

SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
March 25, 2013, 8:00 P.M.
Gunnison City Hall, 38 West Center, Gunnison, Utah

Present are: Commission Chair Claudia Jarrett, Commissioners Jon Cox and Steve Frischknecht, and County Clerk Sandy Neill. Also present are the following: Garrick Willden, Dick Bona, Brice Roberts, Deloyd Lund, Lynn M Koyle (Sevier River Water Shed Coordinator), Don Rasmussen, Fred Barber, Clint Boswell, Jarvis Sorensen, Scott Bartholomew, Loni Hammond, and Bob Bown.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ACTIONS NEAR DOVER ROAD AS PART OF THE SANPETE COUNTY EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE NRCS

Meeting is called to order by Commission Chair Claudia Jarrett. Garrick Willden explains that when this project started, they came up with a rough budget and completed studies to determine what could be done. FX Construction will be installing 4 low water crossings. One on the east side of the bridge, a large one on the west side of the bridge, and 2 more further west. This work will require a road closure for approximately 1 month. Recently the NRCS had bad experiences with flood easements in Northern Utah. They took much more time and funding than was expected. So they will not be approving the easements. The environmental permitting to dredge more than 500 feet along the bank is very time consuming, and thus expensive. Instead the focus will be on the major choke points along the river. This project has been allocated \$50,000 - \$60,000. Ten percent of that will go toward engineering. Jones and DeMille have invested much more than the \$5,000 to \$6,000 that will be allocated for the engineering. They are willing to eat the cost on this project because they've worked on a number of projects throughout the County. Lynn Koyle asked where the remaining EWP money went. Mr. Willden responds that it went towards other projects up the County. The Wood Hollow fire was declared a state emergency, and state funding was used for that area. In years where there is high flooding, there will still be a problem in the Dover Road area. If we can find the choking points, and open it up a little it will help. Brice Roberts asks how deep the flood crossings will be. Mr. Willden responds that they will be about 2 feet deep. Mr. Roberts is concerned that the north side is 3 feet lower than the south. Dick Bona remembers that when the cuts were made the water drained within 24 hours. These crossings should do the same, but they will be permanent. Commissioner Jarrett is disappointed that the NRCS keeps changing the rules. The NRCS first told us easements would be the best way to go. Now they tell us that it won't be cost effective to do. Jarvis Sorensen asks if the funding becomes available, would the Commission support dredging the river? He states that Sevier County is dredging. Commissioner Jarrett explains that because we are in a flood plain we would need to haul the sediment. Mr. Sorensen states that someone is using scare tactics, we would not need to haul. Mr. Willden verifies that this area is considered a wetland. The rules are different for wetlands. Mr. Sorensen has attended meetings recently, and the state is willing to meet us half way. He states if we go to the corp of engineers and explain how many thousands of dollars they are losing, they would give us the permit. He asks if the Commission would be willing to commit if the economy turns around. Commissioner Frischknecht states that we are underfunded, and haven't increased taxes in many years. If the economy does turn around, we have a lot of catching up to do. If we found sufficient funding, he would support dredging. Mr. Koyle asks if the County Commissioners would be the sponsors and obtain the land rights. If so, the work could be funded through EWP. Those present are not aware of any of the property owners who are against dredging. Mr. Willden states that progress has been made with the Forest Service. The new

supervisor has been good to work with. Dealing with the Army Corp and wetlands has been a sensitive issue. Mr. Hammond states it would be helpful if we could get rid of the tamarack. The river would just about clean itself without the tamarack problem. Mr. Koyle asked Delta's attorney about ownership of underground water rights at his last river commission meeting. The Attorney for Delta stated the rights were Delta's. Mr. Koyle said that every time someone here tries to file a change order they sue us. Mr. Koyle told them that we plan on suing Delta if they don't take care of their water. Then at the next meeting, they were more willing to talk. Years ago Delta took care of the drains. Mr. Willden states that the NRCS likes to see projects that fix problems, not just maintenance. Commissioner Jarrett states we are all for fixing problems. We have limited funds, and are discouraged with what we've heard from the NRCS. Commissioner Frischknecht states that the Commissioners are the sponsor, and the money flows through them, but they are not the experts. Mr. Sorensen states that a group meets annually with the Army Corp. The Army Corp likes to be hard-nosed. They aren't as bad as they were years ago. Mr. Koyle tells about working with the Army Corp on a project that was first turned down. He invited them to walk the property, and was able to get the needed permit. Commissioner Frischknecht states that we should get the work done now, and see how it helps. If more funding comes up later we can see what more could be done. Mr. Willden will need signed easements to allow the actual construction. He'll take care of that when the areas are identified. Mr. Roberts is concerned that the dips in the road need to be lowered even more. The road will be surveyed, and the low water crossings will be put in at the correct depth. Scott Lund states that the bank washed away and the water ended up on his pasture ground. Commissioner Jarrett states that Mr. Willden will work with the land owners to find the right spots for the choke points, and then the road will be closed for approximately one month beginning around the end of April. Mr. Koyle states in Fall of 2014 and Spring of 2015 there will be \$1 million available, and he'll work with us on getting some of that funding to this area.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

ATTEST: *Sandy Neill*
Sandy Neill
Sanpete County Clerk

APPROVED: *Claudia Jarrett*
Claudia Jarrett
Commission Chair