

Minutes of Meeting
IAC District 1 Meeting
July 11, 2014
10:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Todd Tondee, Commissioner Dan Green and Commissioner Jai Nelson met to discuss the following items. Also present were Benewah County Commissioners Jack Buell and Phil Lampert; Bonner County Commissioner Cary Kelly and Clerk Ann Dutson-Sater; Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning and Clerk Glenda Poston; Shoshone County Commissioners Leslie Stanley and Larry Yergler; North Idaho College's Board of Trustees Chair Ken Howard, President Joe Dunlap and Vice President Mark Browning; Kootenai County's Assessor Mike McDowell and Chief Deputy Assessor Rich Houser; Clerk Jim Brannon; Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas; Idaho Association of Counties' Deputy Director Tony Poinelli; and Kootenai County Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

B. Introductions: Chairman Tondee asked all those present to introduce themselves.

C. Changes to the Agenda: Shoshone County Commissioner Larry Yergler asked that the Forest Plan Coordination be added to the agenda. Commissioner Green moved, Commissioner Dinning seconded, that the Forest Plan Coordination discussion be added to the agenda. All were in favor, none opposed and the motion carried.

D. New Business:

1. Approval of April 4, 2014 Minutes: Boundary County Clerk Glenda Poston moved, Commissioner Green seconded, for approval of the April 4, 2014 meeting minutes. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

2. Out-of-County Student Liquor Fund Reimbursement: North Idaho College (NIC) Board of Trustees Chair Ken Howard presented information regarding NIC's 11% student enrollment drop, \$2.3 million FY15 budget cut, and disparities in funding for out-of-County students. Among the five (5) counties in District 1, only Kootenai County levies taxes for North Idaho College; the other four (4) counties use liquor funds to subsidize students attending NIC from outside Kootenai County. Mr. Howard noted that liquor fund distribution formulas have not been updated since 1982, yet tuition and student fees have increased dramatically in that time. As a result, Kootenai County taxpayers' contributions to NIC have moved from \$1.47 million in 1982 to \$14.25 million in 2014; and Kootenai County is subsidizing NIC students from other counties in District 1.

Mr. Howard offered three (3) alternatives to address parity in student funding:

- a) Getting the Legislature to increase the liquor fund via a rounding mechanism which would only address 25% of community colleges' needs
- b) The four (4) other District 1 counties could establish endowments via foundations, and source tax-deductible funds from volunteers, which would be earmarked for students from those specific counties
- c) The four (4) other District 1 counties could vote themselves into a partial or full County taxing district

Attendees from Bonner, Boundary and Shoshone counties said their tax bases were not sufficient for those counties to levy additional taxes for NIC. They asked Mr. Howard if NIC screens students for ability to pay; he said the college did not, though Counties could do that. Commissioner Green said funding parity is a statewide issue affecting all three (3) of Idaho's community colleges, and Mr. Howard noted that with the other two (2) community colleges, at least two (2) counties in their areas levy taxes for the colleges. Mr. Howard said that NIC doesn't want to implement additional out-of-county student tuition fees. He asked that each county consider an endowment, or go collectively to the legislature regarding changes to the liquor funds.

Mr. Howard, Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Browning exited the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas exited the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

3. Behavioral Health Board Appointments: Commissioner Nelson described a new law effective July 1, 2014 which requires County Commissioners to meet as a committee, set bylaws, and suggest appointees to the Behavioral Health Board. After discussion, Chairman Tondee agreed to initiate a meeting among all five (5) sets of county commissioners, and to inform Health and Welfare's Joyce Broadsword of the meeting date and purpose.

4. Joint County Public Defenders (Idaho Code 19-859): Commissioner Nelson said that Kootenai County is now paying \$3 million a year for public defense because the law precludes counties having authority over the Public Defender. All Kootenai County Commissioners agree that standardization is required so that all defendants are defended consistently statewide. Commissioner Nelson urged attendees to ask their judges to increase public defense revenues, and Commissioner Green urged attendees to go to the IAC meeting in Moscow to make their views known on this issue. Attendees agree to have a telephonic meeting and bring the original February resolution on this matter to the attention of the Justice and Public Safety committee, and keep that resolution unamended. Several attendees agreed they want to serve on this committee, which currently has no representation from District 1. Commissioner Dinning moved, Commissioner Yergler seconded, to ask for representation from District 1. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried, for Commissioners Green, Nelson, Tondee, Kelly and Lampert, plus Assessor McDowell, to join the committee.

5. Crisis Center Update: Commissioner Nelson thanked the attendees for the regional support for Coeur d'Alene as the location of Idaho's first Crisis Center. She said Kootenai Health, Panhandle Health District, and Heritage Health have formed a new consortium to continue the cause in educating the Legislature about the ongoing need.

6. Unfunded State Mandate (House Bill 148, appointment of counsel and guardians in child protective cases): Bonner County Commissioner Cary Kelly said his county was experiencing greatly increased costs for civil cases, and expressed his belief that the state needs to fund this, not counties. Commissioner Tondee noted that a CASA attorney was also required to be funded by the County.

Commissioner Nelson exited the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

7. Creation of Recreational Districts: Commissioner Kelly said a recreational district was in the formation stage for Priest Lake property owners, which involved 144 lots. However, because only three (3) of those lots are owned by Idaho residents, 141 other lot owners whose primary residences are outside Idaho are not allowed to vote on this district's formation and potential levy actions. Commissioner Kelly thought they should be allowed to vote, as otherwise it was "taxation without representation". Other attendees expressed some disagreement with Mr. Kelly's position.

Additional Item: Forest Plan: Commissioner Yergler announced that James Pena, Regional Forester, is relocating to Oregon, without a decision or plan for coordination of forest activities. Benewah County Commissioner Jack Buell said that sporadic coordination had been the norm for the last twelve (12) years; Commissioner Dinning said Mr. Pena had agreed to carry through despite his relocation. The attendees expressed concern about this summer's potential for forest fires, affecting local lumber mills.

Additional Item: District 1 FY 15 Proposed Budget: Commissioner Buell moved, Commissioner Dinning seconded, to add the District 1 Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) proposed budget to the agenda. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried. Shoshone County Commissioner Leslie Stanley presented the proposed budget; Commissioner Dinning noted that some expenses were reduced through teleconferencing. Commissioner Green moved, Clerk Poston seconded, to adopt the FY15 budget as presented. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Stanley exited the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

8. Reports: Commissioner Dinning said no additional Legislative issues beyond what had already been discussed were substantive for the group's attention. Clerk Poston said IAC is moving into the Idaho Counties' Risk Management Program (ICRMP) building, and she encouraged other counties to match Boundary County's \$200 donation to the IAC scholarship fund.

E. County Reports: Commissioner Buell said that ICRMP has added schools to its membership, in a separate pooled group. Commissioner Dinning said that Boundary County had received ICRMP's notice that jail standards were unmet, which triggered a reduction in liability coverage from \$3 million to \$500 thousand dollars. Commissioners from all other counties besides Kootenai also received this notice and liability coverage reduction from ICRMP over unmet jail standards; most conceded overcrowding was the main issue.

Kootenai County Assessor Mike McDowell exited the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Commissioner Tondee noted that the November quarterly meeting required an officer election, and that he would not be nominated as Chairman.

F. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

With no further business, Commissioner Tondee adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

TODD TONDEE, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Pat Raffee, Chief Deputy Clerk
