

JULY 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	

.....

Monday, July 1, 2013

Commissioners Mosness, Faw and Wallace all arrived for the first day of fiscal year 2014. They discussed the violent storm that hit Big Timber Saturday night during the rodeo.

Department heads, Deanna Novotny, Daryl Hodges, Susan Metcalf, Evie Halverson, Eric Wood, Marc King, Vicki Uehling, Jami Moody, Dan Tronrud, Jessie Connolly, Page Dringman, Jerry Melham, Brooke Osen, and Sherry Bjorndal arrived for the monthly staff meeting. Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer was also at the meeting.

Deanna Novotny reported that district court has been steady with 3 new felonies, 3 new domestic cases, 3 new civil cases and 6 marriages. Deanna was at convention the week of June 17-21. The State is in the process of upgrades on their computers. Jury notices were mailed out and most of them have come back. Barb Swanson will be gone most of the month of July.

Financial Officer Uehling has been working on year end stuff as well as attending most of the budget meetings with the department heads. She also conducted the June cash meeting.

Judge, Jessie Connolly, reported that she has spent a lot of the last year working on her master's degree. Justice Court has averaged about 9 to 10 new cases per month. They had 57 new cases during the month of June. Civil filing fees have gone up since the last legislation. She has used the SCRAM bracelet program for some time and has also implemented the 24-7 alcohol monitoring program that is tracked through the Sheriff's office. Jessie also met with the commissioners for her budget meeting.

Erik Wood the CEO from the PMC reported that the emergency room has been busy this summer. They have completed the purchase of the Martinz property. The PMC is still working on the business structure and has completed the remodeling of the office spaces in the basement.

Marc King reported that the extension agent's office is gearing up for the 4-H fair. He has been busy working with ranchers on hail damage and nitrate testing.

Sheriff Tronrud passed out the sheet with the numbers for his department for the month of June. Officer Tim Stene will be the new DARE officer. There was another rattle snake bite in the county on Friday.

Brooke Osen from the DES department announced that only four people participated in ICS 300 class. She has been working on the Homeland Security Grant.

Planning Director, Page Dringman reported that her office has only one subdivision in the works at this time; however, they have had several certificates of survey to review. Lana King has been working on 9-1-1 updates. There will be a meeting on July 15th to review the new draft of the Sweet Grass County flood plane. She will soon be working on a draft of flood plane ordinances for the county. The 2013 Legislature changed the laws on building for rent or lease.

Jami Moody came with a report on the happenings of the County Attorney's office. During the month of June they dealt with several felonies and an extradition, a land purchase for the PMC and Pat will be attending training July 17-19.

Evie Halverson, the county weed coordinator, has her crew busy spraying weeds. She is also working with ranchers on sheep grazing fishing accesses and her crew has been collecting bugs. The commissioners warned her to make sure that her crew has good boots because of the number of snake bites already this summer.

Co. Supt. of Schools, Susan Metcalf, is getting ready for a new school year. She is also working with clerks on the school budgets. The Adequate Yearly Progress has been completed and three of the rural schools came in at 97.8% and one at 97.6%.

County Coroner, Daryl Hodges had only one case in June. This is a good thing.

Commissioner Faw and the Forest Range took a trip up the Main Boulder to see what their plans are for fuels reduction. He was also involved in all of the budget meetings. Most of the budgets are coming in at or below last year's budgets. Bob asked Brooke Osen, DES Coordinator, to work on an emergency action plan for the Annex and the Courthouse. Brooke and Sheriff Tronrud will work on it. Commissioner Faw asked Sheriff Tronrud to check on the rail road cars that contain propane or butane that sit on the side tracks.

Commissioner Wallace announced that Northwestern will be coming to do evaluations of all of the county buildings for our MACo/JPIA insurance. Casey Durham with First West Insurance is working with Montana State Fund to provide worker's comp. insurance for the county. Bill also attended the District 6 & 7 meeting in Columbus and a Weed Board Meeting. Stuart Stenberg was appointed to the Weed Board to take Roger Engle's place.

Commissioner Mosness was involved in many of the same activities as the other commissioners. She also:

- Attended a two day ICS 300 class

- Traveled to Billings for regional Mental Health meetings

- Went to Stanford for an Area II on aging regional meeting (this is an 11 county area that works on programs for senior citizens and funding for food etc.)

