



**MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AND GATEWAY WEST TRANSMISSION LINE TASK FORCE  
September 12, 2011**

The Cassia County Board of Commissioners met this day with the Gateway West Transmission Line Task Force. Chairman Dennis Crane, Paul Christensen and Bob Kunau, Board Members; Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board, and Al Barrus, Prosecuting Attorney, were present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting was held at Sage Mountain Grille in Albion and was called to order by Board Chairman, Dennis Crane at 12:10 p.m. The nature of the meeting was to address any issues prior to open houses sponsored by the BLM. One will be held at the Burley Best Western Inn on September 21, 2011. Additionally, there will be open houses held in Twin Falls, American Falls, and Almo.

**TASK FORCE MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

Chairman Crane turned the time over to Gateway Task Force Chairman, Brent Stoker who recommended that Task Force members be in attendance to whatever open house was possible inasmuch as many would be busy in the harvest. Attendance was also stressed for any who have interest pro or con with the position of the BLM and their Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Prosecuting Attorney Al Barrus recommended sending letters to the editor of the news media along with ads to make people aware of the importance of expressing their specific opinions on the matter. Each Task Force member was asked to talk to business associates, service group leaders, and friends to invite them attend the open house.

Task Force Member, Doug Pickett talked of the importance of those who may have interest in the areas affected by potential placement of a power line to attend as well. Chairman Stoker also indicated the possibility of multiple transmission line placement following the current one in question and the need for people's voices to be heard.

Task Force Member, Kent Searle stressed the need for local land use planning whether it is for sighting considerations that involves Idaho Power or any other person or entity. The importance of that was punctuated by the adverse effects that the current sighting could potentially have on nearly 20,000 acres of prime farm ground.

Task Force Member, K Wells stressed the importance of the use of pictures that are telling of the impact with the amount of construction, how the ground is disturbed through that process, and the adverse effects of erosion that would likely ensue with the proposed power line placement.

Task Force Member, Pat McCammon commented on the disrupted hillsides that they are still trying to stabilize following transmission line placement near the Malad area.

It was suggested to involve the Cache Peak Civic Association in Almo, as well as residents of Lynn, Utah, regarding the minimal impact placement of a power line at the proposed

alternate location would have in those remote areas compared to the proposed route.

Pickett indicated that it would be appropriate for written comment to be entered in the record inquiring where the concerns of various interested entities and property owners have been addressed in the draft EIS.

Barrus proposed that he prepare a letter on behalf of the Board for their approval and placement in the newspapers to reference protecting the agricultural base in the County and acknowledgment of the efforts with presenting the proposed alternate corridor. All Board members concurred with that proposal.

McCammon commented on wetlands upland habitat to preserve wildlife and the proposed power line placement includes going directly through those protected areas. Wildlife will be immensely disturbed. Ducks Unlimited has engineered ponds and wetlands and against disturbing that. Fish and Wildlife service has expended finances for their wetland preservations as well.

Task Force Member, Von Gibby made a phone call to Jeff Steele at the BLM office to ascertain the format for the open houses. He indicated that the purpose is to conduct an informal meeting and a forum for making comments. If concerns are not in the draft EIS they can be proposed for inclusion in the final EIS. He recommended the submitting those comments at the open houses or electronic submission by October 28, 2011. There is no prescribed form for that submission but it should address certain sections of the EIS where there are concerns. Pickett also recommended tying the most amount of issues to sections of the draft EIS.

**RECESS**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S MEETING**

Gateway West Transmission Task Force: Brent Stoker, Chairman; Doug Pickett, Kent Searle, Pat McCammon, Judi Beck, Dave Nebeker, Von Gibby, K Wells, and Ina Digrazio, members.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Crane, Chairman