At 2:00 p.m. Chairman O’Brien opened a Special Meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and receive a status update.

Commissioner Jewell reviewed the Board’s 5 recommended actions to comply with the Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board Order related to water protection: 1.) Limit new permit-exempt withdrawals outside the rule area (Lower County) to 350 gallons per day for rural indoor domestic use only. 2.) Require that all outdoor water use from permit-exempt wells be fully mitigated or that outdoor water use may only be allowed from an alternate source (Irrigation, rain, etc.) (new use not current use). 3.) Require that new uses from permit-exempt wells be metered. Implement a monitoring and reporting program for new uses. 4.) Require that new development within UGA’s utilize municipal water and sewer where reasonable. 5.) Assure that County Code is consistent with limitations of permit-exempt wells as defined by the Campbell and Gwen decision by the Supreme Court. He explained that this needed to be accomplished within the next 30 days and before the Planning Commission by May. He stated that they have to have it completed by 6/12/2013.

Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor discussed the Tri-County participation and efforts taking place. Commissioner Jewell indicated that it hasn’t progressed as quickly as they hoped but the work-group is moving along. He stated that the Board will be looking for recommendations from staff and encouraged them to meet with surrounding municipalities. Commissioner Jewell indicated that he would like to be the lead on this project and would meet in study sessions with County staff and they would make reports back to the Board for their approval.
Discussion on meter reading and reporting requirement implementation was held.

Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director suggested meeting with Judy Pless, Budget and Finance Manager to discuss the accounting side. He cautioned staff that without that taking place the County could be faced with Audit findings in the future.

Commissioner Jewell reviewed group study session break-downs by topic but explained that any of the staff was welcome to attend whether it was their area of expertise or not.

Lindsey Ozbolt, Staff Planner was tasked with setting up the work group sessions beginning the week of 4-1-2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.