

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE FEBRUARY 2023 SESSION**

**Fourth Day**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chair Muffy Davis, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; County Administrative Services Director Kristy Heitzman; Administrative Services Assistant Morgan Baird; County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham; Blaine County Treasurer John David Davidson; Blaine County Assessor Jim Williams; Appraiser David Vanderpool; Appraiser Gretchen Stinnett; Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse; IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker; Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joana Guerrero; *Idaho Mountain Express* staff writer Mike Shultz was present for the morning session.

Some participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Fosbury was absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** –

- Quigley Lane Resident Lili Simpson is disappointed that the SNRA Recreation Area Outfitter and Guide Management Plan did not incorporate a plan for endangered species like the wolverine.

**Joint Resolution on the Salmon Falls and Lava Ridge Wind Projects on Public Lands**

- The Lava Ridge Wind Projects and the Salmon Falls Project are two separate projects, both will produce energy using different methods. The Commissioners only discussed the Lava Ridge Project.
- At the Mid-Winter Conference, Idaho Counties in District IV decided to work together to pass a joint resolution opposing the Lava Ridge Wind Project.
  - The turbines will be over 700 ft tall, double the size of the turbines in Bliss. The surrounding counties are concerned with the size of the turbines, and the impact they will have on historical sites, Native lands, and wildlife.
- Twin Fall County Commissioner Jack Johnson briefed Davis that there are additional potential project sites, and one of the sites is BLM land near or in Blaine County.
- McCleary is not opposed to joining the joint resolution but would like to state that Blaine County is in favor of responsible renewable energy.
- County Treasurer John David Davidson informed the Commissioners that he has heard mixed reviews on the project. Davidson is supportive of renewable energy but believes the County should provide regional support.
- County Assessor Jim Williams has heard strong opposing comments from other county's officials. Williams stated the projects are not affecting the County now but may in the future.

The commissioners agreed to continue the topic to a later date.

**FY2023 5339b Bus & Bus Facilities Program Letter**

No motion was made, both commissioners are supportive of providing a grant support letter for the Mountain Rides grant application.

**Letter of Objection to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Outfitter and Guide Management Plan**

- McCleary is not supportive of submitting an objection letter. She would like the letter to state it is being signed by one Blaine County Commissioner, not the Blaine County Board of Commissioners.
- Davis shared she was disappointed with the method the SNRA used to determine the number of outfitter guide permits. Davis will submit an individual letter opposing the plan.

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report – John David Davidson**

- NACo Conference – Washington DC

Davidson gave an overview of topics that were discussed at the conference.

- They discussed forest fires, fire suppression, water shortages and dry communities. With most of the United States suffering from wildfires, they believe a fire suppression tax would be accepted by most voters.
- Idaho counties are working with federal agencies to improve communication regarding BLM land law enforcing.
- Davidson gave a presentation at the Carey High School on what the Treasurers department does for local counties.

**Assessor's Report - Jim Williams**

- Idaho Assessors are working on a bill that would allow the County Commissioners to set titling

fees for their local DMV. These fees would generate revenue for the DMV, property tax revenue is funding the DMV.

- Williams presented the FY23 property tax and DMV data.
  - The presentation included comparison charts with data from FY19, FY20, FY21.
- The Assessor's Department is currently working on FY22 reappraisals, they will begin FY23 appraisals when the weather permits.
- Williams shared how beneficial having Nearmap has been for his department.
- Williams is also concerned with CAI's end of life statement.

#### **County Clerk - Stephen McDougall Graham**

- The Idaho Historical Society will be assessing the archives stored in the vault. They may advise moving some historical documents to state archives facilities to ensure their preservation. The vault currently contains Alturas, Logan, and Blaine County documents, probate records and other miscellaneous documents.

#### **Planning & Zoning - Kristine Hilt**

Present: County Floodplain Manager Kristine Hilt; Project Big Wood Executive Director Amanda Bauman.

- Project Big Wood Introduction and County Support
  - Project Big Wood is a local non-profit entity, its main goal is to address the decline of trout in the Big Wood River.
  - Project Big Wood secured funding to promote, publish and print copies of the Blaine County Atlas for the public. They would like to include the Blaine County Logo on their Website as a sign of partnership.
  - The Commissioners are supportive of allowing the County's logo on the website. They would like for Hilt to discuss with Project Big Wood the County's responsibility a partner.

