COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY **9:00 A.M.** **OCTOBER 7, 2010**

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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Eric Johnson, WSAC Executive Director and Paul Pearce, Skamania County Commissioner and WSAC Eastern President.

SPECIAL MEETING **WSAC DIRECTOR MEETING** **COMMISSIONERS**

At 9:00 a.m. **Chairman McClain** opened the special meeting to hold an annual visit and discussion with Eric Johnson and Paul Pearce from Washington State Association of Counties.

The discussion opened with the Board outlining their issues with the Yakama Nation. They explained their frustrations dealing with the representatives who object, but do not give reasons for the objections.

Other discussion consisted of negotiations, the Prosecutor's office and budgets.

Eric Johnson explained that WSAC was instituting a reduction of dues by 15%. He said that WACO was not lowering their dues, but suggested having the WACO dues come from each elected officials individual budget. He discussed the contingency plan if King County again does not pay their portion of the dues. **Mr. Johnson** said they would draw on the reserves but maintain the 15% dues reduction. He said they were considering combining administrative functions with WACO including health care costs and certain positions.

There was a discussion of health insurance costs.

Commissioner Crankovich asked if the counties were obligated to pay for national holidays. **Eric Johnson** said it would have to be bargained for the unions. There was a discussion of furlough days and how they affect the courts. **Paul Pearce** mentioned that four 10 hour days works to gain cost savings to the County and the employees, savings on utilities and makes it easier to cut back hours when needed. They discussed flex time and the long term

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liabilities of huge vacation and sick leave banks. **Mr. Pearce** said to just find the right incentives or a signing bonus.

A discussion followed on the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee, which Vice-Chairman Jewell has joined. The issues facing the Legislative Steering Committee are primarily water based with interpretation going at least three different ways, Campbell-Guinn rule needed, groundwater studies and Department of Ecology. **Commissioner Crankovich** expressed concern with the community wind programs being turned over to EFSEC for site approvals. **Eric Johnson** said that the Department of Defense convinced the Federal Aviation Administration to pull the DNS on a Wind Power Project in Fossil, Oregon because of the impact wind towers would have on antiquated radar in the area. **Chairman McClain** mentioned the upcoming idea of individual landowners suing for visual impacts.

There was a discussion of the "new norm" and the economic situation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Catherine Dunn

Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mark McClain, Chairman