

MEETING MINUTES FOR:

IAC District 1

April 12th, 2024

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: Chairman Benjamin Allen Called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

B. Introductions

1. Chairman Allen greeted the guests and mentioned the sign-in sheet being passed around to record attendance.
2. Chairman Allen asked that those still without nametags can contact him after the meeting to get one printed. Assessor Dennis Engelhardt stated his was not printed.

C. Changes to the Agenda: Chairman Allen asked if there were any changes to the agenda and there were none.

D. Officer & Sub-Committee Reports

D-1. Secretary Report – As newly appointed Secretary, Assessor Olivia Drake deferred to previous Secretary, Assessor Jerry White, who noted that minutes had been submitted and that format changes were requested. Commissioner Duncan will report back with changes and name additions for the January minutes to be approved at the July meeting. Chairman Allen accepted that as a motion to table the minutes until July, which was seconded by Treasurer Sexton, motion approved.

D-2. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Sexton had previously submitted the balance of \$19,925.62. Bills approved at last meeting of \$3350 to Commissioner Omodt for legislative, \$1840.51 has been paid. No new bills have been submitted so there is still an approved amount of \$1509.49 but it may be under \$1000 after bills are sent and forwarded. All five counties have paid dues this year. Kootenai County needs reimbursed \$16.46 and \$17.66 for meeting refreshments. Clerk Poston moved to pay those bills, Commissioner Duncan seconded, motion approved. Treasurer Sexton emailed out the updated budget with the minutes and asked if there were any questions. Being none, and no additional bills at this time, the budget for next year will be reviewed at the July meeting. The check register is updated and available by contacting Treasurer Sexton.

D-3. Legislative Committee Report– Commissioner Omodt reported on an exciting legislative session and mentioned that some are advocating for the State to buy more private lands which would have a negative effect on the tax base for rural counties. He discussed the bills that passed such as the ACI bill, and bills that failed such as the assessor burden of proof changes. There is a possibility that the legislature will be called back into session. It was an active session with some interesting bills, and Luke mentioned that the young man doing the IAC minutes is doing an excellent job at reporting. IAC Executive Director Seth Grigg noted a bill granting the legislature broader review over Medicaid waivers and that the Governor was concerned with some points of the bill. It is unlikely that the legislature will be called back into session but it would be narrowed to that subject. Commissioner Omodt will gather the last of his bills for per diem and noted that the upcoming budget may need reviewed to cover the amount of trips scheduled.

D-4. Budget Committee Report– Treasurer Sara Sexton asked for clarification regarding presentation of a proposed budget at the July meeting. Chairman Allen answered that Article 1 Section 3 of the bylaws clarify that the budget committee shall present at the July meeting a proposed annual budget. Treasurer Sexton noted the only discussed changes were regarding the legislative line item for travel expenses.

D-5. IAC Report– Clerk Glenda Poston noted that the IAC Board meeting is 2 weeks away in Moscow and asked if there is anything that needs brought forward to the Board. Director Grigg has otherwise distributed the agenda to the Board.

D-6. GEM Plan Update – Clerk Glenda Poston will be in Pocatello next week for the yearly GEM Board meeting where they will discuss claims and potential rates. Our claims have been down which is good but we will see where we are statewide next week. Clerk Poston has been told that HO668 may potentially have an effect on insurance. There are approximately 22 counties on the GEM plan.

E. Officer & Sub-Committee Reports

E-1. Assessors: - Assessor Chair Jerry White noted that all District 1 Assessors attended the CFTM (Committee for Forestland Taxation Methodology) meeting. Timber management plans were discussed which are favored by the Counties and are helpful for small timber owners. Potential changes to the Bare Land & Yield category were discussed, including changes to the required acreage. The circuit breaker applications are due on Monday, then there will be about a week before the assessment drive is started. The State sent a list of the top 10 taxpayers in each County, however the State was not listed even though they are a top payer of property tax through the circuit breaker property tax reduction program. This highlights how important the program is to our senior citizens, disabled veterans and widow/widowers. A potential D-1 meeting is being arranged for next month in Benewah County.

E-2. Clerks: - Clerk Chair Mike Rosedale reported that all 5 northern County Clerks met at conference to review election plans and budgets. Boundary County had their Lincoln Day and Bonner County's is coming up next week. There is a push for hand-counting ballots, which according to a study by Clerk Locke would cost Kootenai County an extra \$230,000 and 1300 additional people at 10 hours each. Hand counting defeats the purpose of identifying invalid ids. All Counties are currently working on budgets. May 1 budget workshop for the taxing districts (General morning and Counties afternoon) and May 2 for schools. May 15th is Spring COI.

