

**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/Fireshed and watershed restoration work

Workforce

- Nothing for 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 Wroblewski, 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:

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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/Fireshed and watershed restoration work
- Firesheds – 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

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

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Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner & Presiding Officer

**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

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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**

**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

**Regular Sessions Canceled February 20 to 24, 2023 for MACo Conference**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANDERS COUNTY,  
MONTANA  
March 01, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday March 01, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Meeting with Republic Services & Hot Springs Transfer Station – Zoom**

10:04 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Republic Services Representatives, Chad Bauer and Don Moss. Also in attendance were Jason Peterson, Refuse Supervisor and Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

Sanders County runs Heron, Noxon, Thompson falls, and Plains Refuse sites. Conversation about Republic Services possibly taking over all the refuse sites in Sanders County including Hot Springs Refuse.

Republic Services will review the County request and submit a proposal to possibly lease and manage the Hot Springs Refuse site. Republic Services to follow up with Charlie Scott, Hot Springs Refuse Board Member. When they complete a proposal Republic Services will contact the County to schedule a meeting with the Commissioners and Jason Peterson, Refuse Supervisor and Hot Springs Refuse District.

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

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

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

Safety - Incident/ Injury Report 0 3 days without injury  
Streak ended at 48 days  
Solid Waste Employee injured assisting customer on Sunday

Open Positions o Detention Officer  
Still two openings — One application

911 Dispatcher  
Interviews yesterday  
Overview of Status

Deputy Sheriff  
Human Resources Action Form

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant  
Posted Internally and externally No applications to date

County Attorney  
University of MT Student — starting this week  
Legal Assistant/Paralegal  
Two internal candidates, no external  
Interview results  
Plan to repost externally

Plains Mechanic  
One applicant

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

Justice Court Clerk Update

#### Routine County HR Business

Hearing Tests — Road/Solid Waste March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Sheriff's Office  
Performance Appraisals  
Armed Intruder Training

### **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.

1:40 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve signature for NCIC Inmate Communications Agreement for Sheriff's Office. (Reviewed and approved by County Attorney)  
Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, there was no further discussion, voted, unanimous and motion carried.

1:41 p.m. Signature for Road Project Agreement #68-RO-11011600-001 between Sanders and USDA Forest Service. (Reviewed and approved by County Attorney)

1:43 p.m. Signature for Modification to agreement 21-RO-11011600-018 between Sanders & USDA Lolo National Forest.

1:45 p.m. Signature for Letter of support of Mobile Home Junk Vehicle Incentive Program. (Anthony B. Cox Request email to be done)

1:55 p.m. Approval and signature for Plains Airport Improvements Pay Request #3 (AIP 3-30-0059-014-2022)

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

2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for 1/024/23; 01/25/23 and 01/26/23.

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

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

#### **County Attorney Department Update Civil Matters & Civil Contract**

2:10 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Naomi Leisz, County Attorney and Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources. Public Attendance were Gunner Junge and Beth Junge.

County Attorney's department is understaffed currently. MSU Student has started and will be working remotely to support District Court. Sanders County is advertising a job placement for a Paralegal and a full time Deputy County Attorney. Zoom meeting with law firm to find out what they are willing to take on. Civil matters would be a part time job.

Public comment consisted of questions to the County Attorney regarding her current staffing situation.

Public Comment: Yes

The Board Adjourned at 4:00 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 March 02, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday March 02, 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**

10:03 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services.

10:23 a.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to grant Preliminary Approval for Amended Lot D of Morgan.

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

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

March 2<sup>nd</sup> Cont.

Owens Peak Public Hearing on March 21<sup>st</sup> – Sandy Maciel, Executive Assistant to Commissioners to post the Public Hearing for Owens Peak on the County Website and in the County Courthouse on the public notices board.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

### **Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner not present.

1:47 p.m. Commissioners signed a letter regarding Paradise Fire Annexation.

1:48 p.m. Signature on letter regarding Hot Springs Airport Compliance with MDT Aeronautics Division Gant

1:49 p.m. Commissioners signed USDA Modification 21-RO -11011600-018.

2:00 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Anthony B. Cox to sign Thompson Falls Airport Final AIP for closeout purposes.

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

### **Sanitarian & Environmental Department Update**

The Board of Commissioners met with Shawn Sorenson, Sanitarian & Environmental Supervisor

#### 1. Projects/Activities

- a. Quinn's pool backwash water – staff were recently notified that filter backwash water from pools is being directed to an elevated sand mound, which was not designed for the flow or the wastewater type. Flow is estimated at 2600 gpd, and the wastewater has high levels of naturally occurring silica. Silica is a clogging concern. Staff are working with the owners, consultant, and DEQ to identify a solution.
- b. Sanitation legislation – the legislature will be considering a bill to allow privatization of sanitation reviews, and to allow consulting firms to complete their own sanitation reviews. Staff do not support this bill. First, the bill is being presented as a fix to DEQ delays in sanitation reviews over the last two years. The DEQ is fully staffed and caught up. Second, the consultants have failed to disclose that they also had significant backlog. Sanders County received multiple complaints from owners frustrated with consultant delays, including consultants supporting and testifying for this bill.

Rapid, unforeseen development impacted the entire industry. A durable solution would focus on systemic improvements throughout the industry, and include equal and honest input from owners, developers, consultants, and regulators. Protection of environmental health, public health, and property rights are critical.

