

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
Monday, June 5, 2023 AM & PM

JN—Jon Neal, BOCC, District 3  
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Vice-Chair, District 1  
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Chair, District 2  
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board  
SK—Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources and Risk Management  
IS—Isabelle Spohn, Commenter  
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning  
NP—Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager  
JP—Joe Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor  
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management  
WC—Will Carpenter, Tri-County Pest Board  
KK—Kent Kovalenko, Solid Waste Management  
JT—Josh Thomson, Director, Public Works  
CN—Craig Nelson, Executive Director, Okanogan Conservation District  
LH—Larry Hudson, Coordinator, Noxious Weed Control Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.countywatch.org/> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see [https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners\\_proceedings.php](https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php)

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*Summary of significant discussions:*

- Isabelle Spohn comments about the permit application materials recently submitted by the Copperstone development, noting that they are incomplete and/or inaccurate. She also suggests that if the South Summit Road had dead-end intersecting roads marked as such, the road could be useful as an escape route in case of fire.
- During her weekly update, Planning Director Pete Palmer and Commissioner Branch discuss the Copperstone development application. They conclude that any application must be complete and accurate before a decision can be made.
- Will Carpenter of the Tri-County Pest Board, discusses his work with apple growers and packers to create a proposed apple maggot quarantine area in the north part of the county. Josh Thomas, Director of Public Works, and Kent Kovalenko, of Solid Waste Management, are concerned because they weren't included in this group even though they are stakeholders in the quarantine, too. Carpenter assured them that while his work included only people involved in agriculture, all stakeholders would be involved later in the process. The Washington Department of Agriculture will determine the boundaries of the quarantine area.
- Craig Nelson, Executive Director of the Okanogan Conservation District and his staff discuss onerous reporting requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program and the district's proposed water

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bank. He also tells the commissioners the district will probably ask for an increase in its rates and charges in the near future.

- Larry Hudson, Coordinator of the Noxious Weed Control Board tells the commissioners that he's having trouble hiring seasonal help and asks that he be allowed to hire full time help and fewer seasonal workers. The commissioners agree. He also says that he can begin treating Lake Osoyoos with procellacor because it's recently been approved for use by Canada.

**00:20**—Pledge of Allegiance

JN is absent

AH—to SK—Naomie is here?

SK—No. It's just us.

AH—I move to go to Executive Session for under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)—performance of a public employee, inviting SK, for 10 minutes.

Off they go.

**10:25**—CB and AH return.

AH—I got an email from (*inaudible*) at OCEC (Okanogan County Electrical Co-op). He's worried about broadband. They got a grant for \$12,000,000 and he's worried that the federal government is going to take back our ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The money is already in our bank account and I don't see them asking for it back.

CB—If they've got something to spend it on, we should obligate it.

AH—Yeah. Get a contract written.

CB—I got an interview with Crosscut. He's written several articles about ARPA funds and he's satisfying a readership that's critical of the spending of ARPA funds. I gave him a bit of a lecture. There are somethings that people see that might not be appropriate, but if you're talking about law enforcement and you don't have a full force, you have to rely on these other things to get you through that. But this time he was talking about the LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund). Wanted to know what we're doing with it. I told him we're using it as a reserve because we don't know what's coming down the road. I didn't talk much about using the interest. I gave him a good explanation about all the things the county has to do.

AH—He probably hasn't heard that very often.

CB—Our county getting the highest payment in the state is what got his attention. I told him how much public land we've got in the county and how that's connected to the dollars. I don't read Crosscut anyway. I'll send you the list of articles he's written.

CB—He's measuring the perception of people who don't understand a few things. I got a lot of questions over the weekend about the increase in their assessed value and they ask why we'd raised their taxes. I told him that it depends of everyone else's valuation.

AH—Yes. If everyone goes up the same, your taxes stay the same because the levy rate goes down.

CB—I had one guy who kinda already knew that but wanted to talk about it anyway. He used to be a city councilman from Omak.

