

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
MAY 2, 2006**

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on May 2, 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 and the gravel-crushing project.

Mobile Concrete- Mobile Concrete submitted a voucher for payment for gravel crushing. According to Mobile Concrete, 80,000 yards of rock is currently stockpiled, however, Thomas felt that number was off. BenchMark of Torrington will come and measure the stockpile sometime next week. Benchmark recommended payment of the voucher with adjustments to be made on the next month's voucher if necessary. Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve Mobile Concrete's request for payment for \$50,175.00. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Manville Spur- Thomas informed the board that Platte County wanted to begin grinding asphalt and chip sealing the Manville Spur. Niobrara County will provide a water truck and blade and Platte County will provide the oil, chips, equipment, and hauling. Ladwig stated he would attend the Manville Town Council meeting to inform the council of the latest developments.

Minutes- Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG)- Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to sign the EMPG grant reimbursement request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Commissioners acknowledged receipts for the month of April from the County Clerk for \$2,875.25, from the Sheriff for \$14,153.10, and from the Clerk of Court for \$571.18. They also acknowledged receipts from the Clerk of Court for the month of March \$429.48.

Cent\$ible Nutrition Program- Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to sign a letter continuing the county's support of the program by in-kind donations. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Board of Equalization- The Commissioners acknowledged the Order of Dismissal in the appeal of DNR Oil & Gas Inc.

Drought Abatement Declaration- The Commissioners received a letter from the Office of the Governor requesting a Drought Abatement Declaration as it pertains to eligibility for the Breeding Stock Replacement Loan Program. The 2003 Wyoming Legislature adopted the breeding stock loan program as a means of providing low interest loans to those operators forced to sell livestock during drought years due to limited forage. In 2002, the Governor declared the existence of drought conditions statewide. In order for the breeding stock program to become active in Niobrara County, the statute requires that the Governor make a declaration that drought conditions have abated. For him to do so, the Commissioners must submit a request with supporting documentation stating that drought conditions have abated before producers will become eligible to apply for a breeding stock replacement loan. Although the Commissioners do not feel that the drought has abated in Niobrara County, Commissioner Ladwig stated he would discuss this issue with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Service Center to determine the drought status in Niobrara County.

Wyoming Dept. of Health Substance Abuse Division- The Commissioners received a letter of inquiry from the Substance Abuse Division regarding methamphetamine issues in our