

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, November 12, 2008 with the following present:

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

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pace at 9:03 A.M.

Under Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

1. Add Interim Transit Authority resolution during the Attorney Report.
2. Add response to Jack Clark during the Attorney Report.
3. Add Lexam to the Attorney Report.

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

Reading and approval of minutes:

**Joseph moved to approve the minutes of November 4, 2008 as amended. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

Review of Mail:

1. United States Fish & Wildlife Service sent their October 2008 Final Environmental Assessment of Planned Gas & Oil Exploration, Baca National Wildlife Refuge, Saguache County, Colorado. (11/4/08)
2. Colorado State Board of Assessment Appeals concerning their 2008 Saguache County Board of Equalization. (11/6/08)
3. Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District sent their Agenda for their Special Meeting on Monday November 10, 08 at 5pm in Gunnison. (11/7/08)
4. Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy has sent their Tentative Agenda in Salida on November 13, 08 at 1:30 pm. (11/10/08)
5. Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment sent notice of Meeting & Agenda on Air Quality Control Commission on November 20 & 21, 08 in Denver, CO and 9:00am. (10/11/08)

6. Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment sent the Agenda on Colorado Board of Health Agenda on November 19, 08 in Denver at 10:00am.
7. Town of Crestone sent letter to request funds for legal expenses for a court case regarding BLM Oil and Gas leases. The Board has already filed a protest with the BLM and there is no money in the budget for this effort.
8. Received email information for the proposed Vista Grande Park from Steve Sanchez and Kate Vasha.

**Introduction of Guests:** Matie Belle Lakish – Crestone Eagle; Lisa Cyriacks & David Nicholas - CBPC; Suzanne Foote & Hanne Strong – Manitou Foundation.

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

**Sam Pace** reported:

- Nov 6 - Attended the public meeting on the Liberty gate parking issue.
- Received a call from Dr. Arnett about updating the sign on the clinic.
- Contacted Hugh Hallock on partnering with the Governor’s energy office to offer rebates to citizens.
- Spoke to Charlie Warren Superintendent of Moffat Schools, about the new funding coming from Secure Rural Schools.

**Mike Spearman** reported:

- Nov 5 - Attended all day session on Range Management and Monitoring led by personnel from the Forest Service and Natural Resource and Conservation Service. Emphasis was educating ranchers on collecting data on their Federal and State Permits and better preparing them to monitor their ranges. The reality is that there are groups and organizations in existence that would like to remove grazing from being a multiple use on Federal Land. Permittees must make an effort to be better stewards of the land that they utilize. It was noted that currently some ranches that are acquiring conservation easements have a clause included that says they are released from easement requirements if their Federal land permits are denied the right to graze. Therefore, they are free to subdivide.
- Nov 6 – Attended the BOCC special meeting about Liberty Gate parking issue discussion, the Board will prepare letter to our Congressional Delegation requesting money to build the road to a parking lot in the National Park, and Spearman will start a draft.
- Nov 10 - Valley Commissioner meeting in Alamosa which covered three topics:
  1. Feasibility study on Solar Power generation Alamosa came up with their money.
  2. Transit Authority discussion
  3. District Attorney meeting

- Nov 10 - Met with the ITA, (Interim Transit Authority), policy board to discuss removal of MVEDC from leadership. This is a very confusing issue.
  - Costilla County is new Fiscal Agent
  - Policy Board becomes the new ITA
  - Each county gets one vote (5 counties)
  - Need officers and bylaws

**Linda Joseph** reported:

- Nov 6 - Attended a work session with the BOCC, the Sheriff and public agencies, regarding Liberty Gate parking issues and Park access. Signs will be posted to limit some and better direct parking away from the impacted residences for the remainder of this hunting season. The group will continue to address funding for the official Park access road, completion of the Forest Service Environmental Assessment and scoping process, and interim measures, meanwhile.
- Met with Kate Vasha and Steve Sanchez, who were looking for fundraising suggestions to meet the shortfall of matching funds they need to confirm to GoCo late this month. They reported that the Town of Saguache has now stepped up to provide all of their Conservation Trust funds toward this project (\$41,000). This leaves a shortfall of \$5,000. They are doing a local campaign focused on local businesses and organizations for any donations they might make. They are asking the BOCC whether an increased pledge would be possible, once these other local pledges come in (Nov 21 deadline), for any remaining match still needed. Joseph has forwarded the materials they have prepared for this final funding push, including: A Letter of Request for funding, a list of the current Partner organizations on this project, a letter of support template to seek more partners, and a map of the Vista Grande area for reference.
- Nov 10 - Attended the SLV County Commissioners Association meeting with Commissioner Spearman and Co-Administrator Zimmer. Follow-up on topics discussed includes:
  - a. A BOCC resolution supporting Costilla County replacing Monte Vista Economic Development Council as the fiscal agent and with the Policy Committee serving as the Interim Transit Authority.
  - b. There will be a request to District Attorney Elect Mahonee to meet with the Valley Commissioners to establish working relations, and enhance communications and accountabilities, when he takes office.
- Nov 10 - Attended the SLV LEAP High meeting regarding the future water quality studies in the Valley. In addition to the planned continuation of the EPA/SLVEC testing program, there will be a doctoral student, Kathy James

completing a study of water content and diabetes incidence in the Valley, with the benefit of data that has been gathered over 50 years.

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

- Veteran's Report was reviewed and signed.
- Zimmer attended SLV BOCC meeting.
- Held an Insurance committee meeting with another meeting scheduled Nov 13 at 9 a.m.
- Sales Tax Grant letters and checks are ready for delivery. If there are not changes the letters and checks will be sent out by Friday – November 14, 2008.

**Spearman moved to send a letter to the Town of Center regarding the \$18,000 in CTF which is being held by the County giving Center 90 days to use or lose these funds. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- The County has been holding \$16,000 of Conservation Trust Funds for the Town of Center for three years. The Board will send the Center Town Clerk a letter, requesting a commitment to spend the funds within 90 days.
- Town of Saguache is requesting an additional \$5,000 for the match needed to get the GoCo grant. The Board will send a letter committing to \$2,500 of matching funds to the town towards funds they can raise from citizens and organizations.

Break

**RS2477** map review:

- Board reviewed the map to determine if trails from the Baca Grande subdivision extend to the National Forest boundary.
- Maez will make a photocopy of requested information from the USFS/BLM.

**Ben Gibbons – Attorney report:**

- Gibbons has forwarded an email from Kenneth Skoglund's attorney regarding Road & Bridge issues. R&B Supervisor Arredondo addressed all the points for Gibbons to respond to the complaint. Gibbons will work on a policy for county road work.

**Spearman moved to approve the resolution to appoint Costilla County as the temporary fiscal agents for the Interim Transportation Agency for the San Luis Valley. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.**

- Resolution for transfer of fiscal management of ITA to Costilla County.
- Jack Clark from Lexam sent an email to Attorney Gibbons that Lexam does not have to comply with any of the new oil and gas regulations for their exploratory wells. Gibbons will follow up.

**Karen Hoffner – SLV Fair Board:**

- Fair update – several Saguache County youth make excellent showings at the fair. The

SLV Fair actually broke even and did not lose money, thanks to the funds from Saguache County Board of Commissioners. The Sales Tax grant will be awarded this week. Spearman commented that participation should grow with the new expansion in the Crestone area.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:08 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:08 P.M.

Sales Tax review

Work Session – Budget review

**Spearman moved to adjourn at 4:25 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was three Ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved November 18, 2008

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Chairman of the Board

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Attest

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Commissioner

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Commissioner