- Attended a Leadership Institute workshop put on by Studer Group

- Many budget meetings with department heads

- PMC monthly board meeting

- And an HRDC Board meeting in Billings

Erik Wood reported that there will be a meeting at 7:00 in the morning at the PMC about the PMC affiliation with Billings Clinic. They are about 95% of the way to making a decision. He also let the commissioner know about some wage adjustments for CNA's and the reason for the changes.

Superintendent of Schools, Susan Metcalf presented the FY 2014 school budgets to the commissioner for review and to be signed off on.

The Commissioners met with the City Council at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the FY 2013/2014 budgets for the departments that the city and county share the budgets (law enforcement, planning, sanitation, city court and court compliance, and the library).

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

All of the commissioners were in early as they met with the PMC Board to discuss the business structure on the possibility of closer affiliations with Billings Clinic.

Commissioner Mosness was out for the afternoon to attend a funeral.

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

All three of the commissioners, Vicki and Sherry spent the day going over both revenue and expenditure budgets for FY 2013/2014.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved claims for payment.

Thursday, July 4, 2013

Most of the county offices were closed to observe Independence Day.

Friday, July 5, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in the office for the day. They spent the day attending to general office duties, correspondence and catching up on e-mails.

Monday, July 8, 2013

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

Planner, Page Dringman, presented the preliminary plat for the Faw Subdivision. Bob and Judy Faw were also present. Having reviewed and discussed the plat, Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the Faw Subdivision preliminary plat. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes. Commissioner Faw recused himself from the proceedings as this is his subdivision.

Joe H. Smith Jr. and JT Smith from Valuations Northwest, Inc. met with the commissioners as they will be here for a few days looking at all the county property and equipment to make sure that it is accurately valued for the MACo/JPIA Insurance pool.

Commissioner Mosness met with John Elgen and Brandon Rogge to get a quote on moving our phone system to a dryer, cleaner spot. Triangle Telephone will have to be involved and we will figure out a time when this can be done with the lease interference to county business.

Susan Sondeno brought in DPHHS contract # 14-07-6-11-051-0 for Public Health Emergency Preparedness for a total of \$26,459.00. Commissioner Wallace made the motion to accept this contract and Commissioner Faw seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 ayes. This contract runs through June 30, 2019.

PMC CEO, Erik Wood brought in the claims for the commissioner to review and approve. Commissioner Mosness and Clerk Bjorndal stamped the checks for payment.

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

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

The morning was spent catching up on administrative duties.

The Commissioners took a road trip up the Boulder to observe how the road preparation was going.

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

All of the commissioners made it back from their road trip yesterday and reported for duty.

Dan Repolgle was in to visit about the public works director position that will be coming open in September.

Mary Brydich and Tonya Grothe from Terrell's Office Machines met with the commissioners regarding the copier contract the Sweet Grass County has with Terrill's,

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw all arrived to face another day.

Sandy Thomas came in to discuss her dilemma with Social Security and medical insurance. It is county policy that to be eligible for the county medical insurance group you must work at least 20 hours a week. To meet her Social Security requirements there would be two weeks a year that she would be under the 20 hour requirement.

DEQ Contract #514031 was reviewed by the commissioners. This is a contract allowing the county to be able to review water supply and wastewater issues for subdivisions. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to accept the contract Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Jase Thomas met with the commissioners and Sherry Bjorndal to go over the budget for the fire department for FY 2013/2014.

County Attorney Pat Dringman met with the commissioners to discuss legal matters. Some of the topics discussed were:

- Possible donation to the airport for a master plan study
- Sandy Thomas insurance issue
- Kevin Langhus liability when working on towers
- Pat and Erik Wood met with Crowley Law Firm in Bozeman to discuss bond issues if the Pioneer Medical Center becomes a branch of Billings Clinic.

Friday, July 12, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness has the day off.

Commissioners Wallace compared warrants to the claims and stamped the claims for payment and sent them on to Sherry to do the same.

Monday, July 15, 2013

Commissioners Bob Faw, Bill Wallace and Susie Mosness all arrived bright eyed and bushy tailed.

PMC checks were presented for Sherry and Susie to review and stamp for payment.

