

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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**October 18, 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  
                              Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:	Bill Bradshaw, Wallowa County Chieftain	Gay Fregulia
	Joe Basile, Wallowa Resources	David Ballard
	Lisa Collier	Jo Woodward
	Pamela Olsen	Mike Lavezzo
	Paul Doherty	Dede Lavezzo
	Ken Wick	Carol Carpenter
	Jolene Cox	Kathy Zacharias
	Teresa Sajonia	
	Tim Cox	

ZOOM ATTENDIES:	Angelika Ursula-Dietrich	Harold Lathrop
	Reiner	Jacob
	Heather Goldsmith	Ashleys Christman, Helping Hearts
	Dan Larman	Hilary Miller (Brandon)

9:00 a.m. – Commissioner Hillock opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

**Consideration and/or approval of Consent Agenda**

Consisting of:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>Payment of Claims on County Funds</b> |   |
| 2. <b>Minutes:</b>                          | <b>October 4, 2023 – BOC Regular Meeting</b>                                |
| 3. <b>Employee Action Notice(s):</b>        | <b>None</b>   |
| 4. <b>Resolution(s):</b>                    | <b>Resolution 2023-019 – Wallowa County Community Energy Strategic Plan</b> |
| 5. <b>Order(s):</b>                         | <b>Order 2023-2304 – Interfund Transfer, Solid Waste</b>                    |

6. Contract(s):	None
7. Easement(s):	None
8. Agreement(s):	None
9. Grant Initiation(s)	None
10. Letter(s)	None
11. Policy	None

*Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of Resolution 2023-019 which will be pulled for discussion  
Commissioner Nash seconded the motion*

*The vote:*

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

*The motion passes*

### **Agenda Items:**

There were no Agenda items

### **Other Business:**

Many guests were in attendance for information on the Wallowa County Community Energy Strategic Plan (CESP). The decision to approve/disapprove Resolution 2023-019 will be delayed for 30 days, giving time for more people to read the plan.

Commissioner Roberts explained we are in the process of moving our County website from one host to another which unfortunately limits information we can make available at this time. It was advised the link to the CESP is currently on the website, but until the move is complete, the reliability of website content is sketchy. The CESP may be viewed directly from the Wallowa Resources website. Commissioner Nash advised there is a hard copy in the Commissioner's office which may be viewed there.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Jolene Cox thanked the Commissioners for the additional 30 days stating she and others had concerns regarding the plan.

Chair Hillock asked how the public would like to express their concerns.

Pamela Olsen suggested a forum with opportunity to ask more questions and have more in-depth information would be helpful. Ms. Olsen mentioned the questions that have circulated regarding the plan and the desire to have the response to those questions clarified. Commissioner Hillock stated his willingness to have the forum. Conversation ensued regarding grants, types of energy, microgrids, electrical interruptions and resources for information. Commissioner Roberts expressed the importance of planning ahead for events that may happen, and what our response would/could be to an event.

Although the CESP has been in process for two plus years, many did not know of the plan until this week, with those in attendance stating they do not read the paper, look at the website or watch for notices issued by the Commissioners. Comments were offered of alternative ways to make the information more readily available. It was advised the County currently has an email list which receives the Board of Commissioners Agenda twice/month prior to their meetings. All are welcome to provide their email addresses to receive those notices.

Commissioner Nash noted it is much easier to receive grant money when those applying have a plan in place. This plan may help us to capture more of those grant funds.

Commissioner Hillock revisited the possibility of a Public Meeting, with speakers available to answer some of the energy questions as well as addressing more questions regarding the CESP.

Discussion continued on the fluidity of the CESP document. It is a "living document" which will be reviewed twice/year, allowing for changes to be made.

Commissioner Hillock advised a big part of the purpose of this document is to identify emergency locations within the county, such as generators at schools, fire stations, etc. It is about community stability and resiliency.

The conversation and comments were abundant and informative.

Jacob Fough, speaking from ZOOM, advised people are waiting to get in. There were no people waiting at that time, and it was again advised both first and last names are required to be allowed to join the ZOOM meeting. There was confusion as to how to show a last name. Tera Elliott will research how to add a last name and let those on the email list know the procedure for future use.

In conclusion, a date will be set as soon as possible for a public meeting.

Joe Basile summarized the purpose of the plan is not different from when you would consider your own home and the best way to get heat to the back corner, how to cut energy costs of propane, electricity or diesel used on your farm, and how to make decisions to save money by insulating the attic, getting ahead of the issues instead of just being strictly consumers. Plans keep us from being purely in "reactive" mode.

Commissioner Hillock, Joe Basile, and Energy Trust will work together to schedule the community meeting. Submitted questions from the audience will be helpful.

Commissioner Nash thanked those who attended for coming and stated public involvement is appreciated.

It was requested notices of meetings be posted on Facebook as well as the other means.

Mr. Basile requested the CESP document be viewed on their website to ensure all are looking at the final draft of the document.

The Commissioners again expressed their appreciation for the public involvement and expressed their availability by phone, email, text etc.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 am.

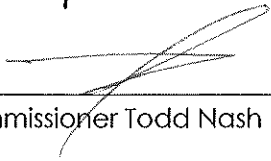
Note: The start of ZOOM with audio and camera were delayed due to technical difficulties.


**Respectfully submitted by:**

*Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant*

WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
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Commissioner John Hillock

  
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Commissioner Todd Nash

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

  
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ATTEST: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant