

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for September 27, 2013

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 Casey Toyne with the Farm Service Agency to give an update on programs and office activities

1. Approve the minutes from the September 18, 2013 meeting
2. Review the December 31, 2012 financial statements for the District Attorney, 18th Judicial District
3. Review the 2013 Lincoln County Property Assessment Study completed by Wildrose Appraisal, Inc.'s Audit Division
4. Complete the 2014 Employer Option sheet for the County Health Pool benefits
5. Old business
6. New business
7. Approve payroll and expense vouchers

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2013. The following attended: Chairman Ted Lyons, Commissioners Greg King and Doug Stone, County Administrator Roxie Devers, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel.

Chairman Lyons called the meeting to order and asked Casey Toyne with Farm Service Agency to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, after which he updated the group on programs and office activities at FSA. One of the things he mentioned was that about fifty-four contracts were enrolled in CRP, which is approximately 8,800 acres, although it seemed rather low. Ten contracts were rejected as they are much more stringent now, but of what was accepted, a little more than 1,000 acres was new. Mr. King asked if the new contracts were scattered around the county or confined more to one area, and Mr. Toyne responded that they were scattered.

He also informed the commissioners that Pueblo County was declared one of the Presidential Disaster counties due to the recent flooding, and since Lincoln County is contiguous, FSA can enact the Emergency Conservation Program to help residents with wash-outs, debris removal, or other flood-related issues. Mr. Toyne asked the commissioners to let him know if they hear of anyone having such problems. Loss assessments for grazing should be in toward the latter part of October, and according to Brian Johnson, will most likely be similar to last year; maybe even a little higher. They will have to see what CSU Extension decides, but Mr. Toyne said that a great portion of the grass has died in the southern part of the county. Mr. Lyons asked how long it takes grass to come back and Mr. Toyne responded that it can take up to five years.

Mr. Toyne mentioned that there has been word of a government shutdown again, and although he doesn't actually believe they will go through with it, they will know for sure on October 2. The unfortunate thing is that October is a big payment month for FSA, so if the shutdown does happen, the payments won't go out.

State Executive Director Leland Swenson is optimistic that a decision will be made on the Farm Bill, hopefully sometime in October, as long as other issues don't come up. Mr. Toyne commented that the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program will be replaced with something else, and part of the argument seems to be what that will be and how it will work.

Mr. Lyons wanted to know if there will be funding for windbreaks again this year and Mr. Toyne responded that there is funding now if people wish to apply. Mr. Stone said that many of the tree windbreaks have died in the southern part of the state, such as in Otero and Crowley counties.

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 18, 2013, as submitted. Mr. King seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. King made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 20, 2013, as submitted. Mr. Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the December 31, 2012, financial statements for the District Attorney, 18th Judicial District, as well as the 2013 Lincoln County Property Assessment Study completed by Wildrose Appraisal, Inc.'s Audit Division.

Ms. Devers presented the 2014 Employer Option sheet for the County Health Pool benefits and explained the county's current insurance benefit package. Mr. King made a motion to make no changes to the health insurance for the 2014 plan year. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

There was no old business, but Mr. King said that he has been considering designating a couple of roads to be specifically used for oil truck traffic, as so many of the roads in his district are getting damaged by oil tankers. He did not know if it would be a Board decision or if he could do it as the commissioner of the district. Mr. Lyons cautioned that they should do some research first, as it is a fine line when dealing with the oil companies. On the one hand, they want the exploration and activity in the county, but they also need to take care of their roads. He added that it would be wise to contact the oil companies first and Mr. King said he'd spoken with Land Use Administrator John DeWitt who was going to do just that, as it is possible they are unaware of what damage is being done to the roads by their drivers.

The commissioners approved the September 2013 payroll and expense vouchers and then, with no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on September 30, 2013.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Ted Lyons, Chairman