



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
January 8, 2014

- The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Tuesday February 18, 2014. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Road Master; and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.
- Others in attendance included Barbara Cannady, Kate Marsh-Copeland, Karen Hendrickson, Barbara Skillman, Ken and Debby Peckham, and Terri Cain.
- Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2014 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Offered:

- Barbara Cannady; in regards to communications tower sub-leasing and related effects on landowners.

Old Business:

- The Court reviewed the Sage Grouse DEIS Comments to be provided by Harney County, and from Eastern Oregon Counties Association. Midnight Thursday February 20th is the deadline for comments. They may be sent to jsuther@blm.gov Re: SAGE GROUSE DEIS COMMENTS. Commissioner Nichols moved to send the comments. Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Nichols publicly and personally thanked Judge Grasty for the thousands of hours that he has contributed working diligently on this issue, and taking on the responsibilities to provide a leadership role in this arena, and wholeheartedly felt it warranted a thank you from the Court and the public. Commissioner Runnels concurred.

New Business:

- Jason Kessling Natural Resource Director for the Burns Paiute Tribe was present to discuss the Tribe's proposal to transfer Burns Paiute Tribe Malheur Basin lands and BLM Grazing allotments to the Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs in Trust. The land proposed is in Malheur and Grant Counties. Mr. Kessling explained their intent is to keep utilizing livestock as a management tool. This will allow for more flexibility for the tribe to manage, without asking BLM. A discussion ensued, regarding access, payments in lieu of taxes, and economic benefit. Mr. Kessling stated at some point the tribe may ask for a letter of support. Commissioner Nichols stated since these lands are in Malheur and Grant Counties, it would be difficult to take a position, until it is determined what the affect would be in Harney County. The court deferred taking a position on this matter, until further information is gathered.

- Kate Marsh-Copeland, Barbara Skillman and Karen Hendrickson, representing the Harney County Cultural Coalition were present to announce the \$6000.00 in grant awards to different local groups. Those receiving grant awards this year include the Burns Paiute Tribe for cradle boards projects with families; Crane Union High School for art display units; Harney County Arts and Crafts Association for banners and sign boards; Harney County Arts In Education for music and maintenance on school band instruments; Kids Club of Harney County for a culinary cultural awareness program; Western Reflections for an event sponsored by the 4-H writers group which is a cowboy poetry and music group. The Cultural Coalition's web site is harneycountyculture.org.

- The Court discussed a funding request from Andy Rieber for the Wild Horse Collaborative meeting requesting funding assistance in having a meeting in Salem. Mr. Rieber requested \$1500.00 from Lake County, and \$1500.00 from Harney County. Commissioner Nichols moved to contribute \$1500.00 to the Beaty's Butte Wild Horse Collaborative. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Judge said he prefers the check be made payable to Lake County, and let them distribute accordingly. The motion carried unanimously.

- Terri Cain, and Ken and Debby Peckham, representing the Harney County Arts in Education Foundation, were present with an update on the Performing Arts Center and presentation of a feasibility study. Mrs. Peckham explained it is a working document, and there are sections that still need some work. Mrs. Cain explained there are more steps including pursuing many grants, and is planning to create a paid development position. The business plan group will meet this week. They also asked the court for a resolution in support of the project. The court was happy to oblige.

- The Court reviewed Notices of Water Use Requests; there were no objections to any requests.

- Commissioner Runnels updated the Court on the town hall meeting Saturday with Senator Merkley.
- Commissioner Nichols reported the Frontier Hub has been officially awarded the ELC Hub designation, and accepted the funding request. Grasty expressed his thanks to Commissioner Nichols for managing this effort on behalf of the Court. Judge Grasty stated that there is a bill in the legislature now allowing for more flexibility in county youth development councils, and how the funding might work, stabilizing the funding for Juvenile Departments.
- The Court discussed the need for a change in the way all the Federal Draft EIS's are developed, nationally. Judge Grasty is meeting next week in Washington D.C. With Neal Kornze, Principal Deputy Director of the BLM and this will be one of the topics. The Commissioners expressed these used to be several hundred pages, now they are thousands of pages, and there isn't time to review them and provide a full analysis.
- The Court reviewed misc. correspondence.
- Eric Drushella, Road Master; reported the Road Dept. crews are still working on Double OO Rd.
- There being no further business, Judge Grasty adjourned the session at 12: 20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derrin Robinson".

Derrin "Dag" Robinson, CRA; CEA
Harney County Clerk