

**West Custer County Hospital District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 28, 2026
Minutes of the Meeting**

Directors Present: Mr. Terry, Mr. Shepard, Ms. McKellip, Ms. Alvarado, Ms. Sullivan

Staff Present: Ms. Builder, Ms. Banning, Ms. Roper, Mr. Banner, HRRMC staff Mr. Asbury

In Attendance: Ms. Herrera, Ms. Steigerwalt, Mr. Garrison, Ms. Berni, Mr. and Ms., Brown, Mr. Silvestro on Zoom

A quorum being present, Mr. Terry called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. All meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Minutes: Board Meeting for April 09 and April 30, moved by Mr. Shepard and seconded by Ms. Alvarado

Public Hearing re: Proposed Inclusion of Wetmore Area Pursuant to C.R.S. § 32-1-401(1)(b)

Ms. McKellip made a Motion to open the Public Hearing, Mr. Shepard 2nd, all were in favor.

Mr. Silvestro, Legal Counsel, spoke on the Certification of Hearing Notice and the Introduction of the Proposed Inclusion. Mr. Silvestro confirmed that the required notices for the public hearing were mailed to property owners within the proposed inclusion area as confirmed by the Custer County Assessor and that notice was published in accordance with law.

Mr. Terry spoke on the history of the district, recapping EMS service coverage of the East Custer County area from past years to current. Mr. Terry then asked for public comments and concerns regarding the Proposed Inclusion.

Ms. Steigerwalt commented that her neighbors are not using the clinic and stated that the ambulance and clinic should not be lumped together.

Ms. Berni said that she will not use EMS service. She, along with Mr. Brown, stated EMS service should be a pay as you go service.

Mr. Garrison said there would be more residents attending this meeting if it were after 5 p.m. He also stated that there seemed to be confusion as to what services EMS performed and as to where patients are transported. He raised questions as to why Florence and Canon City would not be the first responder since Westcliffe is far away.

Several members of public spoke without being called upon by the Chair, and the overall consensus from these public comments was that the residents in the eastern part of the County take care of each other and has no need for EMS service. Also, several speakers claimed that no residents use the clinic. There were also many positive comments on the services available in the clinic and by the EMS crew.

The Board and Staff commented on the Proposed Inclusion. Mr. Asbury clarified that the clinic is not an emergency facility, it is a family practice. Ms. Banning pointed out the four facilities that patients are transported to. Ms. McKellip reiterated that patients are not transported to Westcliffe. She said that she chose to live here due to the EMS and the level of care that is provided, it is different than any other rural EMS. She said that by having it on the November ballot, there will be a positive answer from all east Custer County ("ECC") residents, not just the few in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Sullivan said she appreciates the spirit of the community. In consideration of the residents not here today, if it is put on a ballot all ECC residents will have a chance to decide the issue. Mr. Shepard said that the solution is for EMS to continue to provide services and he, as an individual, cannot see how it would be okay to not to have that service available. He stated that he is proud to be part of EMS. Ms. Alvarado stated that the District did look at potentially breaking the mill levy up for the ECC residents since they are not using the clinic and it cannot be done. Mr. Terry said the District previously looked at splitting the mill levy and determined that it cannot be done.

Ms. McKellip made a Motion to Close the Hearing, Ms. Sullivan 2nd, all were in favor.

Mr. Silvestro spoke on how to proceed if the Board approved the Resolution Inclusion and the Certified Order.

Ms. McKellip made a Motion to move forward, to approve the Resolution Inclusion and to adopt the Certified Order. Ms. Sullivan 2nd, all were in favor. The Resolution and the Certified Order were unanimously approved by the Board.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Alvarado, seconded by Ms. McKellip, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. McKellip

In collaboration with,
Melody Builder