

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 3, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner.

**USFS Kootenai and Lolo National Forest Meeting**

10:03 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Michael Feiger, Cabinet Ranger District and Dave Wroblewski, Plains-Thompson Falls Ranger District.

Prescribed burns that got out of control in New Mexico has put a pause on all prescribed fire work. In the spring USFS will start the planning process for fire season and how they will implement the plan. Desire for a summit to discuss what fire season looks like tot the USFS. Good opportunity for the new Commissioners to have questions and engage with the USFS Rangers. First forest range in region 1 and what is the proper tools for that ground. Good partnership with DNRC and Neighborhood. Please see attached briefing forms from Michael Feiger and Dave Wroblewski for details on all topics discussed in todays meeting.

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

11:25 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Richard Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

Safety – Incident/Iniurv Report

38 days without injury

Open Positions

Detention Officer

Still two openings — One new application! Under review. ● 911 Dispatcher (PT 24 Hours)

Still one opening — no current applications ● Deputy Sheriff

CBA — new requirement

Posted internally — Two internals

Posted externally — Four Applicant

Extended to 1/4/2023

Election Clerk

Now seeking external candidates — Two candidates

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant

Will post this week

Routine County HR Business

OSHA 300 Log to be prepared in next week

FMLA Update Letter

Hot Springs Refuse

Tomorrow at 6 PM

County Attorney Office Administrator/CVA

Working on development of job description

UM — Blewett Law School

Fairgrounds Housing Agreement

Finally obtained....in their Person

Public Comment: None

Board Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan went over mail, emails, meeting dates and Financial Reports for 11/22.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Cont.

1:57 p.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moves to appoint Michelle Fitchett to the Noxon-Heron Public Hospital Board

John J. Holland, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

### **Road District NO. 1 & 2 Department Update**

2:10 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Ben Bache, Sanders County Road District Foreman.

Road and bridge maintenance, price on asphalt, paving into the months of May and June. Columbia Road is up for paving. Ben Bache will take over Salish Road and not subcontract it out for road maintenance. Need to find a place to park one of the road trucks. Distributor truck, sprays the oil for the chip seal. Chips are hard to get and are expensive. Thompson river ACM road 2026. When it comes to maintaining Forest Service roads that money flows through Sanders County. Staley Engineering participated in the Noxon bridge and bridge by the fairgrounds. The Sanders County Fairgrounds bridge was supposed to have a hanging walk way. Sanders County has a lot of easements that are not maintained by the county. Sanders County Citizens were concerned about the slush throughout the County Roads. Rock is crushed at Whiskey trail but mostly clay. A lot of wood coming out of Henry Creek.

Public Comment: None.

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

### **USFS ATTACHEMENTS PER MINUTES**

Sanders County Commissioners Briefing Michael D. Feiger, District Ranger  
Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest (c): 406.291.7097 (w): 406.827.0714  
January 3, 2023 Email: michael.feiger@usda.gov

Wildland Fire/Prescribed Fire

- Completing Rounds of perm and temp fire hire work, filled four key perm positions with promotions and new folks;
- Prep for Spring Rx Fire work to begin later this month – plan reviews and updates per the 2022 Rx Fire Pause;

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Cont.

- Minton Trout – broadcast burning at larger scales between Beecher Peak and Minton Peak, south aspects;
- Unit prep for Helwick Units in Big Beaver Creek
- Prep for support to the Southern Region for Rx Fire implementation later this winter.

Recreation

- Quiet season, CG's closed;
- Temporary and Perm Hiring wrapping up;
- Key fills:
  - Recreation Lead – Caleb Matthew

Vegetation Management/Timber Sale Activity

- Winter Operations, a lot of snow accumulating in the operations areas;
  - Helwick T.S. – Last of the haul paused with snow;
  - Wild Rice T.S. (Rice Draw) – TRL; ground based and cable logging, 6-9 loads of logs a day coming out;
  - Lazy Jack T.S. (Beaver Point) – IFG; ground based and cable/tethered logging; 4-6 loads of logs a day;
  - Dry Creek Stewardship (Bull River/Dry Creek) – TRL; ground based logging, 1-3 loads of logs a day
  - Purple Marten T.S. – TRL – Road package complete, ground based logging to begin later this month, with multiple loads coming out of trout creek;
  - Bull Gin Fire Deck Sales – Haul out of west decks associated with Billiard Fire the next couple weeks; Haul out of east decks associated with Government Fire anticipated later this winter.
- Planning and coordination for spring planting on going -

Planning

- Active Analyses
  - McKay-Engle EA (FY 23) – Scoping complete, no other action alternatives; draft EA complete pending final edits; Comment for final anticipated February/early March 2023; Sale end of CY 2023.
  - BMU-4 – Draft EA completed Comment Period; Finalizing draft; anticipate Decision March 2023
  - New Analysis
  - Saw Creek HFRA CE– Engaging the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Collaborative on proposed action development, Stakeholders have formally supported project;
    - Scoping December: 15 – January 15;
    - **Pubic Meeting – White Pine Grange - ~6-8pm**
    - Decision: May to 2023; sale end August/September 2023
  - Flat Tail HFRA CE – PA Development and Analysis Summer 2023
  - Eight Pine Project – Pre-planning field work; planning delayed a year to address HFRA opportunities

Range-Noxious Weeds

- POW for next season – post fire; post timber sale; County partnership work

Natural resources

- BIL Funding Proposals for Watershed Restoration work on the Vermilion River;

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Cont.

- Survey and design work (partnership with LCFWG, DNRC, MT-FWP, USFS, USGS, others);
- Proposals for funding in 2024-2026
- Up to 3 miles of restoration work proposed over 4 years;
- Support for MT-FWP Study looking at Ungulate-Predator-Habitat relationships in the Lower Clark Fork basin;
  - Housing support,
  - Logistics and aerial resources support,
  - Data/Information/etc.