- c. Knerr and Dollar store no degradation – three test wells were drilled to identify actual ground water flow direction, and test background nitrate levels. The data will be used to review two commercial projects in the area.
- d. Compliance Action Plan –working on priorities

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

- a. Inspections – 198 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 – 5 so far in CY2023 (55 in CY2022, 67 in CY2021)
- d. Wastewater permits – 126 so far in FY2023 (167 in FY2022, 211 in FY2021)
- e. Water/well permits – 89 so far in FY2023 (119 in FY2022, 153 in FY2021)
- f. DEQ subdivision reviews – 33 so far in FY2023 (45 in FY2022, 25 in FY2021)
- g. Local subdivision reviews – 40 so far in FY2023 (52 in FY2022, 52 in FY2022)
- h. Junk vehicle – about 67 cars in the yard by weeks end.
- i. Food training – CFPM classes 3/9/2022, 5/4/2022, 10/20/22, 2/8/2023, 3/22/2023

March 2<sup>nd</sup> Cont.

3. Financial – FY2023 financial report indicates expenses and revenues are on budget.
4. Department and Employee Safety report – staff are current on all required training, and no injuries have occurred.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
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  
March 07, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Tuesday March 07, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Routine County Administrative Business**

10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

10:00 a.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 \$26,411.54 for accounting period February 27, 2023. (County Claims are on file in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder).

10:05 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to reappoint Randal Woods, Ted Forkum, Brian Crain, Jim Newman to the Sanders County Fair Board.

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

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

10:06 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to reappoint Charlie Scott to the Hot Springs Refuse Disposal District Board.

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

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

**Propose to Redistricting the District Map**

11:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with McKenna Wallace, Elections Administrator, Cassie Ward, Elections, Ashley Bache, Rural Addressing, Cynthia Neste, Clerk of District Court, Lisa

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

Wadsworth, Clerk & Recorder, Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources. Census came through and we need to redistrict precincts. MCA 74-202 Commissioner Districts are equal in population, and Geographical area. McKenna Wallace, suggested not to change the boundaries. All three districts increased evenly with population & geographic approximately 30 to 40 citizens. Meeting next week to come up with a Legal description and issue resolutions for Commissioner signature. Will give 72 population to Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer & Commissioner of district 3 and take away 72 population from Dan Rowan, Commissioners district 1. It has been 10 years between census to census 2010-2020. Proposed House District Population and suggested to combine Heron and Noxon into one precinct with polling places A & B. McKenna wants to split River Road West into Plains precinct. This will be done and ready by April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with an explanation, map and resolutions. Press Release will be posted on County Website or Public Hearing for County feedback for Proposed Boundary Realignment

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Woodside Park Grant Management with DNRC ARPA Grant Program Managers-Great West  
Engineer-Sanders County Grant Engineer-Commissioners**

1:00. to 2:30 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Woodside Water & Sewer Board Members, Dan Briggs, Woodside Water & Sewer Manager, Shari A Johnson & Associates Engineering, PLLC and Sanders County Contracted ARPA Technical Rep, Carrie Gardner, GreatWest Engineer, LaNette Diaz, GreatWest Grant Administrator, Craig Polaska, GreatWest Supervisor, Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Manager for DNRC and Michelle McNamee, ARPA Program Manager for DNRC, Autumn Coleman, ARPA Grant Assistant for DNRC. Attached to the drafted minutes are all public attendees that were present for the meeting.

Reviewed drafted MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that is between Sanders County and Woodside Park Water & Sewer Project. Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Manager for DNRC wants the finalized MOU and application between the two parties submitted by Friday, March 17, 2023. Sanders County Commissioners are wanting transparency regarding costs for time and materials with GreatWest and the Woodside Project.

Public Comment: Several questions about the agreement between Sanders County and DNRC regarding ARPA Grant funds. Many comments about the revision of the MOU between Woodside Park, Sanders County,

GreatWest and Shari A. Johnson & Associates Engineering, PLLC and Sanders County Contracted ARPA Technical Rep

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 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  
March 08, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Tuesday March 07, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Quarterly Department Head Meeting**

10:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Bill Naegeli, Officer of Emergency Management, Shawn Sorenson, Environmental Health, Pat Barber, Coroner, Debbie Lang, Public Health Nurse, Ashley Bache, Rural Addressing, Cynthia Neste, Clerk of District Court, McKenna Wallace, Election Administrator, Crystal Buchanan, Thompson Falls Librarian, Lisa Wadsworth, Treasurer, Clerk and Recorder, Superintendent, Jessica Connolly, CFO, Jason Peterson, Refuse Supervisor, Jerome Little, Maintenance, Shawn Fielders, Sheriff, Jerry Johnson, Undersheriff, Nikki Ericksen, Plains Public Librarian, Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

10:00 a.m. Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer opened the meeting.

10:10 a.m. Jessica Connolly, CFO goes over how to review financial reports and budgets for all departments. Discusses the importance of turning in credit card receipts and Invoices with claim forms. These receipts, invoices and claim forms will have detailed descriptions for all purchases and submitted to the Accounts Payable Department in a timely manner. Credit card receipts cut off is on the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month. The Department Head should review claim forms and receipts for accuracy. All contracts for all departments need to be submitted, reviewed, approved and signed by the Commissioners and the County Attorney.

10:20 Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources informed the Department Heads of the performance & self-appraisal due dates. Presented the idea about having an active shooter training that acts out an actual event and would be scheduled on a Saturday at the Sanders County Court House. Next week Thursday, March 16, 2023 is Fire Extinguisher Training for all Sanders County elected officials and employees. Additional information about insurance, job market, safety, timecards and overtime.

10:45 a.m. Jerome Little, Maintenance had been spraying disinfectant in all the main hallways during flu season.

10:50 a.m. Debbie Lang, Public Health Nurse shared that the Sanders County Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocol was completed and signed on February 15, 2023. The Public Health department purchased a new trailer and pop up tent for events like vaccinations and flu clinics. Debbie Lang also provided a suicide prevention in-service to schools in Sanders County.

11:00 a.m. McKenna Wallace, Election Administrator in process of redistricting the district map and redoing precinct boundaries. Two elections going on with Heron Park and Hot Springs School.

