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

**DATE:** June 23, 2008

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mark McClain, Vice Chairman Alan Crankovich and Linda Huber

**CDS STAFF PRESENT:** Director Darryl Piercy, Assistant Director Allison Kimball, Clerk Lindsay Watkins and Dan Valoff

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jim Vanderenter, Kelly Carlson, Christina Wollman, Kathy Jergens, Jan Ollivier, Doug D’Hondt, Cathy Bambrick, Holly Myers, Derek Sandison, Tom Tebb, Chad Bala, Jeff Slothower, Noah Goodrich, Chad Allen, Mark Kirkpatrick, Dave Blanchard, Erin Anderson and Kirk Eslinger

**TOPIC:**
1. Continued Appeal Hearing: Kittitas County PUD #1 Lauderdale Transmission SEPA
2. Interlocal Agreement w/ DOE: Continued from 06/17/08 BOCC Agenda
3. Ecology Emergency Rule: Discussion and Comments
4. Request from Horizon Wind Energy: Discussion
5. Personnel Action Forms: BOCC Review

**DISCUSSION:**
1. Piercy stated staff indicated they would seek guidance from the Prosecutor’s Office in regards to issue’s of the withdraw of the application for SEPA determination by the PUD. Piercy also stated the request from the appellant brought up two points. One being a refund of the application fee or a decision from the Board of County Commissioners on the appeal issues that they brought forward. Piercy stated the issue before the Board of County Commissioner’s is now moved in other words there is nothing to make a decision on because the application has been formally withdrawn, so therefore to actually make a determination on the appeal would be inappropriate in regards to actions sought by the applicant. Piercy also stated on whether or not the appeal fee should be refunded. Piercy thinks it’s important to point out for the record there was a conservable amount of time and effort by County staff in the preparation of the appeal prior to the withdraw of the application. Piercy stated there was a legal publication that was a necessity of the result of the appeal being filed and all of those were expenses that occurred by the County leading up to the hearing before the Board of County Commissioner’s. Piercy also stated it has historically been the practice of the Board not to refund any fee associated with the land use applications. Therefore the prosecutor’s advice and staff’s would be for the Board not to make any action or any decision on the appeal and to keep in consistency with the County code to not refund the appeal fee. Jeff Slothower representing the applicant, stated he hasn’t spoke with Caulkins and their position remains that the appeal is timely and properly filed and that a notice went out that the appeal was withdrawn. Slothower stated the application in our opinion
rendered the issues on the appeal move and there is still the issue whether the SEPA was properly done and whether it should been an EIS posed to a MDNS. As far as the County code Slothower is aware of what it says and stated we don’t need to delay the point any longer. Commissioner Crankovich moved to take no action on the matter and to close the hearing. Commissioner Huber seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

2. Bambrick stated she was bringing this agreement before the Board again with some language made and agreed upon by the DOE and they have requested that the Board review this agreement and be entered into the DOE and Kittitas County Public Health Department on July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Bambrick stated the DOH supports the cost incurred by the Health Department up to the amount of $198,000 that is expected prior to June 30, 2009 and we will furnish necessary personnel equipment, materials and services. Bambrick stated DOE approved the purpose of the agreement section to add a statement to provide a method to transfer appropriated funds to DOE. In addition they have agreed to add a section in there to make sure they agree that there is no intent to expand any obligation from the MOA. Bambrick also stated she believes that was the last two requirements set forth by the Board and the Kittitas County Health Department is looking for approval on this agreement. Commissioner Crankovich moved to approve authorized signature of Resolution 2008-106 from Kittitas County Public Health and Department of Ecology. Commissioner Huber seconded and the motions passed with all in favor.