At 10:30 a.m. Mary Gibson and Tiffany Lyden from DNRC, Sam Johnson, Planner Dringman, and Monica Gokey with the Big Timber Pioneer met with the commissioners to discuss a floodplain review that DNRC is doing in Sweet Grass and Stillwater Counties. This is a project that has been in the works since 2010.

All of the Commissioners attended a meeting at the Library with the City Council to discuss what needs to be done to extend water and sewer lines to the west end of town. Those attending the meeting were Page Dringman, Mayor Stephens, Councilman Ferguson; City works staff Rick Gibby and Chris Novotny, Great West Engineer Chad Hanson and land owners, Mary Lair, Tom Merritt, Bryan Sondeno, Dan Burmeister and Montana Hall of Fame representative, Arron Lyles, Don Arlts, and engineer Pat was on speaker phone for the meeting.

A PMC Board meeting was held at 5:00 p.m. with Commissioners Mosness and Faw in attendance. A letter of intent between the PMC and Billings Clinic was signed this is now binding agreement to further look at a closer affiliation between the two entities.

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

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

All of the commissioners attended a County Transportation meeting in the extension conference room. Attending the meeting were Supt. Of Schools, Susan Metcalf, SGHS Board member, Tim Yuzeitis and SGHS Superintendents, Alvin Buerkle, and Monica from the Big Timber Pioneer. All of the county school bus routes and transportation contracts were approved.

At 11:00 a.m. the commissioners met with Casey Durham and Kevin Babcock from First West Insurance and Jeanne Wisler, safety consultant for Montana State Fund. Also present at the meeting were Clerk Sherry Bjorndal and Payroll Clerk, Catherin McKenzie. Kevin is the First West safety and claims manager.

Dan Rostad stopped in with concerns on the mag chloride that will be applied by two private landowners on the Old Boulder Road and would like the policies in place for this. Commissioner Wallace was able to talk to the landowners and they will cut down on the amount of mag chloride that they apply to the road and the other landowner will not do it at all.

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

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

Steve Bue was in to talk about the first five miles of the Main Boulder Road, which had mag chloride shot on in yesterday. Western Federal Land Highway Division e-mailed the commissioners that the Main Boulder Road Project was accepted into the programming for fiscal year 2013 n& 2014. This project will cover reconstruction of 6.7 miles with F.L.A.P. provisioning \$5.8 million and Park and Sweet Grass Counties will have a match of 13.42%.

Thursday, July 18, 2013

All of the commissioners were in for the day.

Claims were presented to be reviewed and approved for payment by the commissioners. Financial Officer Uehling also reviews and approves claims for payment.

Nick Kuntz from Department of Commerce, Vicki Uehling and Lana King met with the commissioners for the close out on the Otter Creek Bridge TSEP project.

Commissioner Faw traveled to Fishtail for an RC&D picnic.

Friday, July 19, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in for the day. Commissioner Wallace had the day off.

The weekly warrants and claims were reviewed and the warrants stamped for payment by Commissioner Mosness. They were then sent to Clerk Bjorndal to review and stamp.

On Saturday, July 20, 2013 Commissioner Mosness attended the Conservation District Workshop on water, weeds, wild life and wild fire. Sanitarian Barbara Woodbury and the weed department participate in this event.

Monday, July 22, 2013

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw all arrived to work another July week.

Planner, Page Dringman, met with the commissioners to discuss subdivisions for rent or lease and the process that we need to go through to adopt this. A 30 day comment period will end with a public hearing on September 5, 2013.

Matt Armstrong stopped in with concerns on the condition of the Work Creek Road and would like to see a grader up that direction.

Brooke Osen, DES Coordinator, came over to talk about air conditioners in the deputy's area.

At 1:00 p.m. the Commissioners, Sheriff Tronrud, Undersheriff Mahlum, FWP Warden Fagone, Captain Harold Guse and Fisheries specialist, Ken Frazier met about parking issues at the Grey Bear Fishing Access. Will continue to monitor the problem and talk to the fly shop about shuttling fishermen and try to find more efficient ways to park. FWP is looking for land for a fishing access at the 8 mile bridge.

Commissioner Faw attended a Fair Board meeting in the evening. The Fair Board agreed to purchase new bleachers to replace the small grand stands by the concession stand on the rodeo side of the fairgrounds. They will put the cement work out for bid and Tutt Construction will erect the new bleachers.

