

Regular Meeting Minutes
IAC District 5 Meeting
186 W. 2nd N., Preston, Idaho
August 1, 2024

Attendees:

Bannock
Jeff Hough
Torey Danner
Anita Hymas
Ernie Moser
Adam McKinney
Kristi Davenport

Bear Lake
Rex Payne
Bingham County
Mark Bair
Donavan Harrington

Caribou County
Jill Stoor

Franklin County
Janet Kimpton
Camille Larsen
Dirk Bowler
Robert Swainston
Vic Pearson

Oneida County
Kathleen Atkinson
Bill Lewis

Other
Rep. Rick Cheatum
Rep. Dan Garner
Senator James Ruchti
Senator Mark Harris
Renee Richardson
Sara Westbrook
Chase Christensen
Les Patterson

Business -

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Commissioner Jeff Hough
Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Robert Swainston
Roll Call by County: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, and Oneida in attendance
2. Break for lunch
3. **Presentation of the minutes:** the April 18, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion carried.
4. **Presentation of the Treasurer’s Report:** Bannock County Treasurer, Jennifer Clark, presented the Treasurer’s Report. There is a balance of \$3,139.50. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s Report. The motion carried.
5. **Les Patterson of Red Edge Mentoring** – spoke on Intentional Leadership – Discover how to clarify what matters most as you lead yourself, guide your team and serve your constituents.
6. **Legislative update:**
 - Senator Ruchti spoke on LAUNCH and school vouchers. The school voucher program has the potential to be extremely expensive.
 - Representative Garner spoke on water and how contentious it will be in the legislature this year. The other big item is education. It is the biggest expense in the budget. It will matter how it is funded by state and local governments.
 - Renee Richardson gave an update on Senator Risch and the committees he sits on. She also spoke on the Lava Ridge Wind and Energy project and that the Senator is working on an amendment to delay the decision until a study can be done.
 - Representative Cheatum talked about a huge turnover in the legislature in the past few years. He highlighted a few different races and how they may affect the legislature. He also spoke on a groundwater advisory committee. Idaho Ground Water Association and

Surface Water Association will be putting together a suggested settlement of the dispute for water that is going across the East Snake Plain Aquifer. Shared concerns with balance in the Senate and the House. The fall election is very important.

- Senator Harris shared concerns about the Senate this coming fall. He reiterated concerns about water. He talked about the encouragement he feels with High School Seniors signing up for LAUNCH. He talked about Idaho's need for "guest workers". It is a federal issue. We were told that we need to wait until November to see who is elected president.

7. **Adam McKinney, Bannock County Chief Technical Officer:** discussed regionalizing 911 offerings. Power County and Caribou County get their 911 services through Bannock County. Bingham County is coming online with Bannock in about 6 weeks with Bear Lake following in the next few years. Bannock County has a state-of-the-art Vesta 911 system. NextGen 911 is a little down the road but something that we need to be thinking about, we are just a few years away from being forced to use it. We are developing ways to disseminate even larger portions of 911 response – computer dispatch and text to 911. We are capable of taking over dispatch in one county for the entire district, but we are not going to do that yet. At the point at which we are ready, we will have a conversation about how to save the counties residents money and improve services.

7. **General Discussion:**

- Commissioner Hough asked Sarah Westbrook to talk about SRS. SRS stands for Secure Rural Schools and is for counties that had productive timber sales and those sales helped fund their schools. When timber sales were disallowed, the schools started to suffer.
- Discuss changing language in Idaho Code §60-106 regarding public printing and official notices...all agreed that a lot of money was spent in publication costs. Hough suggested a compromise to shorten the language so instead of printing the full notice you print an abbreviated version and post the full notice online. This would be for all county notices that are statutorily required to be published. Rick Cheatum expressed that he had a phone conversation with Kelly Packer and she said that Jeremy Pisca, a newspaper lobbyist, is willing to entertain the possibility of removing the requirements of multiple publications for each varied issue since they now have an online portal. Hough suggested that we bring a resolution to the fall IAC conference. Commissioner Moser mentioned that elections paid \$4500 for their publications. Some counties don't have a paper whose publications meet statutory requirements, so the publish in the Idaho State Journal and no one in their County reads it.
- Suggestion to remove the language in Idaho Code §1-1613 and ICAR Rule 41 that requires a set of Idaho State Statutes in Courtrooms and Commissioner Chambers. We will move forward with a resolution to present to IAC in September.
- Discussion to change the District 5 By-laws to decrease our yearly meetings from 4 to 3 a year. Commissioner Moser agreed that 3 would be plenty, but stated that he likes the way it has been structured to travel to different counties and tour different businesses. Hough stated that we will bring it up again in November.
- Sydney H. Duncombe Award – Sharee Sprague submitted for Commissioner Ron Funk from Power County. Everyone agreed.
- Sara Westbrook spoke about BEAD – Broadband Equity and Diversity – trying to get broadband to underserved areas. There is a concern that there are areas that need to be served that aren't getting served. There has been some difficulty getting responses from citizens in rural Idaho to respond to surveys.

- The next meeting will be held on November 7, 2024, in the Commission Chambers (room 212) in the Bannock County Courthouse at 624 E. Center Street in Pocatello, Idaho.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

1:45 p.m.: A group met at Trails West Trailers – 950 W. Industrial Park, Preston, Idaho – for a tour of their facility.