**MEETING MINUTES FOR: IAC District 1**

April 10th, 2026 : 10:00 a.m.

Kootenai County Administrative Building : 1st Floor / Meeting Rooms 1A & 1B : 451 N. Government Way, Coeur d'Alene

**A. Call to Order:** Time was allowed for members to select from the breakfast buffet. Chairman Benjamin Allen called the meeting to order at 10:13am. Thank you to CES for the breakfast (catered by LePeep) and for providing the presentation.

| County | Members Present |
|---|---|
| Benewah | Clerk Janeen LeWan; Treasurer Sara Sexton |
| Bonner | Assessor Dennis Engelhardt; Chief Deputy Assessor Cory Gabel; Clerk Michael Rosedale; Commissioner Brian Domke; Commissioner Asia Williams |
| Boundary | Assessor Olivia Drake; Clerk Glenda Poston |
| Kootenai | Clerk Jennifer Locke; Chief Deputy Clerk Grace Blomgren; Commissioner Bruce Mattare; Commissioner Leslie Duncan; Prosecutor Stanley Mortensen; Chief Deputy Treasurer Jill Smith; Exec. Asst. Sara Masters |
| Shoshone | Assessor Jerry White; Prosecutor Benjamin Allen; Sheriff Shawn Wehr; Undersheriff Travis Skinner |
| IAC | Executive Director Seth Grigg |
| Guests | Marc Kilmer (11am); Caleb Davis; Jay Logsden; Drew Evans and Steve Brown with CES |

**B. Introductions:** Shawn Wehr is the newly appointed Sheriff of Shoshone County. Jay Logsden is the District 1 Public Defender. Travis Skinner is the Shoshone County Undersheriff.

**C. Changes to the Agenda:** none presented.

**D. Officer & Sub-Committee Reports**

**D-1. Secretary Report** – Assessor Drake submitted the edited January 16th minutes by email and explained the subsequent corrections and slight format change. MOTION to approve the 01-16-2026 minutes by Assessor White and seconded by Assessor Engelhardt, motion carried.

**D-2. Treasurer Report** – Treasurer Sexton had previously submitted the balance of $20,730.68, with no bills to add. MOTION to approve by Clerk Poston and seconded by Clerk Rosedale, motion carried.

**D-3. Legislative Committee Report** – Commissioner Mattare previously emailed a detailed report on the legislative session. He noted that there had been local land use bills presented that would have circumvented zoning laws, then held off for Director Grigg to cover additional topics in his report. Chairman Allen mentioned that the reporting from this committee had been phenomenal. It is extremely helpful for members to be able to take that information and contact their legislators with input on matters that are pertinent to their jurisdiction.

**D-4. Budget Committee Report** – Treasurer Sexton emailed the budget and register. The subcommittee will meet later in the year for review.



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**D-5. IAC Board Representative Report** – Commissioner Duncan thanked Director Grigg and the IAC team for their extensive work during the session. Several bills were either passed or defeated based on their input. Commissioner Duncan reported that the IAC Board would meet April 23-24 in Boise. The Education Committee is reviewing and updating the fall COI curriculum with emphasis on practical guidance during the first months in office for newly elected officials, along with continuing education for returning officials.

**D-6. GEM Plan Update** – Clerk Poston announced that the annual GEM Plan Board meeting would be held April 22nd, where they will discuss premium rates and report back at the next District meeting. No major legislative changes impacting the insurance market were identified.

**E. Elected Office Reports**

**E-1. Assessors:** - Assessor White reminded members that the deadline for PTR or circuit breaker is April 15th. He emphasized the importance of the program in helping seniors and qualifying residents stay in their homes. Participation and reimbursement statistics were provided, noting that Shoshone County processed nearly 600 applications last year, resulting in approximately $395,000 of property taxes paid by the State. Assessor Engelhardt clarified that the qualifying income limit is $39,000 after allowable medical expenses. There is also a tax relief program for disabled veterans. Assessor White added that the Committee on Forestland Taxation Methodology is requesting IAC's help with legislation to revise timber valuation categories and the requirement of management plans.

**E-2. Clerks:** - Clerk Rosedale reported that County Clerks recently met statewide. Absentee ballots for the May election were mailed out beginning April 3rd, with early voting beginning May 4th and the election on May 19th. Counties are beginning the budget process. A statewide salary survey effort is being coordinated through IAC, with challenges including comparing varying responsibilities and costs of living.

