

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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February 15, 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: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant
Katy Nesbitt, WC Natural Resource & Economic Dev. Director
Andy Marcum, WC Vegetation

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Bradshaw, WC Chieftain
Teresa Smergut, WC Weed Board

ZOOM ATTENDIES: Angelika Ursula Dietrich

9:00 a.m. – Chair 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:** February 1, 2022 – BOC Regular Meeting
3. **Employee Action Notice(s):** None
4. **Resolution(s):** None
5. **Order(s):** None
6. **Contract(s):** None
7. **Easement(s):** Ziplly – New Conduit/Equipment, River Canyon Road, Imnaha
8. **Agreement(s):** Peck Rubanoff Hatfield – Legal Representation of Wallowa County Road Service District
9. **Grant Initiation(s)** WC Emergency Management – OSFM 2022 Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant/Senate Bill 762: Equipment, Signage, Update, Coordinator
WC Sheriff's Office – Oregon State Parks & Recreation Grant: Equipment Purchase

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

The vote:

Commissioner John Hillock – aye

Commissioner Susan Roberts – aye

Commissioner Todd Nash – aye, with exception to the February 1 Minutes as he was absent that day

The motion passed

Agenda Items:

Teresa Smergut of the Wallowa County Weed Board presented and discussed their plans for the Integrated Weed Management Plan they are currently in the process of updating. Their hope is to simplify the plan into a document which will be reviewed and updated every 5 years or as needed, and will be overarching to the annual plan. Ms. Smergut is working to unify this with adjoining counties and hopes to have it completed in 2024, if not 2023.

The commissioners stated their desire to loop this together with ENRAC (Environment & Natural Resources Advisory Committee), tying it all together.

Teresa advised she and Janet Hohmann will continue to work on getting the draft completed.

Ms. Nesbitt would like to have Ms. Smergut present their plans for updating to the tech committee.

The commissioners support Ms. Smergut in going forward with the update.

Support Letters to Mr. Richard Fitzgerald

Katy Nesbitt discussed the Nez Perce Tribe's proposed fish passage improvement project and stated the project will be implemented in 2023 or 2024 at the latest. She also discussed plans for allowing in water work during the July-August work window. An important piece Ms. Nesbitt has talked with the Nez Perce Tribe about is good communication with the water users to make sure everyone is on the same page before continuing.

Ms. Nesbitt also discussed the Nez Perce Tribe's application for the Lostine River Fish Weir Emergency Dredging, explaining how gravel has accumulated on both sides of the weir causing the need for dredging. Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has agreed to help ensure the fish downstream are okay during this process. Going forward the desire is to have dredging done on a regular basis instead of every 10-12 years.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve both letters

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion

The vote:

Commissioner John Hillock – aye

Commissioner Susan Roberts – aye

Commissioner Todd Nash - aye

Other Business:

Commissioner Hillock mentioned a webinar which may be of interest today regarding workforce housing and a webinar by USDA on workforce housing in recreation communities.

Commissioner Hillock also mentioned a Community Solar Project meeting today at Wallowa Resources discussing community renewable energy. Commissioner Hillock mentioned a large solar developer is looking in Wallowa County for sites to develop.

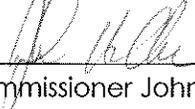
Brief discussion followed each topic.

Adjournment:

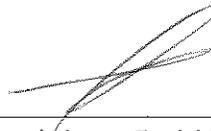
The official meeting adjourned at approximately 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant

WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner John Hillock



Commissioner Todd Nash



Commissioner Susan Roberts



ATTEST: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant