



KITTITAS COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

STUDY SESSION MINUTES January 26, 2009

THOSE PRESENT:

Alan Crankovich, Mark McClain, Paul Jewell, Catherine Dunn, (BOCC) Kirk Holmes, Kelly Carlson, Doug D'Hondt, Maria Fischer (DPW) Cathy Bambrick (EH) Mike Flory, Mandie Weed (CDS) Neil Caulkins, Brent Bottoms (PROS) Clayton Myers (Sheriff), Brenda Larsen (Fire Marsh.), Marsha Weyand (Asses)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Chad Bala, Lindsey Ozbolt, Jan Sharar

FLOOD REPAIR UPDATE:

Director Holmes noted that the January 7, 2009 flood is the largest since 1948 as far as cubic feet per second and stage height. Only Clarke and Cabin Creek Roads remain closed. PW is looking closely at slopes above Red Bridge Road in conjunction with adjacent property owners, trying to determine causes of slope failure, which was extensive. Crews are still out doing shoulder repair work, and most emergency contractors work is completed.

Doug D'Hondt addressed five levees: Jensen, Jeffries, City Wells, Gladmar and Quail Valley Road. Quail Valley is not on the Army Corp. of Engineers system, and is nearly gone. Some people lost quite a bit of land in that area. The Corps will repair this levee but the County will have to pay 20% of the repair costs, and this can be in-kind work. The City Wells levee repair County portion will be approximately \$28,000 (20%). D'Hondt explained that giving downed trees cleared from the right-of-way to Fish & Wildlife will count as in-kind for \$2,500 per tree. The Corp will pay for 100% of the Jeffries Levee repairs, but the County will owe 20% of repairs to the lower end. The Jensen Levee sustained a tremendous amount of damage, and would cost upwards of \$4 Million to repair. A less costly alternative would be to use Riverbottom Road as a new levee, and build it up. D'Hondt explained what this scenario would consist of, including affected properties. D'Hondt explained the damage to the Gladmar Levee, which protected wetlands. About 200 feet of this levee was destroyed. Cascade Irrigation District is asking for this levee to be repaired, as its loss would impact their water allotment. D'Hondt stated that there may be more levee damages reported as waters recede.

Director Holmes stated that he is concerned with revenue sources for the County's 20% portion of these project costs. He will be discussing the possible formation of a flood control district.

Mike Flory of CDS gave a report on damage affected structures: Over 200 sites were examined in eight days. (302 if the cities are included) 140 were posted as "restricted use". 4 were posted as "unsafe to occupy". The Elk Meadows area was the hardest hit. Flory asked the Commissioners for funding to get Kittitas County up to speed on ATC Training. Class #ATC21 on Earthquake response will be held in Ellensburg in February. Discussion followed.

Director Holmes stated that he will produce a report detailing what led up to this flood event; what the County could be doing to prevent damage; and how current systems performed (from a hydrological point of view).

The Assessor requested the CDS reports for property assessment purposes. She also requested to meet with Holmes to talk about how Open Space Taxation applications are handled.

Board Direction:

No direction.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm



Kirk Holmes
Public Works Director