11:05 a.m. Shawn Sorenson, Environmental Health processed a large number of permits and licenses.

11:07 a.m. Pat Barber, Coroner wrapping up several cases.

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

11:08 a.m. Lisa Wadsworth, Clerk & Recorder explained there are no changes but she is learning her new role at the County.

11:09 a.m. Cynthia Neste, Clerk of District Court has created all documents to be electronic and they are now taking credit cards and cash for payments. District Court has notary services available currently.

11:11 a.m. Nikki Erickson, Plains Librarian numbers are up in public attendance. Currently offering several programs like Lego and Chess club. They would like to find an electrician and painter for upgrades to the Plains Library.

11:13 a.m. Shawn Fielders, Sheriff has acquired Forest Service equipment. They recently signed an MOU with the Forest Service. Working with Drug Force Unit.

11:14 a.m. Crystal Buchanan, Thompson Falls Librarian has an adult book club that is going strong. Discussed summer programs, outreach and safety training.

11:16 a.m. Ashely Bache, Rural Addressing explained that elected officials and employees should call DIS for IT support and if MAPS is not working correctly contact Ashley directly.. Any questions regarding the website can go through the help desk with Rebel River Creative, Sandy Maciel, Commissioners Executive Assistant or McKenna Wallace, Election Administrator.

11:18 a.m. Bill Naegeli, Officer of Emergency Management attended a train wreck presentation. EMPG grant is due the first part of April 2023.

11:19 a.m. Jason Peterson, Refuse Supervisor has all steel rolling doors working but one.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

#### **Routine County Administrative Business**

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

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 2:00 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  
March 09, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday March 09, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources.

**Safety - Incident/Injury Report**

11 days without injury

**Open Positions**

Detention Officer

Still one opening — One application

911 Dispatcher

Two openings — One 32 hours, one 24 hours

Previous offer was officially rescinded

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant

Posted Internally and externally

No applications to date

Moving ad to full time seasonal vs. 20 hours/year all year

Accounts Payable Clerk

Three internal candidates, one external

Interview tomorrow morning

**Routine County HR Business**

Morgan Hirschenberger and Medical/Dental/Vision

Potential Wage Increase

Hot Springs Refuse — Plan B

Potential Direction

Role of Ben Bache

Interview attendants

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

Eliminate need for employee performing accounting functions; Brenda assumes control

Hearing Tests — Road/Solid Waste - March 30<sup>th</sup>

Armed Intruder Training

BSPRA Update

Work to date

Western Skies Strategies as Management consultant and support

FRA Recommendations for corridors and long-distance plan

Recommendations to Congress by September

Governance and Strategic Planning

Informational meetings planned

County and city/town support

**Cherry Creek Private Land Treatments with Local Government Forest Advisor, Montana DNRC**

11:04 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Stephen Kimball, Local Government Forest Advisor, Montana DNRC and Ashley Juran, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator for DNRC.

DNRC is finding ways to reduce hazardous fuels specifically Wilks Cherry Creek in regards to timber harvest and burning. Supporting private property owner's involvement with forest lands near residential areas.

USDA has not enough staff to work on the Cherry Creek project. USDA is in need for match dollars along with a grant from DNRC. Sanders County to possible match private land owners to help with this Cherry

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

Creek project through title and funding from DNRC. Commissioners to send a letter of support to Carolyn Upton, Forest Supervisor.

### **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. Exit financial audit with Jessica Connolly, CFO & Jonathan Mahrt, CPA, CFE for Denning, Downey & Associates, PC. The County is responsible for financial statements. Due date for audit financial statements is March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. CIFA, programs include forest reserve & all airport projects for compliance such as Plains & Thompson Falls Airport. Discussed grant funds and department budgets.

### **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 \$376,484.96 for accounting period March 9, 2023. (County Claims are on file in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder).

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
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 March 13, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

### **Sanders County Community Development & Big Sky Trust Fund Application for Scotchman's Coffee**

10:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Ray Brown, Executive Director for SCCD.

Scotchman's Peak Coffee & Restaurant eligible for a Big Sky Trust Fund for Job creation and planning project application.

County is the applicant and sponsor of the funds. Reimbursement request from the county once they hire someone on. If they fail at keeping 5 employees working consistently then the County would have to pay back the Department of Commerce. \$34,500.00 with an 8% administrative fee. Ray Brown will be the grant administrator between Big Sky Trust Fund and Scotchman's Coffee.

March 13<sup>th</sup> Cont.

**ARPA Grant & MOU between Sanders County & Woodside Park Water & Sewer Project**

1:00 p.m. to 1:39 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with GreatWest Project Engineer, Carrie Gardner & GreatWest Funding Manager & Certified Grant Writer, LaNette Diaz, County Attorney, Naomi Leisz, General Manager of Woodside Park, Dan Briggs, SC Tech ARPA Rep & Engineer, Shari A. Johnson, DNRC/ARPA Grant Program Specialist, Samantha Kemp, Municipal Business Unit Manager, Collette Anderson, Woodside Park Secretary, Chelsea Peterson. Attached to the rough draft is a sign in sheet with a list of Woodside Board Members and Public Citizens that attended the meeting for reference.

Listed below are the following questions, clarifications and requests were discussed by Dan Briggs, Woodside Park Board Members, GreatWest and Sanders County to be resolved for inclusion in the final MOU before signature.