**E-3. Coroners:** - No report was submitted.

**E-4. Prosecutors:** - Prosecutor Mortensen reported ongoing staffing and recruitment challenges in Kootenai County. Despite the shortages, they are working through it with a great group of dedicated attorneys, in order to continue to meet the county's needs. Operations in the new Justice Center facility are going well.

**E-5. Sheriffs:** - Sheriff Wehr reiterated similar recruitment and retention issues. Staffing remains the most significant issue facing sheriff's offices throughout the state.

**E-6. Treasurers:** - Treasurer Sexton reached out to the other Treasurers who are working on tax deeding. The second half of taxes will be due in June. Benewah is planning on sending the tax reminders along with assessment notice this year to save on postage.

**F. Business:** No new business discussed due to Presentation and Legislative Review.



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**F-1. ICRMP Update** – Commissioner Duncan reviewed current ICRMP activities and explained that risk pools operate differently than traditional insurance providers, focusing on member protection and claim coverage. She reported that ICRMP is working with reinsurance partners on upcoming renewals and that moderate single-digit premium increases are anticipated. Members were encouraged to explore deductible and retention options that may reduce premium costs.

**F-2. 2026 Legislative Update** (See below - moved after the Presentation)

**G. Presentation – CES Government Procurement:** Drew Evans and Steve Brown of CES Government Procurement provided an overview of cooperative purchasing services available to Idaho counties. CES is a non-profit with grassroots organization and now 46 years in business. Operating through a revenue sharing agreement with IAC, CES provides a support system to counties who don't have dedicated procurement staff. Being experienced with procurement laws, they are able to manage administrative processes which would otherwise need to be done by existing staff who are experts in other areas.

Mr. Evans explained that CES currently maintains more than 1,600 active contracts and hundreds of vetted vendors. Services are available at no cost to participating counties and the agreement can be shared countywide. CES utilizes competitive procurement methods to establish contracts for a wide variety of goods and services, including office supplies, information technology services, professional services, maintenance supplies, and other operational needs.

CES representatives highlighted opportunities for counties to access cooperative pricing through existing vendors such as Staples and Amazon Business while maintaining current purchasing workflows. They also discussed upcoming efforts to expand Idaho-based vendor participation, information technology services, professional services, and public works-related procurement opportunities.

Members were encouraged to identify procurement challenges and local vendor opportunities so CES can better tailor future solicitations to Idaho county needs.

**H. State Updates:**

**H-1. IAC:** - (with F2)

**H-2. Sen. Crapo's Office:** & **H-3. Sen. Risch's Office:** - no report

**H-4. Rep. Fulcher's Office:** - Regional Director Caleb Davis provided updates regarding the Housing for the 21st Century Act, HR 6644, which if passed, is intended to increase the housing supply by reducing regulatory barriers. Veterans disability benefits wouldn't be considered as income when determining eligibility for the VA supportive housing program. The House passed the SAVE Act which requires proof of US citizenship, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act which effects labor, health and human services, education, transportation and medicare. The DHS Appropriations Act, a funding bill, has passed the House but not the Senate.

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**H-5. State Public Defender or SPD:** - First District State Public Defender Jay Jogsden spoke to the stabilization of the SPD program. The first district is the only district to have an an institutional office in every county (Boundary has office space and shares attorneys out of Bonner). SPD Logsden appreciates the assistance from IAC and Commissioner Duncan.

**F-2. 2026 Legislative Update** – Director Grigg is finishing up the COI events and will be in Kootenai County April 30th. Two to three hours of the full-day events are now being spent on legislation alone. Grigg provided a comprehensive review of the 2026 legislative session. The House introduced a record of 978 bills over two years, resulting in one of the busiest legislative sessions in recent history. Discussion continues regarding possible limitations on future bill introductions per legislator.

IAC was very active working on bills which would impact counties and other local jurisdictions. Only one bill which IAC opposed, regulation of short term rentals, was passed through. Three IAC initiated bills passed: *HB 556 increased the reimbursement rate for State inmates to a flat $80/day which should provide some relief to counties. *Federal land management agencies must coordinate with local officials regarding lands activities in the local area. *Remaining statutory references to the repealed county medical indigent programs were removed, so that counties wouldn't be responsible in the case of Medicaid expansion repeal. If signed by the Governor, new work requirements would be required for Medicaid expansion.