Transportation Management/Roads/Engineering

- Prepping 2023 Contracts for blading and brushing;

Minerals

- Nothing new to report

Kootenai National Forest

- **Deputy Forest Supervisor Announcement – Heidi McRoberts**
  - Coming to us from Umatilla NF in Region 6 (northern OR) as Deputy Forest Supervisor;
  - Rural Community background, experience with Forest Plan Revision and Tribal work history.
  - Starts Late January
  - Litigation work continues:
  - Ripley Litigated (Libby RD);
  
  - Knotty Pine Litigated (Three Rivers RD)
  - Black Ram Litigated (Three Rivers RD)
  - Multiple CE analysis on the Ksanka RD; new analyses around Libby and the OU3 Superfund Site to address hazardous fuels within WUI
  - BIL priorities remain, with funding coming for Veg/Freshed and watershed restoration work

Workforce

- Nothing to report

Office/Public Engagement

- CKST Water Compact – Provisions around the directed Land Exchange of DNRC Lands contained within the Flathead Reservation to the CKST Tribe; In exchange, MT-DNRC will acquire Federal lands in roughly equal value.
  - Acreage ID'd on the Kootenai, Lolo, Flathead, and C-G
  - Working through DNRC's proposals and ranking based upon Forest Plan and other Agency-perspective Priorities.
  - KNF has reviewed and providing recommendations on initial proposal later this week/early next,
  - 5-year process, we're on year 1 ½....
  - NEPA and Consultation required

### **Sanders County Commissioners Briefing**

Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo National Forest

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Cont.

## 1/3/202 Sanders County Commissioners Briefing –

Dave Wrobleski, Plains/Thompson Falls RD

### **Priority Items**

- Lolo Forest Priorities 2023:
- Fuels Reduction and improving Forest Veg
  - Work environment, diversity, equity and inclusion
- **Outstanding Service**

### **Wildland Fire/ Prescribed Fire**

- Jan through March are focused on hiring, training for higher level fire qualifications/recertifying, and preparing for the prescribed fire season. Rewriting several burn plans because of National Rx fire review in 2022
- Almost no prescribed fire in 2022 (wet, national pause in burning). Hoping for a successful 2023.
- Supporting prescribed fire nationwide (sending folks to southern region to assist as needed)

### **Recreation**

- Hiring about completed
- Falls Creek Flat Trait for 2023 – hopefully complete it.
- Maintain and improve recreation sites as needed, manage outfitters etc.

### **Realty/ Lands**

- MT Water Rights Protection Act – Finalizing recommendations to begin the NEPA process this week.

### **Collaborative Group Vegetation Management/Timber Sale Activity**

- Thorne Decks and 2 short officially closed (contracts are completed) – more postsale work such as prescribed fire still to be completed.
- Thorne salvage – out for bid soon for a spring sale
- ABIT road work slowing down,
- Pat's Bug and swampy Moth sales active – Hauling on Pat's knob and swamp roads

### **Planning**

- We have a detailed planner who is very new - working him through the steps to get the scoping letter out. Plains RD works hard to have an implementable proposed action – for example having road construction routes where people have actually walked and know it will be successful, rather than a paper proposal that falls apart later. This workflow creates more time investment up front, but less later.

### **Sanders County Commissioners Briefing**

Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo National Forest

- Lolo Forest Plan – Launch, public involvement plan
- You'll be contacted about intergovernmental working group in January • <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lolo/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd993646> • 1/10 – webinars begin on plan revision, every 2 weeks, but can view at any time via revision website.
- 2/22/23 – First in person workshop for public on plan revision in plains.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Cont.

### **Archeology/Heritage**

- Blackfoot fiber optic complete on NFS lands

### **Range-Noxious Weeds**

- Working on Range permitting paperwork for 2023

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Cont.

### **Fisheries/Hydrology**

### **Transportation Management/ Roads/ Engineering**

- Wilkes Cherry project planning

### **Minerals**

### **Workforce**

- Admin Asst hiring next few weeks

Office/Public Engagement

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY, MONTANA January 5, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner.

### **Director of Land Services – Public Hearing for Baldy Mountain Phase 5**

10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services. Public Attendees, Ron Warren, Rocky Mountain Surveyors, Kim Kinzie, Rocky Mountain Surveyors, Deb Warren, Realtor, Paul Wachholz, Owner.

10:01 Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer opens the meeting for the Baldy Mountain Phase 5. Rocky Mountain Surveyors are requesting to bring Phase 5 forward. There are 4 lot phases and they are 2.5 acres each. Submit with DEQ for a 90-day review. Discussion about water rights and gallons per minute. Corona RD is within the Forest Service road and is a county dedicated road and will be maintained by Sanders County. Sewer and water all approved for this Baldy mountain phase 5. Phase 5 has met all requirements for approval. Lot 6 has put in an old 8-thousand-gallon steel tank as well as given access to the Fire Department to use in case of fire danger. Producing 250 gallons per minute from the fire hydrant. Cedar Creek 16 to 50 homes and this fire hydrant can be useful to them if there is fire danger. Corona and Cedar Creek are within the fire district.

10:23 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moves to approve Phase 5 of Baldy Mountain.

Dan B. Rowan - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, any further discussion, all in favor say aye, unanimous and motion carried

January 5<sup>th</sup> Cont.

10:25 a.m. Cabinet ridge riders want 2 miles of the road plowed to the Gem Saddle Warming Hut and it will be discussed at the next Sanders County Park Board Meeting. Terminate the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Sanders County Park Board so the USFS can work directly with the Cabinet Ridge Riders regarding the Gem Saddle Warming Hut. Discussions about roads that are County Roads and whether or not they should be plowed. ATV groups using residential areas and coming up with ideas on providing both Residential citizens and ATV users resolution to dust issues in the summer months.

Public Comment: None

Board Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

**Sanitarian Department Update**

2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Shawn Sorenson, Sanitarian & Environmental Health Officer. Shawn Sorenson is with Thompson Falls Citizen Steve Snell discussing dry well versus septic tank. Can a resident do a dry well without primary treatment or is this more of a BOH (Board of Health) question? Collection and infrastructure are important to this process. Anthony B. Cox, wants to know what Shawn will recommend. Question is are we contaminating the ground and at least the minimum of a septic tank should have been placed. Minimum would be defined as a septic tank prior to discharge. If the inspection fails will need to place a septic tank or a holding tank. Stovers, instead of putting in a drain field put in a septic and a holding tank. There is no variance for primary treatment. Established rules and need to be followed. Going to the BOH is the correct place to communicate environmental health safety. Shawn Sorenson explains that if the Board of Health makes the decision to put a dry well in Sanders County citizens will wait until the summer to receive installation. Shawn Sorenson will ask the installer for a date and Chelsea Peterson at the City of Thompson Falls for an update. Standard Variance with residents. Must meet the environmental rules per sanitarian. Definitive ground water information and data to not put dry wells in Paradise. DEQ denied Strowbridge to have the well isolation zone extended outside of the parcel boundary and onto DNRC property. DNRC should not be able sell land without informing a potential buyer or buyer that they can't install a new well within 40 feet of an existing wastewater holding tank. Shawn Sorenson will send complaints about this straight to DEQ. Complaints about the odor of Sewage Lagoon in Plains, but there is a normal season for this when the odor decreases. Do not have a stabilized treatment process. New contract with DHPS came to an end. Please see Attached Sanitarian outline of all things discussed with the Commissioners.

Public Comment: Yes

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

Sanitarian and Environmental Health Meeting Updates from Shawn Sorenson

1. Projects/Activities

- a. Percent of inspections completed – the contract target of 90% of inspections was not achieved in CY2022. The financial impact is approximately \$3,00-4,000. With a budget of \$5,000 for inspection contracting, the financial impact is immaterial.

Two contractors verbally committed to completing 30-40 inspections during the calendar year. One contractor accepted a job out of state in Spring 2022. The second contractor was planning to complete inspections during October and November, but he could not complete previous commitments in time. Staff could not ramp up quickly enough to make up this difference, so approximately 35 inspections were not completed.

There are two important considerations, including 1) the contract was not met relative to important public health inspections, and 2) this reflects workload challenges discussed throughout FY2022 and into FY2023.

The following would reduce workload and assist in meeting program goals, assuming workload remains at current levels:

- i. Contract with or hire a part-time registered sanitarian to provide food safety training and conduct 25-30 percent of health inspections (50-60), including weekend inspections for farmer's markets and temporary events.
  - ii. Enforce valid compliance issues to reduce time spent on repeated communication with responsible parties.
  - iii. Reduce the number of submittals reviewed under the DEQ sanitation review contract. Approximately 45 reviews were complete during the last 12 months. For comparison, full time DEQ reviewers are expected to complete 75 per year.
  - iv. Inspection scheduling will be changed in 2023. The first three months of the year will include establishments not inspected in 2022, and those establishments with significant food safety violations observed in 2022.
- b. Hot Springs Trailer Court (Swope) – Anna Miller, DNRC, contacted staff regarding the Hot Springs Trailer Court public water supply. The DNRC is considering funding improvements and operational assistance, if the establishment is interested and qualifies. Anna contacted Sanders County to ask whether we would assist with funding administration. For example, the DNRC cannot provide funding directly to a private party. Funding would need to pass through a public entity, such as the County.
  - c. Snell wastewater system, 427 Clay Street, Thompson Falls – these owners experienced a wastewater failure later summer 2022. A contractor was hired to troubleshoot and repair the problem. Photos provided by the owner indicate the contractor by-passed a failed septic tank and connected directly to an existing drywell. Sanders County was not notified and no permit was issued. At minimum, a septic tank should have been installed prior to discharge into the drywell.
  - d. French Paradise property – the DEQ has received additional complaints about this parcel. Environmental Health has followed up the same issues on numerous occasions.
  - e. As-builts – several installers have multiple late as-built drawings despite repeated reminders of the 30-day submittal requirement. A letter was sent in December 2022 to installers with more than 3 delinquent as-builts, stating that the installer license would not be renewed, and their name



January 5<sup>th</sup> Cont.

- f. would be removed from the certified installer list until as-built submittals were compliant.
- g. Strowbridge parcel – this owner purchased a former DNRC leased lot in the Thompson River area. Per 77-2-318, MCA, owners who install new water or wastewater systems, that are not replacements of existing systems, must get a DEQ sanitation approval. Size, size, location, and sometimes orientation of the parcels can make it difficult to fit all required facilities and protection zones on the parcel. In this particular case, the owner attempted to get approval from the DNRC to allow the well isolation zone to extend outside the parcel boundary and onto DNRC property. The DNRC denied the request. Then, the DEQ denied a request from the owner to install a new well within 40 feet of an existing wastewater holding tank.

This lot is the first example, in Sanders County, of difficulties getting sanitation approvals on a former DNRC leased parcel. The lots are small and often have physical features that preclude full development, such as near a creek, having steep slopes, close to the flood plain, odd boundaries, etc. Future submittals are expected, as are continuing problems with sanitation facility development.

- h. Town of Plains – sewage lagoon odor complaints.
  - i. Compliance Action Plan – current list for discussion.
2. Inspections, Trainings, Evaluations, Wastewater, etc. (data only)
- a. Inspections – 198 licenses, 72% inspected (target 90% by 12/31/2022)
  - b. Temporary events – 20 in FY2023 (33 in FY2022, 35 in FY2020, 48 in FY2019)
  - c. Soil/site analyses – 49 in CY2022 (67 in CY2021, 39 in CY2020)
  - d. Wastewater permits – 108 so far in FY2023 (167 in FY2022, 211 in FY2021)
  - e. Water/well permits – 72 so far in FY2023 (119 in FY2022, 153 in FY2021)
  - f. DEQ subdivision reviews – 25 so far in FY2023 (45 in FY2022, 25 in FY2021)
  - g. Local subdivision reviews – 33 so far in FY2023 (52 in FY2022, 52 in FY2022)
  - h. Junk vehicle – about 50 cars in the yard by weeks end.
  - i. Food training – CFPM classes 3/9/2022, 5/4/2022, 10/20/22, two courses in February
3. Financial – FY2023 financial report indicates expenses and revenues are on budget.
4. Department and Employee Safety report
- a. staff are current on all required training
  - b. no reported injuries

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 11, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner.

January 11<sup>th</sup> Cont.

### **Director of Human Resources Department Update**

10:01 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources. Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

#### Safety - Incident/Injury Report

1 days without injury

Slip on ice in parking lot near Sherriff's Office — No injury sustained

2<sup>nd</sup> ice slip in our parking lot this year - Previous streak 44 days

#### Open Positions

Detention Officer

Still two openings — No applications currently

911 Dispatcher (PT 24 Hours)

Still one opening — no current applications

Deputy Sheriff

10 applications

Under review with Sheriff and Undersheriff

Election Clerk

HR Action Form

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant

Posted Internally

Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

Dates and Strategy for applicants

#### Routine County HR Business

Sick Leave Fund

Jerome Little Vacation Time -Coverage?

OSHA 300 Log to be prepared in this week

FMLA Update Letter

Hot Springs Refuse Discussion

County Attorney Office Administrator/CVA

Working on development of job description e UM — Blewett Law School

Benefits Update - Renewal

Allegiance/Payne West

Mid-February Meeting

MACo Healthcare Trust

Southwestern Montana Insurance Center

10:20 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moves to approve signature for the hiring of Casandra Ward for the Election Clerk Position.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

11:00 a.m. Hot Springs Refuse employees are currently managed by the Hot Springs Refuse Board.

### **Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 12, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner.

**Director of Land Services Department Update**

10:05 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services. Subdivision process requires a pre-application and then submit the final application. Currently working with MDT to get access off the highway Blue Creek Subdivision.

SUBDIVISIONS AS OF 01/12/2023

**Preapplication mtg held:**

Blue Creek (9)

Smith (3)

Owens Peak (4)

Moose Hollow NW (4)

Moose Hollow NE (5)

Moose Hollow SE (4)

Harbine Ranch (5)

Rock Hill (4)

Baldy View Estates V (2)

Paradise Farms (5)

**Element Review: 5 working day**

Elks RV (5)

**Sufficiency Review: 15 working day**

Cabinet Crossing (8)

Morgan Acres (2)

**Reviewing: 35 working day**

Farlan (3) (2/24)

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over County Claims and instructed the Clerk to draw warrants in the amount of \$943,309.73 for accounting period January 12, 2023. (County Claims are on file in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder).

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

January 12<sup>th</sup> Cont.

ATTEST:

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Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 18, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner.

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

10:07 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

Safety - Incident/Injury Report

8 days without injury

Thompson Falls Transfer Station DOL Inspection

Open Positions

Detention Officer

Still two openings — No applications currently

911 Dispatcher (PT 24 Hours)

Still one opening — no current applications - Deputy Sheriff

Under review with Sheriff and Undersheriff

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant

Posted Internally and externally

No applications to date

Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Two internal candidates

Next steps

Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

Posted on Job Services since last Wednesday

In the paper the next two weeks

Plains Mechanic for Sheriff's Office

Sheriff and Undersheriff met with Ben this morning. Agreed that Ben would have total control, unlike under previous administration - Includes parts and labor. They reviewed some past expenses and bill for last 6 months - Ben says that he can do it for what they are charged. Request to do search while we develop cost comparison.

Routine County HR Business

Request for Training

OSHA 300 Log

Hot Springs Refuse Discussion

Need to follow up with Ben

County Attorney Office / Univ of Montana

Setting up Zoom interview with prospective 3<sup>rd</sup> year student.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

11:20 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Acting Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates. Moved the meeting to an earlier time.

11:55 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Anthony B. Cox as the 2023 Sanders County Presiding Officer for the Board of Commissioners.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.  
January 18<sup>th</sup> Cont.

12:30 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve the signing of the Certification Title 3 Expenditures to secure rural schools and community self-determination from Bill Naegeli, Officer of Emergency Management.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

12:31 p.m. Carl Benson has been elected to the Plains-Paradise Rural Fire District.

#### **Introduction of SCCD to New Commissioners & Rural Business Development Grant**

2:06 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Ray Brown, Sanders County Community Development Executive Director. Discussion about the Sanders County Capital Improvement Plans. Ray Brown would like a commissioner to serve on the Sanders County Community Development board that happens once every three months. Next year Ray would like to ask for match money along with the RBDG grant. Built a meeting building at MSU campus state building at 2504 Tradewinds way, Thompson Falls, ID. SCCD would like to hold more town hall meetings, how can they engage and have more public involvement if they cannot be present. Master plan complete by November of 2023. SCCD supports local business, consulting, business plans, cash flow & sales, marketing, and education. SCCD would like to be better at funding, grant writing, grant administration, non-profit guidance with grants, empowering organizations to fix their own issues or problems. Supporting an infrastructure plan is important to the growth of Sanders County. Creating a public process, compare with other counties their planning board and process. Improve a relationship with the tribes.

February 28<sup>th</sup> application due RBDG grant. Need a letter of commitment from the Sanders County Commissioners to match money. Next Board meeting SCCD 01/31/23 at 11:00 a.m.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

ATTEST

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Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 19, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday, January 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner. Anthony B. Cox was at the Fall TRTAC Meeting 2023 Annual Implementation Plans and not at the Board of Commissioners Meeting.

**Director of Land Services Department Update**

10:00 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services.

10:05 a.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moves to approve Final Platt for Betty Taylor's Amended Lot 2 of Valley West 2.

John J. Holland, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

Katherine to discuss Harlow Road, Old Airport Road with Claude I. Burlingame, Retired Sanders County Commissioner.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

ATTEST

Nichol Scribner  
Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

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Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 24, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner, Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner and Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer.

January 24<sup>th</sup> Cont.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

1:55 p.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to approve and have the Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox sign the Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes for the dates of 12.06.22, 12.08.22, 12.14.22, 12.15.22, 12.22.22, 12.28.22, and 12.29.22.

John J. Holland, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, there was no further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

**ARPA Funds, Projects, Grant Administration and MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding)**

2:03 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Shari A. Johnson & Associates Engineering, PLLC

Sanders County ARPA Technical Rep, Jessica Connolly, Sanders County Contracted CFO, Carrie Gardner, Great West, Dan Briggs, General Manager, Woodside Park County Water and Sewer District.

Shari Johnson explains services provided to Sanders County as technical representation related to ARPA grants and engineering. Discussions about Woodside Park, Trout Creek, Heron and Noxon water and sewer projects. Status of projects, minimum allocation money with DNRC and ARPA funding, tracking and approval. Drafting MOU's for all current sewer and water projects between Sanders County and Engineering firms. Process of allocating funds and reimbursement from ARPA.

Public Comment: Brief Public Comment

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 25, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner, Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner and Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer.

10:00 a.m. County Journal Voucher Reviewed and Approved by the Board of Commissioners for 10/22; 11/22; 12/22 and 13/22.

January 25<sup>th</sup> Cont.

