

BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, May 3, 2022, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:33 a.m. in the Second Floor Court Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Dan Allhands, Ron Nye, and John Heckler present. Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk, was present to take minutes.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Emilie Saylor, Hannah Brook, Dale Grose, Jennifer Westfall, and Kila Shepherd. Ryan Wolter, IT Support Specialist, administered the Webex connection. Those who attended via Webex or by phone included Allison Veland, Craig Erickson, Jason Petrillo, Dillon Doane, Ron Douwalder, Lance Bowser, Vicki Tilstra, Mike Callahan, Janie Alt, Kellie Greco, Abby Thomas, Beth Famiglietti, Allen Rohrback, Jennifer Martens, and unidentified phone attendees.

Bill Todd, District 3 Commissioner Candidate, was present to observe the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Ron Nye moved to approve the Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes for March 22, 2022 with recommend changes and corrections. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Health Office: Emilie Saylor, Public Health Director, met with the Board to discuss the following topic. Hannah Brook, Grant Writer/Administrator, and Allison Veland, MVM Administrator (via Webex), were present for this portion of the meeting.

- **COVID Update including Nursing Homes Status:** Emilie updated the Board regarding COVID status. The County's total cases are 1,809, including one currently active nursing home resident, and the fatality rate is 21 with one disputed case pending. The last two weeks saw three new cases but no hospitalizations. The State's active cases increased to 605, likely the BA-2 strain which is being seen nationwide. State fatalities increased to 3,373 and there are 17 hospitalizations. Emilie reviewed daily new cases in the County over the past 90 days, State maps of active and cumulative cases and vaccination information, noting an increase in State vaccination of around 2,000 which brings the rate to 55%, and the County rate of 46% had a slight increase of mostly boosters. She discussed upcoming mobile vaccine clinics noting the prevalence of the shingles vaccine. COVID vaccine uptake by age group was also reviewed. Madison Valley Manor has 19 residents, with one resident in isolation who tested positive and is symptomatic after a trip to Bozeman. The County transmission rate is moderate. One round of testing is completed and will continue for 3-7 days. Visitation is allowed with education and screening. Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center has 25 residents with no COVID cases. Staff members not up to date on vaccinations are tested twice a week, residents as needed, and visitation is allowed following CDC recommendations on testing/screening. Vaccination rates remain at 95% for staff, and 96% for residents.

Great West Engineering: Craig Erickson, Great West Engineering, met with the Board via Webex to discuss the following topic. Hannah Brook, Grant Writer/Administrator, was present for this portion of the meeting.

- **CDBG Reimbursement for Madison Valley Manor (MVM) Project:** Craig reviewed a request for reimbursement from CDBG grant funds for several invoices paid to Johnson Controls for work at MVM. He also noted that bid invitations were sent out for the walk-in cooler for a bid opening on May 24, 2022. After review, John Heckler moved to recommend payment of CDBG Contract number MT-CDBG-19PF-02 as payment request #8 for the amount of \$8,857.85. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

District 3 Lease of MDT Property: John reviewed District 3's discussions with MDT to lease land adjacent to the District 3 road shop, and as part of that discussion they offered three excess fuel tanks to the County

under surplus property. After discussion, John Heckler moved to approve the surplus property offer from the Montana Department of Transportation for three 1,500-gallon concrete fuel vault tanks, to be transferred to Madison County's three different road districts upon purchase, for a total of \$1,497. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

3 Rivers Communications: Jason Petrillo, 3 Rivers Communications, met with the Board via Webex to discuss the following topic. Dillon Doane and Ron Douwalder, 3 Rivers Communications, also participated via Webex.

- **Future Road Plans for Jack Creek Road Through the Canyon:** Jason asked for information about the County's work in Jack Creek Canyon over the next five years so 3 Rivers can plan accordingly for work such as installing fiber optic cable, adding extra length around anticipated bridge work areas, and cable placement and alignment relative to the road and stream. There was discussion about the schedule for approved and anticipated work, minimum cable depth, limited elevation/grade changes, road widening, pullout areas required for emergency egress, and the availability of contour and alignment maps. It was agreed that a coordination meeting will be set up to discuss these details with the project engineer.

Claims: The Board approved claims.

