

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY**

**11:00 AM**

**OCTOBER 14, 2010**

Board members present: Chairman Mark McClain, Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Alan Crankovich.

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Neil Caulkins and Suzanne Becker, Deputy Prosecutors.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**YRBWEP**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 11:00 a.m. **Chairman McClain** opened the special meeting to consider an update on the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWHP) from Vice-Chairman Jewell, who has been attending the work group meetings.

**Vice-Chairman Jewell** said he had been meeting also with the Yakima and Benton County Commissioners to present a united front among the Counties. He presented a White Paper written by the County Commissioners to the Board for their consideration. He said the White Paper is a shift in position but provides a clear perspective from the point of view of the Counties. He said the Counties are not only supporting Out-of-Stream needs, but also including basalt aquifer replenishment volume within reservoir storage, as well as the Wymer Reservoir, Bumping Lake Reservoir and increase in Lake Cle Elum surface storage projects. He said that the Counties had backed away from Inter Basin Transfers from the Columbia River to the Yakima River due to the lack of approval from the Yakama Nation.

**Chairman McClain** said the State Legislators will have to work on funding for the transfers. He said the Yakama Nation was not critical to this proposal. **Vice-Chairman Jewell** said the general feeling was that if they were not supporting the Inter Basin Transfers, it would not be viable. He said if the Counties hold onto the Inter Basin Transfers and the Yakama Nation walks away, the Counties may be to blame if the process ultimately fails to produce anything.

**Neil Caulkins** said he didn't understand the last page regarding the Inter Basin Storage. **Vice-Chairman Jewell** said that referred to the Columbia River Water Exchange. He said the Yakama Nation is working with other tribes to promote salmon. The storage would not just be for instream flows but also for consumptive use. He said they also

have issues with temperatures in the lower reaches of the Yakima River.

**Chairman McClain** asked what Neil Caulkins and Suzanne Becker thought of the White Paper. They replied that this was a policy issue.

**Vice-Chairman Jewell** said what was needed was the allocation of newly created water. He said it is to our advantage to figure what should be allotted by population and county size. He explained that if they could take that figure and cut it in half to be a permanent allotment and half to be designated based on the amount of drought each year. He said it would be a huge win for Kittitas County. He said he had a meeting with Joe Mentor who wanted to get funding to have water set aside for the Suncadia Water Bank.

**Chairman McClain** said they needed to allocate new water. The water in the Columbia River is just running out to sea and it is foolish not to push that within the working group. He said concessions are needed. **Vice-Chairman Jewell** said he didn't think the Counties would get it. **Chairman McClain** asked about the irrigators and said they were far too myopic.


**Vice-Chairman Jewell** said the Yakama Nation has a lot of political power and if they don't want to cooperate, everything else is lost.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Mark McClain, Chairman