**Director of Human Resources**

11:02 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

Safety - Incident/Injury Report

15 days without injury

Thompson Falls Transfer Station DOL Inspection

Requested documents submitted, still waiting on correct action plan

Open Positions

Detention Officer

Still two openings — One application reviewing

911 Dispatcher (PT 24 Hours)

Still one opening — One application — interview on 2/6 or 2/7 - Deputy Sheriff

3 Interviews tomorrow

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant

Posted Internally and externally

No applications to date

Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Two internal candidates, no externals to date

Closing date is 2/8 currently

Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

Posted on Job Services since last Wednesday; in the paper the next two weeks

4 applications filed to date — Question...

Closes on 2/1/2023

Plains Mechanic for Sheriff's Office

Posted internally and externally

No applicants to date

Justice Court Clerk

Human Resources Action Form

Routine County HR Business

County Fair

OSHA 300 Log - completed

Hot Springs Refuse Discussion-Status

County Attorney Office / Univ of Montana

Completed interview.... waiting on UM for next steps

Will run through end of April/early May only

Request for pay adjustment - Employee Engagement Survey?

**Routine County Administrative Business**

2:00 p.m. to 2:25 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B.

Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates. All three Commissioners agreed to table the Water Objections 1-12 and Resolution 2023-06 until further notice.

January 25<sup>th</sup> Cont.

2:05 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner move to approve and sign yearly Resolutions 2023-01, establish meeting dates and times, 2023-02, establish location public posting, 2023-03, reorganization of board, 2023-04, holiday calendar year, 2023-05, establish travel, meals and lodging rates.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>



January 25<sup>th</sup> Cont.

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

2:13 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moves to appoint Corey Booth to the City of Plains Planning Board.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

### **Legal Counsel**

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Claude I. Burlingame, Attorney. Also present is Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services and Gunner and Beth Junge, Sanders County Residents.

Water Compact Objections 1-12 and Resolution 2023-06. Question of whether or not Sanders County should have a Grant Administrators for ARPA sewer and water improvement funds regarding all current and ongoing projects. Zach Whipple Natural Resource Representative Contract. Agenda should reflect items discussed, and action items. Lincoln County wants Sanders County to endorse a bridge on HWY 37 with a letter of support. Railroad Easement on Harlow Road

Public Comment: Brief Public Comment

The Board Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST

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Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

### **PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY, MONTANA January 26, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner, Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner and Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer.

### **Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 1:44 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

1:44 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moves to approve signature for Firewise Agreement # 232 for Jill Lundstrom, Sanders County Citizen.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

January 26<sup>th</sup> Cont.

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, any further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

#### **Employee Service Awards**

2:00 p.m. 2:45 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Sanders County Employees and Annie Wooden, Reporter for the Ledger.

Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner presents service award to Brenda Franck, Clerk & Recorder Office for 30 years and Leslye Breitenbach, Treasurers Office for 20 years. Shawn Fielders, Sheriff presents service award to Theresa Milner, Sheriff's Office Administrator for 15 years. Jerry Johnson, Under Sheriff presents service award to Corey Wheeldon, Deputy for 5 years. Ben Bache Road Department Supervisor will present a service award to Road Department Crew, Destry Torgerson for 5 years and Richard Jennison for 5 years but unable to be present for the award ceremony. Pat Barber, Coroner presents a service award to Gregory Davis, Coroner for 5 years. Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer to present Carl Marquardt, Justice Court Clerk service award for 5 years.

#### **Audit County Claims**

2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over County Claims and instructed the Clerk to draw warrants in the amount of \$284,705.26 for accounting period January 26, 2023. (County Claims are on file in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder).

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST

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Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
January 31, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Director of Land Services Department Update**

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services.

Farlan Minor for preliminary approval in the next week or two on the February 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of 2023. Site visits will be done at the Farlan Minor Subdivision with Ben Bache, Sanders County Road District 1 & 2 Supervisor, Shawn Sorenson, Sanitarian and Katherine Maudrone. Need to access documentation from railroad regarding legal access on Harlow Road to Farlan Subdivision.

**Sanitarian Department Update**

11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Shawn Sorenson, Sanitarian. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner was not present due to attending a SCCD Meeting.

**1. Projects/Activities**

- a. Rimrock public sewer connection — staff are attending a meeting at Thompson Falls City Hall Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss whether the Rimrock will be required to connect to the public wastewater system.
- b. Business updates
  - 1) European Connection, T Falls — closed
  - 2) Farmhouse Café, Plains — meeting prospective buyers on-site today
  - 3) Knerr C-store, T Falls — sanitation review in process
  - 4) Dollar Store, T Falls — sanitation submittal in process
  - 5) Simple Simons, T Falls — ownership transition
  - 6) Big Eddy's, T Falls — ownership transition
  - 7) Wild Sage Beauty Salon, T Falls — new body art establishment viii.
  - 8) Lil' Annies, Plains — new mobile food establishment ix.
  - 9) Angry Beaver General Store, Noxon — ownership transition
  - 10) 3 MPH Ranch, Hot Springs — local meat sales
- c. Compliance Action Plan —working on priorities.
- d. Leave — Shawn has approximately 70 hours of leave to use before the end of March.

**2. Inspections, Trainings, Evaluations, Wastewater, etc. (data only)**

- a. Inspections — 200 licenses, 5% inspected (target 90% by 12/31/2023)
- b. Temporary events - 22 in FY2023 (33 in FY2022, 35 in FY2020, 48 in FY2019)
- c. Soil/site analyses - 2 so far in CY2023 (55 in CY2022, 67 in CY2021)
- d. Wastewater permits - 118 so far in FY2023 (167 in FY2022, 211 in FY2021)
- e. Water/well permits - 83 so far in FY2023 (119 in FY2022, 153 in FY2021)
- f. DEQ subdivision reviews - 29 so far in FY2023 (45 in FY2022, 25 in FY2021)
- g. Local subdivision reviews — 36 so far in FY2023 (52 in FY2022, 52 in FY2022)
- h. Junk vehicle — about 50 cars in the yard by weeks end.
- i. Food training - CFPM classes 3/9/2022, 5/4/2022, 10/20/22, 2/8/2023, 2/15/2023

January 31<sup>st</sup> Cont.