- 1) Page 2 - 3.3 ARPA minimum allocation
- 2) Addendum 3 # 2 Clarified that it is a 10% as a pass on to what DNRC may withhold from the County.
- 3) #7 C: Clarified competitive / MAG funds do not revert to the County. LFRF funds can revert back to the County. Dan Briggs wanted clarification on this topic.
- 4) Naomi Addendum 1 – Section 7, Total payment for all purposes under this agreement shall not exceed.
- 5) MOU pass through recipient for 325,000.00 dollars and the County making claims as the Grant Administrator.
- 6) Executive Assistant to Commissioners, Sandy Maciel to make final revisions with ARPA Technical Rep & Engineer, Shari A. Johnson and then forward to Carrie Gardner, Project Manager at Great West.
- 7) Dan Briggs to provide county attorney with Declarations of liability.
- 8) Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner asked GreatWest Project Manager, Carrie Gardner on whether or not Site Title was part of the work that needed to be completed or applicable to the Woodside Project.

The next Woodside Park Meeting is Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Ambulance Barn.

March 13<sup>th</sup> Cont.

Public Comment: Conversations by everyone present about revisions to the MOU.

The Board Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

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

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive

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

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday, March 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 11:05 a.m. Sanders County Refuse District Board Meeting with Commissioners as members of the Board. Meeting minutes are filed in the Sanders County Refuse File.**

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

11:10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources and Ashley Bache, Rural Addressing:

**Safety - Incident/Injury Report**

17 days without injury  
FE Training tomorrow

**Open Positions**

Detention Officer  
Still one opening — One application  
Qualifications are lacking

911 Dispatcher  
Two openings — One 32 hours, one 24 hours  
No new applicants

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant  
Posted Internally and externally  
Changed to full time seasonal vs. 20 hours/year all year  
No applications to date

Accounts Payable Clerk  
HR Action Form

Deputy Coroner  
Remains Open

**Routine County HR Business**

Rural Addressing/GIS/IT Office  
"Go Forward" Strategy?  
FLMA

T Falls Library and PERS

Northwest Energy Meeting (email)

Hot Springs Refuse — Plan B  
Potential Direction  
Role of Ben Bache  
Interview attendant(s)  
March 15<sup>th</sup> Cont.

Eliminate need for employee performing accounting functions Brenda assumes control  
Hearing Tests — Road/Solid Waste - March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Armed Intruder Training  
Waiting on date for "make up session"  
Employees would like the actual demonstration

BSPRA Update  
Western Skies Strategies as Management consultant and support

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

FRA Recommendations for corridors and long-distance plan

Recommendations to Congress by September

Governance and Strategic Planning

Informational meetings planned

County and city/town support

#### **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. Commissioner, Dan B. Rowan stepped out for a phone call.

1:45 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve meeting minutes for 1/31/23, 02/01/23, 02/06/23, 02/07/23, 02/08/23 and 02/09/23.

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer – 2<sup>nd</sup>, no discussion, voted, unanimous and motion passed.

1:50 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Resolution 2023-07 Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program administered by the State of Montana Department of Commerce on behalf of Scotchman's Coffee.

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer – 2<sup>nd</sup>, no discussion, voted, unanimous and motion passed.

2:00 p.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner came back into the conference room.

#### **Kootenai Forest Stake Holders Collation**

2:10 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Forest Stake Holders Collation, Doug Ferrell, Member, Shawn Morgan and Member, Julie Thurston. Public attendees were Peggy Bates and Nancy Mehaffie.

Discussed how Sanders County has a lot of forest land and there is opportunity for all ranges of use for the community.

- 1) Permanent motorized recreational roads.
- 2) General forest is categorically active management.
- 3) Fire Risk reduction projects.
- 4) Increasing focus on the forest service.
- 5) Environmentalist groups causing issues for some projects.

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

- 6) Wilkes Cherry Creek, Mule pastor prospect creek – Dead Trees and needs to be harvested.
- 7) More opportunity to obtain Categorical exclusions require collaborative involvement
- 8) Saw creek project Kootenai outreach program. USFS is trying to train individual to help facilitate between the forest service and collaborative is a (self-initiated group)
- 9) Julie Thurston to attend the Forest County Summit May 3-4, 2023 in Helena, MT and report back to the commissioners.
- 10) AWR is active in the Kootenai National Forest.

Public comment: Yes

Peggy Bates: Questioned how USFS, DNRC & Collaborative groups are related or support one another.

Nancy Mehaffie – Questioned Wild Rockies presence in Sanders County.

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

AWR is active in the Kootenai National Forest.

The Board Adjourned at 3:30 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  
March 16, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday March 02, 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**

10:05 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services. Katherine went over the Staff Report for Owens Peak Amended Lot #5 COS2681 Subdivision.

**Propose to Redistricting the District Map**

11:05 a.m. to 11:35 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Elections Administrator, McKenna Wallace, Elections Clerk, Cassie Ward, Director of Human Resources, Rich Wallace, Clerk & Recorder, Lisa Wadsworth.

11:21 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Resolution 2023-08 designating the boundaries of Commissioners districts in Sanders County, Montana.

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

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

11:22 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Resolution 2023-09 establishing precinct boundaries in Sanders County, Montana.

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

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

11:24 a.m. McKenna Wallace will discuss with Katherine Maudrone, Director of Land Services about getting a legal description from a surveyor for designating the Commissioners boundaries and establishing precinct boundaries for Sanders County.

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

11:26 a.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to appoint Election Judges as follows:

- 1) Heron Precinct
- 2) Noxon Precinct
- 3) Trout Creek Precinct
- 4) Thompson Falls Precinct
- 5) Thompson Falls Precinct
- 6) Plains Precinct
- 7) Plains Precinct
- 8) Hot Springs Precinct
- 9) Dixon Precinct

11:30 a.m. Signatures from the Board of Commissioners for the following Oath of Office:

- 1) Margaret Harker for Heron Rural Fire District
- 2) James Greiner for Heron Rural Fire District
- 3) John M. Marrinan for Eastern Sander County Conservation District
- 4) Ronald Warren for Eastern Sander County Conservation District
- 5) Marvin Rehbien for Eastern Sander County Conservation District

**Fairgrounds, Fair Board, Demolition Derby & County Road Harlow in District #1**

2:06 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Sanders County Citizen, Rick Sanders, District 1 & 2 Road Supervisor, Ben Bache. Public Attendees were, Deborah Milligan, Dan Milligan and Mike Hashisaki.

Rick Sanders discussed concerns about the Fairground, Fair Board, Demotion Derby and Harlow Road maintenance.

2:33 p.m. Ben Bache joined the meeting to answer concerns about the maintenance of Harlow Road.

Public Comment: Yes

Questions about the materials used to maintenance Harlow Road.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner, Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer, Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner went over mail, emails, meeting dates.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:30 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  
March 21, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**Public Hearing for Owens Peak Lot #5 COS2681 Subdivision**

11:04 a.m. to 11:33 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Director of Land Services, Katherine Maudron, APEC Engineering, Marc Liechti and Tamara Tanberg. Public attendees were Bob Thornhill and Brenda Thornhill.

Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Katherine Maudrone went through the Staff Report & Recommendations for Owens Peak Lot #5 COS2681 Subdivision. Staff recommended motion for conditional approval adopting the following findings, citing's and conditions as follows:

- 1) Variances Requested: None
- 2) Legal Notification: Sanders County Ledger
- 3) Description of property, surrounding area, utilities and services, agency and public comment & parkland requirements.
- 4) No impact to agriculture & no facilities or irrigated lands adjacent to or on the site.
- 5) Local Services: Schools can accommodate new students.
- 6) Solid Waste Disposal
- 7) Noxious Weeds: Katherine will walk the property again to make sure that complies with state and local regulation regarding noxious weeds.
- 8) Wildlife Habitat
- 9) Public Health and Safety
- 10) DEQ Requirements: Front two lots going through DEQ drain field.

Public Comment: Yes

11:24 a.m. Public comment: Bob Thornhill wanted to know if the houses being built in Owens Peak would be stick-built homes. All construction must be completed within 12 months once construction started. Proposed conveyance says they are to be stick frame homes in this subdivision.

11:32 a.m. Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner moved to take Owens Peak Lot #5 COS2681 Subdivision under advisement until 03/30/2023 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

The Board Adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

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

1:35 p.m. John J. Holland, Commissioner moved to approve Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 03/01/23, 03/02/23, 03/07/23. 03/08/23 & 03/09/23.

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

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



March 21<sup>st</sup> Cont.

**MBS Account Executive, New Corporate Resolution, Expiration or Mature Investments.**

2:03 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Josh Stephens, MBS Account Executive, Lisa Wadsworth, Clerk & Recorder, Kimberly Patton, Accounts Receivables

Josh works with large financial institution that invest in extremely safe, liquid CD's that are sold easily if needed. Primary driver that they offer regarding investments involve Fanny Mae and Freddy Mac CDS and treasuries. MBS is a conservative and has a 5-10 million investment portfolio. Currently Sanders County is set up with an investment ladder. The company is a broker dealer that sells but does not trade on your behalf (Sanders County). Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner, had several questions such as, wanting to know if this complies with MCA, because due to a conversation with MACo, they were not definite. Is it legal for the county to be involved with these investments? Municipalities and governments are only to have savings with local banks and credit union.

Investment Advisor is working with the Sanders County Treasurer but the final decision is with the Commissioners. Initially our prior Clerk and Recorder had a concern that Sanders County was not investing enough and this particular investment brings more returns than your local financial institution. Constant maturities coming back to Sanders County and by constantly investing it helps out in the investing pool. Currently locked in about 10 million at 4% which brings 400,000.00 dollars a year back to the County. These investments are easy to maintain and have more of a level gain rather than the highs and lows. County is on a 5-year plan with the ladder plan that gives the County a cash flow. If there is money that is needed by the county than you can have it but not necessarily liquidate. Maturity distribution of \$2,216,000,000.00 million coming back to county just in 2023. Maturity distributions are in the near future and Josh will contact Lisa Wadsworth on whether or not to roll it back into the ladder. Currently CD's are the best rates as all things being equal. Every month MBS will send the County their earnings. If a Bank were to liquidate the County will still get their money back. Through the website there our notifications that the commissioners and Treasurer can view and make changes if necessary. Josh suggests that an Insurance Analysis is completed. Further discuss the investments monthly and then possibly quarterly with the Commissioners and the Treasurer. Possibly obtain a legal opinion about these investments with MBS on file.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 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  
March 22, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner and Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**County Journal Voucher and Budget Review**

10:00 a.m. to 10:31 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Lisa Wadsworth, Clerk & Recorder, Treasurer, Kimberly Patton, Deputy Treasurer.

General funds cash reconciliation are in the General Ledger as the 1000's. Dan Rowan, Commissioner would like Jessica Connelly, Financial Accounting Consultant to explain the allocation of interest into each departments budget and also why people send certain financial reports at month end. Questions about transfer amounts between accounts in specific departments and inter department transfers. Questions regarding page 9 on the County Journal Voucher for February 2023. Fair Commissioner had NSF (non-sufficient funds) but those checks have been collected and accounts paid in full. Journal Vouchers used to correct incorrect entries. The Commissioners will review all budget items for each department. Sanders County will need a Budget Amendment for the Sheriff's Office related vehicles. Discussed that RDGB Grants can help pay for Sheriff's vehicles.

**County Superintendent of Schools Meeting**

10:32 a.m. to 11:01 a.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Superintendent of Plains Schools, Tom Chishlom, Clerk & Recorder, Treasurer, Lisa Wadsworth and Accounts Receivables, Kimberly Patton.

Sanders County is looking for a credential superintendent that can take arguments or complaints. County trying to better understand their role regarding parent complaints. Currently OPI is struggling with staffing issues. When a parent has in issue with the school they are required to follow guidelines available to them.

Tom Chishlom suggests that Lisa Wadsworth to contact: Jack Eppensperger in order to get direction on what roles are and how to process public school complaints. Local Educations Authorities will submit teams report to County Superintendent of schools.

Transportation issues within the school districts. Lisa Wadsworth, Clerk and Recorder would like to discuss the history of related to school transportation and the process in order to come up with a worthy solution. There are resources to understand the needs of the Sanders County youth.

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

11:02 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with Director of Human Resources, Rich Wallace and County Attorney, Naomi Leisz. Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer not present.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> Cont.

11:24 a.m. County Attorney, Naomi Leisz wants the Commissioners to hire more employees for the Legal Department and to continue to recruit. Legal Department needs a full time Deputy County Attorney and may need to recruit out of State. Naomi to come up with a Resolution that a contracted law firm will be a special deputy providing advice and consultation and the ability to sign along with the Commissioners on agreements and contracts. This contracted legal service can help with items related to sanitation, elections, all other civil matters.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> Cont.

**Safety - Incident/Injury Report**

4 days without injury  
Slip and strain  
Previous streak ended at 20  
FE Training Summary

**Open Positions**

Detention Officer  
Still one opening — One application  
Interview Friday

911 Dispatcher  
Two openings — One 32 hours, one 24 hours  
No new applicants

Fairgrounds Administrative Assistant  
Posted Internally and externally  
Changed to full time seasonal vs. 20 hours/year all year  
One applicant, possibly a 2<sup>nd</sup> applicant  
Accounts Payable Clerk  
HR Action Form  
Deputy Coroner  
Remains Open

**Routine County HR Business**

HR Training with Westaff is at noon today  
Managing Employee Attendance & Absence Issues: What is Required and What is Optional?  
Resignation — Human Resources Action Form.  
Rural Addressing/GIS/IT Office  
FMLA Form  
T Falls Library and PERS  
Hot Springs Refuse — Plan B  
Potential Direction  
Role of Ben Bache  
Interview attendant(s)  
Eliminate need for employee performing accounting functions; Brenda assumes control  
Hearing Tests-Road/Solid Waste - March 30<sup>th</sup> is All Set  
Two Solid Waste employees on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.  
Performance Appraisal Self-Appraisal

**Routine County Administrative Business**

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

1:30 p.m. Chemical bids due for the Weed department.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
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  
March 23, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, met in regular session on Thursday March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were; John J. Holland, Commissioner, Dan B. Rowan, Commissioner & Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

**10:00 a.m. Director of Land Services Department Update Canceled**

**Audit County Claims**

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 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 \$128,496.65 for accounting period March 23, 2023. (County Claims are on file in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder).

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

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

**Weed Board Discussion**

2:01 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with John Ercarrt, Chairman of the Weed Board. Discussed obtaining administrative fees for spraying State roads. Questioned the Weed Departments operating hours & current grant situation. Duties performed throughout the year could be the following, preparing contracts (spraying contracts), equipment repair, grant work.

**Open Chemical Bids for Weed Department**

3:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. The Board of Commissioners met with John Ercarrt, Weeds Chairman of the Weed Board.

3:00 p.m. Opened Weed Board Chemical Bids as follows:

3:02 p.m. Wilbur – Ellis

3:05 p.m. Clint Sanders

3:10 p.m. Helena Agri Enterprises

April 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 6:30 p.m. is the next Weed Board meeting

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Lisa Wadsworth, Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent

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Anthony B. Cox, Presiding Officer

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Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on March 29, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.

**Director of Human Resources Department Update**

11:00 a.m. Rich Wallace, Director of Human Resources, updated the Board on safety, open positions, and routine county HR business.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

1:30 p.m. The Commissioners went over mail, emails, and meeting dates.

The Commissioners signed an MOU with Sunset Funeral Home for indigent burial.

Commissioner Rowan moved to approve the meeting minutes for 03/07, 03/08, and 03/09 of 2023.

Commissioner Holland seconded.

There was no public comment.

All voted aye, motion carried.

The Commissioners signed a letter of support for the Eastern Sanders County Collaborative (ESCC).

The Commissioners signed a contract for legal services with Boone Karlberg. The law firm from Missoula will provide legal advice to the Commissioners on civil matters.

Commissioner Holland moved to reappoint the following members to the Sanders County Fair Board:

Randy Woods, Ted Forkum, Brian Crain, and Jim Newman.

Commissioner Rowan seconded.

There was no public comment.

All voted aye, motion carried.

A public member commented that they did not support grant funding for the ESCC project

**Audit County Claims**

1:50 p.m. The Commissioners reviewed claims and instructed the Clerk to draw a warrant in the amount of \$41.25 for the accounting period of March 27, 2023. (County claims are on file with the Office of Clerk and Recorder.)

2:15 p.m. Sanders County Attorney Leisz asked the Commissioners about possibly hiring a private investigator to assist her office with specific violent crime investigations.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

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

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

The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on March 30, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.

#### **Audit County Payroll**

**9:00 a.m.** The Commissioners went over time cards and payroll.

#### **Update from the Land Services Department**

**10:00 a.m.** The Commissioners met with the Director of Land Services, Katherine Maudrone.

Director Maudrone presented Owens Peak Amended Lot 5 for Preliminary Plat Approval. Commissioner Holland moved to approve the Preliminary Plat Approval for Owens Peak Amended Lot 5.

Commissioner Rowan seconded.

No public comment.

All voted aye; the motion was carried unanimously.

Director Maudrone also presented Baldy Mountain Reserve Phase 5 for Final Plat Approval.

Commissioner Rowan motioned to grant Final Plat Approval.

Commissioner Holland seconded.

No public comment.

All voted aye, the motion was carried unanimously.

