

MONTEZUMA COUNTY BOCC 1-8-18

New year started with reorganization of the BOCC. New Chairman will be James Lambert, VC is Keenan Ertel, Deeds Commissioner is Larry Don Suckla. The County Administrator, Lawyer and all Department Supervisors remain the same as last year.

PUBLIC CONCERN issue was presented by a Mrs. Boyd. The issue of concern was a recent incident apparently involving the State Dept. of Parks and Wildlife attempting to conduct a winter Elk count north of Yellow Jacket on the Boyd private Property. A helicopter was used without any information or contact with property owners. The helicopter was operating near tree top height (Pinyon pine and Junipers) and drove a large herd out of the trees and through the Boyd's fence and later drove them back through the fence in another location, tearing down considerable fencing and stirring up considerable dust that was visible by others ½ mile away. This was all observed by Mrs. Boyd who was on the ground very close proximity to the operation and was in fear for her life as there was possibly 200 head of elk that had been stampeded in the dust. There was no way of knowing who was doing that or what their intent was. After calling 911, she was informed it was DPW doing Elk counts. Question was asked, "if a citizen was on an ATV and happened to spook a couple of Elk even a little, would they be charged with a crime?" Also, "What right or law permits State DPW to drive and harass wildlife on private lands without the land owners permission?" "Do trespass laws apply to government agencies as well as private citizens?" This needs to be examined and changes made!!

ROADS dept. reported that this dry weather has extended dirt work normally reserved for summer. Some ditches are being pulled and roads shaped for later gravelling and one culvert is being installed. Road "P" between hwy 145 and Road 25 is being prepped for gravel and Road "Z" from 21>22 is being brushed and shaped. And work on BB & B. If weather moves in this will change back to normal winter operations.

MANCOS TRAIL GROUP, a new group is seeking verbal support for it's effort to get approval to build a "non-motorized" (bike, equestrian, hiking) trail system on some BLM land NW of Mancos. The old land fill area off rd 39 would be a possible parking and trail head. The BOCC gave their encouragement to proceed right away as the BLM does not move very fast as Phil's world expansion has been 8 years and still not approved.

DWCD met to discuss status of the invasive Mussels in the local lakes. The State is doing inspections all over, and so far possible infections have been caught in the inspections. 24 boats from AZ, 20 from Wisconsin, 16 from Michigan, and the list goes on. There is a bill in legislature to help provide funding for these inspections. The DWCD and Forest Service want to restructure the current inspection times and \$\$\$, moving more of both to McPhee Marina from the House Creek location due to massive overloading, especially on weekends. Hopefully this will make it better for the public. There is still concerns on the small lakes as funding is not yet available for inspections, AND McPhee is the ONLY reservoir that is mandated to include public access, the others are owned/controlled by irrigation companies.

FAIRGROUNDS reported that 2017 saw 73,092 people using the facilities. The new year is already up and running with BCW Team Roping happening Jan 13, and a new event-Navajo Nation Jr. Bull riding on Jan. 22. Four States Jr. Rodeos and more. Check the County website for the Fairgrounds schedule..

VETERANS office reported 2017 ended with 2709 clients having visited and received help in their office. Said New annual benefit payments in the amount of \$1,564,191 have been secured for veterans.

RESOLUTION 1-2018 was passed, "Allowing sworn employees of the Sheriffs office to withdraw from the CCOERA retirement program", to enroll with the FPPA retirement program. This resolution allows for a County Employee vote to be taken to allow for the Sheriffs Dept. to make the change. No other department would be affected, although their vote will control the move. A 65% vote of approval of all eligible employees is required. If the Sheriffs department changes, all the department employees change. An information and vote of employees will be scheduled in February.