Journal Vouchers: Ron Nye moved to approve Journal Vouchers for the 4/22 accounting period. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Fair Board Appointment: After review, Ron Nye moved to appoint Todd Nelson to the Madison County Fair Board for a two year term that will expire on December 31, 2023. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Airports: Lance Bowser met with the Board via Webex to discuss the following topics. Hannah Brook, Airport Board Secretary, and Dale Grose, Weed Program Coordinator, were present for all or portions of these topics. Lance pointed out that the following reports to be approved are related to Coronavirus relief grants for eligible general operating expenses since January, 2020, and were intended to keep the nation's airports afloat during the pandemic. He also presented photos of the new RVF snowplow and SRE building construction.

Ruby Valley Field:

- **Grant Closeout Report & Federal Financial Report – 3-30-0080-017-2021:** Following review, John Heckler moved to approve the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Grant Close-Out Report for grant number 3-30-0080-017-2021 in the amount of \$9,000 as presented. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Grant Closeout Report & Federal Financial Report – 3-30-0080-018-2022:** John Heckler moved that the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Grant Close-Out Report for grant number 3-30-0080-018-2022 for the amount of \$22,000 be approved as presented. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ennis Big Sky Airport:

- **Grant Closeout Report & Federal Financial Report – 3-30-0090-024-2021:** After review, John Heckler moved to approve as presented the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Grant Close-Out Report for grant number 3-30-0090-025-2022 for the grant amount of \$32,000. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Grant Closeout Report & Federal Financial Report – 3-30-0090-025-2022:** John Heckler moved to approve the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Grant Close-Out Report for grant number 3-30-0090-024-2021 for the amount of \$13,000. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Lance briefly discussed additional airport matters including FAA open grants and grant closures, land purchases in Ennis, residential through-the-fence discussions with the FAA, and the next Airport Board meeting.

Fair Board Bylaws Revision: Dan noted the Fair Board bylaws have been changed to correspond to the resolution that established the Fair Board. After review, Ron Nye moved to approve updating the Fair Board bylaws as presented and as recommended by the Fair Board. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

MDT Bridge Construction Worksheet: Following review, Ron Nye moved to approve the Madison County Bridge Construction Information list as prepared by Grayson Gillin at Great West Engineering. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Montana Headwaters Legacy Act Letter: Dan reviewed the letter regarding the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act, noting that in September of 2020 Jim Hart, former District 3 Commissioner, expressed personal support for the Act but no action was taken by the other two Commissioners. Since then it was reported that the Madison County Board of Commissioners supported the Act, and this letter clarifies that no action was taken by the Board and a majority of the Madison County Board of Commissioners is not supportive of the Act. After review, Ron Nye moved to approve the letter to Cindy Purdue-Dolan, SW Montana Field Representative for US Senator Steve Daines, regarding the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act, as presented. John Heckler seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Human Resources: Kila Shepherd and Jennifer Westfall, Human Resources, met with the Board to discuss the following topics. Dale Grose, Weed Program Coordinator, was present for this portion of the meeting.

- **New Hires in Weed Department:** Dale reviewed job candidates for the Weed Department, noting various start times for three crews that will be assigned to BLM, Madison Valley, and Ruby Valley.
 - **Compliance Tech: Angie Begin - \$18.44 starting on May 16, 2022:** After review, John Heckler moved to approve hiring Angie Begin for the Compliance Tech position in the Weed Department at \$18.44 per hour, starting on May 16, 2022. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
 - **Crew Foreman: McKenzy Shields - \$16.61 starting on May 16, 2022:** John Heckler moved to hire McKenzy Shields as Crew Foreman for the Madison County Weed Program starting May 16, 2022 at \$16.61 per hour. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
 - **Crew Foreman: Nikole Stockett - \$18.68 starting on May 31, 2022:** John Heckler moved to hire Nikole Stockett as Weed Department Crew Foreman at \$18.68 per hour, starting on May 31, 2022. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
 - **Crew Assistants: Jenna Nate, Dililah Puckett, Daphne Puckett, Lexi Stockett, starting at \$15.57 on or about May 31, 2022:** John Heckler moved to hire four crew assistants, all at the rate of \$15.57 per hour, starting on May 31, 2022: Jenna Nate, Dililah Puckett, Daphne Puckett, and Lexi Stockett. Ron Nye seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

DES: The following topics were postponed to a later date.

- **DNRC COOP Agreement**
- **Fire Season Outlook**

Calendars: The Board adjourned to the office to review calendars.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next meeting: The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Court Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana.

Dan W. Allhands, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: June 14, 2022

Minutes prepared by:

Jane Bacon, Commissioners' Clerk

Attest: _____
Paula McKenzie, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County