**17:35**—AH—Time for public comments.

IS—PP got me the application materials for the Copperstone development, so I thank her for that. I also listened to the conversation about vesting the application. After reading the application, my impression is that this application was done in a hurry, probably to avoid changes in the zoning code. It doesn't look complete and it has errors. I don't see how a decision to vest could have been done with this application. I think they should take a second look for accuracy and completeness.

IS—Also, I took a cruise on the South Summit Road towards Brewster yesterday. The thinning that's been done is really good, but looking at the roads and seeing where I would go if I were escaping from

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wildfire, I discovered that I wouldn't have a clue which roads were dead-ended or not. So, once again, I encourage you to talk to the other agencies about marking dead-end roads in case we have to escape from a wildfire. That's all.

AH and CB—Thanks, Isabelle.

AH corrects minutes from previous meetings.

**29:00**—Staff meetings.

PP—I'm Pete Palmer, Director of Planning. I don't have anything to report right now. We've got a busy week coming up. I'll be back this afternoon for the Executive Session.

PP—We have the Copperstone application on our website. I know there will be changes made, because we're requested for information, but what we've got now is there.

CB—To get where they want to go, they'll have to answer our questions, and the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) covers anything else that's not clear.

PP—Yep. PP leaves.

CB—That's where I am with that application. Even with mistakes, they've still got to satisfy the Planned Development process. Making sure they've got the right stuff in there and they paid the application fee. And even if it's complete, if something isn't clear. And with a Planned Development, you have to get deep into all that, which is more or less a blessing for development.

AH—It is harder—all the roads, infrastructure, house size is programmed out—but in the end there are no surprises.

CB—Review doesn't stop after it's complete.

**35:00**—CB—Good morning, Naomie.

NP—(via zoom) Sorry I can't be there. There's lots of stuff going on here, today.

NP—I'm moving forward with getting a floor cleaner. I check all the ones AH mentions, but none of them have warranties, backups or (*inaudible*), so my suggestion is to buy through Weinstein (?) because they do have a warranty. The one from Amazon is cheaper, but there's no warranty. It's \$11,000. A ride-on machine. I'd like to move forward with that today.

AH—Can you get one more price so we'll have three.

NP—I've got six already.

AH—Can you please send them to us on that cool form you use for recommendations?

NP—Will do.

NP—I'm meeting with a contractor to do the partitions for the RV park bathrooms, so the bathrooms can be open. There's a Vacation Bible School meeting here this week and they'll need bathrooms. And the RV park is full the last week in June.

NP—Meeting with a cleaner to sub-contract the cleaning for the Agriplex.

NP—An irrigation pipe blew out last week.

AH—We talked about the water system in the horse barn. It won't get done for a few months. Also, maybe CB and JN could go over there and look at the doors on the horse barn to see what they think.

NP—Horse barn water is low on my priorities, but it'll get done by the Fair.

NP—That's all. Good bye.

**39:40**—CB—How are you, Joe?

JP—I'm Joe Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor. The portable AC units are due in today. The ones like we rented for the Forest Service building. Pre-school is out until the end of July. It really doesn't keep it cool enough, but with extra fans, it should be OK.

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JP—Pioneer Waterproofing should be back to start on the Court House.

Discussion of fixing the outside stairs and railings.

JP—There's a leak in the parking lot of the Justice Building. It's in the irrigation system. Spent Friday digging a hole to try to get to the pipe. Tim says the easiest way is to cut a hole in the NW corner of the parking lot.

Discussion of digging holes and safety requirements.

LJ—I just got off the phone with M. J. Neal (an architectural firm). They're coming tomorrow to review the work we need done for the DHP (?) Phase 2 project. They'd like to get into the Justice Building to get some measurements before they meet with the commissioners tomorrow at 1:30. Asks JP when would be a good time.

JP—Just get ahold of me. And I'll tell Tim Stidman, the maintenance guy for the school, so he'll know to let them in.

JP—That's all for me.

**46:55**—MG—I'm Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management. Nothing to report today. Any questions for me?

MG—Everything is ready for the fire restrictions to start June 15. The media has it.

MG—The waters are receding.

