

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Timothy V. Corrigan
District I

Timothy Redmond
District II

M. Elizabeth Melton
District III

Work Session

May 9, 2022

Times listed on the agenda are approximations and may be longer or shorter, or being earlier than scheduled, with no notice. Agendas are subject to change 24 hours before the meeting start time. To ensure you have the most up-to-date information, please check the agenda after 24 hours of its start time.

If you are joining the meeting for a specific item, please join 10 minutes before the item to ensure you are present for the beginning of the item.

All regular meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. All meetings will be held in the Routt County Historic Courthouse - 522 Lincoln Avenue, Hearing Room, Steamboat Springs - or otherwise noted.

Join the meeting via our [Zoom Link](#) .

To join by telephone dial 1-346-248-7799

Webinar ID: 851 5180 1592 Password: 44052

1. 9:30 A.M. COUNTY MANAGER/ LEGAL/ COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEES UPDATE

Jay Harrington, County Manager
Erick Knaus, County Attorney

2. 11:00 A.M. LUNCH BREAK

3. 1:00 P.M. FAMILY FARM ALLIANCE

Pat O'toole, President

A. WATER AND FOREST HEALTH PRESENTATION

Documents:

[20220509134238895.PDF](#)

4. 1:45 P.M. COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Doug Monger, Routt County Representative

A. COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATE

Documents:

[IMG_0001.PDF](#)

5. 2:30 P.M. ROUTT COUNTY CORONER

Robert Ryg, County Coroner

A. DISCUSSION OF ROB'S RETIREMENT

6. 2:45 P.M. MEETING ADJOURNED

All programs, services and activities of Routt County are operated in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need a special accommodation as a result of a disability, please call the Commissioners Office at (970) 879-0108 to assure that we can meet your needs. Please notify us of your request as soon as possible prior to the scheduled event. Routt County uses the Relay Colorado service. Dial 711 or TDD (970) 870-5444.

Patrick F. O'Toole

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Professional Profile

Mr. O'Toole is a rancher in the Little Snake River Valley on the Wyoming/Colorado border, with extensive experience and knowledge in Western issues. He has a unique ability to work in a holistic and broad-based manner across philosophical and party lines.

- Manages the family ranching businesses in a broad-based manner to enhance the interaction among healthy livestock, optimal genetics, healthy rangeland and landscape, watershed and stream enhancement and interpersonal relations.
- The six-generation ranching operation includes cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, ranch recreation and land conservation.
- Represented Western Governors Assn. on Clinton Transition for Agriculture, Interior
- Works extensively in the political arena on issues affecting agriculture, water, land use, energy and wildlife. Skilled at working across party lines, agency boundaries, philosophical divides. Broad thinker.
- Manages Powder Springs Renewables LLC to support a solar project

Professional Accomplishments

Water Policy

- Wyoming House of Representatives, Carbon County Representative, Select Water Committee 1986-1992
- President's Western Water Policy Commission, Commissioner (authored minority report) 1994-1998.
- President, of the Board of Directors, Family Farm Alliance 2005-present. Mr. O'Toole speaks extensively to water user groups and agencies. He lobbies in a bi-partisan manner on behalf of the Family Farm Alliance on water use and irrigation issues.
- Board member of The Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable, which works on solutions to water issues in Colorado.
- Received Kurt Bucholtz Conservation Award, Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, 2016 in recognition of work on water and conservation issues in Wyoming.

Agriculture/Conservation

- Wyoming House of Representatives, Agriculture, Minerals and Revenue Committees 1986-1992
 - Served on Governor's "Wyoming Plan" Task Force 1995
 - Member, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Wyoming Farm Bureau, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Wool Growers Association
 - Conservation easements: placed first conservation easements in our community on 1000 acres with Colorado Cattlemen's Association Land Trust. The Nature Conservancy holds conservation easements on more than 1500 acres on the family's Home Ranch. Currently working to protect Greater Sage Grouse habitat and Mule deer migration routes with NRCS.
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- Board Member, Partnerscapes, private landowners who work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on enhancing land and water habitat for species of interest
- Board Member, Intermountain West Joint Venture, which addresses issues regarding Western migratory birds and habitat with government, NGO and private members
- Advisory Committee, AGree: Transforming Food & Ag Policy. A think tank considering food security and sustainable food production for an increased world population
- Board Member, Solutions from the Land, a farmer- and rancher-driven organization developing policy for sustainable solutions for Climate Change
- Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) Producer Circle member, formulates payment for ecosystem services policy and systems

Land Use

- Managed family ranch in a holistic manner, with particular attention to watershed health, wildlife habitat, plant management and progressive livestock management practices which balance conservation and production
- Received Partners for Wildlife award from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for stream management practices on Battle Creek, 2008.
- Works extensively with Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service as a grazing permittee in both Wyoming and Colorado.
- Works with U.S. Forest Service on forest health issues, using Good Neighbor program
- Works with Wyoming Game and Fish Department on habitat management projects, including stream fencing and walk-in hunting areas. Grazing leasee on G&F wildlife management area.
- Has testified before the U. S House Resource Committee on water, agriculture and land use issues.
- Has testified before the U. S Senate Energy Committee on water, agriculture and land use issues.
- Ladder Ranch received the 2014 Leopold Conservation Award from the Sand County Foundation and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association for Environmental Stewardship. The family was nominated for the 2019 Colorado Aldo Leopold award.

Work History

Partner	Banjo Sheep Co., Savery WY	1975- 1995
President	Salisbury Livestock Co.	1995-present
Managing member	Ladder Livestock Co. LLC	1995-present
Managing member	Banjo Sheep Co. LLC	1995-present
Managing member	Powder Springs Renewables LLC	2020-present

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy	Colorado State University	1975
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Doug Monger, Routt County Board Member On Co. River District/Upper Yampa Conservancy Chair

Andy Rossi, Upper Yampa Conservancy Executive Director

Big Picture discussion

- 1) 22 year drought
- 2) Dept of Reclamation determination of re-operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- 3) Release of Flaming Gorge Water and withholding of Lake Powell water releases
- 4) Re-negotiation of 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines
- 5) Potential Miracle May (again)
- 6) Spring Snow levels, Ground Moisture, coupled with hot dry winds

Colorado River District

- 1) Quarterly meeting 4/19-4/20
- 2) Continued implementation of 7A granting and partnerships
- 3) State of the River meetings
- 4) Wrapping up the state legislative session (Anti-Speculation)(Property Tax Relief)

Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

- 1) Fill expectations of Stagecoach and Yamcolo Reservoirs
- 2) Grant Program
- 3) Soil Moisture study
- 4) Bear River operations with DWR and Yamcolo releases
- 5) Update South Routt Water Users meeting on May 4th.
- 6) Wild Land Fire Discussions

Roundtable and Integrated Water Management Plan Updates

- 1) IWMP process coming to conclusion and final report
 - a) Three-year process
 - b) Remote River Assessment
 - c) Fluvial Hazard Zone mapping
 - d) Reservoir Release Coordination Report and Discussion
- 2) Future funding at State level (lack of Severance Tax)
- 3) Future Project funding