



Washington County Commissioners &
Planning & Zoning Joint Meeting
April 18, 2023

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Lyndon Haines Nate Marvin Gordon Wilkerson

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Eric Johnson Jeri Soulier Ron Jaeger Mark Moura Katie Rollins
Mike Jones John Hoff Karen Wright John Jensen

ADMINISTRATION: **Bonnie Brent-Dowell, Planning & Zoning Administrator**

SECRETARY: **Cindy Womack-Steele, Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant**

P & Z ATTORNEY: **Will Herrington, Washington County P & Z Attorney**
Delton Walker, Washington County Commissioners Legal Counsel

VISITORS: Kirk Chandler, Cindy Minshall, Conley Walker, Bret Karnes,
Chris Leverenz, Dan Carlson, Eileen McMullen, Mike Vallerga,
Jim Guches, Jim Congler, John A., Gail White

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The April 18, 2023, joint meeting of the Washington County Planning & Zoning Commission & Board of County Commissioners, held at the Washington County Courthouse, Board of County Commissioner's meeting room in Weiser, Idaho was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Chairman, Lyndon Haines. The following proceedings took place:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Commissioner Chairman – Lyndon Haines

ROLL CALL:

Eric Johnson X Jeri Soulier X Ron Jaeger X Mark Moura **Absent** Katie Rollins X

Mike Jones X John Hoff X Karen Wright X John Jensen X

Will Herrington (Zoom) **Absent** Delton Walker X

Commissioners: Lyndon Haines X Nate Marvin X Gordon Wilkerson X

HEARINGS & DISCUSSIONS:

Presentation by Shanna Bernal, Fields, Resource Soil Scientist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Overview of Farmland Classification.

- In the US there is currently greater than 20,000 different soil series mapped. In the State of Idaho there is currently greater than 1800 different types of soil series mapped.
- Idaho soil surveys have been going for over a century.
- Adams and Washington county soil survey manuscript was originally published in 1992. The field work was completed in the 1980's.
- Grazing Land Considerations:
Any lands could be grazed and that is the best use for some.
Grazing land value you need to consider the bigger picture. If a ranch is converted to a different land use will it have domino effect on the adjacent areas and the broader ecosystem functions and services.
Fragmenting grazing lands impacts fire risk, wildlife habitat, water quality, and water quantity.
- Prime Farmland designations are a measure of potential, it is determined independent of current land use.
Application of these designations in Idaho has been if the map unit is marked "prime" or "prime if" then it is considered prime whether or not the "if" portion of the label is yet to be implemented. What is the lands inherent ability?
- You can get Prime Farmland information on Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. Or on Soil Data Access NRCS Prime and other Important Farmlands (usda.gov).
- Chairman Lyndon Haines asked for any questions from the Planning & Zoning Commission. Ron Jaeger stated it was a lot of information to digest. Karen Wright asked if Shanna could come back and address us as a group once the commission has had time to digest some of the information and have questions. Shanna stated she could do that. Commissioner Wilkerson asked to see the NASS slide regarding the percentage of pastureland, 78% vs. cropland, 17%.
- Chairman Lyndon Haines thanked Shanna for the information and her time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Lyndon made the motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.
Seconded by Nate Marvin
Unanimous approval

Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk