

December 13, 2022

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 Chairperson Adler, Commissioner McLure, and Commissioner Hinkle attending. Also attending were Commissioner's Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski and Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items. The session was livestreamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and 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 Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson; DES Coordinator Jackie Bolster; Granite County Courthouse Custodian, Janeen Bonney; MSU Extension Office Assistant, Karen Palmer; Granite County Dispatch Supervisor, Valerie Cartwright; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt; Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder Becky Mickey; Wildlife Management Specialist, Brad Balis; Headwaters Watershed Group Coordinator Karlee Riley; MACo Executive Director, Eric Bryson; Ravalli County Commissioner Greg Chilcott; FERC, P.E. Kelcy Adamec; FERC, P.E. Kareem Bynoe; Great West Engineering Business Unit Manager & P.E., Jeremiah Theys; Great West P.E., Jonathan Weaver; Paul Tallon (via phone); Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper; as well as other members of the general public including Elena Gagliano.

QUARTERLY SAFETY MEETING; Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson; DES Coordinator Jackie Bolster; Granite County Courthouse Custodian, Janeen Bonney; MSU Extension Office Assistant, Karen Palmer; Granite County Dispatch Supervisor, Valerie Cartwright; and Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent, Paul Alt joined the Commission for the Quarterly Safety Meeting. Granite County DES Coordinator, Jackie Bolster called the Quarterly Safety Meeting to order. Commissioner Adler motioned to accept the Safety Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Paul Alt had nothing to report for the Road Department or Solid Waste Department. Commissioner Adler commented that he would like to ensure that the Crew members are wearing safety / reflective vests when working, so motorists can see them if they have to get out of their vehicles or equipment. Paul Alt stated that they need to get some new vests and he will address it. Janeen Bonney commented that Johnson Control will be at the Courthouse later in the day to update some of the heaters that have not been functioning. Commissioner Adler asked for a follow up on the removal of ice along the sidewalk outside of the Courthouse. Billie Ann Kulaski will contact the Town of Philipsburg Public Works Director, Sam Dennis to have them clean up the area. Janeen Bonney added that the sidewalk is lower than the road which adds to the issue of snow and ice in the area. Karen Palmer stated that there are no updates for the Courthouse. Jackie Bolster and Valerie Cartwright are going to be working on an article for the newspaper that explains the IPAWS system, reverse 911, and Text-911 to the public. Jackie Bolster explained that the County recently hosted an Active Shooter Table Top Exercise with the School Districts and had around 30 participants from the School Districts and County Agencies and Partners. It was identified at this exercise that there may be available "Run, Hide, Fight" Trainings, which could be utilized in other

areas of the County, including the Courthouse. The Safety Incentive Program has been completed for calendar year 2022 and 24 gift cards were handed out. Jackie Bolster and Billie Ann Kulaski asked the group for permission to update the incentive program and align the trainings with the specific Departments and introduce new trainings as the current programs are becoming repetitive. The group discussed the current platform and modules that are completed and how this information is tracked. It was also discussed that in calendar year 2022 there was an instance of an employee completing these trainings on their own time as opposed to completing them on County time, and how that should be addressed going forward. Commissioner McLure commented that the trainings should also be completed as they are assigned and not all at once at the end of the year. The Committee discussed the Road Department and their completion of the trainings on the current platform, as they do these as a group and fill out a Safety Meeting Form to hand in to the DES Coordinator to use as a Safety Meeting. Jackie Bolster commented that in addition to revamping the current incentive program, that they would like to add a quarterly incentive to recognize behaviors that mitigate safety hazards and reduce workers' compensation claims. There are still several details that need to be worked out in the development of the new program. Commissioner Adler motioned to implement a new Safety Incentive Program and Platform. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Jackie Bolster and Billie Ann Kulaski will present the details of this program in January when it is rolled out. Commissioner Adler motioned to adjourn the Safety Meeting. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. The next Quarterly Safety Meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MINUTES; Commissioner Hinkle moved to accept the board minutes for December 6, 2022 with one change. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE; An e-mail was received from Tri-County Sanitarian Chad Lanes providing a brief update to the removal of the junk trailer in Drummond.

