

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, March 3, 2009 with the following present:

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

Mike Spearman, Co-Vice Chairman was testifying in Denver to the Legislature.

Meeting called to order by Chair Joseph at 9:00 A.M.

Under Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

1. Add to Administration report – appointment of County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board.

Pace moved to approve the agenda as amended. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Reading and approval of minutes

Pace moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2008 as amended. Joseph seconded motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Review of Mail and other correspondence:

1. National Association of Counties (NACO) sent a brochure on National County Government Week on May 3-9, 2009. (2/17/09)
2. Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District has sent the Agenda for the Board of Directors on February 23, 2009 at the Fire House in Lake City, Colo. (2/17/09)
3. USDA Forest Service sent a CD that analyzes impacts of off-highway vehicle (OHV) area, road & trail designations on public lands in Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande Conejos, & Costilla Counties, Colorado. (2/17/09)
4. Blue Peaks Developmental Services, Inc. Sent the Memorandum to invite the BOCC to attend a public forum on Feb. 26, 2009 2pm at 703 4th St. Alamosa. (2/18/09)
5. USDA Forest Service is seeking public comments on the following project proposal to help in its analysis & decision making on the San Isabel Creek project. (2/23/09)
6. USDA Forest Service/ Bureau of Land Management is beginning an environmental assessment to consider using integrated pest management within the San Luis Valley Resource Area. The analysis will look at the use of herbicides & mechanical & biological treatments to manage noxious & invasive plant an aquatic species. (2/23/09)

7. Shaylisa Hurte sent a letter from the Governors Office appreciating the letter of recommendation for John McCLOW and will keep the letter of recommendation in mind when they make their decision for the position for the Colorado Water Conservation Board. (2/23/09)
8. Rio Grande Water Conservation District has sent the January and February 2009 Ground Water table measurements. (2/24/09)
9. The Rio Grande Water Users Association sent the notice of annual membership meeting. The meeting will be held in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Monte Vista on Thursday March 12, 2009 at 1:30pm. (2/24/09)
10. Gunnison Conservation District sent a request for the dispersal of the appropriation for the GCD. (Road & Bridge paid in 2008) the amount of \$ 500. (2/25/09)
11. Saguache County Public Health will be hosting their 21st Health Fair in Center on April 3, 2009 they are looking for Donations & Volunteers. (2/25/09)
12. The State of Colorado public utilities commission sent a docket on Soliciting Second Round of comments on possible rule changes & advising stakeholders of related commission activities. (2/26/09)

Introduction of Guests: Matie Bell Lakish - Crestone Eagle; James Diven, Taylor Henderson, and Shalini Rauanathan – Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc.; Jerry Burton; Mark Smith – Meadow Ranch; Andrew Archuleta and Dale Gomez – USFS/BLM; Gene Hollenbeck – Gunnison Stock Growers; and Don Geddes.

James Diven - Renewable Energy Systems;

- Plans to file a Conditional Use Permit for a 200 megawatt solar trough project. Parent company is from the UK, with US operations based in Colorado.

Commissioners Reports

Sam Pace reported:

- Feb 20 – Attended the CCI Steering Committee in Denver.
- Feb 23 – Testified against House Bill 1250, which would require the counties to split the SRS funds 50/50 with the school districts.
- Feb 26 – Attended the joint meetings with the planning commissions.
- Feb 28 – Attended a meeting of County Commissioners with Senator Gail Schwartz on her solar energy bill, SB09-039 in Alamosa.

Linda Joseph reported:

- Feb18-25 - Hosted a meeting of the Global Ecovillage Network Board, on which Joseph serves, with attendees from 7 countries.
- Feb 24 - Attended the Villa Grove Area Merchant's Association monthly potluck.
- Feb 26 - Attended the joint meeting of the BOCC with the Saguache County and Crestone/Baca Planning Commissions.
- Was contacted by Mary Coleman, for assistance in property tax classification, and referred her messages to Land Use and the Assessor for follow-up.
- Joseph will be leaving the meeting early today to travel to Ignacio, CO for the Regional Emergency Medical & Trauma Advisory Council Forum hosted by the SWRETAC.

