

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
Friday, May 18, 2007
Jeffrey Center, Rawlins, Wyoming

A special meeting of the Board of Carbon County Commissioners was held Friday, May 18, 2007 at the Jeffrey Memorial Center, Rawlins, Wyoming to discuss the Coalition of Local Governments (the "Coalition"). Attending the meeting were Commissioners Terry Weickum and Jerry Paxton; County Clerk, Gwynn Rothenberger; and Road & Bridge Superintendent Bill Nation. Chairman Zeiger was absent.

Acting Chairman Weickum called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Dave Allison, Coalition of Local Government consultant was present along with Lincoln County Commissioner and Coalition Chairman, Kent Connelly. Larry Hicks of Baggs was also present.

Mr. Connelly briefly explained the Coalition consisting of Lincoln, Sweetwater, Sublette, and Uinta Counties. He presented a pamphlet stating that the purpose of the coalition is for counties and conservation districts to participate in federal resource land and project planning as cooperating agencies to have a direct voice in shaping federal land decisions. Other issues the Coalition deals with are school, law enforcement, and housing issues due to increased populations. Local government officials noticed that counties and conservation districts faced common issues and concerns and needed to combine resources to better analyze federal plans and proposals and develop solutions that would best protect the interest of the communities. He added that membership fees are currently \$20,000 per year from each member.

Mr. Connelly stated that joining the Coalition does not prevent any member from forming their own opinions on various subjects. He stressed the idea that the Governor now recognizes the Coalition as a viable entity making their voice more powerful.

Mr. Connelly stated Coalition has its own attorney, Connie Brooks of Denver, and that this helps defray costs for its members. He explained that the Coalition is in the process of forming as a non-profit corporation so they may receive donations to further their cause. He added that the Coalition goes after various subjects, including RS2477 roads, resource management plans, land planning, population increases, and many more.

Commissioner Paxton asked what the process for joining is. Mr. Connelly replied that the Board of County Commissioners could simply attend a meeting and pay the membership fee. He stated if the Commissioners cannot make a meeting, they can send a conservation district representative on their behalf. Conference calls to participate in meetings are also acceptable. The meetings are usually administrative and there is discussion of various topics. Mr. Allison also offered to travel to member counties to meet with the Commissioners as needed to review various documents and help with processes.

Larry Hicks stated that the Coalition is already working for Carbon County by attending meetings and commenting on issues in Carbon County. Mr. Allison stated that he would have liked to go to these meetings with the ideas of the Carbon County Commissioners and be able to speak for Carbon County, rather than just with his own ideas.

Commissioner Weickum stated he recognizes the need to move forward and feels strongly that Carbon County should join the Coalition. Commissioner Paxton stated that one advantage to joining would be to have the experience of counties in the Coalition that have already navigated through the point where Carbon County is headed.

Commissioner Paxton asked how the Coalition's attorney works with each county attorney. Mr. Connelly replied that each county attorney works differently, but that Attorney Brooks is agreeable to working with anyone involved.

Commissioner Paxton questioned when the fees are due. Mr. Connelly stated that Carbon County could join now with dues being paid after the start of the next fiscal year. The Board requested Clerk Rothenberger to add this amount to the proposed budget.

Commissioner Paxton addressed the beetle kill situation and the proposed sawmill in Encampment and stated he feels the Coalition may be able to help with these issues.

Larry Hicks explained the history and how the Coalition came about. He stated that the Carbon County Commissioners have always been receptive to working with other governmental entities and stated his support for Carbon County to join the Coalition.

There was discussion of the importance of knowing the true economic impact from natural gas development and the fact that the Coalition has an economist on board to help determine this impact.

Mr. Allison stated that as a consultant to the Coalition, he has seen counties and conservation districts jumping ahead in public land issues. He added that Bureau of Land Management Area Managers are calling the Coalition asking for meetings and that the Coalition has the respect of the Governor's Office.

Commissioner Paxton stated that joining the Coalition would maximize clout with the Governor, especially in dealing with public lands. He questioned if there are any disadvantages to joining.

Mr. Connelly stated that the only time there may be a downside is if the lines of communication close, but he does not expect that to happen. He stated that sometimes new members feel like the Coalition may try to interfere with what each County wants, but that this is not the way it works, each county has their personal input. Mr. Connelly added that counties do not lose their anonymity. He added that a main benefit is the outside expert legal opinion.

Commissioner Weickum and Commissioner Paxton agreed to discuss joining the Coalition when the full Board is present at the June 5, 2007 meeting.

The Coalition's next meeting is in Baggs, June 27, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Connelly agreed to provide an agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Weickum adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

-s- Gwynn G. Rothenberger, Carbon County Clerk

Approved this 5th day of June 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

-s- Terry Weickum, Commissioner