

MAY 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	

.....

Wednesday May 1, 2013

Commissioners, Bob Faw, Susie Mosness and Bill Wallace all arrived to kick off the month of May.

The commissioners discussed the fairgrounds and the bleacher issue.

The contract between Sweet Grass County and Park County for sanitarian services was reviewed and discussed.

Commissioner Mosness spent the morning catching up on correspondence, went to look at the Otter Creek Bridge and took the afternoon off to work on her mom's house.

Commissioners Faw and Wallace reviewed and approved claims for payment.

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness were in for the day. Commissioner Faw is at cardiac rehab.

County Attorney Dringman came to discuss a job description for a paid fire chief/warden.

Marc King talked to the commissioners about the bleachers and Great West will come and inspect the bleachers in question.

Clerk Bjorndal came in to go over the commissioners' schedule for next week.

Commissioner Mosness reviewed and signed the weekly claims.

Commissioner Mosness talked to American Legion Commander, Dan Smart about designating a section of the cemetery above the ditch for veterans as the County is in the process of having the area above the ditch surveyed. Dan would like to see 100-140 grave sites as close as possible to the current veterans section reserved for veterans.

Commissioner Mosness reviewed and signed payroll checks then sent them to Sherry to review and sign.

In the afternoon Commissioners Mosness and Wallace drove to the end of Duck Creek Road.

Friday, May 3, 2013

All of the commissioners were in for the day.

Commissioner Faw is concerned about the culvert that was purchased for the Glasston Road and was not used. Where the culvert is and what can we do with it?

Commissioner Mosness compared warrants to the claims and stamped the warrants for payment. The warrants were then sent to Sherry to review and stamp for payment.

Commissioner Faw and Wallace went to the fairgrounds to look at the small grandstands.

Monday, May 6, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness held down the fort as Commissioner Wallace is picking up birds and dealing with the barn fire at his place over the weekend.

The monthly staff meeting was held at 9:30 a.m. with Sherry Bjorndal, Evie Halverson, Susan Metcalf, Vicki Uehling, Marc King, Pat Dringman, Page Dringman, John Becken, Dan Tronrud, Jane Stene and Lindsey from the Pioneer in attendance.

Commissioner Mosness asked the group about having a county corner in the Pioneer. Once a month one department would put an article in about their department.

Susan Metcalf has been busy as the school year is winding down. They will be having the rural track meet, a dino dig day at the Metcalf Ranch, and schools will be having field trips. School elections are coming up. Susan talked about the common core commotion across the state and the nation. Small schools can't exist without federal funding.

Sheriff Tronrud handed out the numbers for the month of April. His office has been fairly busy. Some of his officers have attended the FBI school active shooters training; Dan and Jerry will be attending the Sheriffs and Peace Officers convention the week of June 10-14. Dan attended a table top exercise in Bozeman on texting. Daryl Hodges and Jerry Melham attended a coroner convention in Billings. They will be interviewing dispatchers on May 21st.

Marc King has been tagging sheep and pigs for the 4-H Fair. Sheep numbers are down and pigs are about the same as last year. The small bleachers at the fairgrounds are down. The Stock growers will hold a meeting on Thursday about the Yellowstone River Water Plan at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

Co. Atty. Dringman has been busy with several new felony and civil cases. He has been working with the PMC on the purchase of lots from the Mildred Martinz family. Thor Terland and Pat attended a forensic interview of children work shop. Pat is happy with the overall 2013 legislative session; however, there is a lot of stuff out there to focus on.

Planning Director, Page Dringman, reports that Lana King is in the final stages of updating the zoning ordinances. The review and update of the Growth Policy is almost done. The 2013 Legislature made a lot of changes in land use.

Treasurer Jane Stene announced that the 2013 Mobil Home tax bills have been sent out. The second half of 2012 Real Estate taxes is due.

Financial Officer Uehling held the monthly cash meeting, did research on the PMC bond, worked on the FEMA flood large sites, COPS grant and TSEP grant and the Terrill's Office Machine maintenance contract analysis.

Evie Halverson announced that a \$30,000 grant has been awarded for the Old Boulder Road noxious weed control. Evie has been finishing up with grant paper work and getting all of the weed equipment ready to go. Her summer crew will start on Tuesday.

Commissioner Faw announced that the weed building is now fixed. Bob has been attending cardio therapy on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He attended the cash meeting and the reading of the April 2013 minutes. Commissioner Faw is concerned about Stillwater Mine now that Brian Schweitzer is the new CEO. Bob asked that we all keep wants vs. needs in mind during the budgeting process. Bob is also in favor of having a county corner in the Pioneer.

