

MARCH 2013
COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Sweet Grass County Commissioner meetings are held in the office of the county commissioners in the Sweet Grass County Annex in Big Timber, Montana, unless otherwise noted in the minutes. Regular commissioner meeting days are the first working day of each week (usually Monday unless Monday is a holiday then Tuesday) and every Thursday during the month. These are the days to schedule issues that require the commissioner to take action. The first Monday of each month a department head staff meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Claims will be reviewed and approved for payment every Thursday unless a conflict arises. At least one commissioner will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily unless they are at a conference or a meeting requiring them to be out of the office.

Acronyms

	PMC – Pioneer Medical Center
DES – Disaster and Emergency Services	RC&D – Rural Conservation and Development
CCR – Coordinated Community Response	RFR – request for reimbursement.
FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program	TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program – provides matching grant funds to local government agencies for construction of infrastructure projects.
L.E.P.C. – Local Emergency Preparedness	
MACo – Montana Association of Counties	Tyler Technology – CAS sold to Tyler – the company that Sweet Grass County contracts with for all of our financial software.
MDT – Montana Department of Transportation	
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding	

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Friday, March 1, 2103

Commissioners Mosness, Wallace and Faw were all in the office for the first day of March.

Commissioner Mosness spent part of the morning comparing claims to the warrants and stamping the warrants for payment. The claims and warrants were then passed to Clerk Bjorndal to review and stamp.

Commissioners Mosness and Faw attended a luncheon at noon at the Grand to meet Dr. Hart who is here interviewing for a provider position at the PMC.

Monday, March 4, 2013

Commissioners Mosness, Wallace and Faw all arrived to start another week of county business.

Staff meeting for the month was held with Deanna Novotny, Jane Stene, Pat Dringman, John Becken, Evie Halverson, Darryl Hodges, Vicki Uehling, Laura Nelson, from the Pioneer, Susan Metcalf, Marc King, Dan Tronrud, Brooke Osen, Jerry Mahlum and Sherry Bjorndal in attendance.

Deanna reported that the new filing cabinets arrived for her office and they are getting settled back in after the face lift. There will be law in motion on March 12th and 26th.

Jane Stene announced that the Treasurer's Office has a new credit card program.

Susan Metcalf has been watching legislation as there are several bills that could affect the schools. SB 175 is zooming along and she encouraged us to ask our representative to oppose the bill as it deals with charter schools. The schools are in the middle of testing. The county spelling bee was last week and Kayla Hill was the winner.

Marc King has been busy with education projects. He had about 30 people attend the ATV safety class, he had an initial applicator class for weed spraying, he participated

in the weed summit that was put on by the weed department, and has 10 people attending his master Gardner class. They shipped wool last week and things are quiet now as ranchers are busy with shearing, calving and lambing.

Sheriff Tronrud passed out the numbers for his department for February- 155 complaints, 20 cases, and 22 offenses. Two officers attended CIT School during the month of February (this is a class on dealing with mentally challenged individuals). Dan attended the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers quarterly meeting. He and his officers have been spending a lot of time in the school – talking to the teachers and students in the rural school and doing walkthroughs at the BTGS and SGHS.

Brooke Osen held an L.E.P.C. meeting in February. She is gearing up for a new grant cycle for EMPG and Homeland Security. They will be having first aid and CPR classes again for anyone interested – first aid class the 13th and CPR the 20th both at 6:00 p.m. Kevin is putting the radios in the new patrol cars.

Vicki held her monthly cash meeting with the Commissioners, Jane Stene and Sherry Bjorndal. She also did an investment summary for the schools, which she shared with the commissioners and Sherry. Vicki announced that Char has finished with the FEMA paperwork for the floods.

Evie Halverson is the new weed coordinator and is still trying to learn the ropes. She and Heidi will be traveling to Helena on Wednesday to give a presentation on a grant application.

Darryl Hodges had one case last month and is currently enrolled in a 16 hour on line course.

John Becken is working on personal property taxes. He has finished up with new construction in Sweet Grass County but has been working on it in other counties. He informed us that there is a bill before the legislature to increase the limit on personal property that is exempt from taxes from \$20,000 to \$200,000. This will have a real impact on counties.

