

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
Monday, January 11, 2021 PM

JD—Jim DeTro  
AH—Andy Hover  
CB—Chris Branch  
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners  
PP—Pete Palmer—County Planner  
RH-D—Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director, Economic Alliance  
JL—James Lightfoot, CEO, ACRS 2000  
MW—Mike Worden, Okanogan County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center

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/Commissioners/Minutes%202014/March%204,%202014.htm>

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> To locate items in real time, the clock on the wall in the AV Capture screen can be helpful.

***Summary of significant discussions:***

***PP gives the timeline for finishing the Comprehensive Plan. Discussion of a grant opportunity for the Methow Valley Watershed Council, but the deadline is fast approaching. Commissioners discuss pros and cons of adding recreational trail information to the county's road atlas.***

***Commissioners hear a presentation by a consultant, James Lightfoot, about feasibility of broadband service in the County.***

***Commissioners hear which bid was selected as the consultant for the radio network improvements. They authorize Mike Worden to begin negotiations with ADCOMM Engineering.***

**2:09:30**—PP begins Planning update by giving the Comp Plan time line. **December 21** was the kickoff for the 60 day review with the Department of Commerce. We've received comments from two agencies. The DOE's concerned the critical areas ordinance (just technical things) and the Federal Highway Administration asked about timelines and how to do input concerning alternatives and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the transportation element. **January 22** we hope to have the addendum completed. I'm starting on it now. **January 27** we hope to have it out to the newspapers to trigger the 2 week comment period, which will close **February 10**. On **February 22**, we'll have the public hearing with the Planning Commission. Then we'll spend 45 days hammering out the comments received during the first process in 2019 and this process. We've got 80+ comments from the first process so far. Then we'll forward the recommendation from the Planning Commission to the BOCC for your approval. We hope to have it all done by **April 22**.

CB—The Planning Commission will have an alternative submission?

PP—Can't really speak to that. Unless there are significant differences, I don't see the alternatives changing.

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PP—We received reimbursement for the Methow toilet on Dec. 30. \$23,917 put back into General Fund.

**2:13:30**—PP—Watershed grant. CB alerted me to it, but the application is due in three weeks. It's \$100,000 for a two year grant, so \$50,000 per year. The Bureau of Reclamation offers it. Angela thought WRIA 48 would be a good fit, and maybe even WRIA 49.

AH—That's good because the DOE doesn't have much money to give.

PP—My first priority is the Comprehensive Plan, but if you direct us to, well apply for this grant.

**2:15:40**—CB—If you can hold on for just a little bit, we had an executive session to review the candidates for Prosecutor and now we've got a decision to made.

AH—Move to offer the job to Ms. Melanie Bailey. Motion passes 3-0.

**2:17:30**—Back to the planning grant. AH—WRIA 48 is sort of stalled. I prefer a Watershed Plan update. We did it for WRIA 49 so we know how to do it.

CB—A facilitated plan update. The grant would include a facilitator.

AH—WRIA 48 writes grants all the time. What if they did the application for this one?

PP—That's good, but I'm sure the county could administer the grant.

CB—What about the Watershed Foundation?

AH—I'd prefer the County be involved.

Discussion of aspects of who should administer the grant.

AH—to PP—Sarah is the administrator for the Watershed Council. If you could forward that grant application to her. We'd stipulate that it has to be for a watershed plan update for WRIA 48.

AH—I'll send PP a list of people on the Watershed Council, so if you send the application to Sarah but cc all the others,

**2:35:20**—PP—Senior Planner position and the 2020-21 budget process. When I submitted the work for the Senior Planner promotion, I put her in Grade 25, Step 4. When we did the budget resolution, I didn't notice that HR had changed her from a 4 to a 3. If she gets the promotion, we'd be approximately \$2,300 short in the budget, but I think we can make this up in our own budget without more money. The reason for the upgrade is her education, the complexity of her work with the watershed planning and conservation. I didn't notice the change in the final budget and now I'm trying to figure out how to straighten it out. So I'm asking for a new resolution.

AH—Would you go get Tanya (Craig) to make sure we're doing this correctly. So you asked for her to be a Grade 25, Step 4 and there's a \$2,305 difference in the budget?

PP—Explains the situation to Tanya.

AH—Because of how this happened, it's better to amend the resolution we have than to rescind the old one and pass a new one. The original intent was for her to be in step 4. What was the original resolution?

PP—172-2020.

**2:43:50**—PP—I received a proposal from Robin at the Eden Valley Guest Ranch (*in Oroville*). She proposes that the county use the hotel/motel tax to redraft the road atlas to include all trails, trail heads and parking. I talked to the GIS people. The road atlas was created in 2003 for use by emergency personnel to get them where they needed to go. It's become obsolete because of Google Maps, etc. that first responders use in their vehicles. Since the program they used to create the road atlas is obsolete, Ted in GIS said he'd have to add 50,000 points by hand to the atlas to update it. We agreed that what she wanted to do should be a recreational document by itself.