PUBLIC COMMENT; Granite County Deputy Clerk & Recorder Becky Mickey joined the Commission concerning the Granite County Road Department placing personal items on the County NAPA Account, which enables the items to be delivered as it appears NAPA may have made a mistake. All invoices have been paid except for one where the County cannot identify the personal vehicle. The Commission went into closed session to discuss the matter further in order to protect employee privacy.

The Commissioners emerged from closed session. No action was taken other than to reject payment of a bill from NAPA in Anaconda that was not a County purchase.

Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano voicing concern over the closing of the meeting due to personnel issues in the middle of Public Comment.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt joined the Commission to provide a brief update of current projects the Road & Bridge Department has been working on. He also provided a Road Maintenance Agreement application from the Hatchers, who are wanting to plow up on Stuart Lake Road. Paul Alt added that the agreement submitted has a comment about gravel and that draft language needs to be removed from the agreement and that a timeline needs to be added to the agreement as well. During last weeks' session an electrician was to get a hold of Paul Alt to coordinate the repair of the heat at the Philipsburg Ambulance Shed. Paul Alt stated he was not contacted and that he would get ahold of the electrician. Commissioner Hinkle commented on the Middle Fork Gravel Pit and that the Road Department has not cleared off the pit yet. Paul Alt responded that they have left the snow on the pit for the time being to insulate the ground and that F&R LLC will give them one week notice before commencing work so they can then strip it off.

Solid Waste Update: The burn permits have been received for both Solid Waste sites and they are planning to burn this week; additionally, the parts are finally in to repair the backhoe at the Drummond Site. This repair will be done soon.

CARCASS DUMP SITE; The Commission was joined by FWP, Wildlife Management Specialist, Brad Balis and Headwaters Watershed Group Coordinator Karlee Riley to discuss this matter. Commissioner Adler began the discussion explaining that he feels as though FWP and the MT Department of Transportation should be dealing with this matter as opposed to the County Sheriff Department having to remove carcasses from the State right-of-way. Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson joined the conversation stating that in the previous session (December 6, 2022) he was referring to removing carcasses from animals in town that have been stuck in fences or are in people's yards that need to be disposed of; and that there is nowhere to put them. He added that FWP has all of the regulations of where the carcasses can be dumped. Brad Balis explained that this is a challenge and that the Highway Department doesn't have a place to dispose of them either, unless they drive all the way to Missoula. He stated there isn't a great option, and discussed the Road Kill Permits. Sheriff Dunkerson explained that he sees a handful of the Road Kill Permits but that a lot of the carcasses they deal with are stuck in fences and have been there a while, so are not something anyone is going to salvage. Brad Balis asked if there is potential for another Carcass Dump Site location, summarizing an issue with a grizzly bear outside Drummond this fall to highlight the necessity to keep the bears away from people. This discussion lead into the similar issue faced with the disposal of livestock carcasses. Brad Balis added that FWP would like to help protect producers by cleaning up the landscape. Commissioner Adler commented that at one point in time Rex Radtke was interested in setting something up but that the neighbors didn't want to have something like that. Commissioner Hinkle asked about previous conversations the Commission had with Wildlife Management Specialist Jonkel concerning a carcass dump site at the MT State Prison in Deer Lodge. Brad Balis responded that he would get in touch with Jonkel and get the information to see where that project was headed. Karlee Riley added that the Watershed is beginning to hold public meetings and will start discussing this matter as well. The Commission discussed the necessary man hours it takes to maintain a carcass dump site in

order for it to be run properly. Commissioner Adler commented that he has frustrations with FWP, because he feels as though the County will get stuck with the expense of a carcass dump site.

