

Phillips County Commissioner
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2021

Call to order

Chairman Hofmeister called to order the meeting of the Phillips County Commissioners and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 A.M. on May 28, 2021 at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner Meeting room.

Attendees

Chairman Terry Hofmeister, Commissioners Garold E. Roberts and Tom Timm, County Administrator Laura Schroetlin, and County Clerk Beth Zilla.

Additional Attendees

Andrew Nygaard, Lori Lundgren, Jessie Stewart, Broc Pelle, Bob Heldenbrand.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Harvest snack bags
30X30 Resolution

Approval of Consent Agenda

Timm made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roberts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Consent Agenda Items:

- a) May 19, 2021 BOCC Meeting Minutes
- b) Payroll
- c) Invoice List
- d) Event Center/BOC Pavilion rentals
- e) Highway Users Tax Fund report
- f) Eastern Transportation Planning Region agenda
- g) Biesemeier Pit Letter

Public Comments

No public comments

Appointments

The board met with Andrew Nygaard, reporter from the Holyoke Enterprise, for the monthly briefing. Notes from this portion of the meeting will be sent to the Haxtun-Fleming Herald.

The board met with Lori Lundgren, Human Services Director. This portion of the meeting will be maintained by the Department of Human Services.

The board met with CSU Extension Agent Jessie Stewart for her monthly update.

The board met with Emergency Manager Broc Pelle and Former Emergency Manager to discuss the flood damages caused by a storm on April 27, 2021 to the Sandy Creek area in Phillips County.

Old Business

The board reviewed the bid given to the CTSI insurance claim adjuster from Weathercraft Companies to replace the existing roof at the Resource Center and for repairs to the Courthouse roof.

The board reviewed a letter from Joe Bellm, President of BST Racing, concerning a competing racer and his family and the family's behavior. The family has been directed not to attend any more races at the Phillips County Raceway.

The board reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Help for Abused Partners and Phillips County.

The board reviewed the Phillips County Organizational Flow Chart. A final version will be presented for adoption at a later meeting.

Motions/ New Business

Roberts made a motion to approve the bid from Weathercraft Companies to replace the roof at the Resource Center in the amount of \$90,467 and to repair the Courthouse roof in the amount of \$63,165. Timm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Roberts made a motion to become the Board of Human Services at 9:46 A.M. Timm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Roberts made a motion to approve the MOU between Help for Abused Partners and Phillips County as presented. Timm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-14:

CONCERNING REDISTRICTING AND THE DRAWING OF TWO RURAL DISTRICTS IN COLORADO

WHEREAS, Every ten years the State of Colorado needs to redraw all of the congressional districts to equalize population between them; and

WHEREAS, rural Colorado has unique interests that are sometimes contrary to the interests of Front Range communities; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is expected to receive an eighth congressional district through the reapportionment process; and

WHEREAS, the Western Slope has historically been considered a community of interest; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Plains and Southern Colorado is an easily defined community of interest; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a primary driver of the economy in many rural counties; and

WHEREAS, energy production is a primary driver of the economy in many rural counties; and

WHEREAS, both agriculture and energy are historically considered a community of interest; and

WHEREAS, rural communities' water interests sustaining agriculture and recreation are often counter to the water interests of urban/suburban communities; and

WHEREAS, Western Slope counties are often over 50% made up of publicly owned lands, with some approaching 90% publicly owned; and

WHEREAS, Rural communities have unique infrastructure needs, including telecommunications, public transportation and utilities; and

WHEREAS, tourism is a primary driver of the economy in many rural counties; and

WHEREAS, roughly one fourth of the population of the State of Colorado lives in these rural counties that rely on agriculture, energy production, and tourism to drive their economy; and

WHEREAS, drawing two rural districts allows the Congressional Redistricting Commission to better meet Constitutional requirements for compact districts with the remaining six congressional districts; now, therefore

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Phillips County, County that:

- (1) That the Western Slope of Colorado is a community of interest that deserves to be made whole within one congressional district;
- (2) That the Eastern Plains and Southern Colorado is a community of interest that deserves its own congressional district; and
- (3) That we, the Commissioners of Phillips County, encourage the Congressional Redistricting Commission to ensure Colorado's rural population is effectively represented through the creation of two fully rural (or as near as possible) districts.

Timm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

The board discussed an outstanding delinquent building permit. Roberts will reach out to the individual.

The board discussed a junk issue located at a parcel in the SE ¼ 6-7N-44W.

The board agreed to participate in the Star 92.7 Harvest Snack Sacks program at a cost \$72.50 plus the cost of snacks.

Timm made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-15:

OPPOSING EXECUTIVE ORDER 14008, SECTION 216 DIRECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "30X30" PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Phillips County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Colorado for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, Phillips County contains about 434,518 acres of land situated in Northeastern Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns no land within the County; and

WHEREAS, conserving lands does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation, and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environments; and

WHEREAS, the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these lands; and

WHEREAS, many of Phillips County's businesses and citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on commerce that utilizes private lands and their resources, including crop production, livestock grazing, natural gas production and the royalties property owners receive from this production, mining, and mineral development, outdoor activities including hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, gardening and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, this commerce is an important component of the Colorado economy, and is a major contributor to the economic and social wellbeing of Phillips County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside through conservation, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority afforded to any President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently conserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause a dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Colorado, and in particular rural counties such as Phillips County, whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Phillips County, Colorado, that:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently conserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Phillips County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conserved lands, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, fiber, and recreation.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Colorado's and private water rights system, including the State of Colorado's Statutes and regulations and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the State and County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Colorado law.
5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, non-draconian, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities but opposes the use of global climate change as a reason to set aside large tracts of land as conservation lands to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through eminent domain or any other regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Phillips County, its businesses, and its citizens.
7. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

Roberts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Adjournment

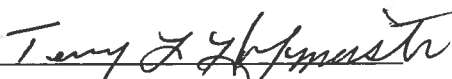
Chairman Hofmeister adjourned the meeting at 12:25 P.M.

Minutes submitted by County Clerk Beth Zilla


Next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2021.

Phillips County Commissioners

Attest:


Terry Hofmeister, Chairman


Beth Zilla, County Clerk


Tom Timm


Garold Roberts