Commissioner Mosness has been involved in the TSEP Otter Creek Bridge project, toured several of the FEMA flood sites so that the close out could be done, and a meeting with WKN on the Stevens Hill wind energy project. Commissioner Mosness is on the Regional Mental Health Board and attended meetings in Billings. She also traveled to Billings for an HRDC Board meeting and a detention center board meeting (rates have gone up and they are having training issues). Susie also attended a Yellowstone Basin Advisory Board meeting at the Library and will be attending Incident Command classes on June 8th and 9th. Susie also touched on some of the 2013 legislative changes to putting stuff up for bid and equipment bids at auction.

Commissioner Mosness went over to the courthouse to check on the progress of the painting project. She also visited the cemetery and talked to Darrel.

An e-mail was sent to Park County about mag chloride.

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame used the commissioners' office to meet with Chris Mehus on various items and to discuss tourism infrastructure in the region.

Commissioners Faw and Mosness attended a CTEP public hearing at 6:00 p.m. at the Commissioners' Office in the Annex to decide how to spend the remaining money in the CTEP fund. It was decided to use the funds for an ADA corner on 3rd Ave. by the Civic Center and to continue the sidewalk on 5th Ave past the Annex to the High School. There is approximately \$65,000 to \$70,000 available for this project.

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Commissioners Mosness spent the day in Billings for a Mental Health Board meeting discussing finances with Wells Fargo Bank. Commissioner Wallace is in Billings picking up birds and Commissioner Faw is in Billing for rehab.

The counting board for the school election used the commissioners' office to count ballots in the afternoon.

Wednesday, June 8, 2013

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

Commissioner Mosness delivered school election results around town.

Chris Mehus, grant administrator, Mayor Mark Stephens, PMC CEO, Erik Wood, Financial Officer, Vicki Uehling and Clerk Sherry Bjorndal met with the Commissioners for the grant closeout of the CDBG grant for the Pioneer Medical Center remodel, the ambulance station, and the CT scanner. The total cost of the project was approximately \$1.57 million made up of CDBG grant, a USDA Rural Development loan through

Triangle Telephone Cooperative and donations. Over half of the loan has been repaid already.

This project provided:

More jobs for the community
CT scanner, which is a great tool for providers and the community. It also helps keep patients local.

A new ambulance station. During the construction of the ambulance station they used local contractors whenever possible and purchased materials and supplies locally when possible.

A remodel of the area for the CT scanner and the nurses' station at the PMC. The commissioners and Mark Stephens reviewed and signed all of the closeout documents.

Erik Wood brought in the PMC claims and went over them with the commissioners and Sherry. Sherry and Susie stamped the warrants for payment.

At 10:00 a.m. Brianne Dugan from Senator Baucus's office stopped in to update the commissioners and listen to their concerns. Topics discussed were: SRS, Farm Bill, Highway Bill, gun control, Obama care and what the Senator wants to get done before he retires.

At noon Commissioner Mosness attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting to talk about the Governor's Conference on Tourism.

During the afternoon Commissioner Mosness spent some time getting the minutes caught up, reviewed and answered e-mails, and discussed the PMC's allocation of the Overland Trust with First Interstate Bank.

Commissioner Wallace worked on Airport correspondence.

Tom Stock came in to talk about mag chloride on the Main Boulder road. Marty Malone a Park County Commissioner called about the same project.

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness were in the office for the day. Commissioner Faw is at rehab.

Steve Bue came in to discuss the Bainter gravel crushing contract. The gravel was supposed to be crushed by May 1st. Their new crusher did not arrive on time therefore they will begin crushing this week and would like an extension.

Sherry came in to work on the agenda for next week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wallace and seconded by Commissioner Mosness to approve the agreement with Park County for sanitation services for the period of 7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014 at a cost of \$1,000 per month. Motion passed with 2 ayes.

The commissioners are waiting on a written resolution on the CTEP project.

The commissioners reviewed claims and approved them for payment.

Bill and Susie went to the road shop to look at the new fork lift and then went up to the airport.

Cheryl Christman from Sweet Grass Health and Wellness came in to discuss Melinda Juell helping part-time in the finance office as she is doing an internship to become a CPA. Financial Officer, Vicki Uehling will show her the ins and outs of governmental accounting. She is paid by Sweet Grass Health and Wellness and insurance is paid by the University of Montana.

Mary Brydich and Tonja Grothe from Terrell's Office Machines came in to talk about the Print Management contract Sweet Grass County has with Terrell's. Vicki Uehling and Char Fuller were also present at the meeting. The Commissioners voiced their concerns about several items including maintenance and when it gets done. Mary and Tonja will do some research on the issues and meet with the commissioners next week.

Sherry and Catherine came in to talk about the insurance committee and the number of people on the committee. At this time there will be four members representing the PMC and three representing the county. This committee will make a recommendation to the Commissioners on the company and the plan that they think are best for the employees. Victory insurance will remain our workman's comp carrier. We have received the new rates and mod factor.