MACO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ERIC BRYSON TO DISCUSS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIP WITH LANDS MANAGEMENT: The Commission was joined by MACo Executive Director, Eric Bryson and Ravalli County Commissioner Greg Chilcott to discuss the proposed Intergovernmental Partnership with Federal Lands Management agencies. Eric Bryson began the discussion explaining how the LATCF funds came to be available to Counties such as Granite County; who received approximately \$2M. The discussion stemmed around larger government operations and how Congress doesn't understand the intricacies of running a public lands County. The development of this National Center for Public Land Research creates a platform for public lands counties to show Congress, with the dedicated research, what issues these Counties are facing; and how the tourism for access to public lands creates a large demand on the infrastructure, which Counties are responsible for financially. Commissioner Chilcott explained the issues they have faced in Ravalli County. He added that there is a lot of information out there about the impact of public lands on counties, but the problem is there isn't a lot of good information. This Center would create a good information source that would support the advocacy of Commissioners around the nation to impact PILT and environmental law. Commissioner Hinkle asked how this center would generate money. Eric Bryson explained that this won't generate money, but this center will be able to help educate east coast Senators in Congress and continue / preserve the PILT program. Commissioner Chilcott added that for the development of this Center they are asking for pennies on the dollar of the LATCF funds the County received (\$20K) and they are going to every County that received these funds and doing the same. The Center will continue to sustain itself off of the interest from the initial investment from all of the Counties involved. There was further discussion on the LATCF funds and how these funds were almost not received by public lands counties and almost disbursed to all counties across the United States, highlighting the need to educate Congress on the challenges facing public lands counties. Commissioner Hinkle stated that this is what we have Congressional Representative for. Commissioner Chilcott agreed and stated that they are helpful but that the value of this Center is important. He added that he doesn't like to spend money and had a difficult time when he saw the amount requested for the investment, but that he felt that Ravalli County needed to invest their share. Commissioner Chilcott referenced Local Government Forest Advisor, Steve Kimball. Commissioner Adler raised concerns over Steve Kimball, who when reached out to by Granite County in the past has not been helpful. Commissioner Chilcott invited the Commissioners to attend the Forest County Summit to discuss their concerns further. Commissioner Hinkle explained that nothing is happening in regard to forest management pointing to the rapid decline in forest health. He referred to post and pole opportunities going down and being blocked. Eric Bryson made it clear that no money from this center goes to fund Steve Kimball and added that wood has come out of the forest. Commissioner Hinkle pointed out that almost no wood has come out of the forest and that when it does, it is built

up through the media outlets. Commissioner Adler commented on the logging industry in the County and the decline over the years. Commissioner Chilcott responded that he is frustrated as well and sees this as either fighting or “throwing our hands up in the air”; but that Steve Kimball should be able to help with some of the red tape to enable the County to get some projects done. Commissioner Adler added that the County has tried to push some in the past and that they just don’t go. Commissioner Hinkle questioned Anaconda-Deer Lodge County and Butte-Silver Bow County not getting asked for a contribution. Eric Bryson explained that Anaconda-Deer Lodge County and Butte-Silver Bow County did not receive any LATCF funds. Commissioner Hinkle added that he thinks Granite County is not getting their fair share of PILT funds seeing as Granite County has 70% of public lands but Anaconda-Deer Lodge County is receiving more in PILT funds. Commissioner Hinkle added that Granite County is the only County in the Country that owns a Dam with a hydro-plant. The County put \$200,000 of public money into the maintenance of the dam and Commissioner Hinkle raised concern over having to use PILT to prop up the dam. Commissioner Chilcott explained that in regard to the contribution for the Center, there are counties in Montana that haven’t contributed, but will still benefit because they are going to do the work anyway. He added that he feels as though if his County is going to partake in the benefit he wants to contribute their fair share. Eric Bryson explained that Madison County has said they would provide a check if more than 51% of Montana Counties contribute. Commissioner Chilcott commented that this is on time contribution and they don’t want to spend the money, they want to be able to operate off of the interest earnings. Commissioner Adler commented that there are Delegates and Representatives in Washington to do this work. Commissioner Chilcott responded making a comparison to Commissioners jobs, and the variety of issues that they address. He added that the Center would enable a dedicated group to focus on this one specific issue. Commissioner Hinkle raised concerns over how this Center will protect Granite County’s interests if it is a nationwide Center. Commissioner McLure commented that this Center would be a thinktank that would build county profiles and provide access to enable Counties to get things done and see how other Counties are addressing things. Eric Bryson explained that the Board that governs this Center is made up of four Commissioners from the West Coast, the Western Interstate Region that is made up of western public land counties. The Commission agreed that they will need more time to think about this matter so a decision was tabled for a later meeting.

MONTHLY CLAIMS; The Commission reviewed the monthly claims for November. Commissioner McLure motioned to accept the monthly claims. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

FLINT CREEK DAM OWNERS SITE INSPECTION REVIEW CALL WITH FERC; FERC, P.E. Kelcy Adamec; FERC, P.E. Kareem Bynoe; Great West Engineering Business Unit Manager & P.E., Jeremiah Theys; and Great West P.E., Jonathan Weaver joined the Commission for the call with FERC. Kelcy Adamec ran the call and introduced Kareem Bynoe, who will be taking over as the new P.E. for the Flint Creek Dam Project. She provided a summary of the items that have been completed over the last year in reference the Part 12D Inspection and the Functional Exercise. Kelcy Adamec then reviewed the Owners Site

Inspection noting that briefly the County was snowed out and that the pictures do reflect the weather conditions. She asked some questions in reference to the piezometers not being monitored during the 2022 calendar year. Billie Ann Kulaski responded that it was noted by the Dam Tender that he was not monitoring the piezometers but in working with Jonathan Weaver and referencing the DSMP the monitoring plan has been implemented for the piezometers. Jonathan Weaver followed up, stating that he also worked with the Dam Tender to check the piezometers and provide readings following an earthquake in November. That information was then sent into FERC. Jonathan added that the monitoring schedule follow up was an educational opportunity and that this is done during the spring, summer, and fall months; typically, this is not done during the winter months unless there is an event that warrants it. Kelcy Adamec discussed operations and maintenance schedules for the intake valves. Jeremiah Theys added that this item is not included in the Part 12D but would be warranted to have these exercised annually, as then if there is Dam Tender turnover or Commissioners change everyone would know what is going on and that exercising the intake valves would not include much effort. Kelcy Adamec asked for an update of the detailed plan of concrete outlays. Great West Engineering completed this inspection last fall and are currently working through the process, but have not completed the thickness testing. Based on the findings if construction is necessary, the construction sequence is listed to be done in fall of 2023. Jeremiah Theys commented that this will likely need to be adjusted because of the costs associated and that there is a potential for grant funds that the County would want to apply for. He added that they don't anticipate finding much and are hoping nothing comes out of the thickness test, but if it is comprehensive it will require some capital investment. Kelcy questioned the drainage / inlet on the left side of the dam, Jonathan responded that this is something that has been on the radar for a while, but there are no plans for this project right now. This would add another storm drain inlet on the road. This would alleviate the roadway drainage directly entering the spillway and affecting the deterioration of the concrete in the spillway. Kelcy explained that this is a project that would need to be submitted to FERC Regional Engineer, Douglas Johnson to review. Kelcy then inquired about the left butterfly gate being exercised. Jonathan Weaver responded that they are hesitant to exercise this because they don't know what is upstream of it. He added that they are also unsure if once it is open, if they will be able to close it. At this time there are no plans to exercise it, but it does not have a safety concern. Jonathan added that they need to address the old upstream timber gate before they can look at exercising the butterfly gate. Kelcy Adamec asked about some concerns in the DSSMR in regard to the measurements on the piezometers showing inconsistencies in the depths. There were repairs to the piezometers and the piezometers repairs dry readings at P1 were deeper than in the past as well as at P2; the repairs included shortening the PVC pipes making this inconsistent with the previous DSSMR reports. She requested that the dam tender measurements are reviewed to ensure they are consistent and appropriate.

