

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, JULY 19, 2005**

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTER COUNTY MET IN
REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dale Hoag	Chairman
Dick Downey	Vice-chair
Kit Shy	Commissioner
Ric Ferron	County Administrator
Debbie Livengood	Clerk to the Board

The meeting was held at the San Isabel Lodge. Beside the Commissioners in attendance the County Sheriff, County Surveyor, Constance Little from the Wet Mountain Tribune were present along with thirteen individuals in the audience.

Chuck Steigerwalt submitted his letter of resignation from the San Isabel Volunteer Fire Department Board, effective July 22, 2005.

Commissioner Hoag made the statement that the county will no longer support the San Isabel Volunteer Fire Department in any manner. This decision was do to safety concerns and a personnel issue.

Paul Crespin and Carl Bauer, representing the US Forest Service, updated those present on the Mason Gulch Fire. According to Mr. Crespin, the fire is 100% contained. The cause of the fire was a lightning strike on July 6th, and a total of 11,357 acres were burned. It is estimated that the cost of this fire is \$5,323,000.00 as of today's date and there are more costs expected. Most of the acreage that burned is on the National Forest, however, there has been some private land burned as well.

There will be a special team called Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) that will start working on a recovery plan that will alleviate any emergency conditions that may exist as a result of the fire. This recovery plan will help to stabilize soil, control water, sediment and debris movement, prevent damage to the ecosystem, and reduce any possible health and safety issues. There will also be public community meetings so that residents will have the opportunity for any final questions. Times and dates of these meetings will be posted.

Dave Harmon brought up the issue of road closures during the fire. All parties in attendance agreed to coordinate better on this issue in the future.

Carl Bauer reported on the land issue in the San Isabel area concerning boundary lines. According to Carl, Mr. Crespin directed the BLM to do a survey of this area. The survey was completed in 2003 and the results were shared with the public on how landowners were going to be affected. The survey done by the BLM showed that the boundary surveys that were done in 1932 were incorrect and will affect twenty-four landowners.

Due to the boundary line not being correct, garages, retaining walls, fences, flowerbeds, etc. are on forestland and by law must be removed. Mr. Crespin informed landowners that he is willing to issue temporary permits for a fee that would allow these structures to remain where they are until a solution can be found. However, the last day to apply for a permit was June 15th, and only six landowners applied.

One solution being looked into is that there is a strip of land that contains three to five acres that is between the property owners and the road easement that belongs to the US Forest Service. Mr. Bauer talked about a possible land trade. The county may be able to help facilitate a conclusion by swapping lots owned by the county.

Commissioner Shy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Downey to approve the minutes of the April 29th, May 2nd, 3rd, 16th, 26th, 31st, June 6th, 7th, and 14th meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Shy “Thanked” the US Forest Service and the Rye Fire Department for the expertise with the Mason Gulch Fire. He also “Thanked” Chuck Steigerwalt for his part in the San Isabel Volunteer Fire Department and wanted him to know that he has the support and respect of the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Shy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Downey to adjourn at 3:55pm. Motion carried unanimously.