AH—I could bring this up with Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC).

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PP—We want to make sure the road atlas stays separate from trails, trailheads, etc. because it was created for use by emergency personnel Maybe have one pamphlet for each trail.

LJ—I think LTAC money already pays for recreation maps.

PP—Can I just refer Robin to a website?

CB—She knows where it is.

LJ—Robin is more interested in a paper version that she can just hand to people.

CB—As background, you know how trailheads are marked on state transportation maps. Lots of people bought the road atlas for hunting, tourism, etc. We could check with Public Works because they've got GIS capabilities and they've got roads marked with ATV stuff. It might be a good idea to integrate the road atlas with ATV information.

PP—Ted says we had a ATV booklet that showed all the routes, but they change so frequently and he couldn't keep up.

CB—Can we continue this conversation with Josh (Thomson, County Engineer for Roads)?

AH—Also talk to Robin to see exactly what she wants on the map. Marking trailheads is different than marking maps.

CB—The road atlas is good to find out “whose road is this?” Hunters use it a lot. Not intending to turn it into a recreation map.

PP—I'll talk to Robin.

AH—Here's the difference in what I see. The road atlas looks just like a gazetteer, and other maps have a lot more information. Look at the maps of the commissioners' districts. You can overlay fire districts, fire history, public lands, geology, contours, etc.

**2:57:20**—PP—I need your signatures for the 5.5 hours I worked In December in VSP. Also I'd like permission to buy a new printer for large mailings. We're now using the one in Central Services and it's a dinosaur. The money's in the budget. We'd like to get all our printers on a Xerox contract. So it would cost \$584 plus a\$10 monthly fee which includes toner, maintenance, etc.

AH—Move to authorize the contract between Okanogan County Planning Department and Office Tech. Passes 3-0.

PP—Here's a heads up. Tomorrow I'd like an executive session to discuss a legal issue concerning Ordinance 2020-6 and the work plan associated with it. 30 minutes. David Gecas will be there.

PP—Another update. I received a 911 address appeal. They're decided by the file record and by the county commissioners. I'll try to have that on the agenda on Jan 19 (because Jan 18 is a holiday), a Tuesday staff meeting day.

AH—So is that a quasi-judicial matter?

PP—I'm saying it's not. It's different and this is the only that that goes directly to the commissioners.

AH—Can you check that?

PP—Will do.

PP leaves.

Commissioners discuss WATV routes.

AH—There are lots of routes out there, but the Forest Service has to figure it out.

AH—We could have Josh bring in the roads we haven't done yet.

LJ sets up a projector to replace the regular projector which doesn't work. Finally, everything gets worked out and the Community Economic Revitalization Board's (CERB) presentation of the report on broadband begins.

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**3:22:40**—R-HD—This is a presentation about the Okanogan County and Colville Confederated Tribes Broadband Planning Feasibility Study. (Note: the study does not include the Methow Valley.)

RH-D—Here's the team that worked on this project: John McDonald of the Okanogan PUD, Kayla Wells of WSU Extension, Kellie who helped facilitate the meetings and Matt Pleasant, a planner for the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT).

RH-D—Last January we hired a consultant James Lightfoot, of ARCS to work on the study. We've been working on this for a year. COVID meant we couldn't have any community meetings, but it all worked out pretty well.

JL—We've enjoyed working on this project. Our report is 300+ pages. Let me introduce my team. Lily Shangreaux is Contracts Administrator. Brandy Schwarzenegger (sp?) is in the Mapping Department. Steve and Cassandra helped with the engineering component. I've put together a somewhat short PowerPoint presentation and I'll just dive right in.

Slide 1. Title page: Okanogan County and Colville Confederated Tribes Broadband Planning Feasibility Study. Does Not Include the Methow Valley.

Slide 2. Scope. The scope was determined by the funding mechanism.

Slide 3. Table of Contents.

Slide 4. Executive Summary

Slide 5. Executive Summary: Surveys

Slide 6. Executive Summary: Needs and Issues.

Slide 7. Executive Summary: Proposed service areas. 18 different areas

Slide 8. Maps of the 18 areas.

Slide 9. Executive Summary: Funding Opportunities, Service Area Priorities and Partnerships

Slide 10. Conceptual Plan

Slide 11. Diagram of the conceptual plan

Slide 12. Cost Estimates. (for the entire 18 areas—\$41,790,000; 12 PUD service areas--\$36,990,000; 12 PUD areas less Conconully and Oroville-- \$29,410,000; 6 CCT areas--\$4,550,000)

Slide 13. Subscriber Forecast (Each service area has a different predictability rate.)

Slide 14. Financial Pro Forma (Five forecasts based on four different cost estimates.)