E-3. Coroners: - Coroner Chair Carrie Nordin submitted a written report with updates from each County. Coroners are discussing accreditation for all offices to ensure uniform standards and better access to grant funding.

E-4. Prosectors: - Prosecutor Chair Louis Marshall reported an ongoing and unprecedented issue with finding and retaining qualified personell. The landscape has changed and while better funding is one aspect it is more than that. Bonner County has been helping Boundary with the loss of their chief deputy. Marshall is grateful for the new fentanyl legislation and discussed the dilemma of scheduling autopsies. The Spokane office is reducing the amount of autopsies taken from Idaho.

E-5. Sheriffs: - Sheriff Chair Dave Kramer, no report.

E-6. Treasurers: - Treasurer Chair Clorissa Koster reported meeting in March where discussion centered on issues with the implementation of last year's HB292, Homeowner's Property Tax Relief (HPTR), with a couple of counties having late billings. With Treasurer input, cleanup was written into this year's H521,

eliminating ATR in favor of HPTR. H429 implements penalties for filing wrongful dual homestead exemptions, which can become hefty with a 7-year lookback.

F. New Business: - District 1 Bylaws – Review Process: This review is required every other year. Chairman Allen would like feedback before creating a draft and asked that any recommendations be submitted to him by July 1st. The draft will then be presented at the July meeting. Commissioner Duncan noted that the IAC Board will report their changes for input.

G. State Updates:

G-1. IAC: - IAC Executive Director Seth Grigg noted the busy legislative session, perhaps the most legislation introduced in a session in the last decade, but didn't end up with more legislation actually being passed. The final progress report will be sent out on Monday. IAC worked on bills such as H521, and clarifying the responsibility of the State in CPS cases. Also changes to how the HPTR is calculated using the prior years levy rate although total funding will likely be less this year without a surplus. Additional sales tax funding towards school district facilities. Eliminating August election date. General fund money reserved to be distributed to Counties with Road & Bridge plus funding for bridge replacements. Area of Impact in control of Counties. H608 requiring Counties to create ordinances for Agriculture Protection Areas. Increased threshold for Public Works license requirement increase to \$100k. Mandatory minimums for fentanyl. Option for Counties to perform electrical & plumbing inspections. Worked with Coroners on next of kin database legislation (opt-in with drivers licensing renewal for next of kin contacts). Transition from County based to State based public defense with transition/roll-over of benefits & working on details for Counties that provide office space. The upcoming IAC Board meeting will focus on legislative review and budget training along with bylaw changes. IAC is involved with two amicus briefs regarding homestead proration with Latah County and penalties & interest with Kootenai County. Q&A included public defender funding, some bills stretching the single-subject requirements, and inability to quantify tax relief impact on bond proposals.

G-2. PDC: - Regional Coordinator Jennifer April Roark provided written update. The PDC will cease to exist as of July 1, 2024.

G-3. Sen. Crapo's Office: - no report.

G-4. Sen. Risch's Office: - North Idaho Regional Director Mark Kilmer introduced Chief of Staff Ryan White. The Senate will be taking up the impeachment of Interior Secretary Mayorkas next week and there are disagreements with the Biden administration on immigration policy. The proposed EPA air quality rule would effect our region and have adverse effect to sawmills. The office is still working on extending hours at the Porthill border crossing.

G-5. Rep. Fulcher's Office: - no report.

G-6. Gov. Little's Office: - Jake Garringer spoke on H513 expanding the authority of Sheriffs to close State highways. Commissioner Lampert expressed opposition to the State buying more private lands as it is a drain on rural counties.

H. ICRMP Presentation: - Tim Osborne presented the background and current state of ICRMP. The insurance marketplace is swayed by supply & demand but the commodity is the promise to pay. While home & auto insurance can often be an almost canned policy, public entities need policies which are more hand-crafted. ICRMP provides a multi-line policy. Underwriters look at your agency and assess risk scores and market loss trends. More competition brings lower rates (soft market), then increased losses bring higher rates (hard market). This was compared to a property & casualty rollercoaster. Idaho Counties pooled together in 1985 to form ICRMP to provide stability and 'get off the rollercoaster'. ICRMP now has over a thousand members. Reinsurance spreads the risk with multiple investors willing to put their money at risk for insurance, which provided lower rates. Major storm and wildfire events in 2020-2022 created losses, at the same time of higher inflation. This reduced the number of investors and resulted in premium increases in 2023. ICRMP took a higher retention which provides a shock absorber to the alternative of 3x premium increases. The goal of ICRMP is to moderate the premium increases and provided stability to the insurance market.

