THOSE PRESENT: Perry Huston, David Bowen, Alan Crankovich, Greg Zempel, Paul Bennett, Kelly Carlson

GUESTS PRESENT: Representative Bill Hinkle

WAYNE NELSON: Paul stated that he is requesting County guidance with access issues on a Forest Service Road. The existing easement/access is not a buildable road/access so he wants to abandon it and move the road/access to a different location that will cross Forest Service land. The Forest Service has requesting a letter from the County stating whether we will take this road on system or not.

BOARD DIRECTION: Directed Paul to submit a letter for Chair signature, to the Forest Service and Wayne Nelson that as long as it meets private road standards it is fine, but the County has no intention of taking this road onto the County Road maintained system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The BOCC went into Executive Session at 1:37 and came out of session at 1:48. Greg Zempel was in attendance to discuss the issues.

PSE PHASE II GASLINE: Paul stated that he had attended the meeting between PSE and the affected landowners. He stated that PSE does have a franchise to own/operate a gasline in the right of way. Pauls felt the people appreciated the County’s input. PSE stated that it will cost them less money to put these lines on private property, than to put in the county right of way. Representative Bill Hinkle stated that he feels this gasline is not an essential public utility. He stated that PSE’s performance in the lower county was less than satisfactory and can’t see supporting PSE’s route. He stated that the existing route is taking up prime timber property for a non essential utility, and he is going to do what it takes to get this
changed. Rep. Hinkle asked for support from the County to join him on this issue.

**BOARD DIRECTION:** Perry directed Paul to draft a County “statement” that only includes the status of PSE’s franchise and any informal talks he has had with PSE.

**LOGGING ROADS:** Paul stated that his take on the standards for logging roads were the minimums for a residential road. If the road was owned by another agency then approval from them would be necessary. He also stated that these roads need to be built for the intended use.

**BOARD DIRECTION:** No Board Direction.

**ROAD STANDARDS / VARIANCE PROCESS:** Paul submitted copies of the existing K.C.C. 12.01.130 that speaks to variances on private roads. Perry stated that we will continue to “go by the book” i.e. KCC, and the applicant will need to have a very good reason for the variance from the standards.

**BOARD DIRECTION:** No Board Direction

**COUNTY ROADS DEDICATIONS/EASEMENTS:** Paul stated that Dave Leffert has researched this issue and found that we have approximately 80 miles of road that we have no record of right of way ownership. He recommends that we don’t do anything unless the question is asked and correct this issue in the future through the subdivision code rewrite.

**BOARD DIRECTION:** BOCC directed to leave alone.

**AIRPORT ADVISORY CHARTER:** Paul stated that he received an email from Craig Johnson wanting the Bowers Field Advisory Committee to take on advising for all of the airports in Kittitas County. Paul stated that we are not the lead agency with the other two airports, Cle Elum and Easton. Cle Elum is owned by the City of Cle Elum, and Easton is owned by Washington State. Perry stated that Cle Elum is on their own and will need to step up to the plate and make their airport a priority.

**BOARD DIRECTION:** Perry directed Paul to contact the State to see if they are interested in creating an overlay for the Easton airport, and will need to put into the 2006 Comp Plan.
AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS: Paul stated that the FAA and State Aviation had contacted him to ask if we would turn back $150K (from 2003 AIP fund allotment) to aid another airport project. In turn they would “pay” us back in 2006. Paul stated that he is going to ask them if in 2006 he can “borrow” ahead to build hangars and pay back the counties he borrowed from.

BOARD DIRECTION: Approved of turning the $150K back.

MOTEL DEMOLITION: Paul stated that the project is going good, almost two motels are gone. There are two issues he wanted the BOCC to know about: 1) There was a wall that fell on an “inmates” car, and 2) MRM is not fencing the “work area” properly, and they have been warned. A deadline has been set for them to have a safety fence in place and if it isn’t in place he will put a “stop work” order on them until the fence is placed.

BOARD DIRECTION: No Board Direction.

OFF SYSTEM ROADS: Paul stated that we have a request from a citizen on Pheasant Lane wanting maintenance done. This road is a private road, but the county owns the right of way. Unless this road is in our official county road log, we cannot legally spend gas tax funds on it. The only time there has been an exception is when the County is hauling out of a pit or a project and we need to maintain the road for that period of time.

BOARD DIRECTION:

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Paul went over all projects on our Six-Year Transportation plan and updated the BOCC on where we were at with each. He stated that he will be doing this quarterly.

BOARD DIRECTION: No Board Direction.

Adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Paul D. Bennett, P.E.
Director of Public Works