Kelcy Adamec went through the necessary FERC reporting requirements in regards to safety and construction projects. She added that there was some accusation of sabotage to the project in 2021 and highlighted importance of reporting those issues to the Chief Dam Safety Engineer as well as to FERC. She then recommended that the County continue to

work on educational opportunities recognized in the Part 12D focusing on Dam Tenders and Commissioner awareness. Kelcy Adamec then reviewed the EAP with Jackie Bolster, who explained that she is in the process of putting together an article for the paper concerning the emergency response system for the public. Sheriff Dunkerson joined the conversation to provide some more information on how those systems work in an emergency. Kelcy Adamec asked if the PIO training was completed. Jackie Bolster explained that it was completed earlier this year with State DES Coordinator and that the Sheriff's Office, Commissioner's Office, and DES Office were in attendance. Jackie Bolster also explained that the materials list has been updated and if the EAP was enacted the County has viable resources in the areas necessary. Kelcy Adamec then provided a brief update of annual reports and assessments that are due to FERC. She included FERC updates to communication as well as their new Portland office address. Kelcy Adamec then reviewed new FERC regulations, explaining that the biggest one is the update to how Part12D Inspections will be done, with every other inspection being comprehensive and the latter being less comprehensive. Kareem Bynoe commented that the County should review new engineering guidelines regarding the digital project archive as it will be important to understand what they need in regard to this archive.

NO COMMISSIONER MEETING ON DECEMBER 27, 2022; Commissioner Hinkle moved to not have a Commissioner Meeting on December 27, 2022. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously. Notice of this action will be placed on the County's website and December 20, 2022 posted agenda.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; BRANDON PARRET, DAM TENDER'S REPORT; The lake level was reported at 6427.89 feet; 19.32 inches below full pool, according to the USGS lake level gage and the dam tender's report for the week. The Commission discussed the cold weather in the coming weeks and that they need to begin preserving the water in the reservoir. Commissioner Hinkle motioned to decrease the outflow to 6 CFS as allowed by the FERC order. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Public comment was received via phone from Paul Tallon who disagreed with the decision and stated that the Commission should leave the outflow at 10 CFS because he feels that the reservoir will still fill with the continued release of 10 CFS. There was no further public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-14; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION AMENDING THE COUNTY'S FY 2022 BUDGET; FIRST READING; The Commission reviewed the Resolution and opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment. Resolution 2022-14 will be on the Commissioners Agenda the following week for a second reading and adoption (December 20, 2022).

MEDICAID RATES FOR NURSING HOMES IN MT; REVIEW OF MACO'S POSITION; The Commission reviewed the documentation received in correspondence on December 6, 2022. Commissioner Hinkle abstained from the Conversation, as Medicaid is a complex matter and he did not want to get involved. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw

reviewed the document further and explained that the nursing homes are requesting that an adequate rate be paid for nursing home services. The was a discussion between Medicaid falling to the Federal Government or the State Government for administration. Commissioner McLure clarified that the question is whether or not the County wants to support these other Counties with a letter to the Governor in regard to the rates. Blaine Bradshaw confirmed. Commissioner Adler added that he would support them if this helps keep their nursing homes open. Commissioner McLure motioned to send a letter of support in regard to Medicaid rates for nursing homes. Commissioner Adler seconded the motion. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano stating that this was a good idea, but that this will not affect Granite County. She stated that Granite County does not have a dedicated Nursing Home because the Board of Trustees dropped their designation as a Nursing Home. There was no further comment and the motion passed unanimously with two votes (Commissioner Hinkle abstained from voting as he believes the issues are more broad with Medicaid). Commissioner McLure added that Granite County Medical Center is a Long-term Care Facility part of a critical access hospital. Blaine Bradshaw explained how the State designates critical access hospitals.

DRAFTED NOTICE CALLING FOR LEASE PROPOSALS FOR PHILIPSBURG AMBULANCES; The Commission reviewed the drafted notice. Commissioner McLure moved to approve the Notice calling for lease proposals for the Philipsburg Ambulance. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. There was no public comment the motion passed unanimously. The County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw, will send the Notice to the Philipsburg Mail for advertisement for 5 consecutive weeks as required by law.

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.