CB—Something to think about. IS brought up the South Summit Road as an escape route. It's poorly marked. Two other jurisdictions—DNR and USFS—are involved. How do we get them be better marked? Not just road numbers. It's easy to get wrapped up there.

MG—I'm not familiar with those roads, I'll look at a map.

CB—It's easy to get lost on those roads, and they're not all county roads.

MG—I'll look at it.

CB—I'll talk to Josh (Thomson, Director of Public Works) too. Anything else?

MG—Mosquitos? A guy called and asked what I was going to do about them.

CB—Are Okanogan or Omak treating them with foggers?

MG—I'll ask. The guy who called was up by Tonasket.

MG—I'll call the Colville DOT. They've got "Bump Ahead" signs too far out from the bump. You think you've already passed it and then it's a really big bump. It put me into the other lane.

MG—That's all. Thanks.

AH—I have to go now (for union negotiation) for the rest of the day. Tomorrow, too, starting at 9 or 10. The budget review for the Methow EMS, just look to make sure Winthrop and Twisp made their payments to the EMS.

CB—Did you see the Interlocal agreement for the opioids. Moses Lake and East Wenatchee haven't responded yet. One person said we should just go ahead.

AH leaves so there's no quorum.

CB to LJ—Next Tuesday is my heart ablation procedure, but I don't know when I'll have to be there, so I may leave here early on Monday.

**1:05:05**—JN arrives.

CB updates JN on South Summit Road as an escape route.

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**1:34:40**—WC—I'm Will Carpenter, Tri-County Pest Board (composed of Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties), here to talk about apple maggots and what's happened in the last few years in Okanogan County.

WC—We partnered in March, 2021. WSDA found apple maggot in Okanogan County as well as Chelan, Douglas, Yakima, Grant—all over the place. They found pupa as well as adults and pupas are the trigger for a quarantine. We found three sites: Malott and two near Ellisforde and Oroville. We removed everything near Malott so it's good to go. The two up north: one near Seehomes (?) Road and one near the irrigation pump station on Mosquito Creek.

WC—We removed all host vegetation on 11 acres on Seehomes Rd. I'm satisfied with that site.

WC—But the site near the pump station has lots of riparian trees—hawthorns all up and down the creek. Lots of it is the red hawthorn where they're finding the pupa.

CB—There's public access there?

WC—Yes.

WC—Removing all the host vegetation is too big a job in that area.

WC—Our job with the task force, talking to the WSDA and the Washington State Tree Fruit Association (WSTFA), we have a potential quarantine. It started out as the whole county but we've narrowed it down to Ellisforde to Oroville. So what's the quarantine going to look like? We formed a sub-committee last year of the Apple Maggot Working Group (AMWG) for the state. How can we make the quarantine recommendation with a local input? We got three pack houses, and three growers. Plus WSDA, WSTFA, NW Horticultural council. I was there, too. Decided the main thing we needed was the data from WSDA.

WC—Pack house members were Johnny Gebbers from Gebbers, Marty Robinson from Honeybear and James Foreman from Foreman Fruit. For the growers, we had Rick Delap from Malott, John Freeze and Dave Taber, Jr. from Oroville.

WC—Once we had data from 2020 and 2021 plus preliminary data from 2022, we saw where the hot spot was.

WC—Shows where the adult flies were found, the pupa location with red stars. Green polygons are apple orchards. We proposed a quarantine area. It's easy to identify its borders. The Ellisforde River Bridge and the two highways that intersect in Oroville 97 and 7. That will cause issues with other stakeholders in Oroville—ex: green waste and the haulers. But that's not my field. My field is the ag. It's the very beginning of the process. We sent it to the AMWG and they approved it. Now it's up to the state. Our industry isn't the only stakeholder. There are municipalities, solid waste, industries that do plantings, residents. The state will do an economic impact study and look at all the stakeholders. We're just starting and I wanted the BOCC to know that.

WC—Any questions about the apple maggot side of things?

CB—I don't. I'm exploring the implications of all this, and we already had a preview of this from KK.

KK—There were stakeholders that weren't in this process.