#### **County Administrator - Mandy Pomeroy**

- Covid-19 Sick Leave Policy
  - The commissioners decided to continue the COVID-19 Sick Leave policy and sunset the policy following the Federal Governments timeline. Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse will notify county employees that the COVID Sick Leave Policy will be cancelled on May 11, 2023.
- Opioid Settlement Fund
  - The commissioners need to decide how to allocate the funds. The Commissioners decided to reactivate the Opioid Settlement Committee and to include the Specialty Court Coordinator to advise the committee on the distribution of the funds.

#### **BREAK**

#### **Local Government Entities Failure to Report Pursuant to I.C. 67-1076: Carey Flood Control District #2; Carey Valley Groundwater District; Fish Creek Irrigation District; Ketchum Rural Fire District; Little Wood River Irrigation District; Picabo/Gannett Cemetery District; Water District 370; Water Master Tax District 37U; Water Master District #37N; Burley District Grazing Board (shared district w/ Cassia, Minidoka, Oneida, Power, Twin Falls)**

Present: County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn

- County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham sent a letter informing the districts they are not in compliance.
  - Noncompliance can result in the Idaho State Tax Commission withholding sales tax monies and preventing the district from increasing their annual budget.
- County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves specified the requirements that the Commissioners would need to follow.
  - Publish notice of non-compliance in the local newspaper.
  - Send a letter to the districts informing them of their non-compliance.
  - Schedule a hearing for the districts to present to the board.
  - The commissioners would need to establish a non-compliance fine amount.
  - The districts would undergo an audit at their expense.
    - McDougall Graham requested the audits to be performed by an outside entity.
- Ketchum Rural Fire changed its name to North Blaine County Fire District. The list of non-complaint districts includes Ketchum Rural Fire District; however North Blaine County Rural Fire District is complainant. McDougall Graham advised the commissioners to disregard Ketchum Rural Fire District noncompliance listing.

#### **Public Comment – NONE**

#### **BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

##### **IAC Mid-Winter Conference recap**

During the transportation meeting they discussed the different grants available for airport improvements, pedestrian safety, bridge maintenance. They explained how ITD distributes federal monies with local governments and how the monies are split between rural and urban areas.

##### **Dark Sky Reserve Update**

The Alliance Board fundraises to provide monies for educational outreach programs. The Dark Sky Oversight Committee is contemplating on purchasing a light meter. They have enough money in their reserve for the purchase. McCleary would like the committee to be more diverse.

##### **Sawtooth Wildland Fire Collaborative meeting**

McCleary attended the meeting, in the meeting they discussed a project list for the year. They meet two times a year before the fire season begins and two more times after the fire season ends. Cluster County reserved monies for Smiley Creek Improvements, Blaine County has not. McCleary would like to discuss for the County to possibly contribute funding.

**Seasonal Wildlife Closures meeting**

BLM closed certain public lands for the remainder of the season to protect wildlife.

**Planners Meeting**

McCleary attended a presentation by Wood River Land Trust. They discussed different categories such as housing, water, transportation, land conservation, and community ethos.

**Correspondence**

- Accident Command System (ACS) will have some classes available for elected officials.
- Davis will attend the Lava Ridge Wind Project meeting remotely.
- McCleary received emails regarding the impacts the Tomcat Project will have on wildlife.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

- **Tuesday, October 18, 2022, Regular Meeting**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, October 18, 2022, as amended. Motion passed 2/0.**

- **Tuesday, October 25, 2022, Regular Meeting**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner Meeting Minutes for Tuesday October 25, 2022, as amended. Motion passed 2/0.**

- **Wednesday, October 26, 2022, Special Meeting**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve Blaine County Commissioner Special Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2022, as amended. Motion passed 2/0.**

- **Tuesday, January 3, 2023, Regular Meeting**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2023, as amended. Motion passed 2/0.**

**BREAK**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – §74-206 (1)(a) Personnel, (1)(b) Personnel; (1)(c) Property Acquisition (1)(d) Confidential Records; (1)(f) Potential Litigation; and (1)(j) Risk Management.

No action will be taken.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(a) and (b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of Employee or Public Officer. Davis (aye), McCleary (aye) and Fosbury (absent). Motion passed 2/0.**

**ADJOURN**

**At the hour of 3:30 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stephen McDougall Graham Muffy Davis  
 County Clerk Chair