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

FRIDAY 11:00 P.M JUNE 16, 2006

Board members present: Chairman David Bowen; Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich and Commissioner Perry Huston.

Others: Darryl Piercy, Director of Community Development Services; Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Representative Bill Hinkle; Derek Sandeson, Department of Ecology and approximately 20 members of the public.

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman Bowen opened a special meeting with Representative Bill Hinkle regarding Ground Water Management Areas & Programs.

Representative Hinkle acknowledged issues brought up by citizens relating to groundwater problems in the Upper County. He did not know if there was a true problem, but offered to provide the County information on Ground Water Management Areas and Programs under RCW Chapter 90.44. He said he was not requesting the County to participate in a study, but felt it was an option they could choose to get data. He said he would support the Board in whatever direction they chose, and if they did decide to support a GWMA, he would support their efforts in the budget. Funding usually comes from 75% State resources and 25% local match.

Commissioner Huston asked what would be accomplished differently than the county doing its own SEPA. Representative Hinkle felt it was a more involved study and the County could get funding for the study. He said the County could not afford to do a study on their own nor do they have the expertise. He indicated the County had potential to be in an adversary position. Commissioner Huston felt there was a process already in place, but they only lacked better information, and asked why the County could not get the information directly from the Department of Ecology without creating a plan. Chairman Bowen explained the enhancement would come at the analysis stage. He indicated he was worried about consultants inserting additional concerns that were not warranted.

Mr. Sandeson explained there would be an advisory committee established for quality assurance. He indicated there would need to be a timeline set up and establish a process for updating. He said
if there were no problems found, there would be no need to develop management strategies.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Julie A. Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

David B. Bowen, Chairman