

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

WEDNESDAY

1:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 23, 2011

Board members present: Chairman Paul Jewell; Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich and Commissioner Obie O'Brien.

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director and Interim Community Development Services Director; Jan Olivier, Planning and Transportation Manager; Dan Valoff, Planner II; Karen Kelleher, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management; Scott Pavey, Resource Management Plan Team Lead, Bureau of Land Management.

SPECIAL MEETING BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMISSIONERS

At 1:00 p.m. **Commissioner Paul Jewell** opened the special meeting to discuss with Bureau of Land Management representatives the proposed Resource Management Plan being developed for Eastern Washington and San Juan Island area.

Scott Pavey, Team Leader, presented an Information Paper on the Resource Management Plan (RMP) being developed by BLM. He explained the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is usually organized by State but Oregon and Washington are combined. He said the long range plan includes a vision of multiple uses and protection of resources over a 20 year period. The last one was done in 1987. This RMP includes land in the San Juan's formerly occupied by lighthouses reverted back to the BLM by the Coast Guard.

Mr. Pavey said the process to start is to get funding; conduct a scoping meeting; analyze the management situation; work on alternatives; release the DEIS; coordinate with State and local regulations and finally, publish the Record of Decision. He said the Planning Issues for this RMP are: shrub steppe habitat; managing public lands with the consideration of adjacent private lands; plan for sensitive areas and resources; plan for multiple uses and facilitate for energy development.

Mr. Pavey said they were meeting with the Board to determine the amount of local government participation for Kittitas County. He said the Board can be as involved as they wished, from less

involvement to a more intensive participation including a Memorandum of Understanding.

Chairman Jewell said that most of the BLM parcels were within the Yakima River Canyon and he had seen the BLM Ranger from time to time. He asked if there was going to be a shift in policy and he asked whether BLM would be impacted by the proposed Wymer Reservoir. **Karen Kelleher**, Field Manager, said they will be researching that as the Yakima County Commissioners had mentioned it also. She said BLM concerns mirror the Fish and Wildlife concerns regarding sage grouse habitat being lost. **Chairman Jewell** said the County has an interest in that as well.

Karen Kelleher said BLM would like to expand recreation sites in the Yakima County and Yakima Canyon. **Jan Olivier** remarked on the scenic byway project. **Ms. Kelleher** said they had just signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding that project.

Chairman Jewell asked if there was any funding for acquisition of land. **Vice-Chairman Crankovich** said the County is 70% public land and Kittitas County really doesn't need any more. **Chairman Jewell** said he was concerned with public safety on the roads.

Ms. Kelleher said the BLM is opportunistic and is looking for partners in the Arid Land Initiative, a private/public partnership to preserve the shrub steppe habitat. **Chairman Jewell** said it doesn't sound as if the County needs to be too involved but if needed, the County will get involved.

Karen Kelleher showed a map of the Vantage-Pomona Heights Transmission line project alternatives which includes a portion of Kittitas County. She said there was a 50% chance that part of the Right of Way could be in Kittitas County, along the edge of the Military Reservation by Auvil Fruit on the Columbia River. She said BLM wanted to make sure the County was aware of the possibility. **Chairman Jewell** said the County Engineer has been involved in the planning and the Board has received the mailings. **Kirk Holmes** said the only permits that may be involved as a relationship with County roads or Rights of Way. **Dan Valoff, Planner** said they will need a Conditional Use Permit under the Utility Code and Kittitas County will be a commenting agency.

Ms Kelleher asked about the right of way for the Maughan property. She said BLM wanted to encourage them to get a Right of Way. **Chairman Jewell** said the County hasn't heard back from

them. **Vice-Chairman Crankovich** asked why the landowner would need to change his driveway and access point.

Ms. Kelleher said Mr. Maughan had two access points and thought he had "grandfathered" rights. **Vice-Chairman Crankovich** said this was a mapping issue. **Ms. Kelleher** said BLM was concerned with the access through the overflow parking on their property because of problems keeping the access open. She asked to be notified if this subject comes up again.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Paul Jewell, Commissioner