**3. Financial — FY2023 financial report indicates expenses and revenues are on budget.**

**4. Department and Employee Safety report**

- a. staff are current on all required training
- b. no reported injuries

January 31 Cont.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner and Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

**Kayla Mosher – Update on Position & Grants for Recreation**

The Board of Commissioners met with Kayla Mosher, Recreation and Outreach Coordinator with Kanisku Land Trust. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner was not present due to attending a SCCD Meeting.

Kayla Mosher tries to connect people to the land so they will conserve. Offer many programs for adults and children. How do you build a recreational economy? Would like to post information signs to guide people to the boat ramps and trails. Direct tourism through a recreation plan. RBDG Grant (Rural Business Development Grant) will end this June. Online map helps one to locate campgrounds, trails and water access. The website to use for locating recreation sites is tour200.com. People want to see more for biking and hiking. Student Survey showed that they want more education about the outdoors. Discussion about downtown park information and visitor center.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
February 1, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday February 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Montana State University Extension Services Provided**

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Julie Thurston, 4-H & Youth Development, Wendy Carr, County Extension Agent and Agriculture, Horticulture, and Natural Resources, Jeanette Allday, Extension Instructor, SNAP-Ed and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. Serves the local needs in 56 counties and 7 Reservations with a mission to improve the lives of Montana citizens by providing unbiased, research-based education and information that integrates learning, discovery and engagement to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families and communities.

February 1<sup>st</sup> Cont.

### **Director of Human Resources**

11:15 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

#### **Safety – Incident / Injury Report**

22 days without injury  
Thompson Falls Transfer Station DOL Inspection Mitigation

#### **Open Positions**

Detention Officer  
Still two openings — No applications currently

911 Dispatcher (PT 24 Hours)  
Still one opening — Interview 2/7

Deputy Sheriff  
Under review with Sheriff and Undersheriff — Thursday ■  
Question that came up in meeting

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant  
Posted Internally and externally  
No applications to date

County Attorney  
University of MT Student

Legal Assistant/Paralegal  
Two internal candidates, no external  
Next steps

Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools  
Posted on Job Services since last Wednesday  
In the paper the next two weeks ■8 applicants to date, closes today  
Schedule

Plains Mechanic - No applicants to date  
February 1<sup>st</sup> Cont.

Justice Court Clerk Update

#### **Routine County HR Business**

2023 Medical/Dental/Vision  
Payne West MACo

Hot Springs Refuse Discussion  
Waiting on Charlie and Republic

County Attorney Office / University of Montana  
University of MT Student

Hearing Tests — Road/Solid Waste  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

1:40 p.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to approve and accept Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for 01/03/23, 01/05/23, 01/11/23, 01/12/23, 01/18/23, 01/19/23.

John J. Holland, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, there was no further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

February 1<sup>st</sup> Cont.

1:45 p.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to approve and accept FY 2023 Motor Vehicles Graveyard Grant for Sanders County junk vehicle Trout Creek and Hot Springs.

John J. Holland, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, there was no further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

1:50 p.m. John J Holland, Commissioner moved to award NCIC Inmate Communications System the project and contract of updating the Sheriffs telecommunications system.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, there was no further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

1:55 p.m. All three Commissioners signed letter of support for Zach Whipple Kilmer for the Wilkes Cherry Creek neighborhood fireshed.

### **County Attorney Department Update**

2:10 p.m. to 3:05 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Naomi Leisz, County Attorney. Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources, Gunner & Beth Junge, Sanders County Citizens.

Open Position for a Para Legal and Victim Witness Coordinator. University of Montana law student to do Justice Court paid through work study program and the county. Rich Wallace to help with recruiting due to the shortage of staff in the County Attorney Department.

3:07 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Legal Counsel with Claude I. Burlingame, Attorney regarding county contracts, letters, Harlow Road, railroad property, county property and fire districts

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST

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Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
February 6, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Monday February 6, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**8:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. Interview for appointment of Clerk & Recorder, Treasurer, Superintendent of  
Schools**

The Board of Commissioners met with several candidates throughout the day for interviews. Public Attendees throughout the day included Dawn Gandolf, Citizen and Kristen Wing, Citizen.

3:30 p.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to take the position of Clerk & Recorder, Treasurer, Superintendent of Schools under advisement until Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

John J. Holland, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, no further discussion, voted, unanimous and motion carried.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
February 7, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Tuesday February 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**USFS District Ranger Meeting – Kootenai & Lolo National Forest**

10:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Michael Feiger, Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest and David Wroblewski, Plains / Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, Bill Naegeli, Officer of Emergency Management and Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services. April 17 through 21, 2023 is the Regional Forest Leadership, Community and Partnership meeting located at

February 7<sup>th</sup> Cont.

the Trout Creek Ranger Station or the Lakeside. Please see attached schedule “A & B” USFS briefings regarding the Kootenai & Lolo National Forest updates.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### **Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

1:41 p.m. John J. Holland moved to reappoint the following voting and non-voting members to the Sanders County Aquatic Invasive Partnership Task Force. Reappoint the following 3-year voting members, Larry Lack, Public Representative, Avista Sean Moran, Montana Bass Federation Curtis Spindler. Reappoint the following non-voting 3-year members include, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Craig McLane and US Forest Service Chris Rossel.

### **Road District NO. 1 & 2 Department Update**

2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Ben Bache, Sanders County Road Foreman. Sheriff's Department wants the Road Department to do all mechanical work on their vehicles. Weather conditions and weight limits related to Sanders County Roads. Additional equipment and trucks needed for maintaining county roads.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

February 7<sup>th</sup> Cont.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**Sanders County Commissioners Briefing** Michael D. Feiger, District Ranger  
Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest (c): 406.291.7097 (w): 406.827.0714  
February 7, 2023 SCHEDULE “A” Email: michael.feiger@usda.gov

Priority Items –

- **MT Federal Lands Access Program – Grant Funding Opportunity;**
  - **Martin Creek Road Re-Alignment**
  - **(Handouts)**



February 7<sup>th</sup> Cont.

- **General Management Review – April 17-21, 2023**
  - **Opportunities for County Leadership to engage District, Forest, and Regional Leadership**

#### Wildland Fire/Prescribed Fire

- Prep for Spring Rx Fire work continues this month – plan reviews and updates per the 2022 Rx Fire Pause;
  - Minton Trout – broadcast burning at larger scales between Beecher Peak and Minton Peak, south aspects;
  - Unit prep for Helwick Units in Big Beaver Creek
- Prep for support to the Southern Region for Rx Fire, individual resources and crews out February through March.

