

Minutes
Hoback ranches Service and Improvement District
Annual Meeting July 16, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Hoback Ranches Service Improvement District was called to Order at 1:03pm on Saturday, July 16th, with approximately 44 people present.

- An update on the Winney lawsuit was given by Bill Conley. Originally the district faced seven charges. The District Court ruled against Winney in all seven cases. Upon appeal to the Wyoming Supreme Court, six of the rulings were upheld, and the 7th was remanded back to the District Court – whether the fence around the perimeter of the District needs to adhere to the Covenant requiring buck and rail fencing of certain dimensions. This remand is due to go to court in November.
- The perimeter fencing, with one exception to the southeast, was walked and repaired before the cattle grazing leases started this spring.
- The tort against the Department of Agriculture for negligence during the Roosevelt Fire, filed individually by the District and 27 residents, was discussed. Depositions were held in May and the trial is to start in November. Questions answered from a few residents who were confused on how this impacts the Ranches. The short answer is that any money recovered would go to the District, to be spent on behalf of everyone, and not distributed to individual residents on some pro-rata basis.
- Budget Resolutions were voted and passed by board members (Resolutions 23-001 and 23-002).
- Dave Fellows discussed how the budget and money is handled by the District. The budget resolutions just passed by the officers now go to the State department of Audit, and to the County Commissioners who will vote on the budget at their next meeting. The two rules of the State are that the District 1) cannot raise more money than is in the Budget, and 2) cannot spend more money than is in the budget.
- Speeding on the roads over the 20-mph posting was addressed by Sam and Joe, and the effect of what it does to the roads was discussed. The District has more signs, and Pete Teller has poles, so more signs will be put up to remind people of the limits.
- Feeding wildlife was addressed and how it can kill Mule Deer, as their digestive system changes in the winter and they can no longer digest grains (corn, hay, etc.). Feeding moose and elk is also not allowed. Handouts from Wyoming Game and Fish and an article from Montana Magazine were available.
- The wildlife topic led to a lengthy discussion on dogs running loose and harassing wildlife. Residents were told to call Game and Fish or the Sherriff, and to take pictures and video, if

possible, for proof. The board will look into a possible new resolution on this issue.

- An update on Weed and Pest by Bill Conley, who asked for volunteers for the overwhelming spread of weeds this season due to all the moisture. The County is no longer providing free spraying, but will sell herbicide at a discount and will spray your property for a fee. Mr. Conley can also arrange volunteers to help anyone who needs it.

- An update from the Winter Committee was given by Willy Watsabaugh. The committee started the year with \$65,800 in the bank, and received \$7,615 in donations from 21 people (11 part-time and 10 full-time residents). As of the meeting date, the committee spent \$27,418 in expenses, effectively spending down the bank account, leaving \$45,997. The committee does not want less than this amount in reserve, and so this coming year we will resume our usual email and mail requests for donations. Many of the delineator poles along the first three miles of Rim were damaged by the winter plowing, and replacement poles will be bought and installed.

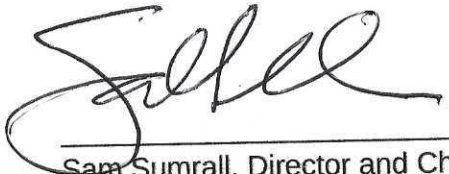
A long discussion on Sublette County Zoning was talked about with 2 guest speakers, Dan Bailey and Chris Lacinak, letting residents know of important changes that have made the County more pro-development.

Road conditions were discussed. The hill on Fisherman Creek near Rim Road was closed for a couple days for the first time in 50 years, as the unusual rains this spring resulted in a muddy mess. The hill on Mountain View to the east of Chippewaugh was graveled and served as an alternate route for those impacted by Fisherman closure. After the road dried out gravel was also applied to Fisherman. The National Forest Service has refused to renew our permit for the gravel pit north of the highway, but we have received permission to use part of the Sublette County area to store gravel. The burn pile can remain where it is. The Board is also looking into Wyoming grants to repair damage to Fisherman Creek Road and also on Rim Road between the two retaining walls (between the east and west sides of Hoback Ranches). The increase in budget between 2022/3 and 2023/4 proposed will be used to do more work on the East side.

- Residents were again asked please to track their UPS and FedEx packages, and pick them up as soon as possible. The boxes have been overflowing several times through the spring. If you know you have a package and cannot pick it up for any reason, please reach out to a neighbor or the Board to retrieve the package for you.

The annual picnic in the Skyline parking lot begins at 5pm after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm



Sam Sumrall, Director and Chair



David Fellows Director and Treasurer