

Commissioners Minutes

April 23, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. to 10:29 a.m.

MEETING WITH DIRK MENDIVE FROM CONGRESSMAN RUSS FULCHER'S OFFICE

Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks, and Leslie Van Beek

District Director Dirk Mendive

Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves



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The Board met today at 10:00 a.m. with Dirk Mendive from Congressman Russ Fulcher's Office. Present were: Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks, and Leslie Van Beek, District Director Dirk Mendive, and Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves. Mr. Mendive reviewed the following issues the Congressman's Office has been working on in Canyon County:

- National Flood Insurance Program where the County was on probation for some time. The Congressman's office monitored that with FEMA for a couple years and they are grateful to see that Canyon County is no longer on probation and that it has finally been resolved.
- Met with Caldwell airport officials about concerns over safety and the role of Caldwell and the airport and how amount of plane traffic they receive.
- Has interacted with the Nampa Family Justice Center who is concerned about the potential loss of grant funding; the Congressman is attempting to try to help them find answers.
- Met with the City of Middleton over issues of stormwater permits where the city says that because of previous censuses they were looped in with Caldwell as an urbanized area and they were required to have a stormwater permit but now the criteria has changed and EPA is saying because they had it in the past they still have to have it, but the Middleton is saying they are the only city of their size in the state that is required to have it. The potential costs to the city and its residents would be quite drastic. Congressman Fulcher is working with DEQ and EPA to see if they can help the City of Middleton.
- Met with Nampa PD with some issues with the Army Corp and some of their property in the county that has to do with the Nampa Rod and Gun Club.

- Congress is on recess for Easter break and will return to session next week and the expectation is that the focus will be on reconciliation and the hope is it will be done by Memorial Day. The various committees will try to put forth legislation and package things together that they think they can pass under reconciliation that would align with the President's agenda. They hear from many constituents who are concerned about social security or Medicaid, and various cuts.
- DOGE and the work of Elon Musk: It's estimated that DOGE has saved the taxpayers roughly \$160 billion.
- They are focused on trying to extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act; if they extend that provision through 2035 it is projected to prevent an average tax increase of \$1,650.

Commissioner Van Beek asked about the dismantling of the Department of Education and returning the responsibility for educating the population back to the states. Mr. Mendive said Congressman Fulcher is on legislation that would dismantle the Dept. of Education as an unnecessary cost to the taxpayers. It's his understanding that if the department is dismantled it would not do away with the grants or money the states use to benefit students and education, however, it would hopefully eliminate the bureaucracy and waste. The grants and money would come to the states.

Commissioner Van Beek asked for comment on Congressman Mike Simpson wanting to remove the dams on the lower Snake River? Mr. Mendive said it's a very fluid issue and it seems with the current administration things are more favorable to keep the dams. The previous administration had pursued action to address the four lower Snake River dams without including all the stakeholders and impacted parties. Only Congress can eliminate and remove those dams. Congressman Fulcher is on legislation that will protect those dams; however, there is still a push to try to get rid of them.

Commissioner Van Beek asked about the legislation that would reduce/eliminate the tax burden on family-owned farms. Mr. Mendive said the legislation would eliminate the inheritance tax on family farms.

Commissioner Holton expressed his frustration with the EPA doing what it did to the City of Middleton with regard to stormwater because in his opinion it violates the Chevron ruling, and the city does not have the population base to put in a stormwater collection and treatment system. He believes it is theft through unelected bureaucrats and they need the Congressman's help. Director Mendive said the Congressman's office will do what it can to help; they plan to contact DEQ and they already have plans in place to meet with the EPA in the coming weeks. If they cannot get it resolved, the hope is to take it to the new administrator from Seattle.

Commissioner Holton said he will be watching Congress on the reconciliation and he is hoping the savings from the billions in waste will make it to the infrastructure needs of America. Mr. Mendive said if they can funnel the money where it could be/should be it can bring a lot of benefit here at home and that is the President's objective.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Holton and the second by Commissioner Van Beek, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. An audio recording is on file in the Commissioners' Office .