

**Dolores County
Board of County Commissioners**

April 29, 2021

A regular meeting of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Courthouse in Dove Creek, Colorado on April 29, 2021. Present for the meeting were Chairperson Floyd Cook, Vice Chair Julie Kibel, Commissioner Steve Garchar, Attorney Dennis Golbricht, County Administrator Margret Daves and Deputy Clerk to the Board Jody Gardner.

The meeting began with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Emergency Manager Keith Keesling, HR Director Lenore Johnson, Mapping and Addressing Director Amber Fisher, Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis, Extension and Weed Board Secretary Oma Fleming, Social Service Director Malynda Evans, Senior Services Director Julie Bingham, Treasurer Janie Stiasny, Sheriff Don Wilson, Assessor Berna Ernst, CSU Extension Agent Gus Westerman, Extension Secretary Oma Fleming, Dove Creek Press Owner Kathleen Keesling, Community Voice Representative Anita Fernandez, Jones and Demille Representative Tim Halper, Tri-Hurst Representatives Joe Hurst, Chase Doucet and Tyler Bunting, Property Owner Emily Daves and County Resident Ellen Warren

Agenda

Commissioner Garchar made a motion to accept the agenda.
Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Minutes

Presented for approval were the regular BOCC minutes from April 19, 2021.

Commissioner Garchar made a motion approving the minutes.
Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Expenditures

Commissioner Garchar made a motion approving the expenditures.
Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Department Head Meeting

Treasurer: Janie Stiasny did not have anything to share.

Nurse: Mary Randolph was not present.

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Assessor: Berna Ernst received Notice of Valuations, which will be mailed out on Friday. An increase was seen in valuations due to an increase in sales in Rico and Dove Creek.

Kinder Morgan values remained steady. DJ Simmons was sold; contact has not been made with the new owner.

Human Resources: Lenore Johnson has end of quarter financial reports ready to hand out.

The Equal Pay for Equal Work Act was passed, requiring labor law procedural changes. Job postings are being drafted with the assistance of Attorney Golbricht. Only 50% of Employee Reviews have been completed, with the June deadline nearing.

June is open enrollment for Anthem, Colonial and Aflac. Any changes will need to be made during that time.

Sheriff: Don Wilson voiced liability concerns at the shooting range, with rocks in the dirt and potential ricocheting bullets. Building up the berms on the west and east sides of the target range was also discussed. Fog seal application to the range was requested to assist with the sweeping up of brass.

Fire Mitigation around homes is available and will be advertised through Fire Adapted Partnership.

A request has been made to open the gates at the Dove Creek Cemetery. The gates were closed due to vandalism and destruction to sites. A man walk through gate is always available.

Local kids have been “drifting” on county roads. Awareness and outreach will be conducted.

STUD was asked to assist with trash clean up around the Dove Creek Cemetery.

Another Concealed Carry class will soon be offered by Undersheriff Purkat. The class will be open to everyone.

Clerk and Recorder: Lana Hancock was not present.

DCTV Manager: Kendra Cook was not present.

Road and Bridge: Steve Davis will start asphalt on Monday for the PSC and Social Services parking lots. Mag chloride application will take longer this year and start after the asphalt laying project.

Maintenance: Steven Stiasny was not present.

Social Services: Malynda Evans discussed a meeting recently attended and the difficulty with hiring and retaining staff due to COVID. Larger counties allow employees to work from home. The State has been asked to set wage standards and assist with funding.

The Youth Mental Health Program is being facilitated with Dove Creek Highschool. Two hundred free pizzas were given to local high school student families through vouchers.

Team Up has been working to diagnose specific needs within the community.

The STUD and Community Prevention Facebook live videos have been shared regularly.

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Extension: Gus Westerman said the Grower Workshop series is finished. A virtual Pruning Workshop was held, which was very challenging as that is hands on presentation. A new virtual Orchard Workshop series is being planned.

4-H is going very well with over 30 participants. The new Livestock Program is getting started.

This year's drought situation is not good. The DWCD water allocations are very dismal. Many farmers are pooling water onto their most productive land. The Research Center declined 50 new fruit trees due to the lack of water. Mr. Westerman recommends that producers have a Risk Management Plan in place.

DCDC is moving forward with the Solar Forward Project, which will be available to producers and homeowners.

Extension and Weed: Secretary Oma Fleming said the weeds are growing. The Weed District has equipment ready to roll for spraying season. Some chemicals are hard to get this year. The Weed Districts summer hire employees will begin work soon.

The Junior Rodeo's will be open to participant's families this year.

The Dog and Cat Clinic was a success. Another drive-thru style clinic is planned for next year.

Coroner: Aaron Hankins discussed some procedural changes within his department. A cooler, previously purchased in conjunction with the Montezuma County Coroner's department and the addition of a recently constructed morgue in Cortez has allowed autopsies to be performed without having to transport to Durango. Toxicology and Oncology tests are able to be conducted at the new morgue. With this, has come the need to transport more often. Therefore, Mr. Hankins requested full time access to the vehicle and equipment. The pickup has historically been shared during the summer months with the Weed District to conduct east of the river inspections. Mr. Hankins also requested permission to house the pickup at his personal residence for a quicker and more efficient response time. The BOCC was in agreement with the requests and will make other vehicle arrangements for the Weed District to continue providing its services.