Friday, May 10, 2013

All of the commissioners were in to finish off another week of county business.

Commissioner Faw attended the Stock growers meeting last evening and they discussed the Yellowstone river Basin Advisory Board and making sure that they had comments into the committee before the comment period closes on May 31, 2013.

Commissioner Mosness reviewed claims and stamped checks for the week and sent them on to Sherry Bjorndal to review and stamp.

The afternoon was spent reviewing e-mails and returning calls. Commissioner Mosness went to talk to Deputy Forest Ranger, Lauren Oswald.

Monday, May 13, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all arrived ready to kick off another week.

Commissioners Faw and Wallace attended a Fair Board meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the Fairgrounds. This meeting was to discuss what to do with the small grand stands by the concession stand. Commissioner Mosness was in the office.

Julie Schmidt and Jim Muskonich with MACo Loss Control, JPIA/JPA, met with the commissioners and Sheriff Tronrud to discuss jail peer review, mandatory blood draw and update defensive driving technology. They also talked about safety programs and working with the counties on safety issues. A suggestion was to have tailgate meetings for each piece of equipment.

Steve Bue stopped in to visit with the commissioners on road department issues. A discussion ensued on the 2013 TSEP infrastructure grant to update the county bridge inventory with Great West Engineering. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the grant. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Marc King visited with the commissioners about drought status. He has sent an e-mail to the drought committee letting them know we are in 100% drought conditions. The committee will meet on May 23rd.

Tom Esp stopped in to visit about ambulance issues.

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness were in for the day. Commissioner Faw had a doctor's appointment.

County Attorney, Pat Dringman, came in to visit about the Community Events Center and how to clean up the project and what to do with the funds that were donated for the project.

At 10:30 a.m. MACo Healthcare Trust came in to present a quote for the county group health insurance for the upcoming fiscal year. Present for this meeting were Monte Fjare, Catherine McKenzie, Jamie Moody, PMC representatives – Erik Wood, Miki Gregorich, Gail Arnold, Mary Parker and Seanna Gibby and Pam Walling and Traci Thather from MACo HealthCare Trust.

Planner, Page Dringman, came in with a mortgage tract for Brian and Kary Engle.

Mental Health staff, Chelsie Fuchs and Gloria Weiss met with Commissioner Mosness to fill out the report for Local Advisory Committee to send to the State.

Karen Elliot stopped in to talk about ambulance service issues.

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

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

Sherry Bjorndal came in to report to the commissioners that she has not been figuring longevity on the \$2,000 increment for the law officers. County Attorney, Pat Dringman, joined the group to discuss the issue. The total cost to the county to reimburse the officers for the 1% longevity on the \$2,000 for the period of 7/1/2008 through 6/30/2013 will be approximately \$3,004.50. It was agreed to do the reimbursement and check will be sent out next week.

Paul Westervelt stopped in to talk about PMC issues.

Becky Todisco met with the commissioners and the insurance committee (Monte Fjare, Catherine McKenzie, Jami Moody, Mary Parker, Gail Arnold, Mary Gaub and Miki Gregorich) to give quotes on the county group health insurance from BCBS and Pacific Source.

Weekly claims were reviewed and approved by all of the commissioners.

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace were in for part of the day. Commissioner Faw is at rehab following his heart attack.

The final plat for the Norm Starr Old Corral Subdivision was presented and reviewed by the commissioners. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the final plat, Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes.

Commissioner Mosness had to leave as her mother is sick.

Commissioner Wallace went to Billings in the afternoon.

Friday, May 17, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office. Commissioner Mosness is gone because her mother is ailing.

Monday, May 20, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all arrived to kick off another week.

The Commissioners and PMC CEO, Erik Wood, met to discuss the county contribution to the group health insurance for FY 2013/2014. Sherry Bjorndal joined the discussion. It appears that a basic plan will run about \$600/mo. There will be more discussion as more rates and plans are presented.

The commissioners went out to look at the Grey Cliff bank erosion site and the grand stands removal at the fairgrounds.

At 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Mosness and Faw attended the monthly PMC Board meeting at the PMC. Before the meeting Commissioner Mosness reviewed and signed PMC warrants for payment.

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

All of the Commissioners attended the Mental Health Advisory Board meeting at noon.

Karl Yakawich met with the commissioners to look at the Otter Creek Bridge TSEP project. The group then discussed the Wormser Loop project and when it will be ready for bid. It appears that it will be ready to go to bid toward the end of July. Bill will talk to property owners about the project.

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

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

Assistant Weed Coordinator, Heidi Todd stopped in with the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant application for the Old Boulder road. Total funds for this grant are \$30,000.

