

**March 25, 2025**

**The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in a regular session in the Commission Office of the Granite County Courthouse, with Commissioner Adler, Commissioner McLure, and Commissioner Kulaski. Also attending were Commissioners Assistant Maranda Williams and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items in person. The session was live-streamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and provide public comment. The public was also allowed to attend in person and provide comment. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance.**

**Also in attendance were members of the general public, Elena Gagliano.**

**Commissioner Adler requested that microphones and videos be enabled for Zoom attendees when they wish to speak during the Zoom meeting.**

**BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for March 18, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE;**

**A thank-you card was received from MACo for selecting MACo HCT as the County's health insurance provider.**

**Electronic Mail was received from Ed Brunsvold thanking the Commissioners for hosting the public meeting regarding the MRL rail line, and proposed abandonment, that took place at the Granite County Courthouse on March 11, 2025; and that the Flint Creek Trails Association has decided to end their pursuit of a trail connecting the communities.**

**Electronic Mail was received from Jackie Bolster regarding a FEMA workshop on April 15-17.**

**Electron Mail was received from Scott Dunkerson regarding the windows in the jail needing replaced as they are to far gone to be repainted.**

**Mail was received from Ken Fillbach with a bid proposal to paint the Treasurer's Office (interior) at \$3,360.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment from Elena Gagliano, Commissioner Adler stated she had to be on video to comment, she then said you addressed me, you know who I am, my camera is not working. Regarding the letter the letter from Scott Dunkerson, asking if it would be on the agenda to have a discussion with him. Commissioner Adler said the painting will be on the agenda next week, and they can discuss it then. Commissioner Adler reiterated being on video, Commissioner McLure said her camera isn't working. Commissioner Adler said that's not my fault, Elena Gagalian said that is not her fault either, and if she calls on the telephone there is no camera. She also questioned whether or not there was a resolution and wanted to know the number of the resolution. Commissioner Adler said he's not going to argue, and Elena Gagliano said she was not arguing but asking questions. She said she is**

from the public and has legitimate questions. Commissioner Adler said we agreed people will be on video so we know who we are talking to. Elena Gagliano then said you addressed me as Elena Gagliano, so you know me. Elena Gagliano continued on why video should not be required for giving public comment via Zoom. Commissioner Adler said we are moving on and thanked Elena Gagliano for her comments.

Scott Lyons joined the Commissioners as he was representing the Flint Creek Trails Association. Regarding MRL meeting, said it'd be really cool to see a trail, but the disruption to lives and livelihood is immeasurable. He brought up is abandoning versus rails to trails program. According to the research, he says his gut tells him that many of these transactions involve MRLs transferring land to landowners. If it went to a trail, there is never going to be a chance to take this back. They could put a passenger rail in the big scheme of things, says Lyons. The local trails association is not interested in taking over ownership of that corridor. Scott Lyons said he's kept an eye on where the tracks are. There are bridges crossing the creek, indicating that something is crossing the track. A small 501(c)(3) organization receiving a huge grant in the middle of nowhere? Those days are over. He stated a letter has been sent to MRL from Flint Creek Trails Association.

Elena Gagliano made a public comment for clarification, asking if Scott Lyons was present, questioning MRL Abandonment plans, and asking if the letter would be on the agenda next week. Commissioner Adler said he was giving an update, but they don't want anything to do with it. What she gathered from the MRL meeting was that there would be more continuous discussion. Commissioner Adler stated that the Flint Creek Trails Association had sent a letter, indicating they did not want to be involved. Commissioners will be discussing it next week, Adler reiterated. Elena asked if MRL reps be here and that it will be on the agenda for next week. Elena asked for confirmation and point of clarification that all of this will be on the agenda, and MRL reps will be here. Commissioner Adler said we haven't even asked or talked to the reps yet. Elena Gagliano said you need to go to a MACo training to Commissioner Adler. Blaine Bradshaw then advised Commission Adler to mute Elena Gagliano on Zoom as she has been told and told to give her comments on the issues, not be arguing regarding the meeting process (legal matters). Commissioner Adler then directed for the Commission's Assistant to mute Elena Gagliano for further comment on this matter.

**ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt was excused, and Commissioner Adler mentioned that they could contact him if needed. Commissioner Kulaski shared that roads are still in good condition, but with the upcoming weather, blading may begin soon, though the roads might be too wet. Commissioner Adler noted some roads are already dusty. The discussion shifted to Lakeshore Drive, where homeowners want road work done on County funds, even though it's a Forest Service road. Blaine Bradshaw clarified that it's legally possible, but the decision is political, and the Build grant is still a distant possibility. Commissioner Adler expressed the difficulty of helping since it's not technically their road, though they understand the homeowners are taxpayers. Forest Service funding and FLAP grants were discussed as potential solutions, with Commissioner Adler stressing the importance of addressing the**

issue. Commissioner Kulaski cautioned that using taxpayer money to rebuild a road that's not theirs could be problematic. They also discussed the potential of using mag chloride to maintain the road, with Blaine mentioning that much of Lakeshore is not directly by the lake.

**GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT;** According to the USGS lake level gauge and the dam tender's report for the week, the lake level was reported at 6428.75 feet, 8.76 "inches below full pool. Commissioner Kulaski moved to proceed to 20 CFS, subject to agency approval, or remain at 15 CFS if the 20 CFS level is not approved, which aligns with the estimated inflows and the current temporary modification consent agreement in place which is allowed under the current FERC order. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion.

The Commissioners discussed issues related to reservoir management, FERC regulations, and the difficulties in making decisions due to delays and a lack of control over the process. Commissioner Adler expressed frustration that their actions were dictated by other agencies, and that they had lost control over the lake. Commissioner Kulaski raised concerns about Fish and Game having the sole decision-making power, which contradicts the need for FERC approval. They discussed the need to manage outflows and inflows more effectively, with Paul Tallon, a hydroelectric operator, suggesting that the inflows are nearly equal to the outflows.

Brad Liermann mentioned Todd Blythe's report, suggesting that releasing 20 cfs could be difficult if weather conditions change. Commissioners agreed that maintaining lake levels without damaging downstream areas was a priority, and they considered adjusting outflows to match inflows. Commissioner Kulaski moved to match inflows with outflows. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Despite challenges with FERC's licensing process, the Commissioners were eager that the other agencies make timely decisions, and Brad Liermann emphasized the importance of providing data and keeping the process responsive.

**TCS NORTHWEST CONTRACTORS TILE CHANGE ORDER;** Commissioner McLure moved to accept change order #013 Tile for the new restroom walls in the Courthouse in the amount of \$22,993.62 as the Commission received the benefit to the Courthouse even though it was the tiler's error in the bid process. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners went into a closed session. The employee waived her right to privacy and submitted her resignation letter, and her last day will be May 30, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept her retirement. Commissioner Adler seconded. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kulaski moved to post the job in-house starting today for 5 business days. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There were no public comments received. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS FOR FY26;** Commissioner Adler mentioned that they received a short-notice Congressionally Directed Spending application, which is due by Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. Commissioner McLure suggested applying for road grants or bridge projects. Commissioner Adler contacted Kelly Cotton from Tim Sheehy's office, who confirmed that the application was sent to MACo, but it appears that no one received it. Cotton plans to follow up. The commissioners discussed which projects to apply for and whether the county can meet the matching requirements. They considered applying for funding for the Flint Creek Dam and bridge projects. Commissioner McLure proposed applying for up to \$750,000 for the dam with a 25% match and \$300,000 for bridge projects, also with a 25% match. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. No public comments were received. The motion passed unanimously.

**TRI-COUNTY FAIR BOARD RESIGNATION;** Commissioner Adler recommended accepting the member's resignation from board as the member had received a letter (first class US Mail, postage pre-paid) from the County Commission and an email with no response. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept her resignation from the Tri-County Fair Board. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Kulaski moved to advertise the position for the Tri-County fair board for 2 weeks. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

**CAMERA PROPOSAL FOR RIDDICK FIELD AIRPORT;** Donovan Jones, the Airport Board Chairman at Riddick Field Airport, updated the Commission about installing weather and runway monitoring cameras at the airport. The state is currently covering half of the cost, and it's a good time to proceed due to reasonable purchase and installation costs. However, the cameras require continual internet access, which would introduce recurring monthly fees. The county could receive a discount if they set up multiple Blackfoot accounts. Blaine Bradshaw suggested placing the cameras under the county's umbrella, with the bill going to the airport. The infrastructure would be located in Hangar 1, and once a new hangar is constructed, the cameras could be relocated. Donovan Jones highlighted the benefits for transient pilots and improved Wi-Fi communications. He also noted that the FAA website shows most airports, but not theirs yet since they do not have the cameras installed. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the camera installation proposal with the cost to install cameras around \$2,000 - \$2,500. Commissioner McLure seconded. There were no public comments received and the motion passed unanimously. The Airport Board will be responsible for setting up the Wi-Fi account with Blackfoot for the airport.

**LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR KEANAH VUSHON;** Keanah wasn't able to make it in to the meeting, but was already approved for the DUI Task Force. She will stop in when she can next to meet everyone.

**WORKING MEETING ON COUNTY ROAD CREW TRAINING AND SAFETY POLICIES;** The meeting focused on improving safety protocols and training for road crew employees. The Commission is creating updated Training and Safety Policies for all County

employees. Key discussions included the need for more specific equipment listed on Driver Safety Inspection Reports, such as the durapatcher, loaders, graders, dump trucks, and snow plows. Commissioners emphasized the importance of safety training, proper equipment usage, and maintaining safety standards, including wearing hard hats and high-visibility clothing, especially during tasks like durapatching.

Supervisor responsibilities were highlighted in ensuring safety, training, and paperwork are managed efficiently. Commissioner Adler stressed that there is no need for additional staff to handle training, as one person is already being paid for this. Safety meetings were discussed, with reports being required during meetings.

Training duration for various equipment was debated, with a proposal to complete 40 hours of training within 90 days, depending on the equipment and time of year. The need for flexibility, particularly regarding snow plows, was also noted. The importance of supervisors setting up training programs and tracking employee progress was discussed. Proposed changes to the draft policies, including the checklist, will be edited by Commissioner McLure and sent to the Commissioner's Assistant for review. The draft policies will then be sent out by the Commissioners' Assistant to affected County employees to give their input on the draft policies before they are adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Adler adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.