

**Dolores County
Board of County Commissioners**

May 27, 2021

A regular meeting of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Courthouse in Dove Creek, Colorado on May 27, 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

Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis, Extension and Weed Board Secretary Oma Fleming, Social Service Director Malynda Evans, Sheriff Don Wilson, Assessor Berna Ernst, Clerk and Recorder Lana Hancock, DWCD Manager Ken Curtis, HR and Payroll Director Lenore Carhart and Septic Inspector Jeff Carhart

Agenda

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of the basement remodel and a SWCD appointment discussion.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Minutes

Presented for approval were the regular BOCC minutes from May 17, 2021.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion approving the minutes.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Expenditures

Commissioner Kibel made a motion approving the expenditures.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Department Head Meeting

Treasurer: Janie Stiasny was not present.

Nurse: Mary Randolph was not present.

Human Resources: Lenore Johnson was not present.

DCTV Manager: Kendra Cook was not present.

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Assessor: Berna Ernst has received a couple of protests.

Some office equipment was damaged from the recent lightning strike, replacement equipment has been ordered.

Sheriff: Don Wilson discussed the damages to equipment in their office from the lightning strike.

An ongoing arson investigation has become quite the case.

Theresa Barry is the new Courthouse Security Officer. She has begun trainings.

They deputies have been busy with bookings. One arrest takes approximately four hours per person due to paperwork requirements.

The Social Services fire alarm tests were completed.

Clerk and Recorder: Lana Hancock has had difficulties with the equipment damaged from the lightning strike. Two of the four, state provided computers used for the Division of Motor Vehicle will be replaced.

Election changes with redistricting and deadlines are being discussed.

Road and Bridge: Steve Davis said the spring mag chloride application is moving along well.

Employees are taking flagging classes today.

Social Services: Malynda Evans said today is day three of the move to the new building. Everything is up and running at the new building except the phones. Messages have been left with personal cell phones for clients to contact staff.

Ms. Evans is very proud of her staff for receiving the Distinguished Performance Award as the number one county in the State.

A full-time case worker and a part time case aid were hired. Both are currently receiving training and will begin work the middle of June.

Extension: Gus Westerman was not present.

Extension and Weed: Secretary Oma Fleming said the fairgrounds are ready for rodeos.

Weed spraying will begin. The highway weed trouble spots are being pinpointed.

The orchard is up and running. The DWCD water allotment is a concern. Crop thinning is being considered.

A 4-H fun day is being planned at the river.

A CSU Extension/Dolores County website was built by Assistant Joey Schultz.

Maintenance: Steven Stiasny was not present.

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Coroner: Aaron Hankins was not present.

EMS: Keith Keesling was not present.

Addressing and Mapping: Amber Fisher was not present.

Senior Services: Julie Bingham was not present.

Administrator Daves: mentioned the need for VISA receipts to be turned in as soon as purchases are made. Processing times are delayed while waiting on receipts, which in turn inhibits timely payments.

Dolores County has access to new monies available for counties for COVID relief. The portal for applying opened up this week.

Emery Telecom is working through the permitting process and is hopeful to begin construction this fall.

A Planning Commission preapplication meeting was held with the Dolores Canyon Solar Project folks.

Commissioner Kibel: received numerous phone calls on Monday after the lightning strike due to the damaged phone lines and inability to reach County departments.

The Coordinating Committee will iron out kinks.

Outreach was conducted with local youth about drifting and damage to county roads.

The Cabin Canyon Day use facility gate has been unlocked by the Forest Service. A clean-up day will be scheduled. Tree mitigation at Ferris is ongoing.

Commissioner Cook: has been working with Senior Services and Social Services on providing culinary water as well as fire flow water. A 2" water line installation was neglected during construction of the PSC and Pioneer Center.

CCI legislative sessions are about to wrap up. Summer conference is in June.

The dirt work for the West Fork Fire Station has begun. Building bids are due on June 21.

