

**MEETING MINUTES
Dolores County
Board of County Commissioners**

September 19, 2022

A regular meeting of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners was held at the Public Service Center in Dove Creek, Colorado on September 19, 2022. Present for the meeting were Commission Chair Floyd Cook, Vice Chair Julie Kibel, Commissioner Steve Garchar, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Shayla Oliver.

The meeting began with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Assessor Berna Ernst, Deputy Assessor Amber Blackmore, Public Health Director Tracey Beanland, Road and Bridge Supervisor Steve Davis, Road and Bridge Office Manager Linda Rehmert, Ronda Lancaster, Undersheriff Matt Purkat, Karelia Ver Eecke, Attorney and representative for Sara Vavra subdivision exemption Tom Kennedy, Kendra Cook, Laughing Coyote Manager Tonya Yates, Groundhog Store Owner Bonnie Candelaria, Groundhog Vista HOA Treasurer Jim Wood, Groundhog resident Tom Jaeger.

Payroll for September 15, 2022

The following is a list of total payrolls by Department:

County Commissioners:	\$ 8,733.95	7 Employees		
County Clerk:	\$ 3,103.19	3 Employees		
County Treasurer:	\$ 2,863.52	2 Employees		
County Assessor:	\$ 4,002.86	4 Employees		1 Temp
GIS:	\$ 1,235.14	1 Employee		
County Maintenance:	\$ 1,473.48	1 Employee		
County Sheriff:	\$ 15,441.69	9 Employees	2 Part Time	
County Coroner:	\$ 420.77	1 Employee		
EMA:	\$ 1,207.68	1 Employee		
Extension:	\$ 1,439.39	2 Employees		1 Temp
DCTV:	\$ 836.85		1 Part Time	
Veterans Office:	\$ 499.46		1 Part Time	
Fair Board:	\$ 138.52			1 Temp
Senior Services:	\$ 10,861.17	2 Employees	16 Part Time	
Health & Nurse:	\$ 4,779.52	2 Employees	1 Part Time	
Mandatory Weed:	\$ 2,166.97	2 Employees	1 Part Time	
R&B Administration Other:	\$ 24,392.23	19 Employees	1 Part Time	
Social Services:	\$ 7,880.90	6 Employees	2 Part Time	
TOTAL:	\$ 91,485.29	61 Employees	25 Part Time	3 Temp

Proceedings to the BOCC September 19, 2022 Meeting

Agenda

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

Minutes

Presented for approval were the regular BOCC minutes from the September 6, 2022 Regular BOCC Meeting.

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

Expenditures

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

Karelia VerEecke Sage-Grouse Coordinator Introduction

Karelia VerEecke joined the meeting to introduce herself and her role as Sage-Grouse Coordinator. Karelia has a degree in environmental Biology and Ecology with a Master's in Environmental Education. She grew up in Cortez, Co, moved to Oregon for about 9 years where she worked for a soil and water conservation district. She has recently moved back to Colorado and is now the Sage-Grouse Habitat Coordinator, through the Restore Colorado Program Grant.

The Restore Colorado Program grant is to Improve Sagebrush Steppe Habitat, specifically wet meadows within Dolores and San Miguel Counties. The Grant is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.

Wet meadows are critical habitat for the brood-rearing life stage of Gunnison Sage-Grouse as they are home to protein-rich insects. In addition to Sage-Grouse, many other wildlife, especially deer and elk, benefit from wet meadows as they create a haven for more-palatable forbs and grasses in the late-summer season.

The RESTORE Colorado grant provides funding for the installation of 100 Zeedyk structures across critical GUSG habitat. Zeedyk structures increase the overall water-holding capacity of the landscape, ultimately building resilience into a fragile landscape in the face of unpredictable precipitation and more intense drought cycles. Zeedyk structures are low-impact erosion reducing structures constructed of rock in erosion channels in sagebrush habitat. Over time these structures capture sediment and seed, while

Proceedings to the BOCC September 19, 2022 Meeting

rebuilding the top nutrient rich layers of the soil profile, ultimately encouraging the return of wet meadows in an otherwise dry landscape, reducing sheet run-off of water during storm events.

The RESTORE Colorado grant will support restoration efforts in Dolores and San Miguel Counties through spring of 2023. After May 2023, the Dolores County Gunnison Sage-Grouse Habitat Coordinator will continue to work closely with the Dolores County Board of Commissioners, landowners and managers, the Montezuma Land Conservancy, and state and federal agencies to facilitate forward movement and development of conservation strategies and their implementation that work for all parties.

Sara Vavra Preliminary Subdivision Exemption

Tom Kennedy attorney and representative for Sara Vavra presented for preliminary approval a subdivision exemption to split a 165-acre tract in the Dutton area off the West Fork road into two parcels. Mrs. Vavra would like to section off 159 acres to sell to a conservation group, and she would like to retain the 5 acres that has the house and outbuildings. The 5-acre piece she would keep as residential does have access to West Fork road. There is a septic system already installed but would need upgraded/repared. The BOCC was fine with giving preliminary approval but with the request they change the property lines to a straight boundary line rather than have the property line follow the stream, as shown on their map. The Commissioners also asked Mr. Kennedy to speak to Mrs. Vavra and the Conservancy group purchasing the land to see if either party would be willing to work with the Sheriff's Department to put a EMS Radio Tower on either parcel.

