

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2007
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m. There were 19 members and 1 guest present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved as presented with a couple spelling corrections.

GUESTS

Our guest was our program speaker, Robin Christensen, Clearwater County Auditor, Recorder, and Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations went to Dennis Thompson, President of Barnett-Thompson Chevrolet for receiving the honor of 2007 TIME Magazine Quality Dealer Award, a prestigious and highly coveted award.

The Clearwater National Forest is seeking public comment on the Recreation Site Facility Master Plan. The final result of the RS-FMP process will be a program of work containing a list of prioritized actions. This program of work will allow the Forest Service to more effectively manage our developed recreation sites.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There will be a Board of Director's meeting this Friday.

The Chamber Office will be closed March 7-14.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- No Report.

Promotional- Committee is working on a Business after Hours for March. Watch for details.

Special Events- The Auction committee will meet February 28th. This year we will have a Hollywood theme and the event is scheduled for May 4th at Lodge at River's Edge.

Welcome and Membership- No Report.

Economic Development - No Report.

GEM- The GEM committee meets quarterly.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

PROGRAM

Programs – March 7, Jill Tyler-Clearwater United Education Foundation (CUEF)
March 21, Becky Drewrey - TIPS Training

Vice-President Smathers introduced our program speaker, Robin Christensen, Clearwater County Auditor, Recorder, and Clerk who presented the membership with information about HB 94, the proposed Vote by Mail bill that is currently in front of the legislature. The bill is sponsored by the Idaho Clerk’s Association and is supported by the Idaho Association of Cities.

Christensen stated that Vote by Mail could increase voter participation. Three precincts in Clearwater County already fall under a Vote by Mail provision. Greer, Headquarters, and Grangemont had a higher percentage of voter turnout in the last election than all other precincts in Clearwater County. Christensen sees higher voter turnout as one of the many benefits to the Vote by Mail system. There would still be at least one voting polling location open where those who register on Election Day can vote and where voters could utilize the Auto Mark touch screen system for voters with disabilities.

Christensen also stated that the Vote by Mail system could provide increased integrity of voting. Voters would have the opportunity to research issues and candidates while filling out their ballots. Ballots would be mailed out 14-18 days before Election Day. The way the new system would work is that registered voters would receive a packet in the mail two weeks before the election. The packet would contain instructions, a ballot, a secrecy envelope and a return envelope which requires a signature. The ballots must be returned to the Clerk’s office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Night. Signature verification training will be required and enforced. It will be the responsibility of the voter to keep their voter registration card current.

Christensen discussed the financial aspects of the Vote by Mail system. Right now, the cost for a Clearwater County Election is between \$15,000 and \$16,000. The Vote by Mail system, Christensen believes could decrease those costs. Another cost savings would be that the punch card system that they currently use will have to be replaced soon. The Federal Government does not look favorably upon that system and in addition, supplies for the machine are no longer being made. Also, each Auto Mark machine requires maintenance in the amount of \$250 each or \$3750.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Robison adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director