**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
**STUDY SESSION**  
**MINUTES**

**DATE:** January 26, 2004

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Perry Huston, Max Golladay, Bruce Coe

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** David Taylor

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Allison Kimball

| TOPIC | 1. 2004 Legislation & Watershed Planning  
2. New Jail Facility SEPA  
3. Upper County Growth  
4. Policy Direction  
5. Misc Discussion |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**DISCUSSION:**

1. David Taylor discussed new bills. He asked if everyone had read HB 2356, Rep Hinkle’s ORV bill. Perry Huston expressed concern that the bill give the impression that it’s alright to ride anywhere. David Taylor stated that the bill is unconstitutional and encourages trespass. He moved on to the next bill HB 2564 which tells DOE to cooperate with the Dept of Interior (Linville’s bill) to deal with Indian water rights. David discussed SB 6486 dealing with water issues and stated that it was a bad bill all the way around. David discussed SB6575 & HB 2982 the “Blackrock Bill” and then SB6547 & HB 2983 which would change the definition of state waters to not include irrigation, etc. David discussed SHB 2298 The animal Health bill which would allow DOH to quarantine and take property without having to go through due process. Bruce Coe commented that it was a doozy. David listed hearings in Olympia that may be of some interest to the County and concluded with a statement that the Water Policy Alliance wants everyone to come to agreement on all issues. Max Golladay & Perry Huston stated that testifying in Olympia should not be a priority over the day to day operation of the department. Bruce Coe stated that any of the three Board members are just as qualified to go to Olympia. Bruce suggested that the County have a WASAC member represent the Boards opinions in Olympia. It was agreed by the Board not to pursue that scenario. Perry Huston discussed
the DNR letter to Senator Mulliken regarding the Ahtanum exchange and stated that there is no real benefit to the land exchange. Bruce Coe stated that it sucks and offered to take care of communicating with Senator Mulliken regarding such.

2. David reported to the Board that Allison will be following through with the new jail facility SEPA. Perry Huston commented that it would be a good project for her to work on. Perry instructed David to walk through it with Allison. David concurred.

3. David introduced the subject of the future of Upper County growth. Discussion included how to do proper planning, transportation overlay for future roads & densities. The Board agreed that Kittitas County is at the point where changes need to be considered. Perry stated the exempt seg’s are a problem and that the density of subdivision should trigger review. He also said that DOE wants to have more involvement in our future development. Bruce Coe asked how do we trap the development phase that considers impact on the community as a whole. Perry responded saying that the developers have an escape hatch with respect to exempt seg’s and that we need to shut off this type of development strategy, making the threshold the same for everyone. Bruce Coe added that trigger points need to be indentified and that we need a transportation grid overlay in place. Perry added that the subdivision code rewrite needs to be done first, then we can tie subdivision review in to the transportation grid and pass it, then continue to work on it. Bruce expressed concern about water and waste asking who is required to make sure the “buyer” is aware of any related responsibilities. Max & Perry agreed that the Homeowner’s Associations were responsible for those agreements. Bruce asked if we bond for water systems. Max replied saying no, Kittitas County is not the issuing authority with water. Max added that he has no problem with 9 houses on one well and a community septic/drainfield; rather he was most concerned with roads. Max & Perry agreed that the County not allow any building until the requirements for the subdivision have been completed. Perry commented that we need to set our development guidelines in order to have a defensible process; also that we need to review how exempt seg’s apply to development and not necessarily get rid of them. We need to make sure the necessary infrastructure is in place.

4. David Taylor asked the Board how much he is to do with respect to legislative issues, water policy in particular. He said that he was receiving mixed messages from the Board with respect to what he should be focusing on. Perry Huston stated that David should make getting his department together top priority (referring to his recent memo to David regarding such); also the position manuals, job descriptions & timelines are current issues that need to have some attention. Perry asked David what specific pressures he was feeling and what he needed help with. David said that he thought the relinquishment bill is important and there’s a good chance it will get passed, therefore his presence in Olympia is a high priority. Perry said that just the appearance at the
hearing may be important, but David should not be spending so much time involved in the development of the bills. He added that the key is anticipation of schedule and that David should be in daily communication with Chairman Huston with regard to all issues. David concurred.

5. Perry Huston presented a letter of commendation to Allison Kimball for her efforts to improve her job knowledge at her own expense and on her own time. He urged David to assign Allison to the upcoming legislative rally in Olympia.

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