WC—This is a new process. Normally, you have the AMWG, the one that you attend. We in the apple industry didn't like that we were talking about these big decisions all at once, when the industry is supposed to make this request to begin a quarantine. We didn't like to show up once a year and get all the data and make the decision. That's why we took the time to comb through the data and make a request to the AMWG. We did our part on the ag side. No one is making the decision. It's not like you guys weren't invited to the sub-committee. It's just that the sub-committee is for the industry and can decide to tell the state: go ahead and start the process. That's when the state pulls in the other stakeholders.

JT—I understand how 97 is the boundary. What's the rationale for that?

WC—there's no written definition of the boundary. The state writes it. We're just trying to see what the fruit industry is comfortable. They told the AMWG to start the process. This is just the suggestion of

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what we like. You'll get to suggest what you like. We got tired of a group that meets once a year and says—here's your quarantine. Our goal was to have a saying about the quarantine and the map a lot sooner. You'd like to be invited to this meeting to write this map.

JT—The growers have concerns, but there are other with concerns. They can be integrated early enough and if there's a slight change that can help one group and not hurt the other, it's way better to know that early and not have to fight for changes later.

WC—I agree. In our defense, we fought for this—to comb through the data before it became a discussion. Wanted not to include anything except for pest data and ISPMs (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures). That's all we discussed to create this. It can get bogged down pretty fast. Now there's time for plenty of people at the table. The process takes 10 months. Now, the sooner they start reaching out for stakeholder meetings, that's where we can have the discussions. This is just pest data in the apple industry. We fought to have this. Otherwise it'd be the AMWG having its say.

CB—Where do you think they'd have gone with it?

WC—Based on last year's data, probably seen (*quarantine?*) from Riverside going north. I know you're not happy, but I don't know I'd do it differently. We had lots of time to crunch the data.

JT—This confirms that our complaint is still our complaint.

WC—But the process with the WSDA is just beginning. This is the opinion of the apple industry.

KK—But this recommendation was sent to the WSDA and they're going to take it as from the experts. And now secondary parties have to come in and try to change it. We're starting behind the curve.

CB—I see this as the proposal and we're going to have to react to it. I agree that you have to put it on paper, but I don't know if it holds more weight than our response to it.

WC—Usually, the WSDA creates the map. We wanted to get our foot in the door just like they do. This has been on the table from the winter of 2020. It was discussed that we were meeting to look at the data to come up with our proposal. Originally, the proposal was for all of the county.

CB—When it goes to the AMWG, are you part of that group?

KK—No.

WC—There's no organized chart. Anyone who (*inaudible*) is part of that year's group.

CB—Who convenes the meeting? WSDA.

KK—I go to the sub-committee meeting.

CB—There's also the issue of what part of the road. That affects hauling.

Discussion of solid waste hauling, rules for hauling through or out of a quarantine area, whether boundary roads are inside the quarantine area, and how lines are drawn (using roads, county boundaries, etc.)

WC—If anyone wants to read up on how the apple maggot quarantine works, read [ISPM 26](#). You can just google it.

WC leaves.

CB—To JT and KK—we'll save further discussion for another day.

**2:21:00**—LJ shows CB and JN the financial statement for the Methow EMS District. They discuss it and decide that Twisp and Winthrop have made the payments they were required to make.

**2:31:00**—CB—Did you see the opioid agreement? Were Esther Milner's (Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor) changes sent to Grant, Douglas and Chelan counties? I'm ready to approve it. AH is willing to go forward without waiting for the cities.

JN—Who's Danielle Marchant? She did all the changes. Is she Chelan's attorney?

CB—Don't know. Grant County's made some changes, too.

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**2:35:40**—LJ—I'm forwarding a letter of interest for a position on the Planning Commission to you.

**2:41:20**—JN—I don't see anything that really jumps out (in the opioid agreement). I agree with Kevin McCray (Chief Deputy Prosecutor of Chelan County). This is the agreement. They keep saying it can be changed but why add that? If it needs to be changed, we'll need to change it.

CB—Right.

CB—I need to investigate a little about the changes made. If we approve it tomorrow, I'm not sure it's the same version that everyone else has approved.