The monthly cash meeting was held with all of the commissioners, Financial Officer Vicki Uehling, Clerk & Recorder Sherry Bjorndal, Treasurer Jane Stene and Citizen Shirley Layne in attendance.

Vicki reported that she has ordered a county credit card that can be checked out and returned to the Clerk & Recorder's office. It is for employees who do not have a credit card.

Monthly general journal entries were reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve entries 1019-1084 not all exclusive. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 2 Ayes and Commissioner Faw opposed as he feel that we are making too many adjustments.

The group reviewed bank balances, expenditures to date, revenue to date and current cash balances.

An insurance committee meeting was held at 2:30 p.m. with Monte Fjare, Mary Parker, Gail Arnold, Jami Moody, Miki Gregorich, Erik Wood, Mary Gaub and the commissioners. The committee recommended that the county accept the BCBS proposal. The Commissioners and Erik Wood decided to increase the county contribution to the employee portion of the health insurance premium by \$50.00 per month. This will make the employer contribution \$580 per month. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to accept the recommendation of the board and to increase the employer portion of the premium by \$50.00 per month. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Thursday, May 23, 2013

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

Sherry Bjorndal came in to go over the agenda for the next week and update her calendar.

Commissioner Mosness signed the TSEP application of payment for the Otter Creek Bridge in the amount of \$169,167.24.

Minutes of the April 2013 meetings were read by Clerk Bjorndal. Commissioner Wallace moved and Commissioner Mosness seconded a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

At 11:00 a.m. the commissioners went to an L.E.P.C. meeting at the ambulance station. This meeting was also combined with an interagency fire meeting.

Claims for the week were reviewed and signed by the commissioners.

Friday, May 24, 2013

All of the commissioners were in to finish off the week.

Commissioner Wallace hauled gravel to the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Mosness compared claims to the warrants and stamped the warrants for payment and sent them on to Sherry to review and stamp.

Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer came in to visit about what is happening in the county. All of the commissioners and Laura went down to the Grey Cliff Bank Stabilization site so Laura could understand the dynamics of what the Yellowstone Rives is doing.

Monday, May 27, 2013

Most of the county officers were closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Wallace and Mosness all returned after a long weekend.

Matt Cremer, Chuck Schuman, Charlie Rein and Marc King from Crazy Mountain Stock growers came in to discuss Yellowstone river Basin and presented a letter for the commissioners to sign to split the basin into two areas.

John Beaudry met with the commissioners to discuss the 2013 Annual Allocation of Metal Mines License Tax revenue. The allocation this year is:

Sweet Grass County	72.185%
Stillwater County	22.885%
Park County	4.930%

John also let the commissioners know that he paid the second half SMC taxes today in the amount of \$1,663,386.56. The Graham Creek project is going forward. Metal prices are reasonably strong and the mine is hiring on both sides. They currently have approximately 1,700 employees.

All of the commissioners attended a PMC meeting to review what has been accomplished in the way of looking at a new business model for the PMC.

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in the office. Commissioner Wallace is in Billings.

Steve Bue came in to discuss the Wormser Loop Rock fall. There is also a large hanging rock that is above the area where the rock has fallen.

Commissioner Faw manned the office in the afternoon and Susie went home to complete the online ICS 100 class.

At 7: 00 p.m. Commissioner Faw attended the fair board meeting. They discussed the fair budget and new bleachers to replace the small grand stands by the concession stand.

Thursday, May 30, 2013

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

Sherry came in to go over the agenda for the next week.

Susan Sondeno came in to present the master contract with DPHHS for maternal and child health block grant task order 14-07-5-01-049-0 in the amount of \$3,574 for the period of 6/13/2013 to 6/19/2013. This has been tabled until Monday at 1: p.m.

Commissioner Mosness signed the Airport liability insurance policy for the period of 7/1/2013-6/30/2014.

Commissioner Mosness went to Billings for an HRDC committee meeting.

Commissioners Wallace and Faw reviewed claims for the week and approved them for payment.

Commissioner Faw went to Livingston in the afternoon to look bleachers at the Park County High School and fair grounds.

Friday, May 31, 2013

All of the commissioners were in on the last day of May.

Marc King came in to give the commissioners an update on extension activities since he will miss the staff meeting on Monday because he is teaching an ATV safety class in Melville.

Commissioner Mosness compared claims to warrants and stamped the warrants for payment. Sherry then reviewed the claims and warrants and stamped the warrants.

In the afternoon the commissioners looked at the budget for their office for FY 2013/2014.

Commissioners Mosness reviewed and signed PMC payroll for May. Sherry also reviewed and signed PMC payroll.

Claims for the month of May were \$427,200.14

County and PMC payroll for the month of May was \$534,200.91.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Bjorndal