Pat Dringman reported that February was a busy month and March is looking the same. He has two trials coming up; he is on the legislative committee for the Montana Association of County Attorneys so is busy keeping up with legislative issues. He will be out of the office the last week in March.

Commissioner Faw talked to the group about the 16.5 million dollar national debt and the current federal sequester. This will mean that less federal and state funds will be coming to counties so we need to be aware and watch our finances. We also need to be watching legislation toward the end of the session that might affect the revenue from Stillwater Mining Company. Bob asked the group to be on the lookout for any such legislation and be sure to let the commissioners know about it. Commissioner Faw and the other commissioners all attended the MACo Mid-Winter conference and he reported that PERS is paying out more than they are taking in so they want to raise the contribution by 2% to both the employer and the employee. Commissioner Faw traveled to Billings for a DNRC fire training session. The Department of Defense is giving the BTVFD a CAT dozer. The fire department just has to pay the cost of getting it here.

Commissioner Wallace was involved in the InterCap loan for the two new patrol cars, the bid opening on the Otter Creek Bridge project (which was awarded to Oxendall); he was involved in meetings on the Electric Light Ditch head gate issues, and attended an Airport Board meeting. All of the commissioners were involved in a meeting with Kerry Preston and Wayne Pollari on the Pedula house where Susan Metcalf's office is located. We will have to find a new home for Susan.

Commissioner Mosness also attended the MACo Mid-Winter conference. She attended a meeting on cyber security that was pretty scary. Susie attended an HRDC Board meeting in Billings, a PMC Board meeting, and a lunch to interview a new provider for the PMC. She also participated in the approval of a one lot subdivision.

Kevin Langhus came in at the end of the staff meeting and gave a demonstration on the operation of the portable defibrillator. The survival rate if the machine is used is 70% and if it is not used the rate is about 20%.

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

All of the commissioners were in the office for the day.

A Cemetery Board meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. with Don Bedard a surveyor, Connie Bue Reed Point Cemetery caretaker, Darrel Elgen, Mountain View Cemetery caretaker, and Board members, Paula Curtin, Janice Ott, Eileen Barnum, Catherine McKenzie and the three commissioners in attendance. A discussion was held on the Reed Point survey and how to mark the blocks as well as the roads. Don will finish the Reed Point cemetery. Don will also be surveying the Mountain View Cemetery above the ditch. He and Darrel will work on that project. Darrel will get a quote for trimming trees at the cemetery. We will talk to Eric on burial of ashes and better notification for the county records.

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

All of the commissioners arrived to start the day off. Commissioner Wallace left mid-morning to travel to Helena for a hearing on the Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Evie Halverson and Heidi Todd also attended the meeting.

The Commissioners went over to the fire hall to see the new Caterpillar D7 dozer that the BTVF received from the Department of Defense.

Erik Wood brought the claims for the PMC over and went through them with the commissioners and Sherry. Having discussed the claims Commissioner Mosness and Clerk Bjorndal stamped the check for payment.

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Commissioners Mosness, Faw and Wallace were all in the office for the day.

Weekly claims were presented to the commissioners by Vera Pederson. The claims and attached receipts were reviewed and approved for payment by all three of the commissioners then sent on the Financial Officer Uehling to review and approve for payment.

Clerk Bjorndal came in and read the January 2013 minutes. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the January 2013 minutes as amended. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 Ayes.

Minutes of the February 2013 Commissioners meetings were read by Clerk Bjorndal. A motion was made by Commissioner Faw and seconded by Commissioner Wallace to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

Sherry asked if it would be ok for her to present any resolutions needed for budget amendments at the cash meeting so that we could all discuss the issue. We could then schedule a meeting in the next few days to take action on the resolutions, giving everyone time to study them. All of the commissioners agreed that this would be ok. The commissioners will talk to Vicki about getting the cash meeting the day before the cash meeting so that they can look it over prior to the meeting.

Planner Page Dringman stopped in to report on the previous evenings planning board meeting. The proposal for a new five story motel west of town was the purpose of the meeting. The discussion was tabled on a 2-2 vote and there will be a special meeting next Monday evening. The developer will come in with a modified proposal.

Commissioner Mosness reviewed and stamped payroll checks before sending them to Sherry to review and stamp.