#### Recreation

- Quiet season, CG's closed;
- Temporary and Perm Hiring wrapping up;
- Key workforce actions:
  - Trails Recreation Assistant – Elani Hatzis
  - Initiating YCC outreach and hire opportunities

#### Vegetation Management/Timber Sale Activity

- Winter Operations, a lot of snow accumulating in the operations areas;
  - Helwick T.S. – Last of the haul paused with snow;
  - Wild Rice T.S. (Rice Draw) – TRL; ground based and cable logging, 6-9 loads of logs a day coming out;
  - Lazy Jack T.S. (Beaver Point) – IFG; ground based and cable/tethered logging; 4-6 loads of logs a day;
  - Dry Creek Stewardship (Bull River/Dry Creek) – TRL; ground based logging, 1-3 loads of logs a day
  - Purple Marten T.S. – TRL – Road package complete, ground based logging on going with haul, 1-3 loads per day, haul out of Noxon to HWY 200;
  - Bull Gin Fire Deck Sales – Haul out of west decks associated with Billiard Fire the next couple weeks; Haul out of east decks associated with Government Fire anticipated later this winter.
- Planning and coordination for spring planting on going -

#### Planning

- Active Analyses
  - McKay-Engle EA (FY 23) – Scoping complete, no other action alternatives; draft EA complete pending final edits; Comment for final anticipated March/April 2023; Sale 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2024.
  - BMU-4 – Draft EA completed Comment Period; Final EA and DRAFT DN and FONSI out for objection February; anticipate Decision June 2023 with completion of consultation
- New Analysis
  - Saw Creek HFRA CE– Engaging the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Collaborative on proposed action development, Stakeholders have formally supported project;
    - Scoping complete, working through comments;
    - Analysis has commenced.
    - Decision: May to June 2023; sale end August/September 2023
  - Flat Tail HFRA CE – PA Development and Analysis Summer 2023

February 7<sup>th</sup> Cont.

- Eight Pine Project – Pre-planning field work; planning delayed a year to address HFRA opportunities

Range-Noxious Weeds

- **Agreement Implementation – Noxious weeds implementation**

Natural resources

- BIL Funding Proposals for Watershed Restoration work on the Vermilion River;
  - Survey and design work (partnership with LCFWG, DNRC, MT-FWP, USFS, USGS, others);
  - Proposals for funding in 2024-2026
  - Up to 3 miles of restoration work proposed over 4 years;
- Support for MT-FWP Study looking at Ungulate-Predator-Habitat relationships in the Lower Clark Fork basin;
  - Housing support,
  - Logistics and aerial resources support,
  - Data/Information/etc.

Transportation Management/Roads/Engineering

- Contract prep for blading and brushing working through the system.

Minerals

- Nothing new to report

Kootenai National Forest

- **Over Snow Motor Vehicle Use Planning**
  - **Regional Strike Team handling the analysis;**
  - **Proposed Action developing this spring;**
  - **Implementation (publish of OSVM) by January 2025**
- Litigation work continues:
  - Ripley Litigated (Libby RD);
  - Knotty Pine Litigated (Three Rivers RD)
  - Black Ram Litigated (Three Rivers RD)
- BIL priorities remain, with funding coming for Veg/Freshed and watershed restoration work
- Fresheds – 11 additional Priority Fires Sheds were added, making 21 totals. Additional 11 generally outside of MT/Region 1 (exception for a portion of Nez Perce/Clearwater NF)

Workforce

- Nothing to report

Office/Public Engagement

- Nothing to report

### **Sanders County Commissioners Briefing – Schedule “B”**

Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo National Forest  
**2/7/2023**

Sanders County Commissioners Briefing

Dave Wroblewski, Plains/Thompson Falls RD

February 7<sup>th</sup> Cont.

### Priority Items

- Lolo Forest Priorities 2023:
- Fuels Reduction and improving Forest Veg
- Work environment, diversity, equity and inclusion
- Outstanding Service

February 7<sup>th</sup> Cont.

- **Wildland Fire/ Prescribed Fire**
- Jan through March are focused on hiring, training for higher level fire qualifications/recertifying, and preparing for the prescribed fire season. Rewriting several burn plans because of National Rx fire review in 2022
- Supporting prescribed fire nationwide (sending folks to southern region to assist as needed) • Regional Fire review of the Lolo in June.
- Potential Operational Delineations ("PODs") developed for Lolo, now coordinating with neighbors to standardize. PODs are linear features where even the largest of large fire can be safely engaged and hopefully stopped. Preplanning suppression responses along those lines.
- Heavily staffing up fire on the LNF and regionally. Including planners to plan for fuels work increase (4x in 10 years).
- "Emergency situation determination" for fuels work, applying crisis to a much broader variety of projects. Can speed the planning and litigation process potentially.
- A priority fuels landscape was added, now the KNF and a portion of the Nez Perce Clearwater NF Recreation
- Likely hiring a recreation and resources staff for Plains alone – have been staring with superior since
- 2013.
- Hiring YCC peer leaders, planning for YCC
- RAC projects approved and processed • Planning summer housing and hiring.
- **Realty/ Lands**
- MT 'Water Rights Protection Act – 1/19, FS counter proposal for land exchange sent to DNRC, no response yet.
- **Collaborative Group**
- Group wrote a letter to Lolo NF to break off a park of the Wilkes Cherry Project along Cherry Creek land boundary for a categorical exclusion to hopefully be timelier. Looking into it– need to borrow/contract the staffing to do
- **Sanders County Commissioners Briefing**
- Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo National Forest
- **Vegetation Management/Timber Sale Activity**
- White bark pine listing, reviewing and clearing ongoing projects, developing processes for future projects. Need to protect seedlings, also seed caches, but need to be able to "harm" individuals in beneficial work (such as growing and managing blister rust resistant trees).
- Munson Decks sitting – stuck in legal processes – will not get to a mill.
- Thorne salvage – out for bid soon for a spring sale
- ABLT - Weyerhaeuser cutting, need to complete road work before they can haul
- Pat's Bug and swampy Moth sales active – Hauling on Pat's knob and swamp roads Planning • Hiring planner for plains and Superior underway – hopefully we'll have a selection in the next 2 weeks
- Lolo Forest Plan – Launch, public involvement plan

February 7<sup>th</sup> Cont.