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Commissioner, Bob Faw, Bill Wallace and Susie Mosness, Clerk & Recorder, Sherry Bjorndal, Treasurer, Jane Stene, Financial Officer, Vicki Uehling and U of M intern, Melinda Juell all congregated for the monthly cash meeting. Topics discussed during the day were:

June 30, 2013 securities report and pledged securities. Commissioner Wallace made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Faw to approve the June 30, 2013 quarterly securities report. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

June general journal entries were reviewed and discussed at length. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve journal entries 1183-1322 not all inclusive. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Search and rescue will get a RAC grant this year.

The group reviewed June 30, 2013 expenditure report, revenue report and cash balances.

We will not have a cash meeting in August.

A salary compensation board meeting was held at 3:00 p.m. with Pat Dringman, Jessie Connolly, Sherry Bjorndal, Dan Tronrud, Mary Gregorich and all three of the commissioners. Dale Grosfield attended as a private citizen. County Attorney, Pat Dringman gave a history of the compensation board 7-4-2503(4). A discussion was held on the county attorney salary and how it is set and the state match. Sherry Bjorndal made a motion that was seconded by Jessie Connolly to match the state portion of the county attorney's salary at \$49,980. Motion passed with 7 ayes and Commissioner Faw voting against it. Discussion followed on giving the elected officials the COLA 2.1% increase and how all of the deputies are tied to the salary of the sheriff and the base salary for the sheriff is based on the salary for the Clerk & Recorder. If the sheriff does not get an increase in his base salary none of the deputies do either. Dan Tronrud made a motion that was seconded by Pat Dringman to give all elected officials the COLA 2.1% increase in pay for FY 2013/2014. Motion passed with 7 ayes and Commissioner Faw voted against the motion.

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in for the day. Commissioner Mosness is on her way to Colorado to attend a wedding.

Commissioner Wallace visited with Sandy Thomas about the county policy that employees must work 20 hours per week to be eligible for county health insurance.

Clerk Bjorndal brought in Resolution 07-24-2013, a resolution for the county attorney to allow Linda Hickman from Wheatland County to assist with criminal case as he has a conflict of interest. Commissioner Faw made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wallace to approve the resolution. Motion passed with 2 ayes.

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace participated in a MACo District 6 & 7 conference call in which Maureen Davey was nominated for MACo second vice president and John Prinkki withdrew his nomination.

The commissioners reviewed and approved claims for payment.

Friday, July 26, 2013

Commissioner Wallace manned the office for the day as Commissioner Mosness is still in Colorado and Commissioner Faw is on his way to an Alaskan cruise.

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

Monday, July 29, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace were in the office. Commissioner Faw is in Alaska for the week.

This week is 4-H Fair week in Sweet Grass County so the commissioners will be back and forth to the fairgrounds to check on the happenings down there.

DES Coordinator, Brooke Osen, Fire Chief, Jase Thomas and Clerk & Recorder, Sherry Bjorndal met with the commissioners to discuss putting the county in Stage I Fire Restrictions. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve Resolution 07-29-2013 a resolution putting Sweet Grass County in Stage I fire restrictions effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, July 30, 2013. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes.

Cole Peebles from Great West Engineering called to visit with the commissioners about the rock situation on Wormser Loop Road. Commissioner Wallace contacted the Brokaws about this issue.

The Commissions signed the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification for the Sheriff's Office.

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Commissioners Susie and Bill checked in this morning then traveled to Grey Bear Fishing Access to check out the parking issues.

Commissioner Mosness contacted Verizon about the poor cell phone service in Sweet Grass County.

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness arrived at 8:00 a.m. to participate in a conference call with Western Federal Lands on who will deliver the contract for the Main Boulder Road project. It was decided to allow Western Federal Lands to administer the project.

Commissioner Mosness participated in a conference call with MACo on the fall conference agenda.

After lunch Commissioner Mosness went to Billings for an HRDC Strategic Planning session.

Commissioner Wallace met with Steve Bue and Kraig Pesteer from T & E to look at a new CAT Grader to replace the John Deere grader.

Commissioner Wallace stamped the PMC payroll warrants for payment and forwarded them to Sherry to stamp.

Claims for the month of July were paid in the amount of \$236,323.64.

County and PMC payroll for the month of July was \$501,712.60.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Bjorndal