Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman David Bowen and Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Judy Pless, Budget & Finance Manager; Jill Arango, Kittitas County Cascade Land Conservancy; Jim Armstrong, Central Washington University Alumni Affairs; and 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING GLADMAR PARK – CWU COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 4:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH opened a public hearing to consider an Interlocal Agreement with Central Washington University for the use of Gladmar Park as a natural science research area.

JILL ARANGO, FROM THE CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY, REPRESENTING CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY said both the County Prosecutor’s office as well as legal representatives from Central Washington University has agreed on the proposed language of the Interlocal Agreement. She indicated a survey had been completed and the documents reflect accurate numbers. COMMISSIONER McClAIN questioned the option to purchase that was included in the document. MS. ARANGO said the County Prosecutors office said the option to purchase language could be included within the document, if the Board chose to include it. COMMISSIONER BOWEN said one of his previous issues was that he did not want to bind any future Boards hands by claiming the County would sell it after ten years to Central Washington University.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: DAVID GERTH spoke in favor of the Interlocal Agreement and felt the property was a valuable piece of land for conservation. KRIS CARLSON said he owned acreage near Gladmar Park and was concerned that the river flow is not changed by Central Washington University. CAROL READY REPRESENTING YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS said offered to work on grant applications and spoke in support of the proposal. ALAN SULLIVAN said they wanted to leave the property and allow it to repair itself and did not intend on raising any levies. THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN said he was not against the option to purchase, as long as it’s mutual, but did not want to tie future Board’s hands and there are steps that would need to be taken before anything could happen anyway. He indicated he would like the
section revised relating to the sale, stating he had no issue with 10 years, and had no issue with the first right of refusal.

JUDY PLESS, BUDGET & FINANCE MANAGER clarified that Gladmar Park is not actually in the Public Works fund, even though they maintain it, it is in the Recreation Fund and if in 10 years the County determines they would sell it, the proceeds would go back to that fund. COMMISSIONER McCLAIN asked if the Board struck the portion of the Agreement relating to the option to purchase would they still be in favor of it. MS. ARANGO indicated they would still be in favor of it. JIM ARMSTRONG, CHAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR CLC addressed the option to right of first refusal. COMMISSIONER McCLAIN felt there may need to be a valuation established and maybe some credit for improvements by Central Washington University. He would like to leave it open for future Boards decisions.

Discussion was held relating to the option to purchase sale price and should it have an appraised value as open space and then Central Washington University would be credited for substantial improvements, adding the right to first refusal, and add the complete Board signature instead of just the Chairman’s.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN moved to continue the public hearing to Thursday September 6, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner’s Auditorium Room 109, Kittitas County Courthouse, to consider enabling documents. COMMISSIONER BOWEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

JUDY PLESS, BUDGET & FINANCE MANAGER reviewed proposed amendments to the 2007 Budget in the total amount of $1,887,714.00. She gave a breakdown in the following amounts: General Fund $993,922.00; Recreation $30,000.00; Public Health $593,177.00; Solid Waste $94,777.00 and Capital Improvements $175,838.00.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN noted the Prosecutors position for a criminal investigator was not approved by the Board, but they approved the set up for other positions which is the same amount.

THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.
COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to approve Resolution No. 2007-107, Amending the 2007 County Budget in the total amount of $1,887,714.00. COMMISSIONER McClAIN seconded.

The Board expressed their appreciation to departments for watching their budgets and trying to get grants whenever possible to alleviate pressures off the general fund.

Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Julie A. Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board       Alan Crankovich, Chairman