#### **DNRC Planning Grant for the Vermillion River**

**11:00 a.m.** Representatives from the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (CFLWG) requested that Sanders County sponsor a DNRC grant to partially fund monitoring efforts in the Vermillion River area. Many public comments were in favor of the request and many were against it.

Commissioner Holland moved to take the matter under advisement until April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Commissioner Rowan seconded the motion.

No further public comment.

Commissioners Holland and Rowan voted aye, Presiding Officer Cox voted nay, motion carried.

**March 30<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

#### **Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners went over mail, emails, and meeting dates.

#### **Office of Emergency Management Update**

**2:00 p.m.** Bill Naegeli requested permission to submit the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) application. The purpose of the EMPG program is to provide federal funds to States to assist state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards. A 50% cost match is required under this program. The Commissioners approved his request.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth

Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

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

The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 4, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were.

#### **United States Forest Service District Ranger Meeting**

**9:00 a.m.** USFS Rangers Michael Feiger, and David Wroblewski, gave an update on issues in the Cabinet and Lolo National Forests.

#### **9:30 a.m. United States Forest Service Fire Suppression Policy Meeting**

Stakeholders discussed fire suppression responsibilities.

#### **Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox  
Commissioner reviewed mail, emails, and meeting dates.

The Commissioners signed the following Oath of Offices:

- 1) Michelle C. Athearn for Dixon Rural Fire Department
- 2) Mike Schroedel for Dixon Rural Fire Department
- 3) Taylor Salmi for Hot Springs Rural Fire District
- 4) Lando R. Bras for Hot Springs Rural Fire District

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

**2:00 p.m.** The Board of Commissioners met with Ben Bache, Sanders County Road Foreman.

Discussions about the following:

- 1) Speed Limits on County Roads
- 2) Looked at Columbia Road and will start doing ditch work
- 3) Bladed Harlow Road
- 4) Possibly taking off-road restrictions in District 1.
- 5) Need a truck for Road District # 2 and a truck to replace the white-water truck.
- 6) Questions whether the County would ever contract to maintain the road to the TV antenna.

#### **Legal Services**

**3:00 p.m.** The Board of Commissioners met with Attorney Claude I. Burlingame.

Mr. Burlingame advised the Commissioners about hiring a civil attorney. Discussions were held regarding a Grant Administrator that would manage ARPA projects. A discussion was held regarding Randy Evans's property being in the Plains Paradise Fire District Annexation.

#### **April 4<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

A discussion was held on debt collection for Solid Waste.

Public Comment: None

The Board Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

**April 04<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

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

**The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 5, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.**

**Director of Human Resources Department**

**10:00 a.m.** Director Wallace updated the Commissioners regarding safety, open positions, and routine HR business.

No public comment.

**Decision on the Vermillion River Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Grant**

**11:00 a.m.** The Commissioners revisited the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) request, which previously asked the County to sponsor a grant for a proposed project in the Vermillion River drainage. Comments were taken both for and against the project. The comments were regarding the role of Green Mountain Conservation District, the potential effect on mill levies, whether the project is needed, financial responsibilities, whether grants, in general, are appropriate, and whether the County should be used as a pass-through for DNRC's grant funding for the Vermillion River Project.

Commissioner Holland motioned to approve the request for Sanders County to be the pass-through agency for grant funding from the DNRC for the Vermillion River Project.

Presiding Officer Cox – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No further public comment.

Commissioner Holland & Presiding Officer Cox - Aye

Commissioner Rowan–Nay

Motion carried.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners reviewed mail, emails, and meeting dates.

**PayneWest Commercial Insurance Overview**

**2:00 p.m.** The Commissioners met with PayneWest Sales Executive Dave Montelius, who discussed Sanders County Commercial Insurance Policy Overview.



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

**Sanders County Road Department and United States Forest Service Projects**

**4:00 p.m.** Sealed bids received by the deadline for the following projects were opened and recorded as follows:

- Riley Riffle  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails - \$10,180.98
- Von Construction  
Cascade Recreation - \$135,310.00  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails – \$11,435.00  
Swamp Creek - \$161,445.00
- Haskins Excavating LLC  
Cascade Recreation – \$66,5520.00  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails – \$9,605.00  
Swamp Creek - \$84,617.00

**All Bids were taken under advisement until Wednesday, April 04/12/23 @ 1:00 p.m.**

The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools

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

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 6, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.

**Director of Land Services Department**

**10:00 a.m.** Director of Land Services, Katherine Maudrone, reported nothing requiring action this week.

No public comment.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners reviewed mail, emails, and meeting dates.

Commissioner Holland moved to approve the Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 03/13, 03/15, and 03/16 of 2023

Commissioner Rowan – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

Commissioner Holland moved to approve the AIP Agreement – AIS 23 0040 Invasive Milfoil Management with the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation.

Commissioner Rowan – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Holland moved to approve the Letter of Agreement with Avista R-44479 2023 AIP Task Force and Sanders County.

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

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

**Green Diamond Resource Company – Timberlands Discussion**

**2:30** The Board met with Green Diamond Vice President John Davis and Green Diamond Montana Area Manager Brian Hobday.

A discussion was held on forest timber health, growth, harvest, conservation easements, and long-term views on logging. GDRC aims to work towards more productive timberlands.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 10, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.**

**County Health Insurance Rate & Coverage Review**

**10:00 a.m.** PayneWest Vice President Morgan Hirschenberger gave an update regarding insurance quotes prepared for the upcoming fiscal year from the following insurance providers.

- 1) Aetna
- 2) Allegiance Life & Health
- 3) Blue Cross Blue Shield
- 4) Cigna
- 5) Mountain Health Coop
- 6) MACO Trust
- 7) PacificSource Health Plans
- 8) United HealthCare
- 9) Guardian

Blue Cross Blue Shield was the least expensive option.

No public comment.

