

Minutes  
Conference Call, August 13, 2002, 7:30 a.m.  
Board of Judicial Policy and Administration

The Board of Judicial Policy and Administration met by conference call on August 13, 2002. Chief Justice William Hill, Justice Larry Lehman, Justice Bart Voigt, Judge Jim Burke, Judge Ed Grant, Judge Keith Kautz, Judge Rob Denhardt, Judge Mike Huber, Judge Wade Waldrip, and Judge Scott Cole attended. Judge Dave Park, Holly Hansen, Jim Bivona, Casey Wood, Bob Wyatt, and Linda Burke also attended.

1. Approval of June 20 and 21, 2002 Minutes

Justice Lehman moved and Judge Huber seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20 and 21, 2002, Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Natrona County Facilities – Judge David Park

Judge Park reported to the Board that a task force appointed by the Natrona County Commissioners in April 2002 met several times during May 2002. On approximately May 25 or 26, 2002, the commissioners reaffirmed the need for a change in the courthouse facilities to accommodate the third district judge. Judge Park advised the Board that since last May, there has been no progress. In order to obtain the necessary funding through either a bond election or capital facilities tax election, the design work and cost estimates must be completed fairly quickly. Judge Park asked the Board if it would be willing to write a letter to the commissioners emphasizing the importance of timely progression on this matter and requesting a time line of steps to be taken. The Board agreed that a letter from Chief Justice Hill would be appropriate.

3. Judicial Technology Task Force (JTTF) – Casey Wood and Bob Wyatt

After a brief introduction by Holly Hansen, Bob Wyatt and Casey Wood described the JTTF's appointment of a sub-committee to develop a grant application proposal to be considered by the Board. Casey Wood explained that after several meetings of the sub-committee, he drafted the proposed grant application using some ideas from the State Bar Foundation Grant form. The sub-committee wished to keep the form simple and easy to understand. Wood pointed out that only those grant applicants collecting the \$10 Automation Fee would be considered. The JTTF would encourage applicants to find other funding sources to supplement grant monies obtained from the JTTF. The grant language specifically mentioned special consideration factors, i.e. enhancing collaboration between justice partners, encouraging other funding sources, achieving the long-term goals and objectives of the Wyoming Justice Network and the JTTF, self-monitoring, streamlining and efficiency. Holly Hansen suggested that the Board consider three points: (1) The JTTF recommendation to use half of the total \$250,000 for each year in the biennium, rather than possibly using the entire

\$250,000 in the first year; (2) She explained that by limiting applications to only those entities collecting the \$10 automation fee, it would automatically include county governments. Since collection of the automation fee was optional for municipalities and only four or five municipalities currently collect the \$10 automation fee, the number of applications from municipal governments might be limited; (3) The application form would be more appropriately issued from either the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration itself or in conjunction with the JTTF.

Finally, Casey Wood advised that the JTTF sub-committee suggested a cover letter being distributed with the grant applications that provided an overview of the project, described the desired results, suggested self-monitoring and exploration of other fund sources, and requested the amount of money the applicant was seeking, how the money would be used and how it fit into the long-term state picture, an estimated budget, and a suggested time schedule. The group also believed that the letter would be more effective coming from the Chief Justice. Justice Lehman then moved and Judge Grant seconded a motion to approve the draft as written. The motion carried unanimously. Holly Hansen advised she would coordinate a draft of a letter to be signed by the Chief Justice.

4. Rules for Fees and Costs for Circuit Courts

Holly Hansen asked Board members if the finalized copy of Rule 1 (Costs and Fees in Criminal Actions) of the Rules for Fees and Costs for Circuit Courts provided to them in their conference call packets represented their understanding of the revision that was approved at the June meeting. The Board agreed that it was and Chief Justice Hill advised he would sign the Order.

5. Reports from Chief Justice and Court Administration

a. Judicial Compensation – Chief Justice Hill

Holly Hansen updated the Board regarding contacts with Court Administrators in states that have compensation commissions. Of the five responses received, most were positive. Hansen indicated that she would call those administrators who have not responded. She mentioned that the most surprising response to date was that some commissions were staffed by legislative personnel.

b. Records Check – Holly Hansen

Holly Hansen reported that the sub-committee met by conference call and discussed several issues: disparity between charges in District Court and the Circuit and Justice of the Peace Courts, agreement that a uniform fee needs to be charged in Circuit and District Courts, and a common definition for “general public.” Hansen explained that she and Matt Fermelia were in the process of drafting a document for the sub-committee’s review and would be scheduling another conference call in the next few weeks.

c. Drug Court Rules & Procedures – Holly Hansen

Holly Hansen informed the Board that the Drug Court sub-committee held its organizational meeting in Casper. The group assigned

tasks to each member and the group would meet again in five to six weeks. Hansen stated that the sub-committee hopes to have a recommendation for the Board at its December meeting.

d. Title 14 – Holly Hansen

After a phone call with Les Pozsgo concerning the Title 14 draft sent out to the Board members, Holly Hansen advised the Board that Pozsgo was seeking feedback from individual judges rather than a statement from the Board as a whole.

6. Schedule 2003 Meetings

The Board discussed the proposed schedule of meetings for 2003. The group decided to change the meeting days from Thursday and Friday to Wednesday and Thursday, except for the meeting in June. The proposed schedule would be:

March 19/20, 2003	Torrington – Holiday Express
June 19/20, 2003	Saratoga – Riviera Lodge
October 1/2, 2003	Vee Bar Ranch
December 4/5, 2003	Best Western/Law Enforcement Academy

7. Other Matters

a. Judge Schofield Request

The Board decided to suggest that Judge Schofield speak with John Burman about her question.

b. Letter to Hot Springs Clerk

Holly Hansen advised the Board that Jerry Williams, Municipal Judge from Thermopolis, called her concerning the amount of time that the clerk spent on state and municipal activities. Hansen said that not only the clerk, but Judges Skar and Williams, were working on response letters to the Board's inquiry into the situation.

c. District Court Supplemental Budget Requests

Upon a request from Holly Hansen to the District Judges to work with Joann Stockdale concerning their desire for individual or combined supplemental budget requests for travel, postage, and market surveys for salaries, Judge Kautz volunteered to organize and take care of checking with the District Judges and advising Joann Stockdale of their preferences.

**Future Board Meeting Schedule:**

September 11, 2002	Meeting in Jackson in conjunction with State Bar
October 8, 2002	Conference Call
November 12, 2002	Conference Call
December 5 and 6, 2002	Meeting in Douglas

Board Adjourned at 8:40 a.m.