

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

1:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Louis Musso.

SPECIAL MEETING

RAIL DISTRICT

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:30 P.m. **Chairman Alan Crankovich** opened the special meeting to consider discussion of the Rail District and the future of Rail in Kittitas County.

Louis Musso reported the rail project has proceeded as far as they can without outside funding. He said he has met with Representative Bill Hinkle and others regarding chances to go forward with funding at the legislative level. He said they are proposing that the Legislature give Rail Districts the same ability as Public Facilities Districts to receive a rebate on Sales Tax from the State. He said this would fund a study which would allow access to Federal funding, as well as learning the feasibility of the rail project. He asked for the approval of the Board to pursue this Sales Tax Rebate for the funding of the study.

Chairman Crankovich said he would like to see a plan with deliverables. **Commissioner Jewell** said he supported this method of funding the study. **Commissioner McClain** said that he would like to get a return on the Sales Tax currently paid to the State.

Chairman Crankovich asked about the depth of the study, as some things are studied to death with very little results. **Louis Musso** said that the study will survey people as in a "marketing survey". He said the Board will be able to choose who performs the study, unless a deal needs to be made with WA ST Department of Transportation to do the study. He said that the County can control the cost of the study through the matching funds. He went on to say that the matching funds can be through a private foundation, municipal funding or in-kind services of land or services. At this time the only commitment needed is the approval from the Board.

The Board expressed their approval of the pursuit of funding through the Legislature for rebate of Sales Tax to fund a feasibility study

with deliverables. **Louis Musso** said that the most likely outcome would be a one-time funding of the project study.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Catherine Dunn

Alan Crankovich, Chairman