Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman Obie O’Brien and Commissioner Paul Jewell.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Robert & Carolyn Kitchell, Applicants and Vic Monahan, Forest Consultant.

At 2:00 p.m. CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH opened a Public Hearing continued from February 7, 2012 to consider a Current Use Open Space Timber application received from Robert & Carolyn Kitchell. He noted the record was open.

MANDY ROBINSON, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD reviewed a Staff Report indicating the Board of County Commissioners had previously expressed concerns relating to the Kitchell’s Open Space Timber application during the February 7, 2012 Public Hearing and requested the applicant to provide an amendment to the Forest Management Plan addressing their concerns. She said a revised Forest Management Plan had been provided by Mr. Monahan, Consulting Forester, for their review.

VIC MONAHAN, FOREST CONSULTANT reviewed the amendment to the Kitchell’s Forest Management Plan, as requested by the Board of County Commissioners. He felt the amendments addressed the Board’s concerns and believed the plan included more details in addition to language that emphasizes commercial harvesting.

COMMISSIONER O’BRIEN asked how Open Space Timber can be put on top of wetlands. MR. MONAHAN said wetlands are a part of all forests and are located throughout the County as well. He indicated the applicants have already begun work cleaning up the forsest lands and have made contacts with agencies such as “Northwest Certified Forestry” who will be providing them with assistance and education for future management of their property. ROBERT KITCHELL, APPLICANT said after the previous Public Hearing they reviewed the Board’s concerns and wanted them to know they intend on making the property productive and will take good care of it because they want to be good stewards of the land. He said it is not just recreational property for them but wanted to do what is good for the land and community. COMMISSIONER O’BRIEN noted the applicants would be receiving a
significant tax benefit if the application was accepted, and wanted to be sure they recognized that if they were to sell the property down the road, they will need to pay all back taxes, etc. COMMISSIONER JEWELL said although he believes the revised application still lacked the primary focus of the land being commercial harvest and timber growth, he would support the application. COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH said additional consideration was given to them because the Forester had not been through the process in quite some time and the current Board of County Commissioners is now reviewing all applications to reflect the intent of the law. He said they are planning on having a review process every five years for Open Space Timber classifications.

THERE BEING NO PUBLIC REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

AGREEMENT OPEN SPACE TIMBER - KITCHELL COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN moved to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Open Space Timber Taxation Agreements with Robert and Carolyn Kitchell. COMMISSIONER JEWELL seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Alan Crankovich, Chairman