There were several bills proposed which would remove county authority over land use issues. No changes were implemented directly to counties, but cities with populations over 10,000 will be impacted by being unable to limit the first ADU per residential lot. A bill to not limit duplexes was defeated. Another draft bill would have limited cities ability to mandate minimum lot sizes. Counties would be unable to manage that kind of density which would impact infrastructure, public safety and services. The legislature is working on reducing housing costs, but prices don't automatically come down just by adding density. Counties will still have some burden from the effects of increased density within cities.

$12.8 million was appropriated to local highway districts from the general fund, compared to $110 million last year. Distributions will still come through the highway user account, fuel tax and registration fees. TECM is fixed to last year's amount, and SRS was reauthorized for 2026 with back pay for funds not previously received for '24 & '25 (after 25% funds deductions). IAC continues to work towards SRS reauthorization even though funds are not guaranteed.

While some legislators trust their local officials, there is less trust for those in other counties, so it's very important to continue fostering relationships with your legislators.

A bill was passed to allow fire & EMS districts to use their prior-year levy rate instead of the preliminary levy rate, along with a separate cap of 15% & removal of forgone for those districts only. This may be brought up in the future as a change to other districts, but for this year L2s will look different depending on the type of district. A prior version of the bill would have removed the preliminary levy rate and subject county budgets to the initiative and referendum process, but courts have previously held that budgets are administrative and not a legislative matter.

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Bills that may come back in some form next session include mandatory federal ICE cooperation agreements and limiting restrictions on firearms in courthouses. The fiscal impact was not apparent on 621 because counties would incur great costs in retrofitting courthouses to allow for screening per floor or per room. The proration of homeowners exemptions was repealed due to administrative issues, which leaves districts with the budget impacts from tax cancellations. Commissioner Duncan noted that Kootenai County lost $600,000 in funding from the first year of tax cancellations and questioned how to budget for the unknown impacts. When there is growth, Subroll and Occupancy roll additions may partially or fully cover the losses. Registration stickers on license plates will no longer be required effective July 1st. This saves ITD money but may cost counties due to loss in registrations and the inability of local sheriffs to easily check for current registration. DMV revenues are already hit with the increase in online registrations. A bill that did not advance would have required individuals to be up-to-date on payment of traffic fines before driver's license renewal.

Director Grigg wrapped up with a reminder of the upcoming COI training, and that complete legislative updates have been sent out via email. A short discussion ensued regarding additional reductions in transportation funding through liquor funds distributions, which will impact cities more than counties.

**I. County Reports:** Forgone until next meeting, due to time constraints.

**J. Public Comment –** Marc Kilmer reiterated working on SRS funding.
Treasurer Sexton announced that Commissioner Lampert has retired due to health reasons and encouraged members to reach out to him privately. The Benewah Republican Central Committee will forward a list of possible appointments to the Governor.

**K. Upcoming Meetings** - July 10th / November 6th with Fall Legislative Luncheon

**L. Adjourn:** Chairman Allen declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.
Attachments: Financials, CES handout

## IAC DISTRICT 1 - 2026 OFFICERS

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| **Chair** – Benjamin Allen<br>Shoshone County Prosecutor | **Secretary** – Olivia Drake<br>Boundary County Assessor |
| **Vice-Chair** – Bruce Mattare<br>Kootenai County Commissioner | **Treasurer** – Sara Sexton<br>Benewah County Treasurer |
| **Legislative Representative** – Bruce Mattare<br>Kootenai County Commissioner | **IAC Representative** – Leslie Duncan<br>Kootenai County Commissioner |
| **1st Alt. Legislative Representative** – Brian Domke<br>Bonner County Commissioner | **Alternate IAC Representative** – Asia Williams<br>Bonner County Commissioner |
| **2nd Alt. Legislative Representative** – Jennifer Locke<br>Kootenai County Clerk | **Gem Plan Representative** - Glenda Poston<br>Boundary County Clerk |

Budget Committee: Treasurer Sara Sexton, Assessor Olivia Drake, Assessor Dennis Engelhardt

**Elected Office Chairs**

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| Assessor: | Jerry White | Prosecutor: | Stanley Mortensen |
| Clerk: | Mike Rosedale | Sheriff: | pending |
| Coroner: | Carrie Nordin | Treasurer: | Sara Sexton |



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