

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session  
Tuesday, January 15, 2007 with the following present:

Sam Pace, Chairman  
Linda Joseph, Vice Chairman  
Mike Spearman, Commissioner  
Ben Gibbons, County Attorney  
Wendi Maez, Co-Administrator  
Lyn Zimmer, Co-Administrator  
Christa Collins, Acting Secretary and Clerk to the Board

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pace at 9:04 A.M.

Under Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

1. Add: Under Mail, Colorado Division of Wildlife letter of interest in serving as a resource for planning for Oil and Gas activities that have the potential to impact wildlife resources from Rick Basagoitia, Area Wildlife Manager San Luis Valley.

**Pace moved to approve the agenda as amended. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

Reading and approval of minutes:

**Pace moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2008 as amended. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was three ayes.**

Review of Mail:

1. **Rocky Mountain Regional Center of Denver** sent the Fall 2007 copy of Trauma Transcripts (1/9/08)
2. **James O Cochran, Gunnison County Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator**, sent a summary of report of the Gunnison County Sage-grouse Conservation Program for the fourth quarter of 2007. (01/11/08)
3. **Carol Schlauder, State of Equalization**, sent a Notice of Public Hearing to be held on Friday, January 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in Denver. (01/11/08)
4. **The Colorado River Water Conservation District**, sent a Notice of the upcoming quarterly meeting to be held January 14-16, 2008 in Glenwood. Agendas are attached.
5. **W. Dean Rundle, Refuge Supervisor United States of Interior Fish and Wildlife**, sent a letter in response to Saguache County's Request for formal designation as Cooperating Agency for Lexam Exploration Project on the Baca Refuge. Additional information is needed before the Fish and Wildlife can make decisions. (01/14/08)
6. **Dave Miller, Strategic Water and Energy Planner Natural Energy Resources Company**, sent a copy of a letter that he sent to Governor Ritter.
7. **Rick Basagoitia, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Area Wildlife Manager**, "On behalf of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, I wanted to express our interest in helping develop oil and gas regulations for the county. Oil and gas activities have the potential to impact wildlife resources. We

believe that being involved from the beginning may help resolve wildlife issues more easily than from the back end. If you are so inclined, we have three people who would be your resources. They include Jon Holst our energy specialist based in Durango, Brian Bechaver/Jason Surface your local District Wildlife Manager and myself.”

**Introduction of Guests:** Doug Larsen – Crestone Eagle, Don Geddes, Don Newsom, Karen Davis - Public Health, Brenda Helmick - Public Health, Suzanne Off - Del Norte Tourism, Yvonne Halburian, Rick Basagiotia - Colorado Division of Wildlife.

**Pace moved to approve the minutes January 8, 2008 as amended. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

### **Commissioners’ Reports-Updates of Meetings:**

**Linda Joseph** reported:

- January 9 (and 14) - Received 2 phone messages from Ron Garcia, but no luck reaching him directly. He was calling about information needed in response to our letter on being a Cooperating Agency.
- January 9-10 - SEMTAC meetings in Denver. DPHE is exploring a project to complete the needs assessment, as has been discussed for the SLV, by regions, statewide.
- January 10 - A group of 5 from the Sage Grouse Strategic Committee attended the Wildlife Commission hearing in Denver. Saguache County was represented by a letter, with my regrets for not being there, and reiteration of support for the Strategic Committee's preferred alternative. The Commission voted 6-2 to pass that Alternative #1, full closure from March 15th to May 15th, 24 hours a day.
- Related news: Jim Cochran notes:  
"The Colorado Division of Wildlife is planning to start emergency feeding operations for big game animals in the Gunnison Basin as soon as possible.  
Deer will be targeted primarily because they are most affected by adverse weather conditions. Feed and hay will also be provided to bighorn sheep, pronghorn and elk. Providing feed to wildlife requires a major effort and the DOW is seeking volunteers to help."  
"The Wildlife Commission did discuss the impacts of the heavy snow/cold temperatures on Sage-grouse at their meeting yesterday. As you all know, we really have little information on what this kind of snow year is going to do, especially long-term. Overall, my feeling is that the immediate affects may be negative on the grouse, but the added moisture at the lower elevations may have a positive affect, long-term.  
It also appears that the Division Director is going to use his emergency authorities to close the Gunnison Basin to all small game hunting, antler shed collection and other activities within his prevue that may negatively affect the deer and other wildlife this winter."
- January 10 - Hwy 114 message re: Denver Meeting for further discussion on hazmat issues - more on this topic in the Road & Bridge report.