Slide 15. Summary. We need to utilize partnership opportunities between the PUD and the tribes. And we need to continue to look at different funding opportunities—grant dollars. Implementing the network is going to have to be done in phases. It's difficult to find one big pot of money to fund all of the areas. And some of these areas wouldn't qualify for Rural Utility Services grants. We're looking for a trickle effect to the economy. Not trying to make a profit.

RH-D—Any questions for James and the team? Also, I should have said at the beginning that this feasibility study wouldn't have been possible without the county stepping up and being the applicant for the Community Economic Revitalization Board grant we applied for. The tribe contributed 50% of the match and then some of the .09 funds were used for the match, too. So we thank the commissioners for allowing us to do that. I've spoken of partnering with the North Central Washington Economic Development District to apply for Economic Development CARES grant money to continue the process and apply for the grants.

CB—There's quite an opportunity to break this project into pieces. They'll be grant opportunities of \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 and the deadline is in two weeks. Is there a prioritized list of areas? Do you see private companies contributing in any way?

JL—You're right. There's not much time to apply for a grant. There's an annual grant program that will come around again in approximately 10 months and we've got to be ready for that. Have a game plan to know which areas we'll apply for.

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RH-D—I'll add that some of us recently met with NCWEconDist and other PUDs in the region. Russ Elliott, Director, Washington State Broadband Office, presented an opportunity. He knows there will be upcoming federal stimulus packages. We need shovel-ready projects. We told him the study said the cost would be >\$41,000,000 and Methow costs would be >\$60,000,000 and he didn't even blink an eye. He needs shovel-ready projects on his desk right now just in case some funding becomes available. By this Friday, we'll have the list all ready. One challenge in this county—one provider misrepresented wireless speeds that his company offers, and that eliminates us from some grant programs. So now we have the opportunity to challenge that data. Russ knows about this issue.

CB—That's disappointing.

RH-D—It is. But it's not unusual for service providers to do this to try to stave off the competition.

RH-D—We're way ahead of other counties. We're going to submit all 18 areas, all shovel-ready. We'll be prepared.

CB—Great. If there's anything you need us to do, just let us know.

RH-D—We need that letter signed. I think AH's signature is missing.

**4:04:55**—MW with Okanogan County Sheriff's Dispatch Center. We put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to assist with assessment and design of radio network improvements. We opened the four bids on Dec. 8. Four people, MW, CB, Walt Stover, Radio Tech, and Misty Ruiz of Brewster looked at the bids individually and came to similar assessments.

CB—And I didn't hear anybody looking at the numbers.

MW—We all recommend ADCOMM Engineering of Woodinville.

AH—How much?

MW—Their price was \$860,000. It was the highest, but had the least opportunity of numbers increase. I'm not asking the BOCC to approve this number, but I'm asking permission to engage in negotiations with them.

AH—Move to have MW negotiate with ADCOMM. Motion passes 3-0.

MW—Great. I'll tell the other three bidders.

MW—Two more items. First, the court house generator has been ordered and now we need electrical hookup. I used the small works roster and received one bid from Beckstead Electric, Inc. in Wenatchee. \$46,860 plus tax.

CB—Small works roster bids?

MW—Yes.

AH—Move to choose Beckstead to do the work. Motion passes 3-0.

AH—One last question. It's not going to go over \$300,000, is it? Because it's all one public work.

MW—Should be around \$150,000.

MW—Finally, we need to engage with the legislature about getting funding for some projects: both the consultant and the potential of adding the concrete building in Tunk to replace the log cabin. Hoping to talk to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> LD folks to help us. They've heard from cities but not the county.

CB—We can call them anytime.

AH—Can you do an information sheet on how this effects the fire situation?

CB—Did one.

AH—Let's send it as an attachment to an email.

MW—Okanogan County of Governments (OCOG) wrote its own letter of support.

AH—Can you draft a letter to go to legislators that we could send? Letter to say this is what we're doing and look for help in continuing this important work.

MW—That's all for me.

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**4:16:45**—Commissioners discuss various short topics. Capital Improvement Plan, Capital Facilities Plan Pest Control Board meeting, Superior Court’s budget. Much of it is too faint to hear well.

LJ—Several things you need to do before you leave today.

1. Field text edition for noxious weeds. You’ve approved the changes to the text but not the resolution. We can process that tomorrow.
2. Each commissioner needs to decide how they want to be reimbursed for travel: Monthly, mileage or rental car. AH & JD choose monthly. CB chooses mileage.

AH--Move to approve Resolution 6-2021 to appoint Melanie Bailey prosecutor, but not acting prosecutor. (Much back and forth concerning correct wording of the resolution and whether or not to cite the RCW.)

Commissioners approve vouchers for Methow Valley EMS district, along with several others.

Adjourn until tomorrow at 9:00.