Commissioner Garchar: shared that Region 9 received an award as the #1 non-profit in the area. The most economic growth in the area was with wood products.

Representative Marc Catlin was appointed by Southwest Water Conservancy District as the co-chair to the Ag Committee. The new SWCD manager is Steve Wolf.

At the Economic Development Seminar, they suggested that Counties promote what they have.

The BLM RAC meeting discussed accountability in ethics.

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At the DWCD meeting it was said that approximately 60% of irrigation boxes won't get water this year due to farmers pooling their allocations. The penalty for over usage was raised to \$800.00.

Commissioner Garchar attended a meeting in Durango with Senator Hickenlooper discussing forest health where DWRF and RMRI gave presentations to six counties. The Forest Service was also in attendance. Efforts in this region are ahead of the game.

A field trip was attended to the Big Gyp Grazing Allotment in San Miquel County. A Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat restoration project with the BLM in Dry Creek Basin was also toured.

A CPAW virtual meeting discussed the upcoming wolf introduction. It was stated that ranchers only receive reimbursement for 1 out of 7 livestock killed by wolves.

Road and Bridge New Hire Update

Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis stated that 4 applications had been received for the two positions advertised. Two of the four applicants withdrew their applications prior to interviews. The remaining two applicants were interviewed. Supervisor Davis and the three other foremen were all in agreement with the placement of and acceptance of both applicants. Both applicants have a 90-day probationary period, in which time, a CDL will mandatorily need to be obtained.

Dolores Water Conservation District Update

Dolores Water Conservation District Manager Ken Curtis was present to provide a DWCD update. A recent press release was handed out and discussed. See attached.

An Order Declaring a Disaster in and for Dolores, County was requested by Mr. Curtis. Attorney Golbricht was asked to draft a written declaration.

No calls have been made on the river. Currently there is 10 cfs flowing and has been since April. There is expected to be 5cfs by August.

Commissioner Cook made the emergency drought declaration.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion supporting drafting and signing the declaration.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Southwestern Water Conservation District Appointment Discussion

Commissioner Garchar requested that the open seat for the Southwestern Water Conservation District position be advertised for interested parties. The board vacancy is due to the passing of Representative Doug Stowe. Attorney Golbricht cautioned regarding a general public posting for filling the position, as the nature of that position is very specific to water knowledge. Some suggestions were made regarding the posting of the position and processes for vetting nominees, or simply seeking out qualified individuals.

Basement Remodel Discussion

Commissioner Garchar requested that bids be sought for the Social Services office change over to the Human Resources and Payroll Office, as well as additional discussion with all Courthouse departments over the coordinated use of available rooms and vaults. Commissioner Garchar questioned who would use the empty Social Services vault. The need for a full-time locked vault specific to HR and Payroll files only was discussed. The current storage vault for HR and payroll is shared with the Commissioner's office, Clerk's office and also houses Planning Commission docs. Commissioner Garchar further expressed concerns regarding the use of a vacant office by the Sheriff instead of opening it up for Extension Office use, as the office has good sunlight and using it for storage would not take advantage of that feature.

Commissioner Kibel reminded that these discussions were previously had earlier in the year and the construction costs fell below the amounts requiring formal bids per the procurement policy. A budgeted line item for remodel costs was allocated in 2021. Local contractors were contacted to provide renovation estimates. Only one party showed interest.

Commissioner Cook and Commissioner Kibel stated that they did not see the need to discuss the issues further and did not want to hold up construction progress. Commissioner Cook felt strongly that the office adjacent to the Extension Office had been reconfigured multiple times already and any further reconfiguration could be seen as wasteful of County resources.

Board of Health Newton/Campbell Septic Discussion

The discussion was tabled. No action was taken.

New Business

Colorado State University Broadband Letter of Support Approval: Commissioner Kibel read the drafted letter of support.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion approving the CSU Broadband Letter of Support.
Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Commissioner Cook adjourned the meeting.



Chair to the Board of County Commissioners

Josef Ardner

Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