DES Coordinator Brooke Osen came in to discuss fire extinguishers for the Courthouse and Law Enforcement.

Friday, March 8, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Faw were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness is not feeling well today.

Monday, March 11, 2013

All of the commissioners arrived to kick off another week of county business.

Jacque Oiestad came in to discuss the painting project at the Courthouse. The project will extend past the April 1st deadline to accommodate the varnish on the wood work in the courtroom.

The commissioners called MRL and left a message about the damage to the weed building done by a culvert owned by MRL blowing into the building and the possible purchase order that we might need.

Financial Officer Uehling came in with a close out on TSEP project 08-411. This was for the replacement of five bridges on Dry Creek, Wheeler Creek, Otter Creek, Tony creek and Stephens Hill. The Glaston Lake Road Bridge was not done as the road is not a county road. Commissioner Mosness signed the close out order.

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace attended the Electric Light Ditch meeting at 7:00 p.m. at SGHS.

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Commissioner Mosness tended the office while Commissioners Faw and Wallace are in Billings for an Agro-Emergency Preparedness exercise.

Commissioner Mosness spent the morning reviewing correspondence and check in with various departments to see how things are going.

A Mental Health Advisor Board meeting was held at noon in the Board Room. The meeting was well attended with agency reports and discussion on how to get the word out on services that are provided.

Tye Faw called concerned about county trucks hauling gravel that speeding by his house. Steve Bue will be notified and visit with his drivers.

Bill Lloyd and Dan McCauley from Great West Engineering stopped in to discuss the Grey Cliff bank erosion project. They are going to file a Notice of Intent for a Hazard Mitigation Grant that will supplement the RRG dollars to remove a portion of the old rip-rap.

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

All of the commissioners were in the office for the day.

The commissioners wrote a letter of support for Dan Happel from Madison County for an appointment to the BLM RAC.

All of the commissioners went over to the courthouse for their monthly update on civil matters in the County Attorney's Office and updates on happenings in the Law Enforcement Department. While at the courthouse they discussed fire extinguishers with Joe from Fire Suppression Systems, Inc. They already provide services to the Annex building and will cover the courthouse and all the law enforcement vehicles. With their service come annual inspections of all of the fire extinguishers.

Major J V Moody with the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) came in to visit about the office space in the courthouse that is occupied by MHP.

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace were all in for the day.

A preconstruction meeting for the Otter Creek Bridge was held at 9:30 a.m. with Steve Bue, Sweet Grass County Road Supervisor, Karl Yakawich and Ryan Elliott from Great West Engineering, Dave Oxendahl a contractor, and Lindsay for the BT Pioneer in attendance. The notice to precede contract was dated March 18, 2013 and signed by Commissioner Mosness and attested by Vera Pederson. Commissioner Mosness also signed MT-TSEP-PE-12-666 for certification of completion and status of funds report.

Erik Wood, the CEO for the Pioneer Medical Center, met with the commissioners to discuss a payroll advance which was approved.

A Board of Health meeting was held at noon to discuss a variance in the setback of 100 feet for a drain field for Geoff Goble on the East Boulder. The Gobles are removing a composting toilet and replacing it with regular plumbing. Present at the meeting were Sanitarian Barbara Woodbury, Geoff Goble, Phil Hathaway with Roe Construction, and Public Health Nurse Susan Sondeno. A motion was made by Commissioner Wallace and seconded by Commissioner Faw to approve the variance. The motion passed with 4 ayes.

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace went to view the Otter Creek Bridge site.

Steve Story called with some concerns in the rip-rap at Grey Cliff and what is going on with the events center.

All of the commissioners attended an informational meeting on Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame at the Carnegie Public Library.

Commissioners Mosness compared the weekly claims to the warrants and stamped the warrants then sent them on to Sherry to compare and stamp.

Friday, March 15, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace were in the office for the day. Commissioner Faw is in Billings attending a meeting for DNRC fire wardens.

Monday, March 18, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace came in to kick off another week.

Commissioner Faw briefed the other two commissioners on the fire warden's meeting that he attended in Billings on Friday.