Mike Spearman: No report

Lynn Zimmer and Wendi Maez – Co-administrator report:

Pace moved to appoint George Whitten to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

- Appointment of a County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board.
- Board drafted letters of support to Congress to repeal the oil and gas industry hydraulic fracturing fluids exemption from the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Zimmer received another telephone call from Premier Elections. They are still waiting for their payment of \$1,061.88 from the Clerk and Recorder from November 2007. The Secretary of State's office is working on the issue to get Premier to write off the invoice, Clerk Myers will report at the next meeting.
- The bill of \$345.15 for membership in Action 22 has been received, discounted over \$200. Administration will renew the membership.
- Mr. Saunders was in last week with another complaint concerning the property assessments in Saguache County. Assessor Jacqueline Stephens has prepared a response regarding the Graves property.

Pace moved to transfer \$5,000 from General Fund to Nursing Fund. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

- A transfer of funds from General Fund to the Nursing Fund in the amount of \$5000 to create a buffer for accounts payable.
- Administrative billing for nursing has not been received or paid for January or February 2009. Current amount due is \$4500. Board suggested these payments be automatic through the Treasurer.
- A copy of leave to be taken by employees by year end was distributed. The hours that are listed are the number of hours to be taken by year end; it is not the amount of hours they have acquired. Department heads or deputies are in bold letters. This is just a follow up on the report from last meeting that advised the board of letters that were sent out.
- Received the remaining funds from DOLA for the Courthouse Renovation Grant in the amount of \$163,455.09.
- A conference call was made with Maez and Marva Miller for Community Service Block Grants Funding. The new stimulus package may provide an additional \$80,000 that will be given to our region. An Additional \$900 has been given for the assistance of hiring a new staff person to run the grant for the region. Help Wanted Ads have gone out to all of the local newspapers to hire someone to handle this grant.
- Received two emails concerning the Insulate Colorado program. One email gives help with advertisements and the other will help with the monthly reporting and helping organize an Insulate Colorado Seminar in our area.

- WSB contract has \$1,240.31 left over from 2008 contract. Attorney Gibbons has been emailed the new contract for review.

Break

Wendi Maez - Land Use Administrator report:

- Solar Facilities Regulations discussion of public viewing of regulations was held. At this time the recommendations from the Planning Commissions have been placed on the March 10, 2009 meeting agenda, in order to publish the agenda before the meeting.
- There has been some survey stakes placed on private and public property up Findley Gulch, with the name Green Energy. The BLM is looking into it.

Pace moved to enter into Executive Session at 10:45 A. M. for legal purposes under CRS 24-6-402 (4)(b). Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Pace moved to return to regular session at 11:14 A. M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

- At the Joint Planning Commission meeting it was determined that there is \$15,000 left for the completion of the Master Plan. Maez met with Lisa Cyriacks to set a budget for the Crestone/Baca Planning Commission, which would be between \$11,000 – 13,000. Title III funds remaining from 2008 may be used for this purpose.

Pace moved to enter into Executive Session at 11:19 A. M. for legal purposes under CRS 24-6-402 (4)(b). Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Pace moved to return to regular session at 11:49 A. M. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was two Ayes.

Ben Gibbons, County Attorney report:

- House Bill 09-1235 – Good Samaritan bill would allow blight clean up on abandoned property without liability.
- HB 091260 – Permit employees to designate anyone as beneficiary.
- HB 091265- Limit abatement for non-profit organization to two years.
- Will research legislation to allow loans for solar at county level, which would be paid back through property taxes.

Adjourned for Lunch at 12:00 P. M.

Resumed meeting at 1:00 P. M.

Randal Arredondo – Supervisor Road & Bridge and Land fill report:

- Los Valle Youth Corp will be starting up soon and it will be funded through the R&B budget. It will only be 10 kids from Saguache County and transportation can be handled with county vehicles.
- Marshall and Jane Mylum were sent a letter from Mr. Hollenbeck's lawyer that Mr. Hollenbeck will take control of the gate on 6 Mile Road. The attorney for Mylum request that the County order Hollenbeck to hold off until documents can be produced to prove it is a public access. Gibbons had sent a letter to Hollenbeck that the County did not believe he had the right to close off access.

Pace moved to convene as the Saguache County Department of Social Services Board at 1:30 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was two Ayes.

Jeannie Norris - Social Services Director:

- Food assistance cases increased from 368 to 377. We are once again seeing a steady upward trend in applicants. There were 28 aid-to-the-needy-disabled cases, and 109 old-age-pension cases. The CHEERS training center has three TANF clients, and two adult basic education students.
- The Child Protection Unit received 13 referrals during January, 9 of which were accepted for investigation. There are currently ten children in placement; nine dependency and neglect court cases in progress, and 168 children in open cases. There currently are ten adult protection cases. Saguache County has combined with the five other counties in the San Luis Valley to advertise the need for foster care providers. We are critically short of placement options at this time.
- LEAP has served 565 households to date, and have 13 cases pending approval. Jan Garduno reports having paid \$298,204.25 in benefit as opposed to \$261,045.80 for the corresponding period last year. The LEAP issue of payment to households who purchase wood permits and cut wood has been addressed by the Self-Sufficiency Policy Action Committee, and is on the State Board of Human Services for emergency rule adoption on March 6. Thank you to Jan Garduno and Saguache County Commissioners for being among the first to bring this issue to the forefront.
- The IV-D Unit is pleased to have received a letter of thanks from Karen Beye informing us that five of ten possible goals were reached for 2008. Kudos to this Unit for their accomplishment during staff shortage once again.
- Little Learners Daycare opened on March 2 at the Saguache Head Start facility. Childcare funding assisted this facility in renovation and equipment to make this resource available to Saguache. Hours at this time are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and hopefully will expand as demand and longer daylight hours in summer require.
- The Department continues to expand our TEFAP Commodity Program, and each quarter we have been able to deliver an increased distribution. We now are receiving occasional deliveries of fresh produce. As that happens, we distribute the commodity to those clients in Center and Saguache who come in to the office, and share with the seniors in both communities as well. On two occasions, our deliveries have exceeded storage capacity, and we overflow into the DSS building

or Community Center. We intend to use every opportunity to continue this trend, as this is one of the few ways to increase services to clients and seniors.

- Saguache County DSS and Sheriff's Office, together with Conejos County and the State Training Division is in the process of putting together a training which will address law enforcement/DSS issues.
- There is a full agenda scheduled for the Financial PAC meetings on Wednesday and Thursday of this week which will hopefully provide clarification on funding issues currently being considered by the State. Also on the agenda will be the Smart Solutions representatives. We are hopeful of having answers which will give counties directions as to how to proceed with a number of programs which have been awaiting clarification as funding issues are being addressed.
- The heating renovations are almost complete.
- The Seniors are featuring an Artist in Residence of the Month program.

Pace moved to adjourn the Saguache County Department of Social Services Board and return to regular meeting at 1:55 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was two Ayes.

Andrew Archuleta – USFS/BLM monthly discussion

- USFS wants to know if Saguache still wants the SRS RAC to be a County Only RAC. Commissioners confirmed. Maez will be the contact person for the County.
- The paperwork for the North access road into the park to the Forest Service parking lot has been submitted.
- Presented a slide show on the San Isabel fuel reduction project north of Crestone.
- Joseph asked about Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation, which the Planning Commission learned about in considering Unique and Irreplaceable designations.

Break

Gene Hollenbeck - Gunnison Stock Growers Assn.

- Hunting areas 54, 55, 551 in Gunnison and Saguache Counties are experiencing large numbers of elk which have impacted the habitat for the Sage Grouse and grazing permits. The Stock Growers would like a letter of support requesting additional hunting permits to thin the herd.

Bill Paying

Pace moved to adjourn at 2:50 P.M. Joseph seconded. The vote was two Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved March 10, 2009

Chairman of the Board

Attest

Commissioner

Commissioner