EMS: Keith Keesling has started working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan due next year. Meetings will begin this fall. The plan is reviewed every 5 years.

An After-Action review on the recent Highway 491 accident has resulted in some more effective accident procedures.

Mr. Keesling has been coordinating with Sheriff Wilson and San Juan County Utah to implement an across state lines Communications Action Plan with shared radio frequencies that do not have to go through dispatch and then be relayed.

Addressing and Mapping: Amber Fisher has been busy researching roads with some odd requests as to maintenance and ownership.

Mapping out the rows and plots at the West Dolores and Peel Cemeteries has been quite the project. Plot locations and headstones are being compared to receipt books for accuracy.

Senior Services: Julie Bingham said they will begin serving meals at the center on Monday. Reservations are being taken as only 40 seniors will be allowed in the dining room.

Use of the building has increased. Ms. Bingham requested guidance for occupancy capacity. After discussion, it was suggested that she follow her in person dining capacity for the month of May and plan to review the situations and recommendations at the end of May. The kitchen will not be available for public use when renting the facility at this time due to limited staff and cleaning capabilities.

Administrator Daves: The Planning Commission will meet on May 24 to begin review of the Solar Project application.

Commissioner Kibel: and CSU Extension Agent Gus Westerman participated in a CSU Restore Net field trip. Plots are being sought for sage brush and or pinion juniper encroachments. Two areas have been approved. Soil samples will be taken on May 6.

The Restore grant awarded \$20,800.00 for a part-time coordinator, equipment and mileage. Glen Dunmire will fulfill the position; monitoring sage grouse and parcels, conservation areas and working with Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Dunmire will also serve as an instructor on the construction of Z-Dikes. Montezuma and Dolores Counties are required to have 100 Z-Dikes in place within a two-year period.

The Commissioner's attended an NCA field trip that visited Snaggle Tooth. A normally high-water flow point along the Dolores River, well known by rafters for it's rapids, can be walked across at this time due to low runoff and decreased water levels in McPhee Reservoir.

Forest Service Representative Tom Rice was contacted about opening the gates to the Ferris and Cabin Canyon facilities. Mr. Rice said there is an abundance of limb debris from the winter snow and winds that will need addressed before the County conducts its annual clean-up project prior to opening the gates. Ms. Kibel mentioned the week of May 10 for scheduling a clean-up.

Community Prevention Facebook Live will address social media influences on today's children.

Commissioner Cook: did not share any information due to a pending agenda item.

Commissioner Garchar: mentioned a Source Water Protection Plan in Cortez.

Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) is conducting studies on forest fires.

CDOT has a new engineer.

An MNR meeting was attended with a recap from last fall. Studies show that fish do better with low flow water levels as opposed to high flow. 800 Flannel Mouth Suckers were pit tagged. 800 Blue Tail Chub were pit tagged and released at the Pumps.

Club 20 gave an update on the success of wood mulch being used in burn areas to prevent erosion. Wood mulch is readily available.

The Blackhawk helicopter that was purchased to fight fires is a very effective firefighting tool as it flies higher and faster than other helicopters with hanging buckets. A second Blackhawk helicopter may possibly be purchased.

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Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI) offers training for firefighters from foreign countries.

Empire Electric has an outage planned for tonight.

Region 9 remains financially strong and has updated their site with local information.

Rico is looking to build a subdivision that will include a grocery store, deli and coffee shop for full time residents.

Daves Final Subdivision Exemption Plat Approval and Resolution #04-21-02

The BOCC reviewed a survey plat map from Huddleston Surveying. Attorney Golbricht recommended that the BOCC give final approval of the subdivision exemption request and sign Resolution #04-21-02.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion approving the final subdivision plat and resolution.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

New Business

Ormiston Fund Resolution #04-21-03 The Board of County Commissioners received a request for the distribution of funds from the Clara Ormiston Trust Fund. It was found that the applicant qualified as determined by the conditions of the Ormiston Trust Fund for \$1000.00 for cancer treatment assistance.

Commissioner Garchar made a motion approving Resolution #04-21-03.

Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Ormiston Fund Resolution #04-21-04 The Board of County Commissioners received a request for the distribution of funds from the Clara Ormiston Trust Fund. It was found that the applicant qualified as determined by the conditions of the Ormiston Trust Fund for \$1000.00 for cancer treatment assistance.

Commissioner Garchar made a motion approving Resolution #04-21-04.

Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Note During the April 19, 2021 BOCC meeting, the Board directed Attorney Golbricht to draft and submit for signature an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Town of Dove Creek, Montezuma Water Company and Dolores County to provide adequate fire flow to the Pioneer Center and the Social Services Building as previously requested by the Dove Creek Volunteer Fire Department. The DCBOCC signed the agreement that had previously been signed by representatives of the two above mentioned entities.

Executive Session

Attorney Golbricht requested an Executive Session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of providing legal advice concerning a potential litigation issue. It was Golbricht's opinion that the matter constituted privileged attorney client communications and therefore no recording or minutes would be kept.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to enter into the Executive Session at 10:55am.
Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

The Executive Session ended at 11:44 am.

| Commissioner Cook adjourned the meeting.



Chair to the Board of County Commissioners



Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

