

Local

County Commissioners

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A final public hearing was held in the matter of Order No. 2016-101, Naming A Private Road Elk Camp Road, Located Along The Eastern Boundary Of Tax Lots 100 And 101 In Township 10 South, Range 37 East, Section 03C W.M., Baker County, OR.

An application was filed by property owner Carl G. Patton, to name an approximate 1,200 foot long private road running north from Sumpter Valley Highway, Elk Camp Road. Harris, after introducing herself as a new Planner, explained the details of the order, which was then approved, with a motion from Bennett, and, a second from Kerns.

Martin read a County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Report, form NEOEDD, which stated in part, that, "NEOEDD provided six, six-session series of busi-

ness planning classes and two, two-session classes on social media or website development in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties with CDBG funding.

"The total cost of the eligible classes was \$43,698.86. NEOEDD charged Baker County \$40,000 for the classes, which was the total amount of the CDBG grant to Baker County.

"We greatly appreciate your support of the micro enterprise program and the time your staff has spent to monitor the grant activities."

In all, according to the document, 57 district students attended classes, at a cost of \$702 per student.

Later, Dawson discussed the AGORA platform, which "...provides an online marketplace to advance community and economic development priorities by matching community needs with relevant funding sources across public, private, and philanthropic sectors," according to documentation.

The platform helps project owners: connect with potential funders; create greater visibility for projects; prioritize needs and issues, and; keep projects up-to-date with relevant information.

"In Ancient Greek cities, the agora was the equivalent of the 'town square' and served as the center of political and economic life," according to www.agora-platform.com.

A discussion regarding House Bill (HB) 2624, a measure to allow black bears and cougars to be hunted with the use of dogs in Baker County, was postponed until a later date.

Bennett discussed a five-page letter addressed from the Board to BLM Vale District Manager Don Gonzales, regarding the County's input about the issues with the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Project Preliminary Environmentally Preferred Alternative.

Various concerns were pointed out, including local impacts, the lack of benefit

to the County, the lack of transparency, and, the lack of consideration of issues under the category of social justice.

Bennett said that the impacts were to primarily senior citizens, and, this has not been addressed yet. He said impacts to a significant number of female landowners/operators has also not been addressed.

Following the discussion by the Board and attendees, the letter was approved to be sent, with a motion from Harvey, and, a second from Kerns.

Two executive sessions were held, per Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 192.660(2)(m)(C)(i).

The first one was held to discuss issues associated with Mason Dam and hydroelectric details, between the Board, Yencopal and Gecy.

The second session was held in order for the Board to discuss details associated with the Columbia Basin Helicopters/McCarty legal case with Van Thiel.



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FAFA requests withdrawal of Subpart A Travel Analysis Report for Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

One month ago Region 6 of the US Forest Service released the Travel Analysis report for the Wallowa-Whitman & Malheur National Forests, along with many others. The report is incomplete and based on incorrect assumptions as no public meetings were held to specifically discuss future needs for management and access in those forest. This plan will be used as a springboard for further motorized access restrictions being planned by the Supervisors offices in Baker and John Day over the next several years.

FAFA had requested access to the draft report in April of 2015 so that we could give input and be part of developing recommendations that would work for the long-term residents of the region. Regional Forester Pena, along with Forest Supervisor Montoya denied us access to the draft report. Worse off, is they ignored request from the Baker County Commissioners to participate in development of the report.

Since the US Forest Service has chosen to ignore our needs and desires in their recommendations, and the report will be used against our communities, we are asking for its withdrawal until such time as true public input can be given instead of biased, agenda driven report that does exactly what the Forest Service set out to do in 2012, lock up as much area as possible to the general public of Eastern Oregon.

Letter to Secretary Vilsack requesting withdrawal of the report – http://forestaccessforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Request-to-direct-Region-6-office-to-withdraw-the-Travel-Analysis-Reports-12_29_2015.pdf

We appreciate your support, and if you feel so inclined please write Washington DC and let them know you expect the same.

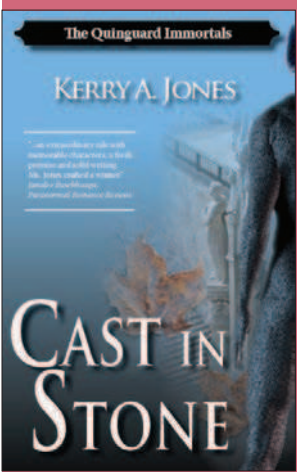
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