- You'll be contacted about intergovernmental working group in January •  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lolo/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd993646> •  
Friday 2/10 Ranger Chat – Office hours to discuss plan issues. Trying to include all and avoid having tons of private conversations with special interests
- 2/22/23 – First in person workshop for public on plan revision in plains.
- **Archeology/ Heritage**
- **Range-Noxious Weeds**
- Washington Office inquiry about planning work and schedules for Range allotments
  
- **Fisheries/ Hydrology**
- **Transportation Management/Roads/Engineering**
- Thompson River ACM and County Road still planned for summer 2023. Great American Outdoors Act
  
- Thompson River Road Meeting Monday –focusing on the critical legal issues
- **Minerals e Gating some more open adits in lower Thompson River— prevent access and high risks to public.**
- **Workforce**
- Should have 2 people in administrative staff by spring.
- Planning on converting up to 28 positions from part time to permanent full time.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
February 8, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday February 8, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

1:50 p.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to approve signature for the Engineering Services Agreement between Shari A. Johnson & Associates Engineering, PLLC and Sanders County for ARPA Technical Assistance.

John J. Holland, Commissioners – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, no further discussion, all in favor say Aye, unanimous and motion carried.

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

2:32p.m to 3:30 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

Also attending, Shawna Chenoweth, Lieutenant

**Safety - Incident/Injury Report**

29 days without injury

Thompson Falls Transfer Station DOL Inspection Mitigation  
— Completed o Safety Team meeting yesterday - Notes

**MACo Healthcare Trust 0 2023 Medical/Dental/Vision**

Payne West  
MACo

February 8<sup>th</sup> Cont.

**Open Positions**

Detention Officer

Still two openings — No applications currently

911 Dispatcher

Interviews yesterday

Overview of Status

Deputy Sheriff

Under review with Sheriff and Undersheriff

Psychological evaluation

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant

Posted Internally and externally

No applications to date

County Attorney

University of MT Student — still waiting on University

February 8<sup>th</sup> Cont.

Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Two internal candidates, no external

Interviews tomorrow afternoon

Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

Posted on Job Services since last Wednesday

In the paper the next two weeks

8 applicants to date, closes today

Schedule

Plains Mechanic

No applicants to date

Justice Court Clerk Update

**Routine County HR Business**

Sheriff's Office Issue

Justice Court — HR Action Form

Hot Springs Refuse Discussion

Republic Services & Hot Springs Refuse

County Attorney Office - Univ of Montana

University of MT Student

Hearing Tests — Road/Solid Waste

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

ATTEST

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Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
February 9, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox Presiding Officer.

**Director of Land Services Department Update**

10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services.

Application for approach permit for Pearl Drive to MDT for Commissioners signature Signed by Presiding Officer – Anthony B. Cox.

Ron Warren discussed developer's financial responsibility for county's contract with BNSF to upgrade the crossings for Ponderosa Preserve Subdivision

**Routine County Administrative Business – Canceled**

**Audit County Claims**

2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over County Claims and instructed the Clerk to draw warrants in the amount of \$231,433.50 for accounting period February 9, 2023. (County Claims are on file in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder).

**Legal Counsel**

3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Claude I. Burlingame, Attorney and retired Sanders County Commissioner. Also present was Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services and Ron Warren to discuss the draft agreement for Tie Plant Road upgrades. Zach Whipple-Kilmer came in to discuss Independent Contractor Agreement for National Resources Grant Management.

**Decision on Appointing the new Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools**

4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner,

4:15 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Lisa Wadsworth as the Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools of Sanders County.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, no further discussion, voted, unanimous and motion carried.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

February 9<sup>th</sup> Cont.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamie Humpherys, Administrative Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
February 15, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday February 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Sanders County Refuse Board Meeting which has separate meeting minutes  
and filed**

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Brenda Frank, Payroll and Insurance Administrator and Morgan Hirschenberger, PayneWest Sales Executive. Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources was out. Discussion about medical insurance renewal and claims overview. Insurance quotes versus renewals go out to market around mid-march and PayneWest will get those quotes ahead of time for Sanders County.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

2:05 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Resolution 2023-06 for Wally Congdon's services and representation on Water Compact Objections 1 through 12.

Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, no further discussion, voted, unanimous and motion passed.

**Office of Emergency Management Department Update**

2:10 p.m. to 2:27 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Bill Naegeli, Officer of Emergency Management. The Board of Health was there along with many Sanders County Citizens. The signup sheet for public attendance is attached to the drafted minutes and filed if need to be reviewed in the future. EMPG

February 15<sup>th</sup> Cont.

(Emergency Management Planning Grant) Routine business and signatures. List of basic requirements for grant document work hours, time and risk assessment.

Work plan and budget submitted to State DES for review and grant approval. Training for the grant will be the first part of April of 2023. Revising the Regional Multi Hazard Plan (Hazard Litigation Plan). Primary point of contact for a regional multi hazard plan is Bill Naegeli, secondary point of contact will be Sandy Maciel, Executive Assistant to Commissioners.

Public Comment: Multiple Comments

The Board Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA**

**February 16, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday February 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Director of Land Services**

10:02 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services. Katherine Maudrone provided and outlined the Staff Report for Farlan Minor Subdivision to the Commissioners for preliminary approval. Additionally, she recommended preliminary approval for Morgan Acres Amended Lot on March 2, 2023.

10:15 a.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to approve preliminary approval for Farlan Minor Subdivision.

John J. Holland, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>

February 16<sup>th</sup> Cont.

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, no further discussion, voted, unanimous and motion carried.

Timber Meadows I & II – Lots 18, 19 and 20, 7632072F, nowhere in the covenant is there restrictions on aggregation. Any issues regarding aggregation are home owners' issues and not taken up with the County. Katherine Maudrone to send a letter to a concerned citizen regarding Timber Meadow and aggregation.



February 16<sup>th</sup> Cont.

**Sanders County Community Development Corporation**

11:05 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Ray Brown, Executive Director of Community Development, Cody Ferguson, Department of Commerce and Gus Bryant, Department of Commerce. Discussed grants, infrastructure needs, housing and funding for bridges.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

February 16<sup>th</sup> Cont.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

Lisa Wadsworth

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant