

MONTEZUMA COUNTY BOCC 6-19-17

Notes from one observer at the latest meeting, these are not minutes but notes only.

SPECIAL EVENTS permit was approved for “Pets Sake” to hold a special events fund raiser at Cliff Rose on July 29th.

RESIGNATION of the County Assessor was reluctantly accepted, due to stated health issues. Assistant Leslie Bugg was appointed to fill the position until the next regular election, November of 2018.

ROADS transferred \$203, 036 from road impact fees to pay for the paving on RD 25. This is what the purpose of the impact fees are for, road improvement. Gravel work will be done on several sections such as RDs 22 & 23 (Cortez Dist), Chicken Creek 27 and 36.5. Much work will be done on the CC & 10 projects. Still not able to draft needed water from MVI for road projects, claims there has to be a change in by-laws. The concern of use of “fossil water” from Rheems was checked into and found that there was no problems in compliance with the “product” but only with administrative/clerical compliance. The County is not going to use any more of the material until the administrative compliance issues are cleared up with the state.

KINDER MORGAN COURT CASE on taxes was in the state supreme court, and notice just came in this morning that the Court found in favor of the County/State. This will clear up confusion on the taxable properties and the funds held up will be audited and the whole thing resolved.

PUBLIC LANDS The BLM and County has been looking into issues over public access on road 36.5. The County Plat showed it to be a County

public access road, but had never been “labeled” a Green road, so a Red sign had been placed on it. There will be a hearing July 24th to change from the current label of Red, to a Green road. Other signs noting “not a public road” will be removed ASAP. BLM mentioned that their State Director, Welch, is transferring out of BLM and into BOR in the State. Question was raised about the MLP continuing? BLM said it was on the back burner. Apparently the national county assn will be meeting with new White House directives to identify “redundant” programs. The MLP is really the same as the Master Management Plan, so would be redundant and a waste of monies. FOREST SERVICED mentioned they have had lots of road damage to repair which has delayed some regular maintenance, so be patient, they are hope to catch up soon. The Trimble Point Prescribed burn went well, covering 1500 acres in one day, no problems others than wind change affecting the smoke dispersal. The FS is working with the Western Excelsior plant on timber sales extensions and contract issues as well as with Aspen Wall Wood plant. The BOCC mentioned that the Phil’s World trail that crossed a piece of private land, the County reached an lease agreement with the land owner to provide a revocable year to year lease FOR FREE, to enable the trail and public use to continue.

CP&W dept. mentioned that the fish stocking is now going full force. The ponds up the Dolores River are very popular. The Boat inspections for Mussel prevention is a financial problem, but they are working with DWCD, BOR, FS as a joint effort, and looking for was to possibly control the mussel. This is a common concern all across the west. Colorado currently has no infected waters, but it is VERY close in neighbor states, especially Lake Powell. Wildlife counts are about even from last year, but also concerned about Chronic Wasting Disease, which has been

noted just over in Montrose. Also of concern is that studies are indicating black bears are causing larger losses in Elk calves than previously believed.

NOXIOUS WEED issue was raised on a private property south on road G. A non-resident owner has a large infestation of Hoary Cress and Russian Knapweed, causing expensive operating costs and loss of livestock to neighbors. Repeated requests to take care of the problem has been neglected , so the decision was made to send them a legal directive to abate the noxious weed problem or the County will take action and have the land owner pay the total costs.

ROAD X HEARING was held at 1:30 Ken Curtis presented a good explanation of the mussel problem and why control of boating access was critical to the future of the lake and water use. Public comments all acknowledged the importance keeping the water free of the mussels, but several different solutions were offered and some concerns over barriers having problems with safety and emergency equipment access and mosquito control. The proposed TEMPORARY closure was to be through November 30th and would provide for access for horse trailers etc. to the corrals and Sage Hen Trail head. Following hearing the concerns and ideas it was decided to officially close the road as proposed and to begin work in coordinated effort between agencies to provide a permanent direction for consideration next spring, when another hearing will be held.

FAIR BOARD had received a request from a Denver HEMP vendor to display at the County Fair. The discussion brought out how “Hemp” is different from Marijuana. The vendor made it quite confusing, so if the vendor comes, it will be requested that they ensure to not be vending

any “recreational marijuana” products, even if are truly hemp. Hemp is a very versatile commercial product.

WESTERN EXCELSIOR fire disaster was discussed , with Aspen Wall wood explaining how important the Excelsior plant was to their business as well as the community of Mancos and greatly aiding the forest in management and reproduction of the Aspen growth. The loss of the plant has already had a tremendous negative impact across the county with the loss of 100 jobs, contracting businesses out of work, etc. etc. etc. multi million dollars on negative impact to the whole county. The BOCC prepared and signed a Declaration of Economic Disaster from the loss of Western Excelsior. This will be sent to the Governor, which if declared there, may open low interest small business loans etc. to encourage economic opportunities to renew, replace, begin new businesses.