Steve Bue, Vicki Uehling, and Sherry Bjorndal met with the commissioners to talk about cell phones stipend for the road crew. He would like to see the county pay \$15.00 per month to each road department employee for use of their personal cell phone as a means of communication during working hours. The commissioners will discuss the issue and get back to Steve on Thursday.

Tom and Donna Smith, Ron Boe and George Cosgriff met with the commissioners at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the Grey Cliff Bank Stabilization project. Tom feels that it is a waste of money to do this project. He feels that this piece of rock is not going to help alleviate pressure on the road. He wants to stop wasteful spending at the county level.

The Commissioners received two bids on trimming trees at the cemetery. Bill Evans submitted a bid of \$1,100.00 and Yellowstone Tree Service a bid of \$1,050.00. They accepted the Yellowstone Tree Service bid.

Tuesday, March 19, 2012

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness was sick.

The two commissioners went to look at a culvert on the Old Boulder road.

Commissioners Wallace, Faw and Clerk Bjorndal looked at a redistricting map of the county house and senate districts.

Sonny Todd was in to talk about Grey Cliff Bank Project.

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

All three of the commissioners were in for the day.

A cash meeting was held at 9:30 a.m. with Jane Stene, Vicki Uehling, and Sherry Bjorndal all three of the commissioners, Barbara van Cleve, Kim Tyler, Shirley Layne and Cookie Agnew in attendance.

The group reviewed: the monthly credit card report – PMC cash – investment interest – new bank accounts – CD ladder update – bank cash balances – monthly journal entries 837-921 – FEMA flood update – current grants – expenditures YTD – Revenues YTD – and YTD cash balances. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve journal entries 837-921 not all inclusive. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

The commissioners and Sherry looked at the redistricting map and discussed how to come up with a written description of the new precinct boundaries.

Sue Martin met with the commissioners to talk about new rugs and a floor polisher for the courthouse.

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace were in the office. Commissioner Faw is in Hardin for a Beartooth RC& D meeting.

The commissioners decided to do a one year trial and give a \$180 (\$15/per month) lump sum payment to the road department employees for the use of their personal cell phones.

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace reviewed and signed claims for payment and reviewed and signed payroll checks for the county.

Pam Walling and Tracy Thatcher from MACo Healthcare Trust met with Commissions Wallace and Mosness and Insurance Board members – Catherine McKenzie, Miki Gregorich, and Mary Gaub to discuss health insurance for Sweet Grass County Employees. Pam informed the group that they have to give a 60 day written notice if the county changes providers. Pam will send some information on RFP's for health insurance.

Friday, March 22, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office and Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a Mental Health Board meeting.

County Attorney Dringman and Sherry Bjorndal met with the commissioners to review the redistricting plan of action. Pat suggested that we hold a public meeting before the final resolution and boundaries are set.

Commissioners Wallace and Faw signed a lease contract with the Montana Highway Patrol for office space at the courthouse.

Monday, March 25 – Wednesday, March 27

Commissioners Faw and Wallace are in Great Falls for the Montana Association of Road Supervisors (MACRS) annual convention. Commissioner Mosness was in Helena on Monday for the Governor's conference on tourism then traveled to Great Falls to the MACRS convention.

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Commissioner Mosness was in the officer for the day and reviewed and signed claims for payment.

Frannie Anderson came in to talk about dates for cleaning the carpet in the Annex.

Bill Miller stopped in with concerns about the bleachers at the fairgrounds.

Friday, March 29, 2012

All of the commissioners were back in the office for the day.

Sherry Bjorndal came in to review the agenda for next week. The commissioners and Sherry went over the maps and legal descriptions of the new boundaries between Precincts 4 and 5 and between Precincts 3 and 5. These changes were done to make the precinct boundaries conform to the Legislative District Boundaries following the adoption of the 2013 Legislative Districting Plan Under Article V Section 14 of the Montana Constitution.

Commissioners Faw and Wallace reviewed and approved claims for payment. Commissioner Mosness stamped the checks and sent them to Sherry to review and stamp.

Commissioner Mosness also stamped PMC payroll checks and forwarded them to Sherry to stamp.

Sweet Grass County claims paid during the month of March amounted to \$126,884.96.

County and PMC payroll for the month of March amounted to \$538,405.06.

Respectfully submitted:

Sherry Bjorndal