



Cassia County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Chambers

1459 Overland Ave.

Burley, ID 83318

www.cassiacyounty.org

Board Chairman:

Dennis Crane

Phone: (208) 878-7302

Fax: (208) 878-9109

Board Members:

Paul Christensen (District #1) ~ pchristensen@cassiacyounty.org

Bob Kunau (District #2) ~ bob.kunau@cassiacyounty.org

Dennis Crane (District #3) ~ dcrane@cassiacyounty.org

Thursday, August 9, 2012

The Board of Cassia County Commissioners along with the Minidoka County Commissioners met with legislative representatives in a special session at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, August 9, 2012, in the Commissioner Chambers of the Cassia County Courthouse.

THOSE PRESENT:	Cassia County Commissioners:	Dennis Crane, Chairman Paul Christensen Bob Kunau
	Minidoka County Commissioners:	Bob Moore, Chairman Sheryl Koyle Kent McClellan
	Cassia Clerk of the Board:	Joseph W. Larsen
	Minidoka Deputy Clerk of the Board:	Tonya Page
	Minidoka Prosecuting Attorney:	Lance Stevenson
	Sen. Mike Crapo Representatives:	Mitch Silvers A.J. Church Peter Stegner
	Gateway West Task Force:	Kent Searle Brent Stoker
	Chamber of Commerce	Kae Cameron
	Media:	Renee Wells, The Voice Laurie Welch, The Times News

1) 1:31 PM CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN CRANE

a) Lake Walcott

- i) Minidoka County Board Chairman Bob Moore opened with discussion regarding Lake Walcott with concerns about safety, recreation closure, economic downturn, cooperation and consideration. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife's proposal to eliminate boating on Lake Walcott spawned some of the concern. Church indicated that Fish & Wildlife is trying to avoid a situation that arose around the Lake Lowell discussion. Senator Crapo's office members wish to help the counties as much as possible and will be there to try and fix communication issues with all parties involved. Prosecutor Stevenson stated that the community at large is concerned about recreation closures. Commissioner Koyle mentioned that Southern Idaho

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Tourism and the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce want to continue allowing boating on the reservoir. A question was asked as to who has ownership of the water. It was understood that Bureau of Reclamation and the irrigation districts own the water and the land along the waters' edge is owned by U.S. Fish & Wildlife, possibly dating back to a series of executive orders in the early 1900's.

b) Gateway West

- i) Gateway West Chairman Brent Stoker spoke of MSTI's market analysis. MSTI, Northwest, and Idaho Power all seem to have pending projects that may be waiting for the markets' demand. Stoker also referred to a fiber optic line with DC technology. Commissioner Christensen noted that public projects should and need to stay on public lands rather than condemning private property through eminent domain.

c) Sage Grouse

- i) Church indicated that there is a closed comment period to submit recommendations to the BLM as an alternative. No new information was available since the last discussion with the group. The Governor's draft is available for review. Commissioner Christensen spoke of endangered species reform.

d) Other Items of Discussion

i) Wildfires

- (1) Commissioner Crane commented that landowners would like to be able to help control the fires but the BLM & Bureau of Reclamation would not allow them to. Silvers stressed that the first priority is preservation of life. They do not want to allow something to happen that would compromise safety or someone's life even though the landowner's first priority may be their property. Landowners are only allowed to help if they have been properly trained. Chairman Crane noted that local fire crews can act faster and cheaper than government fire crews. Commissioner Christensen mentioned that the DC10 aircraft that was used to help combat the fire has a cost much greater than what it might cost to use a caterpillar to cut fire lines. Frustrated farmers and ranchers want to help put out the fires.
- (2) Cassia County runs an invasive species inspection station at the port of entry near Cotterel. A desire was expressed for implementation of federal regulation to have inspections at the point of disembarkment. It was said that Rep. Anderson is working with the Department of Agriculture to get a mandatory washing station at Lake Meade.

2) 2:24 PM ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

/s/_____

Dennis Crane, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

/s/_____

Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board