I. County Reports:

Benewah – Commissioner Lampert discussed the upcoming construction season with an airport upgrade, paving and chipseal projects. The Assessors office needs GIS personnel and the hospital needs staffing. With increased growth, a new jail is needed which would require a bond and additional employees. That is the cost of doing business and struggling with higher inflation while keeping budgets down.

Bonner – Commissioner Omodt states that Bonner County is always busy and grateful for the funding approved by the Governor for bridges. Actively chasing grants including a coordinated grant between Boundary & Bonner hospitals and the Panida towards an EPA green grant for the Colburn waste project, which the first phase has been completed under budget. The new building is progressing and the engineer is working on some corrections. Load limits must remain firm to protect road infrastructure. Bonner County is working on completion of their 3rd comprehensive plan revision in 50 years and have a GIS presentation to show the changes in growth over the last 5 years and highlights where there is still land available.

Boundary – Clerk Poston report that the County purchased the old Safeway building across from the Courthouse and is looking into DEQ funding to help renovate it into an ADA compliant justice center. Breakup was fairly short and load limits have been removed. Boundary is also struggling with staffing and need equipment operators and attorneys among others. Thanks to Bonner County for help with civil attorney. Looking at airport runway expansion and grant options for burying the Smith Creek hydro line. The new Sturgeon Station agreement helps provide gas tax funding to improve roads. Assessor Drake noted that the four locations of the Assessor department will be moving into the old extension building soon so that their offices will be together in one building.

Kootenai – Commissioner Duncan is excited to report that their airport is getting a new tower May 1 – Nov 1 which revenues and the USFS will help pay for. Clerk Locke discussed the budget season, the district court system moving to the cloud, Microsoft 365 and getting ready for upcoming elections. Prosecutor Mortensen confirmed the attorney shortage struggle but may be turning the corner with the Board approving salary increases. They are growing out of the current building and waiting to be able to move into the new justice center.

Shoshone – Commissioner Casady reports working on road & bridge projects and reviewing budgets. Prosecutor Allen reports that an outside audit is moving forward.

H. Public Comment – none.

I. **Adjourn:** Chairman Allen ordered the meeting adjourned at the early time of 11:59 a.m.

Attachments:

April 2024 PDC Update

April 2024 Coroner's Report

IAC DISTRICT 1 - 2024 OFFICERS

Chair – Benjamin Allen Shoshone County Prosecutor	
Vice-Chair – Mike Rosedale Bonner County Clerk	Alternate Legislative Representative - Phil Lampert Benewah County Commissioner
Secretary – Olivia Drake Boundary County Assessor	IAC Representative - Glenda Poston Boundary County Clerk
Treasurer – Sara Sexton Benewah County Treasurer	Alternate IAC Representative – Mike Rosedale Bonner County Clerk
Legislative Representative – Luke Omodt Bonner County Commissioner	Gem Plan Representative - Glenda Poston Boundary County Clerk

Elected Office Chairs

Assessor: Jerry White
 Clerk: Mike Rosedale
 Coroner: Carrie Nordin

Prosecutor: Louis Marshall
 Sheriff: Dave Kramer
 Treasurer: Clorissa Koster

**ATTENDEES OF IAC DISTRICT 1 MEETING
JANUARY 12TH, 2024 COEUR D' ALENE IDAHO**

Benewah County:

Sara Sexton – Treasurer
Philip Lampert – Commissioner

IAC:

Seth Grigg

Bonner County:

Dennis Engelhardt – Assessor
Luke Omodt – Commissioner
Mike Rosedale – Clerk
Clorrisa Koster – Treasurer
Louis Marshall – Prosecutor

Guests:

Sara Masters – Kootenai County
Grace Blomgren – Kootenai County
Marc Kilmer – Senator Rischs office
Brian White - Senator Rischs office
Jake Garringer – Governor Little’s office
Brian Blad – Mayor of Pocatello
Tim Osborne - ICRMP

Boundary County:

Glenda Poston – Clerk
Jennifer Economu – Treasurer
Olivia Drake – Assessor

Kootenai County:

Bruce Mattare – Commissioner
Leslie Duncan – Commissioner
Jennifer Locke – Clerk
Steven Matheson – Treasurer
Stanley Mortensen - Prosecutor
Bela Kovacs - Assessor

Shoshone County:

Benjamin Allen – Prosecutor
Tracy Casady - Commissioner
Jerry White – Assessor