

WALLOWA COUNTY  
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS  
STATE of OREGON

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TERA ELLIOTT E.A.

CHAIR JOHN HILLOCK  
COMMISSIONER TODD NASH  
COMMISSIONER SUSAN ROBERTS

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**December 20, 2023**

Wallowa County Board of Commissioners (BOC)  
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. Thornton Conference Room  
VIA Zoom Meeting  
Wallowa County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner John Hillock  
Commissioner Todd Nash  
Commissioner Susan Roberts

STAFF PRESENT: Brenda Micka, Administrator  
Amanda Piper, Executive Assistant  
Paige Sully, County Council, ZOOM  
Katy Nesbitt, Natural Resource Director  
Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:	Mike Hayward	Marci Schreder, Wallowa Resources
	Kim Beckwith	Joni Maasdam, Wallowa Resources
	Julie Beckwith	Angelika Dietrich
	John Amond	Mike Mercer
	Joe Basile, Wallowa Resources	Bill Bradshaw, Wallowa County Chieftain
	Gavin Collier, Wallowa Resources	Paul Doherty
	David Hurley	Raider Heck
	illegible	Lily Rhoades, Wallowa Resources
	Avery Stanton, Wallowa Resources	Clayton Matheny, Wallowa Resources
	Carol Proffitt	

ZOOM ATTENDIES:	Pamela Olsen	Jacob Fough
	Michael Eng	Eddie & Carrie Kilner
	Raeann VanArsdall	Hilary Miller
	Harold Lathrop	Steve Knudson
	Brent Neely	

9:09 a.m. – Commissioner Hillock opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

## Consideration and/or approval of Consent Agenda

Consisting of:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Payment of Claims on County Funds |   |
| 2. Minutes:                          | December 6, 2023 – BOC Regular Meeting  |
| 3. Employee Action Notice(s):        | Ryan Moody – Promotion/Appointed to Sheriff, WCSO<br>Joel Fish – Separation from Service, WCSO<br>Joseph Fish – Separation from Service, IT Department  |
| 4. Resolution(s):                    | Resolution 2023-022 – Appointing Members to the WC Planning Commission<br>Resolution 2023-023 – Appointing Members to the WC Fair Board<br>Resolution 2023-024 – Appointing an Interim WC Sheriff |
| 5. Order(s):                         | Order 2023-2306 – Unanticipated Revenue – Community Corrections<br>Order 2023-2307 – Adopting Unanticipated Revenue, Grants   |
| 6. Contract(s):                      | None  |
| 7. Easement(s):                      | None  |
| 8. Agreement(s):                     | None  |
| 9. Grant Initiation(s)               | Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) – Information Technology  |
| 10. Letter(s)                        | None  |
| 11. Policy                           | None  |

*Commissioner Nash moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented  
Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion*

*The vote:*

*Commissioner John Hillock – aye  
Commissioner Todd Nash – aye  
Commissioner Susan Roberts – aye*

*The motion passes*

## Agenda Items:

### **Resolution 2023-019 – Wallowa County Strategic Energy Plan (CESP), Revision December 2023**

Commissioner Hillock handed the remainder of the meeting over to Commissioner Nash. Commissioner Nash explained the process for consideration of adopting the Energy Plan, from the initial interest in building resiliency for our County, to establishing a committee, (of which Commissioner Hillock served, which is one of the reasons he has recused himself from voting on this issue) to the informational meeting on the Plan, and postponing the adoption of the Resolution twice to allow time for thirty days of public review and comments. Considering comments received, the Energy Plan Committee revised the plan; the revision is before us today. The community has offered feedback, both verbal and written, which is appreciated. Commissioner Nash stated the thing that brings us all together is the fact we want a better Wallowa County. The question for us is do we want to plan in a way that provides for a more resilient community when it comes to energy? This is an effort to do just that. The CESP is a living document which can be modified over time. The Board of Commissioners have discussed setting up a citizen board to review the plan every six months to see if goals are being achieved as set forth and providing feedback from the community. Commissioner Nash then expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Hillock for his involvement and expertise in this process, and although Commissioner Hillock has recused himself from

the vote, he is welcome to make comment if he wishes. Commissioner Nash then opened the floor to the other commissioners, starting with Commissioner Roberts.

Commissioner Roberts commented on the task of planning for the future of Wallowa County for all things that may occur. The county currently has multiple plans for many things so if there is a need in the future, we have a framework we may be able to follow. If changes to the plan are needed, we can pull the community back together with meetings. Commissioner Roberts mentioned the availability of generators in the county, which were planned for with the intent of using if a need arose, allowing the county to provide a generator to Wallowa after the hailstorm, to hook up to the sewer plant. As commissioners, we are always planning. The CESP plan does not say we will implement all items listed, but these items may be possible in the future, giving us a framework to start with, without starting from scratch. Commissioner Roberts would like to move forward in adopting the plan, understanding the public we serve would be invited back in if we move forward with elements of the plan.

Commissioner Hillock stated with or without a plan, he will continue to work in the best interests of the community on resiliency, including another generator location in Wallowa, and potentially another generator location in Joseph. If the hailstorm incident in Wallowa happened in the winter, we would have been ill-prepared.

Commissioner Nash opened the floor to two-minute comments. Comments were heard from:

Mike Mercer	Raider Heck
Sherri Swindlehurst	Rebecca Lenahan
Lily Rhoades	Paul Doherty
Joe Basille	Joleen Cox
Carol Proffitt	Avery Stanton
Alicia Zinni	

Comments were made in favor of and against the CESP. Topics included:

- the need for trust among participants
- the need for resiliency
- the possibility of the State of Oregon mandating an energy/resilience plan
- specifics of how items of the plan will be implemented
- items listed which don't seem to fit in the plan
- appreciation for those who have worked on the plan
- appreciation for the commissioners allowing a thirty-day stay and for taking comments on the energy plan
- involvement
- positive reaction to a citizen committee
- ambiguity of the plan
- working together for solutions
- requirements of the State if grants are provided
- is a plan necessary
- transparency/or lack thereof of the process and plan
- the use of a non-profit agency to work on
- the difficulty for some to be a part of daytime meetings due to work schedules

Commissioner Roberts addressed why the County partners with outside agencies, mentioning the lack of staffing capacity to work on projects, and partnering with entities which do have time to work on them. Commissioner Roberts also addressed the public noticing of meetings regarding the Energy Plan during the last two years.

With no further comment, Commissioner Nash stated the intent to call for a vote, noting a couple of small items/edits he would like to address in the plan.

- On page 2, introduction part of second paragraph: End the sentence after the word "sustainability" striking "and equity."
- On page 2, third paragraph, change the sentence to state "Also noteworthy is that the CESP embraces all energy sources including but not limited to, propane, heating oil, firewood, transportation, and agriculture fuels as well as electricity."

- Also add to the plan: "A seven-person advisory board will be appointed by the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners to review the plan once every six months for the next two years." Noting any meetings of the review board shall be publicly noticed and open to the public.

*Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the plan as presented with the two small edits articulated and the addition of a public citizen committee to assist in the review of the plan each six-month period for the first two years of the plan  
Commissioner Nash seconded the motion*

*The vote:*

*Commissioner Todd Nash – aye  
Commissioner Susan Roberts – aye  
Commissioner John Hillock - recused  
The motion passes*

Commissioner Nash thanked those in attendance for being respectful today, for showing up, and for being a part of the process. It is vitally important people continue to do that.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:48 am.


**Respectfully submitted by:**

*Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant*

WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner John Hillock

  
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Commissioner Todd Nash

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Susan Roberts

  
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ATTEST: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant