

**Moffat County Board of County Commissioners  
221 W Victory Way Suite 130 Craig, CO 81625**

**February 3, 2015**

**In attendance:** John Kinkaid, Chairman; Chuck Grobe, Vice Chair; Frank Moe, Board Member; Lila Herod, Moffat County Clerk & Recorder; Neil Folks; Lambert Pitney; Jeff Comstock; Ray Beck; Ken Wergin; Lloyd Rollins; Roy Tipton; Mike Fuller

**Call to Order  
Pledge/Opening Prayer  
Consent Agenda**

Grobe made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- a) Approved the minutes from January 27, 2015.
- b) Approved Resolution 2015-14 transfer of intergovernmental funds for the month of December 2014 in the amount of \$2,245.91
- c) Approved the change of contract forms for the Colorado Department of Health and Welfare on the storm water permits for Big Burn Pit 17, Butler Sand Pit 34, Cross Mountain Pit 1, Little Snake Pit 26, Limestone Pit 10, Lyons Pit 2, Mantle Pit 3, Powderwash Pit 66, Refuge Pit 1, Smith Pit 20, State Pit 38, Sweeney Pit 30, Tuttle Pit 1, Villard Pit 2, Wilderness Ranch it 1.
- d) Approved the Colorado Department of Health and Welfare storm water permits for Big Burn Pit 17, Butler Sand Pit 34, Cross Mountain Pit 1, Little Snake Pit 26, Limestone Pit 10, Lyons Pit 2, Mantle Pit 3, Powderwash Pit 66, Refuge Pit 1, Smith Pit 20, State Pit 38, Sweeney Pit 30, Tuttle Pit 1, Villard Pit 2, Wilderness Ranch Pit 1.
- e) Approved the lease agreement between Moffat County and Three Forks Ranch for the Dalton Flats radio tower site.

Moe seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. See attachments.

Janelle O'Dea present.

**General Discussion**

General discussion was held among the Board:

- ✓ Moe reported on the CCI training he attended for new commissioners and expressed appreciation for the County employees, department heads and various board members.
- ✓ Kinkaid reviewed a newspaper article from the Grand Junction Sentinel regarding the BLM's spending on Sage Grouse Conservation.

Chuck Cobb present.

- ✓ Kinkaid reported that he and Jeff Comstock and Ray Beck attended the Club 20 meetings at the Capitol. He hand delivered the County's letter to the Governor and then had the opportunity to discuss local coal issues. Kinkaid indicated Governor Hickenlooper believes the State will receive credit for complying with EPA regulations, and is

optimistic that the EPA will work with local energy companies. Comstock also reported on the discussions regarding the proposal for redistribution of severance tax and reported there were many arguments surrounding this issue. Comstock was astounded that budget discussions focused on how to increase the budget by \$47 million rather than how to cut \$47 million. Ray Beck then reported on the discussions regarding sage grouse management, oil and gas issues, and aerospace technology.

Janell Oberlander (CNCC) present.

- ✓ Comstock reported John Swartout will be making county visits and is expected in Moffat County in the next month or so.
- ✓ Chuck Cobb gave an update on the Assessors Conference and the law seminar he attended last week.

John Allen present.

### **Natural Resources- Jeff Comstock**

Comstock presented a letter for approval regarding the State Land Board Stewardship Trust. The Land Board recommends Moffat County submit comments on the parcels being proposed for management under the State Land Board Stewardship Trust:

