

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
NIORRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
MAY 16, 2006**

The Niobrara County Commissioners reconvened for their regularly scheduled meeting on May 16, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Commissioners Tom L. Wasserburger, Richard A. Ladwig, Ronson B. Pfister and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Road & Bridge- Road and Bridge Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and discussed roads, equipment, the gravel-crushing project, and pits.

Thomas said the D-8 Dozer would be here around May 26 and he will begin work on the S-Bar Road. He also stated that he had placed sand in the arena at the fairgrounds and stockpiled the remainder there; put up end of county maintenance road signs where needed; and discussed the area that will be chip sealed at the fairgrounds sometime in mid-August as part of the agreement between Platte and Niobrara Counties.

North East Wyoming Sage Grouse Working Group- Mickie Stewart, a member of the Northeast Wyoming Sage Grouse Working Group, met with the Commissioners and informed them about the group, their goals, and objectives. They are working on a pre-emptive solution that would prevent the sage grouse from being listed on the Endangered Species Act List. The group's purpose is to inform and involve local governments in the preservation cause. Some areas where counties may help are: Road & Bridge mowing county roads to keep birds off roadways; control of feral dogs and cats; predator control (skunks, ravens, red fox); cooperation with weed & pest, conservation districts, school boards through education of students; public health through tracking of viruses; and landowner initiatives to name a few.

Minutes- Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2006 meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Commissioners discussed selling one of the Ford Explorer's upon the Sheriff's recommendation.

Local Bar Owners- Sean Irish Wasserburger, Arlene Zerbst Rapp & Lori Carpenter met with the Commissioners to discuss liquor legal liability insurance requirements as they pertain to events held at the fairgrounds. The Commissioners reiterated that the county will no longer require proof of liquor legal liability insurance from bar owners. The Commissioners will direct the County Attorney to draft a revised liquor license policy.

Drought Abatement Declaration- Todd Even met with the Commissioners to discuss the drought status in Niobrara County. He also discussed the Breeding Stock Replacement Program and the effect this program would have on any other federal programs in existence if a drought abatement were declared. He did not feel that this program would interfere with existing programs. Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to petition the Governor that drought conditions in Niobrara County have abated. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Commissioners will direct County Attorney Doyle J. Davies to draft a resolution stating such. Discussion: declaring a drought abatement does not affect any federal programs. This program allows stockmen to apply for loans to purchase livestock to replenish their herds.

Official Bond and Oath- Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve the bond for Penny VenJohn as Clerk/treasurer of the Town of Lusk. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Kale Klabutzel of Innovative Benefit Plans, LLC met with the Commissioners and discussed the possibility of providing health insurance to county employees. Since the county has no history of claims, he is asking that each employee complete a health assessment form.

These forms will be submitted to Innovative Benefits to determine premiums and costs to the county in the event the county is able to fund coverage.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed. The Commissioners will hold a Special meeting May 26, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. to meet with Donna Messerlie and the Sheriff's Office to discuss the OJJDP grant. The Commissioners will also set elected officials' salaries at this time.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Tom L. Wasserburger, Chairman

Attest:



Becky L. Freeman, Clerk