**Sam Pace** reported:

- Spoke with Grier Bailey in Denver regarding the possibility of Alta Fuels in Alamosa not being able to serve their customers in Gunnison due to the Hazardous Materials Restrictions on Hwy 114. Has been in contact with Kathleen Curry regarding the

legislation in reference to the waivers that can be issued by State Patrol. His thoughts are possibly working with the local law enforcement and local county government (speed limits, signs etc.). A resolution may be needed to resolve the issue.

**Mike Spearman** reported:

- Attended the County Master Plan meeting. 72 people in attendance. Don Toews with Power Zone was in attendance. Attendees worked in groups making different situations on developments, it was a very interactive meeting. Groups were given small devices that they were able to vote on the topics/exercises that they were involved in. This made the Master Plan meeting very involved and interactive by all that attended.
- Attended the Saguache County Democratic Party Meeting
- Met with Jared from Wild Blue in reference to the internet for the County. He will be coming to meet with the different departments to see what is needed. Joseph said that we will not need Wild Blue email addresses, as we should be moving to saguachecounty.net addresses. Spearman said that the addresses was not the issue that the number of email addresses that are being used is the issue.
- Went to WSB to see other internet options were available, and was given several options. Administration will follow up with Fone.net.

**Lynn Zimmer and Wendi Maez** - CO-Administrators:

**Pace motioned to approve the Public Trustee Report for 2007. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three ayes.**

- Connie Trujillo, County Treasurer has submitted the final Public Trustee Report for 2007. This report needs to be attached to the minutes.
- The Sales Tax public notice for applications has been submitted for publication to the Crestone Eagle, Center Post Dispatch and Saguache Crescent.

**Pace motioned to approve final adjustments to the 2007 Budget. Joseph seconded the motion. Vote was three ayes for the motion.**

- Resolution to increase/decrease the appropriations for 2007 Budget needs to signed.
- The water lines at Puerto broke over the weekend. In the attempt to fix them a gas line got punctured. The gas leak has been repaired and the water line has also been repaired.

**Spearman moves to accept bid from Del Mar (\$4,378.73) for Land Use and Admin office carpeting, Pace seconded motion. The vote was three ayes.**

- Bids have been received for the carpet for the basement. The only bid that was received was from Del Mar Carpet One. The amounts range from \$6381.41 to \$3145.49.
- Wendi Maez stated that it is very necessary in Land Use, due to the tile containing asbestos. Lynn Zimmer stated that the carpet in Administration needs replaced due to the fact that the current carpet is damaged and is causing a tripping hazard.
- Pete Garcia was brought in for his thoughts on the carpet issue. He believes that there is a need for carpet. It would also make the appearance better. Flooding may not be an issue if they still intend on putting a canopy on the lower entrance. Pete stated for the middle area

that it could be repainted to look more presentable. A lot of the vendors aren't bidding because they have not gotten the bid that they have put in before.

**Joseph moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:55 A. M. for personnel purposes under CRS 24-6-402(4)(f)(i). Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

**Spearman moved to return to regular session at 10:06 A. M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- We will need an executive session to discuss personnel issues with Melinda Myers, County Clerk, although she is not present.

**Spearman moved to get a plaque for Sandra Cunningham for her 26 years of service. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three ayes.**

- Rearranged some of the schedules for the BOCC evaluations of the Department Heads for the February 5, 2008 meeting.
- A discussion was entered regarding Mr. Rundle's USFWS letter, along with their regulations regarding local government. Pace feels a response is needed. Joseph requests clarification of County jurisdiction, and mention of various experts who have offered services to the County in the response to him. Gibbons to draft letter for board to look over.

Break

**Wendi Maez - Land Use Administrator**

**Pace moved to approve the consolidation for Paul Koppana on Baca Grande Chalets Unit II, Lots 3678 and 3679. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Lot Consolidation request for Paul K. Koppana aka Paul Koppana – Baca Grande Chalets Unit 2 - Lots 3678 and 3679 – Crestone/Baca PC recommended approval of this request at their January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Saguache County Planning Commission Appointments - All members with the exception of Gerald Gray have asked to continue on the Planning Commission. Received letters from Bill McClure & Steve Smilack of interest to serve on the SC Planning Commission. Steve Smilack can not be on the board because he does not live in the part of the county covered by the SC Planning Commission.

**Spearman moved to appoint to the Planning Commission; Jeff Shook, Don Geddes, Bill McClure, and Laura Mezoff, Tim Scanlon, Richard Drake as alternates. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three ayes.**

- Received and completed a Traffic Client Questionnaire from LSC Transportation Consultants, the group that did the traffic study for the Crestone/Baca area.