1. *Most parcels recently proposed for inclusion do not allow for landscape scale management and cause a basic core concern regarding whether the Stewardship Trust utilized in this manner can affect landscape level management, which is necessary for the Greater Sage Grouse. Partnerships with tenants and other adjacent property owners would be more effective in landscape level management of species.*
2. *Request that parcels individually nominated for migration corridors be reconsidered as to their biological benefit for species.*
3. *Moffat County is concerned with the nomination of smaller pieces of larger parcels of State land and recommends placing the entire parcel under similar management or removing 2048 acres from Trust nomination.*
4. *Stewardship Trust Lands will impose additional stipulations for grazing, oil and gas development, and recreation creating more bureaucracy on each parcel within the Trust.*
5. *The South Beach parcel is already in the Trust and should stay available for public access as well as continue to allow the industrial uses, which exist, such as power lines.*
6. *Designation of land within the Stewardship Trust will be futile, unless money is allocated to develop management plans for parcels within the Trust.*
7. *The State Land Board should have an in depth conversation with each tenant on the parcels being nominated and give the tenant deference on issues of concern. This is especially true for large tracts of land such as Bakers Peak parcels.*
8. *Moffat County leases the site nominated on Snake River Cross Mountain. It is leased for gravel pit operations and the County is adamantly opposed to placing this parcel into the Stewardship Trust.*

Grobe made a motion to approve and send the letter to Mindy Gottsegen of the Colorado State Land Board Department of Natural Resources regarding the parcels of land being proposed for

management under the State Land Board Stewardship Trust, and to also approve any other comments that may be submitted on new parcels. Moe seconded the motion.

Comstock clarified that this letter pertains to the core content of the management plan, but there will be an ongoing comment period for additional parcels and that is why Commissioner Grobe made the addition to the motion.

Motion carried 3-0. See attached letter.

#### **CNCC- Janell Oberlander**

The Commissioners welcomed Janell Oberlander, the new Vice President of CNCC. Oberlander introduced herself and briefly discussed her goals and various programs she is interested in bringing to the college.

#### **Road and Bridge- Linda DeRose**

DeRose reviewed an application for senior snow removal from Marianne Carling. DeRose reported this is a very narrow driveway and recommends this application be denied.

Grobe made a motion to deny the application for senior snow removal for Marianne Carling on County Road 139. Moe seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. See attached.

#### **Nature Conservancy- Geoff Blakeslee**

Blakeslee reported the Visintainer family is interested in creating a conservation easement as part of their estate planning. The initial easement includes 27,000 acres north of Maybell. The entire plan will include over 50,000 acres. The property will still be operated as a ranch and managed by the family. The Nature Conservancy will hold the conservation easement and will monitor the property under the terms of the agreement. The property will be preserved as a sage grouse habitat and hopefully prevent the listing of the species.

There was brief discussion regarding future oil and gas development and if there would be restrictions placed on the property. Blakeslee stated it is not the intent to prevent drilling, but to protect the property and the surface owners. There was also discussion regarding the proposed transmission line in that area. The easement would not impact this development.

The conservation agreement has not been produced yet. There are still many things to be done prior to the agreement such as the feasibility study, appraisals, and securing the grant. Comstock indicated he would like to research the minerals on this property, and if there were any County interest, then the County would want to weigh in on the agreement stipulations.

Blakeslee is applying for a GOCO grant in the amount of \$2 million and the Nature Conservancy will be matching the grant with private dollars in excess of \$500,000. Blakeslee is requesting a

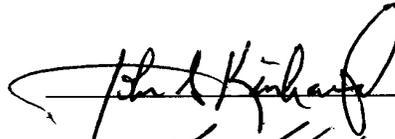
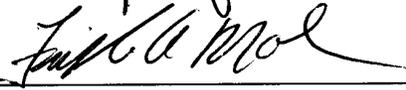
letter of support from the County for this grant application. The Commissioners will review the materials and consider a letter of support at their next meeting.

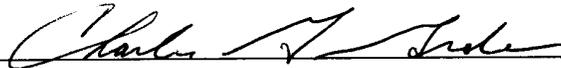
John Allen addressed the Board and discussed the sound and acoustic issues at the Pavilion. He presented some options for materials that may help, and indicated the price range is around \$1,000. Grobe asked Mr. Allen to submit a proposal for quantity and prices.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Submitted by: Lila Herod, County Clerk and Recorder

Approved by:

  
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Approved on:

2-10-15  
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Attest by:

  
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