**2:52:10**—AH returns.

CB—We looked at the opioid agreement. I'm uncertain as to who has agreed to it. Last I heard Commissioner Overbey (of Chelan County) was inclined to approve it whether the cities followed suit or not. We'd go forward as a group of commissioners. I'll talk to him to make sure we're on the same page.

AH—Just to make clear, the money is going in to our fund. We've been paid.

JN—We received some money, but we may have to give it to the group that administers it.

CB—There may be other money we get direct from the AG's Office. We don't have to agree to spend it all together. I can get that squared away and tell you tomorrow.

CB—The apple maggot discussion was good. Will explained what the intent of their map was.

JN—Will's explanation is you can transfer stuff, but if it comes from inside a quarantined area, there are other hoops.

Some discussion of regulations for transporting things in and through quarantined areas.

JN—Lots of fruit gets shipped out of Canada and down Hwy 97.

AH—The financial statement for the Methow EMS looks good? (Looks at the statement)—Oh yes. We're good. The ending balance for May 31 is \$320,000.

Adjourn for lunch at 12:05

**3:05:55**—Executive Session with PP, EM and Tadas Kasilies for 30 minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)—to discuss pending or current litigation.

**3:06:10**—Craig Nelson of the Okanogan Conservation District and four others: Kim Kogler, Grants and Contracts Director; Becky Drenner, Finance Director; Justin Stanley, VSP Coordinator; Emmy Engle, Communications and Outreach Specialist.

CN—There are three things to talk about today: the VSP (Voluntary Stewardship Program), the water bank we're trying to start, and finally, our rates and charges.

CN—On VSP—you guys helped to appoint new members to our working group. We've been going around with the Washington State Conservation Commission. They have a new requirement for a monitoring plan. We have to develop a monitoring plan and have an employee that only does monitoring. That's a heavy lift for our county. Example—What would this person monitor on ag lands during the winter when it's snowy? Snowshoe hare? So they've softened the requirement. They're really pushing monitoring really hard, harder than I think the legislature called for. This is all just FYI. It's an on-going conversation. We're talking to the other VSP counties about this. Chelan County implements it themselves. If someone from Okanogan County wants to be involved, we'd welcome that.

CN—We support the monitoring but want to make sure it answers our questions about are we meeting our plan's goals.

CB—Does the state approve the goals?

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CN—Don't know. They approve the plan but not necessarily the goals.

CN—There are two-year and five-year reports. The five-year report has been major work for the counties.

CB—Getting it done or approved?

CN—Both. There's a clunky database that's hard to use. We've made a 100 page report with no photos. No paragraphs explaining "this is what was done and these are the benefits". The Tech Review Agency didn't think they told the full story. Example: what are Okanogan County farmers doing to protect critical areas? It was hard to learn what if anything was being done.

CB—The reason I asked is because I wonder if they'd be able to tell if everyone was achieving their goals.

CN—The law said the counties *shall* create its goals and benchmarks and the report will say if they met the benchmarks. It doesn't say *how* they have to meet them.

CB—As a Conservation District staff, you know what's going on. You know when someone's not doing what s/he volunteered to do.

CN—Sure. We try to stay on people's good side. They see what their neighbors are doing and they ask how they can learn it. So the neighbor refers them to us.

CN—So, along with that, we're waiting for the budget to be finalized. They're allowing other counties that didn't enroll originally in VSP to enroll now, and that affects how much money the counties get.

JN—The top eight counties that got funding from the state, six of them aren't enrolled in VSP. Someone was going to talk to the Lands Commissioner about it.

Justin—I think three or four counties were looking to opt in to the VSP.

CN—The amount of money available isn't huge--\$2-300,000 per biennium, but it's useful.

CB—There has to be a reminder that before they were going to be regulated if they didn't opt in.

CN—We'll be back later to talk about renewing the Interlocal agreement.

Justin—And it looks like they want the monitoring plan turned in by next July.

**3:19:35**—CN—Moving on the Water Bank. We signed a grant agreement with the Department of Ecology (DOE). It took 10-11 months. We've got funding now to acquire our first water right. It's in the upper Methow Valley. We're now working with the BOCC to get an Interlocal agreement about how we'll interact. The first water right is in AH's district, so maybe it's better if CB or JN work on it until it's ready to be made public.