- Planning Commission recommends that a socioeconomic study be done for Crestone/Baca if we can get the funding for that area. Will hold off on decision until after meeting with the Planning Commission meeting.
- Planning Commission needs to continue working on Oil and Gas regulations - Don Geddes stated that an independent study should be able to be going on while the regulations are being developed. Planning Commission understands that the deadline is the end of March to have regulations to County Commissioners.
- Planning Commission made a recommendation for the County to adopt a resolution for unique and irreplaceable sites, Attorney Gibbons will research this.
- The PC would like to have time on the agenda for monthly update/discussion with Board of Commissioners, either the PC chairs/vice chairs would be reporting.

**Ben Gibbons - County Attorney:**

- Working on letter for Commissioners reply to Dean Rundle, USFWS.
- Working on information that was given to him by Kimberly Bryant OEM, on the unique and irreplaceable examples to see how it would work into the situation currently facing the County. These tend to be areas that have already been designated by other agencies, due to their special qualities. More information on this is needed.
- Draft letter to USFWS was emailed to the Board for review. Commissioners were in agreement with the letter.

**Mike Norris – Sheriff:**

- Attended Sheriffs Meeting.
- Court House Security Act has \$5.00 fee on all Court Filing Fees. At present time there is 1.2-2 million in the fund. Saguache County will be getting in on the first part of the money. There will also be funding for a part-time person to be in the building when there is court. The funding will be available for 10 years and Norris will get figures together so that he can put in for the funding. A provision is available if additional funding is needed for security. Grant period for applying Jan. 22-29, 2008. Needs to find members for a committee to write the grant. Spearman volunteered to be on the Courthouse Security Committee with Sheriff Norris.

<p><b>Pace motioned to appoint Spearman as Courthouse Security Committee Member. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.</b></p>
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- Discussed the KIAMIA issues. Can dedicate 3 officers to that particular area. Will contact other law enforcement agencies for help if needed. Emergency Services on stand by. He will speak with Jeff Shook to get more details.

Jail tour

Lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:04 P.M.

**Randal Arredondo – Road & Bridge Supervisor:**

- Arredondo received and submitted numerous letters in support of the road maintenance in the Sargents area, along with clarification of the complaint against the road grader operator.
- Email from Mr. Higgins stating that a resolution needed to be submitted regarding the Hazardous Materials. Pace informed Road & Bridge Supervisor of Alta Fuels issues with the Hazardous Material on Hwy 114. Arredondo's understanding was that Alta Fuel was not hauling tanker loads of fuel. Pace willing to do the resolution but needs more clarification, so that it does not affect local businesses. Arredondo will contact Alta Fuel to clarify. Joseph getting clarification on the Denver meeting about the Hazardous Materials on Hwy 114. Arredondo spoke with CDOT regarding restrictions on Hwy 114.
- Arredondo gave Colorado State web-site with roads for wide loads, restrictions and hazardous load routes. Reported that the CDOT is discussing having a message board set up by the CDOT shop west of Saguache displaying messages regarding the road.
- Arredondo also brought up the issue of the problem of the radio reception in the canyon.
- Arredondo will continue to research the road impact issue. Pace discussed the issue of the fees that apply.

**Randal Arredondo - Land Fill Supervisor:**

No report

**Jeannie Norris - Social Services Director:**

- The TANF case count has once again increased from five cases to nine active cases. There were nine child-only cases in addition for the month of December. There were 371 food stamp cases, 100 old-age-pension recipients, and 23 aid-to-the-needy disabled cases.
- The current caseload for the IV-D Unit decreased by 2, for a total of 445 cases. The Unit reached its goal for paternity establishment, interstate cases with orders, and percentage of support paid for interstate cases. They narrowly missed the goal of current caseloads with orders, with 99.8 percent.
- Cheers/Blue Horizon reports six active TANF participants, and one adult basic education client. They continue to provide quality services to the community of Center, as well as perform the duties of a training center for our clients. Attached to this report is a summary of the year 2007.
- The Child and Adult Protection Unit had six new child protection referrals during December, of which four were accepted for investigation. We have five open adult protection cases, with five additional referrals. The Child Protection Unit will host a seminar on how to create "Lifebooks" for foster children in our facility on Friday, January 18. Lifebooks have been shown to be very valuable resource for foster or adopted children to have answered questions, and a record that they can see of their history.
- LEAP is in full swing, and the supplemental gift program has been a huge success. The next dispersal of light bulbs, shower nozzles and smoke detectors is scheduled to be in the community of Crestone. Jan reports that she is receiving many requests for weatherization as well as emergency stove repairs during the extreme cold.
- Norris attended the Transit Development meeting on January 3, and found a great deal of interest in this project. There were representatives from the railroad, Alamosa Bus Service, Blue Willow Transit, Blue Peaks, as well as Directors of Social Services from three counties, and commissioners from Rio Grande and Alamosa Counties. We are to meet again on February 7 at 2:00 P.M. in Alamosa County.

