy fails to adequately control the conservation easement.

If the BCC approves the proposed terms of this project, in concept, the project will return to the LAB for due diligence. LAB will present the project to the BCC for their final decision.

The Barton Bar B Ranch project meets the six minimum requirements of the Land Water and Wildlife Levy:

1. located in Blaine County;
2. serves one or more of the primary levy purposes;
3. has a willing landowner or seller;
4. has a qualified entity to hold the conservation easement (The Nature Conservancy);
5. has matching funds and leverage through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and
6. the conservation values will be maintained in perpetuity.

This conservation easement is part of a 400,000-acre area that the Pioneers Alliance is focused on conserving. The goal is to keep families on the land and working it, and wildlife roaming through the landscape, while creating connectivity from the desert to the high peaks in the Pioneers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment supported the project. Conservation easements are a very effective tool to protect natural resources and achieve maximum cost-public benefit. The Wood River Land Trust supports the Bar B because it protects working agricultural lands, wildlife habitat and prime farmland soils, and conservation of grassland reserve program easement on a major portion of their properties.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve the application of the Bar B Ranch for Land Water and Wildlife Levy funds, for purchase of a conservation easement on their ranch in Carey, ID. Based upon a Finding by the BCC that the request aligns with values and goals of the levy, we would approve this program to proceed to the next due diligence phase prior to final reconsideration by the board. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 2:16 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
JoLynn Drage Angenie McCleary
County Clerk Chairman