The Board Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**April 10<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 11, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners went over mail, emails, and meeting dates.

Commissioner Holland motioned to approve the Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes for 03/21, 03/22, and 03/23 of 2023

Commissioner Rowan – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 12, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.

**First Security Bank & Investment Options**

**10:00 a.m.** The Board of Commissioners met with Mike Baxter from First Security Bank.

A discussion was held regarding investment options for Sanders County at a local level and to ensure that the current investments comply with Montana Code. Executive Assistant Sandy Maciel to schedule another meeting in 2 to 3 weeks.

Public Comment: None

Presiding Officer Cox was absent for the rest of the day.

**Award Bid for Sanders County & Lolo National Forest Projects Agreement**

**1:00 p.m.** Commissioner Holland called the meeting to order.

Road District #1 & #2 Supervisor Ben Bache and United States Forest Service Engineer Jared Koskela were in attendance.

**April 11<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

Bids for the following projects were received on April 5, 2023.

- Haskins Excavating LLC  
Cascade Recreation – \$66,5520.00  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails – \$9,605.00  
Swamp Creek - \$84,617.00
- Von Construction  
Cascade Recreation - \$135,310.00  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails – \$11,435.00  
Swamp Creek - \$161,445.00
- Riley Riffle  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails - \$10,180.98

USFS Engineer Jared Koskela advised of a need to delay awarding the bid for Ferry Landing Picnic and Trails project because it requires a modification.

Public Comment: Doran Vonheeder of Von Construction questioned the bidding process.

Commissioner Rowan moved to award the Swamp Creek Recreation Project to the low bidder, Haskins Excavating.

Commissioner Holland – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Rowan moved to award the Cascade Recreation Project to the low bidder, Haskins Excavating.

Commissioner Holland – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners reviewed mail, emails, and meeting dates.

No public comment.

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 12, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.

**First Security Bank & Investment Options**

**10:00 a.m.** The Board of Commissioners met with Mike Baxter from First Security Bank.

## **April 12<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

A discussion was held regarding investment options for Sanders County at a local level and to ensure that the current investments comply with Montana Code. Executive Assistant Sandy Maciel to schedule another meeting in 2 to 3 weeks.

Public Comment: None

Presiding Officer Cox was absent for the rest of the day.

## **Award Bid for Sanders County & Lolo National Forest Projects Agreement**

**1:00 p.m.** Commissioner Holland called the meeting to order.

Road District #1 & #2 Supervisor Ben Bache and United States Forest Service Engineer Jared Koskela were in attendance.

Bids for the following projects were received on April 5, 2023.

- Haskins Excavating LLC  
Cascade Recreation – \$66,5520.00  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails – \$9,605.00  
Swamp Creek - \$84,617.00
- Von Construction  
Cascade Recreation - \$135,310.00  
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Swamp Creek - \$161,445.00
- Riley Riffle  
Ferry Landing Picnic Trails - \$10,180.98

USFS Engineer Jared Koskela advised of a need to delay awarding the bid for Ferry Landing Picnic and Trails project because it requires a modification.

Public Comment: Doran Vonheeder of Von Construction questioned the bidding process.

Commissioner Rowan moved to award the Swamp Creek Recreation Project to the low bidder, Haskins Excavating.

Commissioner Holland – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Rowan moved to award the Cascade Recreation Project to the low bidder, Haskins Excavating.

Commissioner Holland – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

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## **Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners reviewed mail, emails, and meeting dates.

No public comment.

**April 12<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 18, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.**

**District #2 Road Crew Meeting**

**11:00 a.m.** The Commissioners met with the District #1 & #2 Road Supervisor, Ben Bache and Director of Human Resources, Rich Wallace. Discussions were held regarding Hot Springs Road Crew.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners went over mail, emails, and meeting dates.

Bev Bangen resigned from Hot Springs TV District.

Commissioner Holland moved to approve reappointing the following members to the Sanders County Western TV District: Jerry McDonald and Donald Nance.

Commissioner Rowan seconded

No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

**Audit County Claims**

**1:36 p.m.** The Commissioners reviewed claims and instructed the Clerk to draw a warrant in the amount of \$255,259.59 for the accounting period of April 13, 2023. (County claims are on file with the Office of Clerk and Recorder.

**The Board Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

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

Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 19, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland, Dan B. Rowan, and Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox were in attendance.**

**Director of Human Resources Department**

**11:00 a.m.** Director Wallace updated the Commissioners regarding safety, open positions, and routine HR business.

No public comment.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners reviewed mail, emails, and meeting dates.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Cont.**

Commissioner Holland moved to accept and sign Firewise Contract #233.  
Commissioner Rowan seconded.  
No public comment, all voted aye, motion carried.

**2:00 p.m. Plains/ Paradise Fire District Annexation**

Randy Evans discussed with the Commissioners his belief that the inclusion of his property into the fire district was in error. The Commissioners agreed to look further into the matter.  
No Public comment.

**The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant

**The Board of County Commissioners of Sanders County, Montana, held a regular session on April 20, 2023. Commissioners John J. Holland and Dan B. Rowan were in attendance. Presiding Officer Anthony B. Cox was absent.**

**Land Services Update**

**10:00 a.m.** Director Katherine Maudrone updated the Commissioners on Heron Parkland, Hidden Meadows, Pesticide Plans, Weed Board, and Park Board.  
No public comment.

**11:00 a.m. Legal Services**

The commissioners met with Claude Burlingame to discuss various legal contract matters.  
No public comment.

**Routine County Administrative Business**

**1:30 p.m.** The Commissioners went over mail, emails, and meeting dates.  
No public comment.

**The Board Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

ATTEST

Lisa Wadsworth  
Clerk and Recorder / Treasurer/ Superintendent

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

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy D. Maciel, Executive Assistant