

## **STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners wishes to make the following statement in response to the misinformation that is being disseminated concerning the CSU Extension Office in Custer County.

It is important to point out that certain issues which arose between the BOCC and the Extension Agent, Robin Young, fall under the category of being a personnel matter and are therefore confidential. It is also important to point out that Ms. Young is an employee of the Colorado State University Extension System; she is not an employee of Custer County. The BOCC does not have the authority to hire or fire extension agents.

The commissioners traveled to Denver on Feb. 15 to meet with Dr. Anthony Frank, the President of Colorado State University and the Chancellor of the CSU Extension System. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss complaints the BOCC had received about the Custer County Extension Agent. Subsequently, on Feb. 16 an open workshop was held where members of the public were present and allowed to express their opinions concerning the operation of the local Extension Office.

On Feb. 21, during a regular meeting of the BOCC, the commissioners went into executive session to discuss the complaints that had been received. The county attorney advised them of their options. After the executive session was recessed and the Board was once again in an open meeting, the county attorney was directed to write a letter to Dr. Frank. This letter, which was captioned as a "Letter of Urgency", is attached to this Statement. The letter was mailed on Feb. 22 and was received by Dr. Frank on Feb. 27. He responded to the Board by a letter dated March 2, which is also attached to this statement.

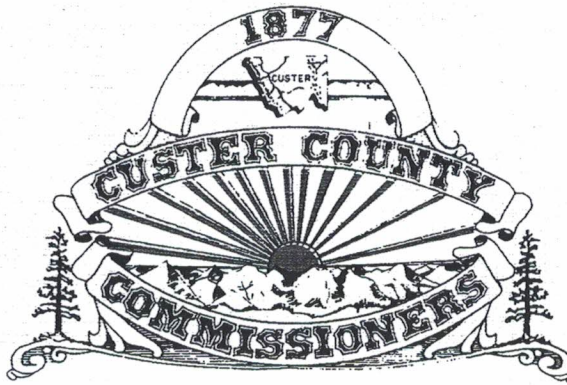
Aside from what has been disclosed above, there have been no communications of any kind regarding this matter between any representative of the CSU Extension System and the commissioners, either collectively or individually. Specifically, there are no other letters and there are no e-mails.

The BOCC does not intend to make any further comment with respect to this issue. Any future inquiries should be directed to Bill Nobles, the Peaks and Plains Regional director of Extension, who has been designated by Dr. Frank as the point of contact as the hiring process moves forward.

**Donna L. Hood, designated spokesperson for the Board of County Commissioners.**

DONNA L. HOOD  
ROBERT (BOB) KATTNIG  
JAY D. PRINTZ

CUSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
205 SOUTH 6th STREET  
P. O. BOX 150  
WESTCLIFFE, COLORADO 81252  
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February 22, 2017

Mr. Anthony A. Frank  
CSU System Chancellor  
475 17<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 550  
Denver, Colorado 80202

### LETTER OF URGENCY

Dear Mr. Frank:

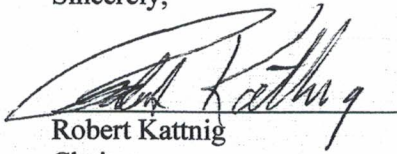
The Board of County Commissioners for Custer County thanks you for meeting with us on February 16. We are unanimous in our belief that the situation we discussed with you is urgent, and that action needs to be taken as soon as possible to replace the CSU Cooperative Extension Agent presently assigned to Custer County.

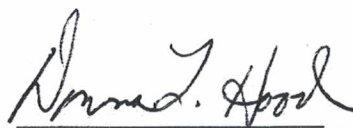
For the reasons that were disclosed to you during our meeting, our Extension Agent has completely lost the confidence of this Board and we believe she is no longer capable of fulfilling the duties of her position. We understand that we do not have the hiring and firing authority with respect to the Extension Agent; that is your sole province as the CSU System Chancellor.

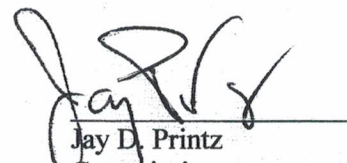
We request that you take immediate action to remove the person who currently serves as the Custer County Cooperative Extension Agent and find a qualified and suitable replacement who will be willing to work with this Board in a genuinely cooperative relationship to achieve the objectives of the Colorado Cooperative Extension Service.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Kattnig  
Chairman

  
Donna L. Hood  
Vice-Chairman

  
Jay D. Printz  
Commissioner

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March 2, 2017

Ms. Donna L. Hood  
Mr. Robert Kattnig  
Mr. Jay D. Printz  
Custer County Courthouse  
205 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 150  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Dear Commissioners:

In response to your communication dated February 22, which arrived at our offices on February 27, we are reassigning Robin Young to other duties within Colorado State University Extension effective immediately. As I discussed on February 15, we will work with you to begin a search for a new agent for your county as we move through the existing open positions within our system. In the interim period, we will, as is typically done in such cases, provide as needed oversight of local extension activities including 4-H. I regret that the situation deteriorated to where you felt this was the only path forward, but I respect your views on this matter as key partners in the delivery of extension services within your county. Bill Nobles, Peaks and Plains Regional Director of Extension, will be the point of contact regarding the hiring process as it moves forward.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anthony A. Frank  
President

cc Bill Nobles