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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Robin Read, Public Health Administrator; Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor; Kimberly Sarver, Environmental Health Specialist; and Christine Duboiski, Environmental Specialist for Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10.

Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor, provided the Board with updated information on their request to participate in the EPA PM Advance Program & Department of Ecology’s partnership with the Kittitas County Public Health Department. She said the Board previously had questions on the program and they had provided materials for their review. They would like to participate and partner with the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Air Quality program and the Kittitas County Air Quality Advisory Committee. She said they were also requesting to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency and reviewed the eligibility and criteria information.

Christine Duboiski, Environmental Specialist for the EPA, indicated that once the County commits to the program the EPA is able to provide them assistance. She reviewed benefits of the program along with the County’s requirements, noting they could drop in and out of the program as needed. Christine thought it was better for the County to be proactive now versus waiting until later which could result in higher costs. Heather Sarver, Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed the budget and tiered project. Commissioner Osiadacz explained how there are a lot of people in the Upper County who depend on wood stoves to heat their homes and it would be a financial burden for others to change to oil, etc. She would like to see incentives for people along with education on the types of materials that should be used for clean burning.

Commissioner Jewell moved to approve and authorize Chair’s signature on a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Advance Program, notifying them of the intention of the Kittitas County
Public Health Department's participation in the PM Advance program. Commissioner Osiadacz seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.