- Susie Jordan and Norris met at the Mental Health facility in Center at the request of Jeannie Ritter. Directors, caseworkers, and mental health workers from Saguache and Rio Grande Counties participated in a discussion with Mrs. Ritter for about three hours regarding mental health needs and collaborative possibilities in the Valley. She was both pleased and surprised to see the level of cooperation between resources in this area, and is taking both her impressions and concerns from those in attendance with her to share with the Governor's office.
- Saguache County DSS received a letter of thanks from Heart of the Rockies Medical Center for our efforts in assisting patients as they are discharged under special circumstances. Accident victims and senior clients have been recently assisted with transportation home by joint efforts with the Saguache County Sheriff's Office, Saguache County Nursing Services and the medical staff who serve the hospital as well as our local clinic. DSS has been able to assist with special needs clients once they arrive home from the hospital. We struggle to find resources to aid those who fall "outside the cracks" and do not fit any of our structured program areas and it was nice to have a "thank you" from the Salida facility.
- Sheldon Lowder will be coming and place insulation in the DSS building. Janitor assessing what needs to be covered in the building to prevent dust falling on the office equipment. May possibly completed later this week.
- Joseph and Norris discussed the deadlines for sales tax grant applications (March 7, 2008).
- Norris inquired regarding employee evaluation for her position Joseph informed her that it would be in the month of February. They discussed the evaluation for the Janitor as well.

**Penny Bruce - Library Administrator:**

**PROGRAMS –**

- We continued to have weekly story hours at the Headstart while the weather remains so frigid.
- Our offering of reading and listening materials that we posted at the Seniors' Lunch Program has become more popular now that the heating seems to be working better. We recently delivered a book that one of these patrons had requested as an Inter Library Loan. The loan process got inexplicably delayed, so we made the decision to buy a used copy of the book, as it was a classic in its field and a welcome addition to the library's collection and the patron was very appreciative.
- Every year the library is required to file an annual report with the Colorado Dept. of Education, compiling the data we record on a monthly spreadsheet, including the number of patron visits, public computer usage, fines collected, etc. Director Mondragon is training Bruce on the process, which is now done entirely on-line, and we hope to be finished by next month, even though the deadline is not until March.
- The orientation trip to the Center library is still pending as it's proved very difficult to find a time to meet. We recently scheduled the trip for a rare day when we were all free of conflicting schedules, only to have the weather turn really nasty, forcing yet another cancellation. Becky Reed, the school librarian in Center has been very responsive to this effort so it's sure to happen soon.

- This month a book, “Thrillcraft”, was donated to the library by a patron from Villa Grove who has been active in organizing a “Quiet Kids” movement in the Salida area, to encourage young people to use our wilderness areas more responsibly and thoughtfully. She wants to spread the message in our area now and we have offered the use of the library for meetings and publicity. We hope this will be a positive partnership and we’ll be looking for ways to incorporate their message in our youth programming.

#### FUNDRAISING:

- Will be meeting tomorrow with Kim Smoyer and Kate Vasha who will be sharing their expertise in writing grants for the library. Hopefully, with their guidance, we can get multiple proposals submitted and improve our fund-raising chances.
- We received a few more donations last month in response to our letter, bringing our total close to the \$2,000 level and leaving us just a few hundred short of our required matching funds for the Gates Foundation grant.

#### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

- Our first shipment of new books was delivered to the library by Friends president, Kate Vasha, which were quickly processed and ready for checkout. We featured this donation in our latest weekly news columns. The members of the group also agreed to submit additional publicity to the Crescent, and Judy Page was the first to do so this month. Secretary Mary Morfitt and Bruce sorted through the various documents and files that the Friends had accumulated over the years and these are now re-organized and newly accessible in one of the library’s unused file cabinets.

#### BOOK CLUB:

- The Saguache book club had no meeting this month, but we were excited to learn about a book club on the air, sponsored by the Alamosa radio station, KRZA, which is on every Sunday evening at 5:00. A list of their up-coming book selections is now posted at the library, and we hope to actively participate in future programs, not only listening in, but calling in comments, suggesting future selections, perhaps even guest hosting, all of which is encouraged by this community-oriented show.

#### **Rick Basgoitia - Colorado Division of Wildlife:**

Reported on the DAU (one or more plus game management units) in the County. The deer, elk and antelope have large populations that can cause damage to property. Compromises will need to be made, so DOW is asking for preferences. Commissioners stated that the DOW was on the right track. Update of elk and deer DAU for this area:

1. Elk - E26 game management units west and north of Saguache. Pop 3800 elk sex ratio 33/100 cows. Each year they fly they are seeing more bulls in this area.

Alternatives:

- a. Decrease pop by 15%    b. Maintain pop size – Preferred    c. Increase pop.
2. Deer D26 3500 pop. Amend to 3000 -6000.
    - a. 20/100 does - Preferred    b. 24/100 does    c. 30/100 does
  3. Antelope - want to reduce DAU to 2. 2100 pop. High 42-4300 in 1993. Drought brought the numbers down. 26/100 does can maintain same current population.
    - a. Decrease by 15%    b. Maintain current- Preferred    c. Increase 25%

**Alison Frost - Tourism Board Update:**

- Web pages - the SCTC was concerned the since the County website was taking so long to develop, the tourist season would be missed, so they had a vision to forge ahead and purchase a domain name and create a dynamic web presence, understanding that it needs to be compatible with the County website. Pace stated that it should be combined with the County site, so that both can be done smoothly. Joseph will continue to the the Tourism Council's contact for Web development. Melinda is their liaison to the Board. Joseph reiterated that a site plan is needed in order for applicants to make bids, and reminded the Council to look at other web pages (saguache.org) and create a blue print of what they want. Alison stated that they have looked at other tourism council's web site for comparison along with ideas. Tourism Board is having frustration due to current web page. Joseph reiterated that most issues that they had raised, had been remedied some time ago.
- The ad the Council placed was in the Crestone Eagle, but not in the Saguache Crescent , which is the County's official notices paper. Admin usually places bids in all County papers and the Courier.
- Attorney Gibbons informed Frost that the SCTC needs to work more closely with the Commissioners regarding the bid process; interviews need to be postponed until an ad is placed in the Saguache Crescent and other papers.
- Frost asked where the funding for the Council came from and if it was coming from the lodging tax. A discussion was then held regarding how the money is collected and allocated.
- Scope of work needs to be developed with Tourism Council input; Frost asked if the current images and design can be changed now. Joseph said that she has informed the TC that additional information or images can be posted at any time.
- The county will be responsible for contracting the vendors/webmasters for this, but the Tourism Council will complete the first round of interviews and make recommendations to the BOCC. Tourism does not have to be the same web master, but if they are different, web masters need to work closely with each other so that it will run smoothly.
- Spearman inquired about the 2008 Saguache County Guide - the rates and deadlines. Alison will follow up on calls to the people who were unsure of what the procedure for advertising in the Guide.

**Break**

**Donna and Don Newsom – Nursing:**

- Mass Vaccination Clinic update - Donna and Don were given a plaque in recognition for the hard work that was done to coordinate the recent successful Mass Vac Clinic. Newsom gave hand outs of her report.

**Suzy Off - Historian Old Spanish Trail:**

- Gave an introduction of the Old Spanish Trail history. Trying to locate specific spots in San Luis Valley on the west side where the wagon train went through. The train went from the Conejos area to the Cochetopa Area. The Spanish Trail became a National Historic Trail in 2002. The trail was officially used from 1829-1848. A packet was given with a brief history of the San Luis Indian Tribes. The packets were completed by their

board and volunteer members. They are having the packet printed by a printer in Gunnison. Their hopes today is to have the Commissioners recognize the west fork entrance to be marked placed at intersections along public roads. They would like to have the Board's permission to get the signs posted along the roads that are now across this wagon trail.

**Joseph moved to approve the posting of the West Fork of the Old Spanish Trail signs along the county right of way, in coordination with County Road & Bridge Dept. Pace seconded the motion. The votes were three Ayes.**

**Joseph moved to convene as the Housing Board at 3:15 P.M. Pace seconded. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Saguache County Housing Report

**Pace moved to adjourn the Housing Board and return to regular meeting at 4:10 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was three Ayes.**

**Bill Paying**

**Joseph moved to adjourn at 4:24 P.M. Pace seconded. The vote was three Ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christa Collins Acting Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved February 12, 2008

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Chairman of the Board

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Attest

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Commissioner

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Commissioner