CB—Do you have a template?

CN—We did, but now we're working with Aspect, a consulting firm, to help us operate a water bank.

CB—What are the main tenants of an agreement?

CN—Who's the point of contract for the bank? Who will do the annual reporting to Ecology? Report of what water rights we're holding, how we've disbursed them—in part or in whole.

CB—The dispersion can be a fee simple thing?

CN—It can be either/or. We want to set it up with options as wide as possible.

CB—Primarily agricultural?

CN—The district will require ag for ag. But there's other uses. Potential for conversion. There's municipal demands. In my mind, those would be run by the county. We would have the responsibility for holding the water, and if you guys have the need for single family domestic use or a class A system, they'd come to you to get a permit. We'd issue the certification of water to the county. I don't understand it real well and I'm relying on Aspect to get it into writing so it's all very clearly spelled out.

CB—The city of Oroville runs a water bank. They established a water system and bought a water right and sell connections to it. It was made available through a developer. When the recession came along, they couldn't do the development and the city picked up the water right.



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CN—My understanding is that the county has to have a water code. The DOE staff said they can help pay to develop the water code. The code would detail how people would access from the bank on your side of things.

CB—It would have to jibe with the Comprehensive Plan with respect to growth. That was part of the reason Oroville was able to do it.

CN—The WRIA plan may be in there, too.

CN—Ecology still holds some of the water rights of the 600 acre/feet they had.

CN—So we're hoping to start monthly meetings with at least one of you and have the agreement done by this fall. Hoping to be in agreement with the water right holder in the Methow by that time.

JN—The Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District (OTID) leases water.

CN—Realistically, that's probably go that way with ag water. 10 or 15 year leases. The good thing about it is, if I lease water to you and for whatever reason, you stop using it, it comes back to the bank. It's doesn't leave the basin.

CN—So who should I contact?

CB—I volunteer.

JN—I'll let you volunteer.

CB—I've done three projects with CN.

**3:35:25**—CN—Our next item is our rates and charges. Our rates were approved by the BOCC and they're good until 2026. It's 5¢/acre/year and \$2.56/parcel/year. It's on everything but federal or tribal land. Brings in about \$145,000 per year and it isn't enough. We use it to pay staff to write grant applications. Also vehicles to go meet our land owners.

CB—Are the cities & towns in the district?

CN—Not all. We'd like them all to be in the district. If they annex in, our income will increase by \$10,000 to \$15,000 total. But our costs have gone up. Insurance, etc.

Becky—Including PageFreezer for archiving our records which we have to have to be a fiscally responsible organization. We need SmartSheet to manage the grant money we've got coming in. There are other computer costs, phone costs, etc. and hardly any of it can be charged to a grant.

CN—So we want to let you know we may request an increase. The maximum we can charge is \$5.00/parcel/year and 10¢/acre/year.

Becky—Craig said we'll get \$5,000 if we annex Omak, but the chipping event we had there cost \$8,000. The only way we can get saving is from rates and charges. We can't charge it to a grant.

CN—Donations to us is like donating to a 501(3)(c). Or people can donate land.

CB—Chipping is good for lots of reasons and it's good if people know who's holding the chipping event.

CN—That's what Emmy is for—communications and outreach—so people will know what we do.

CB—The assessor told people in ~2005, the first year we were on the property tax bill, to call us instead of him if they didn't like our charge. I got only three calls and I made them all happy when I told them what we did.

**3:46:20**—CN—Two more items real quick.

CN—City annexation. I talked about Omak and we'll talk to other towns: Riverside, Oroville, Tonasket, Twisp, Brewster, and Pateros aren't in the Conservation District.

CN—And we have a vacant supervisor position. Albert Roberts who served 25 years on the board recently passed away. It's an elected position. The term expires next spring. We've got five positions on the Board—three are elected and two appointed by the Washington Conservation Commission.

CB—Will you name an award after Albert?