3. Tom Tebb stated DOE attempted to put together a draft rule that would hopefully be drafted July 1, 2008. Tebb stated he would like to thank County staff that they have done an excellent job. Tedd also stated he thinks they have reached an overall agreement with the County staff with an exemption to section four; it is still under review from the departments Attorney General’s Office besides that everything else has been done between our respected organizations at the staff level. Bambrick stated they did a lot of work for this and we support section four. Tebb stated he is still working with his organization and wanted to be very clear about it being in review still. Piercy stated as a director he is comfortable with the language with consideration it’s in review. Piercy stated with regards to section 4 one of the reasons we think 5 years is the appropriate time frame is because we can tie it back to the definition of group use which also used a 5 year time frame in that definition. So in contents to section 4 it seems to make sense to use that time frame. Commissioner McClain asked about section 6. Tebb stated he thinks they addressed that issue in section 1. Tebb stated they are trying to work through a few more things and want to bring closure to this, this week. Piercy stated he thinks it’s important to recognize this reflects the MOA and that’s why there aren’t a lot of comments. Mark Kirkpatrick stated he would like to know what the intent of the last sentence is. Tebb stated the intent was trying to verify lower project where the parcels would have come in an alley infrastructure and things of that sort so if there is a suggestion for language there we are all ears. Kirkpatrick stated he would like to find out a way to so it’s not over conclusive yet find a way so it’s
not under conclusive. Tebb stated he was okay with that.

4. Piercy stated they are being asked to identify an advisor for the Technical Advisory Committee. Piercy stated when Kittitas County and the State approved the Wildhorse Windfarm final requirements of both of those approvals were that the Technical Advisory Committee be formed and get together on a regular basis. Piercy stated when the State approved this Windfarm the same condition was in Horizon’s certificate allowing the department to move forward and so Horizon is in compliance with that asking for the County representative to serve on that committee. Piercy also stated the issue however is that the County did not approve this and there is a Supreme Court hearing on this very matter. The Prosecutor’s Office feels if we appoint someone to the Technical Advisory Committee that may have an impact on the case. Commissioner McClain asked if there is any interest on the Board delaying a decision on this. Erin Anderson of Horizon Wind Energy stated she does believe it’s in the counties best interest to have a representative that the Supreme Court doesn’t look at what’s going on in the county. The Commissioners decided to bring this back to the next Study Session.

5. Piercy stated he would like to use the old laptops from CDS for the Building Inspectors for when they are out in the field to see how it would work and the cost would be $300 for the software for each laptop. Piercy stated he would need approval from the Board in order to try this. Piercy also stated the laptops would not be leaving the County vehicle and would work the same way as a police officer’s computer would sort of speak and this would possibly cut back on an office PC and that the employees using these laptops for field work could use the laptops for everything. Commissioner Huber stated it was worth a try. Commissioner McClain stated this would not be an additional computer perchance that the laptops previously utilized will be used acknowledging that the laptops won’t be back filled and acknowledge there will be a $300 worth of software being installed in each computer that is coming out of the Community Development Services work fund. Commissioner Crankovich stated the other issue for this session is the completion of the six month probation period by two people that were promoted to a 5% pay increase in their wages. Piercy stated when a person is promoted one generally thinks because they do a good job and they have demonstrated their abilities to do a good job and they have shown you something that makes you believe they have the ability to succeed. Piercy stated in that regard he questions the whole wisdom of the probation period for promotional employees but never the less our personal policy requires that we have that in place. Piercy stated with that said bringing a person into a promotional position he thinks should show some advancement in both their career and financially in that position. Piercy also stated he was trying to be consistent otherwise he would probably be making a recommendation to bring these people in on a wage scale that reflects their credit to the department, their performance and recognize the reason they are getting the promotion. Commissioner McClain stated we train someone and bring them in on the front lines because they don’t have the qualifications and we give them the qualifications for the job because they asked for extra training and now
we want to reward them for what they have learned at our expense and then they get bumped to the new position with a 5% pay increase. Commissioner McClain stated he just doesn’t see that in terms of organizationally being something that we can do. Piercy stated we would go through the same steps; we would provide training, give them a chance to improve themselves and stated this is a retention tool for the employees that have demonstrated the desire to succeed and improve themselves and to stay with the County. Commissioner Huber asked Kirk Eslinger Human Resources Director if this issue was covered in policy or not. Eslinger stated no we don’t have it within the language in our promotion policy. Commissioner Huber stated she has a hard time doing something that isn’t in the Counties policy. Commissioner Crankovich and McClain agreed.

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