DATE: July 26, 2004
TIME: 1:30 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Max Golladay and Perry Huston
THOSE PRESENT: Allison Kimball and Catherine Dunn
OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Henderson, Louis Musso, Mary Pittis, Kevin Eslinger, Mark Charlton, Jack Carpenter, Urban Eberhart and Jim Milton

TOPICS:
1. Sign Vouchers
2. Citizen request
3. Watershed Plan
4. Memo regarding process for reviewing new road standards
5. Fire Marshal and Code Enforcement updates
6. Update on Plan review turnaround

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Vouchers from Auditor’s office
2. Letter from Kittitas County RailPac
3. Memo by Catherine Dunn regarding process for reviewing new road standards
4. None
5. None
6. None

DISCUSSION:
1. The Board members signed the vouchers.

2. Mary Pittits presented letters to the Board Members asking for a public hearing to consider placing on the ballot a proposal establishing a Rail District. The Board will set a public hearing on their August 3 agenda. The Contact Person is Mary Pittis.

3. Huston explained to the Planning Unit members from Kittitas County about the EES Consultant visit with the Board at their previous Study Session on July 19, 2004. He said that now that the Watershed Plan had moved from voluntary to regulatory, the Board wanted to discuss
it with the KC Planning Unit members. He said that the Board had agreed to go through the Plan and put their concerns on paper. The Board’s concerns centered around the number of people on the Planning Unit and how variable that number is from meeting to meeting. He said if it was going to be regulatory, he wanted people who knew how to write rules doing the writing. He said he felt the habitat section had a number of questionable areas and the groundwater section referenced the Memorandum of Understanding which concerned him. He felt the implementation section should mesh better.

Huston said to the Planning Unit member that now that the Watershed plan is a more regulatory document what would they do differently. If the County opts out, it would mean that the County would have to negotiate with the Department of Ecology on a Plan, but Huston was concerned about hooking up with renegade counties.

Mark Charlton said that Skagit County is having problems with their Plan’s groundwater section. DOE has made a connection with in stream flows and hydro-continuity. Kevin Eslinger said that the only numbers that should have been in the Plan was the Yakima River Enhancement numbers, not the tributary numbers. Charlton said he would bring this whole discussion up when he spoke with John Ssturman, Farm Bureau’s lobbyist. He said that the Farm Bureau fix for 1336 would have helped this. He added that there were more counties involved in this matter now. Huston said that at WSAC, the other commissioners just looked confused.

Huston explained the idea that the consultants, EES had in mind to create a panel on interpretation, include it in the Plan and then DOE would have to buy off on it. Kevin Eslinger asked how the panel on interpretation would work. Huston said that their theory was wishful thinking in his estimation. Golladay agreed citing the invented lawsuit DOE came up with the Yakama Nation as showing the kind of people that they were dealing with.
Jack Carpenter, KRD Manager and Urban Eberhart said that there is a push to get Kittitas County organizations to implement Comprehensive Irrigation District Management Plans for the County. Eslinger said that they were going towards that method but now the push is all for the Watershed Plan. CIDMP's goals are to meld the Endangered Species Act with Cleanwater Act. Carpenter said that these are completely separate processes with people tied to the process for the long haul. Huston said he was concerned that it would roll into land use decisions. Jim Milton asked if it had anything to do with water supply. Carpenter said that it had to do with water usage.

Huston asked if what the Planning Unit members wanted was to send the Watershed plan back to the total Planning Unit one time and see what happens. Then, he said, Kittitas County could walk away. Golladay said that he couldn't find anything in the law that supported the consultant's idea. Huston said that that idea was circular anyway. The Consultants were supposed to send a copy of what they came up with on the interpretation. Charlton asked for a copy of what they send up and was told he would get it when the Board did.

The Board will continue their review of the plan, go to the meeting with the other Commissioners recommending sending the Plan back to the Planning Unit and get back to the local Planning Unit members with the results.

4. Dunn presented the memo for review of projects under the new road standards.

5. Kimball reported that there was no change in the Fire Marshal position and Huston said that they are looking into the Code Enforcement Code to tighten it up.

6. Kimball reported that full plan review was at 42 days with fast track at 20 days. Dan Davis would be working overtime.

**ACTIONS:**

1. The Board signed vouchers.
2. The Board would set a public hearing on RailPac at their August 3, 2004 agenda.

3. The Board would ask the other Commissioners to send the Watershed Plan back to the Planning Unit.

4. None

5. None

6. Kimball was directed to keep track of the turnaround times.