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CN—We're thinking about it. His Celebration of Life is this Saturday and we'll talk to Carrie after that. He had a profound impact on the Board. He was really interested in making good public policy and as local and grassroots as possible.

CN—Thanks for your time.

**3:57:50**—CB—Commissioner Hover won't be back today, so let's start.

LH—Just a couple of things to cover today.

LH—Office staffing—The field tech I hired in March decided she didn't want to work there anymore. I never got any applications for our seasonal positions. Usually we get a few.

LH—I discussed it with the Weed Board at our May meeting. They want me to get a supplemental for a change in staffing. Cari (Hall, County Auditor) says I need to come to you for your approval. It's within the budget. Just moving the money around. Eliminate the two 8-month seasonal positions. Cut one down to 4 months. (Still hoping someone will apply.) Sending the extra money to cover a full time position through the end of the year. The carryover will help pay for a full-time position next year.

CB—The theory is you'll be more likely to have someone full-time?

LH—And if someone decides to leave down the road, it'll hurt less because we'll still have someone.

LH—So my ask is to get permission to go through the supplemental process to cover that staffing.

CB & JN—Fine with us. We'll wait until we hear it's done.

LH—Cari will send it over to you shortly.

LH—Also, with the shortage of staff, we've changed the office hours. I asked the Weed Board and they said to close the office for a couple of days a week. We'll still respond to emails and messages. We'll be open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Those are our busiest days. That way we can still get out in the field. I'll send an email to all our users, radio and newspaper ads and post it on our web site and the front door.

CB—Have you ever been on Openline (Radio KOMW)? Are you interested in being on it?

LH—Maybe.

CB—Maybe you could accompany me. Sometimes when I have a spot, I'll bring someone else with me. Brian Bowes is really good at drawing out information for the public to know. It's good for an organization and a lot of people listen to it.

LH—Well, I'm not opposed to it.

**4:03:10**—LH—The good news today—The Osoyoos Lake Management District. Canada has approved procellacor for use. I've also got the blessing from the DOE so I can treat the buffer area on the lake. I'll do a survey up there. I'll take the people hired to do the spraying and see everywhere that needs to be sprayed. Then treat it during the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of July. I'm telling the Canadians about our plan so they're not broadsided by it.

LH—Last week our newsletter went out and all the land owners should have received it and know all about the plan.

LH—That's about all I've got.

CB—How are you doing with the vendors?

LH—(sigh)—Still not great. I get calls from people who say—I called the people on your list but they're all too busy. Any questions?

JN—You answered by procellacor questions, and I don't have any others.

LH—Thanks. LH leaves.

CB—There's no executive session because we already had it. Any other business?

LJ—I've got an appointment letter for Justin Delfino for Television Reception District 1, to fill Position 1. It would be effective immediately and expire Dec. 31, 2023.

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LJ—I've got a resume. The appointment can be done today or tomorrow or whenever.

JN—I move to appoint Justin Delfino to Television District 1. Motion passes.

LJ—Also, I'm inundated with the final details of the surplus auction. I'm working with Cari for items without titles. One vehicle sold and the buyer wants to pick it up tomorrow.

CB—Are the items put there all at once?

LJ—No. The items we knew all the information about went up first.

LJ—I can't keep up with the questions. This is a really good way to learn how an electronic auction works. There are a lot of things we need to work out with the departments providing the items.

CB—Within the law, can we put anything up?

LJ—If it's been surplused, yes. If we do it again, we might do a smaller amount of things throughout the year rather than do it all at once.

CB—Yes. With vehicles that sit around for a while, the battery goes dead and the tires go flat.

JN—Maybe better to do it quarterly or every six months.

LJ—The majority of the vehicles were from the previous Sheriff's administration, so there's a lot of stuff they don't know about them.

LJ discusses other problems with getting information on surplused items so she's able to answer phone questions and dealing with vehicles without titles.

CB—We're in here at 8:15 tomorrow morning.

JN—I was reading about the Debt Ceiling Bill. They took \$30 Billion out of assistance money but they don't say where.

CB—I wonder if they took it out of LATCF. I hope not. It makes you nervous.

Adjourn at 3:30