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

Matt Purkat/Sheriff's Office Black and Gray, Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant

Undersheriff Matt Purkat presented for approval the Gray and Black, Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant from DOLA. This is a financial assistance grant for investigations and/or prosecution expenses of unlicensed marijuana cultivation or distribution operations. The Sheriff's Department plans to use the funds to purchase a drone to aid in illegal Marijuana investigations, and training associated with the drone.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion approving the Black and Gray Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant.
Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

BLM Update/Connie Clementson

Tres Rios Field Manager Connie Clementson started with congratulations of the name change from Squaw Point and Squaw Canyon to Seego point and Bug Canyon. She also thanked the County for their involvement in RAC and requests the County stay involved.

Proceedings to the BOCC September 19, 2022 Meeting

Scoping for Sunday mines plans of operations closed Sunday, August 14, 2022, with no extensions to that deadline. There is a plan for the preliminary EA, open house and field trip plans etc. They look for the Preliminary EA to be available in the next few months.

Ms. Clementson stated that there is a lot of turnover going on in the Tres Rios Field office right now, 10 positions are open so many programs are on "Time Out" until the positions have been filled and asked that we be patient and remember it could take many months before all positions are filled.

Ms. Clementson is retiring at the end of September 2022. Her Interim will be Lisa Dossen and Step Connely, until the permanent position is filled.

Disappointment pit: BLM cannot initiate an EA until they have a geologist hired, they hope within a year the position will be filled and an EA can be done, until then the County has to be patient or hire an independent consultant at their own cost.

Black Snag pit: A concrete contractor went to look at putting in a high-water crossing. It was estimated to be about a \$130,000.00 project. Commissioner Cook stated that's not within Dolores County's ability. Installing an 8ft culvert was also discussed, but in regard to permitting and what the Army Core of Engineers requires that might not be an option either. The BLM and Forest service feel like the usage does not permit them spending the funds to aid in either option, therefore the pit might have to be accessed as the creek allows.

Groundhog Landowners Dolores/Norwood Road Discussion

Tonya Yates from Laughing Coyote Lodge, Bonnie Candelaria of the Groundhog store, Jim Wood Groundhog HOA Treasurer and Groundhog Vista property owner, Tom Jaeger Groundhog area property owner, and Joyce Porter Groundhog area property owner, all came to address the board regarding CR H-Groundhog/Norwood Road requesting information on the future plans for repair and maintenance. They would like to have new gravel put down on an approximate 1.6-mile area beginning just before the Groundhog Store going all the way to the Laughing Coyote Lodge. Multiple options were discussed including a 6 mile stretch from the turn at five-mile road to the Laughing Coyote Lodge. The road discussion ended with both parties knowing a lot depends on the weather, and water and gravel availability, but that Dolores County would continue to look for the best option and maintenance would start in the spring of 2023.

Tom Jaeger who is a property owner in the Groundhog area, requested options from the BOCC to be able to get around the locked gates with his OHV in the winter months since he lives up there year-round. He requested a key/code to the locks. The BOCC informed Mr. Jaeger that because of liability issues being the largest of many reasons they could not provide him with that, and that he was not supposed to be going around the gates either.

New Business

Resolution: #09-22-02 Transfer of Funds from Sheriff Grant Fund to General Fund

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

Resolution: #09-22-03 Transfer of Funds from Jag Grant Fund to General Fund

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

Resolution: #09-22-04 Transfer of Funds from Sheriff Search and Rescue Grant to General Fund

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

Resolution: #09-22-05 Transfer of Funds from Grant Fund (Community Voice) to General Funds

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

Resolution: #09-22-06 Transfer of Funds from Title III Federal Forest Funds to General Fund

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

Contract for Electrical Services Dickson Electric:

Electrical Service Contract for Dickson Electric that can be used for each project. Due to limited bidding parties the County Procurement Policy will not apply.

Commissioner Garchar made a motion to accept The Electrical Services Contract for Dickson Electric.
Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.
All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Tabor Notice: Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Proceedings to the BOCC September 19, 2022 Meeting

Letter of Support:

The town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance Group requested a letter of support from the BOCC for an application submitted for a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant, which would fund engineering, designing, design and impact assessments for a pedestrian bridge needed to connect two sections of non-motorized recreational trails along the historic Rio Grande Southern Railroad ("RGS") South of Rico, Colorado.

Commissioner Kibel made a motion to write the Letter of Support for the Town of Rico and Rico Trails Alliance for a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant.

Commissioner Garchar seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Cahone Park Electrical Bid Discussion:

During the August 9, 2022 Special BOCC meeting, bid opening and vote to accept the Cahone Park Electrical Bid from Dickson Electric and the topic of which funds to use: Lottery Funds or ARPA Funds were the two discussed. Commissioner Garchar requested using Lottery Funds. A vote was made during that meeting to accept the bid, but not which funds to use. After explanation of each fund and how they are used, it was decided ARPA Funds would be better for the Electrical at the Cahone Park.

Commissioner Garchar made a motion to use ARPA Funds for payment for Cahone Park Electrical Installation.

Commissioner Kibel seconded the motion.

All three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Cook Adjourned the meeting.



Chair to the Board of County Commissioners



Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

