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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mark Cook, Public Works Director; and approximately 15 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHNEBLY WATER RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS

At 11:00 a.m. CHAIRMAN JEWELL opened a Public Hearing to consider the purchase of Water Rights from Craig & Nancy Schnebly and a Memorandum of Agreement. He said there was not a Memorandum of Agreement with the Schnebly’s but only the Purchase & Sale Agreement.

PETER DYKSTRA, SPECIAL DEPUTY PROSECUTOR reported on the status of the Purchase & Sale Agreement between Kittitas County and Craig & Nancy Schnebly. He provided information on the purchase price and indicated the closing date is to be no later than October 1, 2017. He said they thought they’d be further along in the process by now but it was not completely ready for the Board to take final action, but noted the terms would remain the same. CRAIG SCHNEBLY thanked the Board of Commissioners for their effort on the project.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: BRUCE COE provided a copy of testimony with questions from the Kittitas County Chapter of CAPR (Citizens Alliance for Property Rights). ROGER BECK asked questions relating to the 10-year lease back and questioned what the source of funds were for the purchase? THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

Commissioner O’Brien said since there were a few more details to work out before a final document was available the Board should consider closing the hearing and reissuing another one at a later date. Commissioner Osiadacz agreed with Commissioner O’Brien’s recommendation.

COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ moved to close hearing with no action and instruct Staff to prepare a new Public Hearing notice at a later date once all of the documentation is in place and ready for consideration. COMMISSIONER O’BRIEN seconded. 3-0
At 12:15 p.m. CHAIRMAN JEWELL opened a Public Hearing to consider the purchase of Water Rights from the Trust for Public Land and a Memorandum of Agreement between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kittitas County, and The Trust for Public Land.

PETER DYSTRA, SPECIAL DEPUTY PROSECUTOR reviewed an Agreement for Transfer of Water Rights between the Trust for Public Land and Kittitas County as well as a Memorandum of Understanding between the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Kittitas County and The Trust for Public Land. He reviewed specific details of the transfer of water rights, as well as funding sources. MARK COOK, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR said they were anxious to participate in the action and reviewed the benefits to the County.

ANN WELLS, REPRESENTING THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND thanked the Board for helping them bring this into fruition. ARDEN THOMAS, PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE WASHINGTON WATER TRUST described the benefits of the Agreement said how the Teanaway had been a focus of theirs since 1988. MIKE LIVINGSTON, DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE thanked the County for creating the partnership between all the entities. He reviewed all of the opportunities which will benefit the public and said they are fully supportive of the Memorandum of Agreement.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: ROGER BECK, REPRESENTING SUNCADIA said he was interested in the transaction and of what portion of the cost ends up being allocated to the water rights. SUSAN COLTZ, KITTITAS COUNTY CHAPTER OF CAPR OR CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS explained how they don’t stand in opposition of the proposal but would like to see the Board continue the hearing until such time as documentation and accounting are provided by the County for purchases already completed and expectations of what the additional water will provide for the citizens in the future. THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DFW/TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Kittitas County and The Trust for Public Land, and to move to closing on Purchase & Sale Agreement for the Teanaway Family Farm acquisition, noting closing date of June 30, 2017. COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN seconded.

COMMISSIONER OSIADACZ moved to amend the motion to eliminate a specific closing date. COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
Original motion, as amended was carried 3-0.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julie Kjorsvik

Paul Jewell, Chairman