

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 18, 2006**

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

Dick Downey	Chairman
Kit Shy	Vice-chair
Dale Hoag	Commissioner
Ric Ferron	County Administrator

Absent: Debbie Livengood – Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

Present in the audience were: Alan Urban, Allen Butler, Fred Jobe, Chuck Feldmann, and Nora Drenner.

Bob Torres, Doug Collar, Wendy Pettit, Tom Wrong, and Chuck Bennett, all representing CDOT, met with the Board to give an annual update.

According to Mr. Torres, construction project costs have increased dramatically. Some projects have had to be reconsidered and other projects have had to be re-published for re-bids due to the increases in costs.

There has been 1.5 million dollars earmarked for safety concerns on Colorado Highway 69 from Texas Creek to Huerfano County. Custer County will be included in the 2008 state budget.

There is a Colorado Department of Transportation Region 2 information packet with general information and an overview of the states programs available for public review in the Clerk's Office.

The County Sheriff, Westcliffe Administrator, Mayor of Silver Cliff, along with the County Commissioners, shared their concerns with those present from CDOT. The following items were discussed:

- ❖ There is a need to have wildlife signs (watch for sheep and elk) in the Hardscrabble Canyon and on Highway 69 North.
- ❖ Safety concerns with the intersection of Highway 69 and Copper Gulch, as well as the intersection of Rosita Road and Highway 69.
- ❖ Safety concerns with the "S" curves on Highway 69 near the Silver West Airport and the curve near mile marker 67 going north on Highway 69.
- ❖ Chuck Feldmann is concerned with the intersection of Highway 69, 96, and Main Street in Westcliffe.
- ❖ Alan Urban would like to see some signage in Silver Cliff for the museum.

- ❖ Fred Jobe is concerned with the intersection of Highway 67 and Highway 96 in Wetmore. He would like to see street lights installed in this area.

The Board met with Jim Conley, who is the shared extension agent for Custer and Huerfano counties, and J.R. Phillips, who is the weed control agent shared between Fremont and Custer counties. Jim informed the Board that interviews for a county extension agent are taking place in Fort Collins. Next Wednesday, April 26th, there will be a social in the basement of the courthouse from 5:00pm to 7:00pm for the community to meet the candidates. The following Thursday the commissioners will conduct interviews.

The Economic Development Committee that Jim chairs is working on sustainable housing, a lodging tax, and the tourism rally. The committee is working with John Galusha through SCEDD.

The weed tour is scheduled for June 24th and Jim has scheduled a small acreage management workshop for April 29th.

J.R. Phillips presented a proposal for weed control to the Board. The following is a general outline of that proposal.

- ❖ In the spring of 2006, we need to utilize the funds approved in 2005 for State Trust Lands, and initiate a cooperative demonstration of large scale Canada thistle control on one or two, 10-acre sites leased by locals from the state. Leafy Spurge can also be addressed on a third site.
- ❖ In late spring and early summer we need to provide a mechanism or system to supply herbicides and county owned sprayers to individuals who are willing to help themselves. We need to begin early control efforts on Canada thistle in areas of heavy infestations and provide area-wide publicity on these efforts.
- ❖ In the summer and fall we need to engage in a weekly, visible effort with the Road & Bridge Department to work on areas that would have the greatest effect. We also need to submit plans and grant proposals for 2007 efforts in weed control and funding.
- ❖ Renew the Intergovernmental Agreement.

No action was taken.

The Board adjourned at 12:00pm for lunch.

The Board reconvened at 7:00pm in Wetmore.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

The following were present:

Dick Downey	Chairman
Kit Shy	Vice-chair

Dale Hoag
Ric Ferron
Fred Jobe

Commissioner
County Administrator
Custer County Sheriff

Absent: Debbie Livengood - Clerk to the Board

Bill Donley asked how the process of hiring a new county agent for Custer County was proceeding. Commission Downey informed those present of the social event to take place in the courthouse on April 27th, and the interviews that will done on April 28. There was some discussion concerning the number of candidates to be interviewed. The general consensus was that the ideal number would be three candidates, although it appears there will just be two.

Commissioner Hoag noted that the weed tour for 2006 would be on June 24th. The Board Updated everyone present of the upcoming weed control efforts that were presented to them earlier in the day. (details listed above)

Commissioner Downey informed those present about the annual update they had received earlier in the day from CDOT. Sheriff Jobe talked about how dark it is at night at the intersection of Highway 67 & 96 and asked if street lights in that area would be something the community would be interested in. The general consensus was that it would be a good idea, however, CDOT should be asked to study the issue and make recommendations as to the location of the lights.

Commissioner Downey read a letter from US Geological Survey concerning a request to name two peaks in the Sangres. They would like to name one peak, "Maltese Peak" and the other one "Triage Point", to honor firefighters and EMT personnel. Commissioner Downey asked those present for their comments. The suggestions that were made suggested that if they need to be named, they should be named for something or someone with local significance.

Commissioner Shy gave an update of the Zebulon Pike Centennial celebration efforts in Custer County and the surrounding areas. There will be different activities planned for the celebration such as: a trail ride up grape creek, mining days, soldiers from Fort Carson will cross the Medano in the winter. There will be a marathon race in Chaffee County, and a hike for kids in Fremont County, along with a walk in Silver Cliff for the celebration. The Westcliffe post office is hosting a "postmark" day.

Alden Gray updated the Board on the project to install new windows in the Wetmore Community Building and replace the entry door into the basement.

Bill Donely gave an update on the progress at the new Wetmore Fire Station.

County Sheriff, Fred Jobe, noted that the wildfire danger is extremely high again this year and they sheriff's department is changing their response to smoke reports by sending the fire department on the initial call instead of a deputy.

Being no further business the Board adjourned.