

Rio Blanco Herald Time
By Niki Turner
Staff Writer

RBC — At the county assessor's request, Rio Blanco County Commissioners approved a \$350,000 contract Monday with an Oklahoma-based company to provide detailed inventory, valuation, GPS surveys and digitized mapping of all natural gas and oil industry-related equipment and property in use in the county.

Up until now individual companies have been asked to report inventories of assessable oil and gas equipment voluntarily. The equipment being inventoried is subject to sales and use tax dollars payable to the county.

"It has been significantly under-reported," said Commissioner Ken Parsons. "The taxpayers are being stiffed." Parsons cited a public television documentary that investigated the under-reporting practice occurring on government-owned properties nationwide.

The county expects to receive verifiable proof and appraisal of all locally assessed taxable oil and gas equipment, including well bores, salt water disposal wells, compressor stations, meter houses and pipeline crossings.

Visual Lease Services, Inc., from Holdenville, Okla., will start inspecting properties within the week and expects to complete the survey within a year.

In other business, the board of county commissioners accepted a contract with Graham, Dietz and Associates as county airport consultants providing professional airport engineering services for the county's two airports. Potential airport projects include runway rehabilitation and expansion at the Meeker Airport, relocation of a parallel taxiway and continuing expansion of a new hangar area at the Rangely Airport.

Commissioner Kim Cook encouraged citizens to participate in the upcoming public meetings regarding the development of RBC's master plan.

"I think it's the most important work in the county in the last 20 years," Cook said.