

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners

Tuesday, March 3, 2021 AM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC chair, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, District 2
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
JP—Joe Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor
NP—Naomi Peasy, Fairgrounds Events Coordinator
LH—Larry Hudson, Noxious Weeds
TC—Tanya Craig, Risk Management, Human Resources
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management
DR—Dennis Rabidou, Juvenile Court
CC—Chris Culp, Superior Court Judge
JT—Josh Thomson, Roads
KK—Kent Kovalenko, Solid Waste Management

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:

21:20 Maurice Goodall updates the commissioners on the potential for floods this spring. He also notes that the county hopes to provide Covid vaccine at the Fairgrounds each Friday.

49:40 Larry Hudson, of the Noxious Weed Board, would like to create a new position.

55:20 Josh Thomson, County Engineer, updates the Commissioners on several topics including the plans to monitor the decibel level at the new gravel pit, both before and during crushing.

00:00—Commissioners, JP and NP discuss a small office needed for Rodeo staff. A portable shed would be adequate. It's possible the shop in Brewster could build it without labor cost, but they would have to be provided with the lumber. They decide to get materials cost and then decide.

They also discuss other facilities, and AH's meeting on Friday concerning fairgrounds maintenance.

10:10—NP—Discussion about an auction at the fairgrounds. In-person auction vs. on-line auction. Campbell will conduct the auction and now they need to decide on a date and location. Also, arrangements with maintenance need to be made. They'll have to move a lot of things and that will take time.

NP—one final thing. What about the contracts?

AH—Tanya and Dave (Gecas, attorney for the county) have seen the contracts. Contracts with all entertainers will have to be resent, using the Office of Financial Management (OFM) amount of \$96 per night for lodging.

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20:10—Executive Session with Dave Gecas, to discuss pending or on-going litigation. 10 minutes.

21:20—MG—Was asked last week about the run-off (of snow melt). Snow is 120-130% above normal. Cooler temperatures are predicted for the next two months. It's all speculation. County has lots of sand bags. Conconully Lake is filling normally. Boise has much different estimates. MG ask about that.

MG—Covid vaccine is going very well. Trying to do vaccination every Friday. Rain can cause complications. Maybe we can get gravel on the road to help if there's rain. AH—Public Works can help.

MG—We're working with them.

MG—Public Health has purchased another module from Everbridge (communications services for notifications of emergencies).

AH—I got a phone call from pharmacist in Chicago wanting to know if I thought pharmacies are a good place for vaccination. Told him not in Okanogan County. We've probably got more hospitals than pharmacies. So I want to say Okanogan County is doing a real good job coordinating this.

MG—Anything else? AH—Just check with guys in Boise about how they're getting their estimate.

MG and CB discuss culverts and flooding.

39:00—Tanya Craig explains the agreement with Tonasket and the USDA concerning two law enforcement vehicles the Sheriff's Office will get from the USDA. It doesn't put the county on the hook for any money unless they if they surplus the vehicle before it's depreciated. It's the first item on the afternoon's Consent Agenda.

TC—We're working on negotiations with commissioned and non-commissioned.

AH—We probably should have executive session to discuss union negotiations. 10 minutes.

49:40—Larry Hudson, Manager of the Noxious Weed Board, discusses the need for a new position in the office. Lead Field Technician. We used to have a Lead Inspector position, which was a step above Inspector but lower than Assistant Manager or Field Supervisor position. So that's basically what the Lead Inspector position would be. 4 years ago, reevaluated current positions at the weed office and moved them up a couple of grades to reflect salary range for the responsibilities. New position would fall as Grade 25, Step 1. Hope to hire two new Lead Field Techs and spread out the responsibility that would fall on the Asst. Manager. One in charge of Forest Service programs and some of state and federal partners. One would be running on private side and aquatic side of things. Building up responsibilities before one person becomes Asst. Manager. Lead Techs each would have one full-time Field Inspector under them, and currently thought out maybe three seasonal employees for about eight months and they would be bounced back and forth between them. Looking to drop the Asst. Manager right now. Don't think I can find someone with qualifications. If I start a couple of Lead Inspectors, maybe three years down the road, one will be ready for Asst. Manager. Then I could defund one of the Lead Tech positions. CB—This is good because you'll have someone training for the Asst. Manager position.

(At this time, a zoom bomber joined the meeting and disrupted it. LJ removed him, but inadvertently also removed the note taker. Several minutes elapsed before the note taker was able to rejoin. During the lapse, the commissioners had a discussion with Dennis Rabidou and Judge Culp that is not included in these notes.)

55:20—Bid opening for the Soil Stabilizer contract.

CB—Two bids. One from EnviroTech Services and the other from GMCO Corp.

EnviroTech—Checking to see if the required documents accompany the bid. \$147,396.90

GMCO Corp. (was Roadwise) Checking for required documents. \$143,245.88

CB—We'll review the bids. Apparent low bid is GMCO.

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AH—What about the gravel crushing? It's not on your agenda.

JT—I'll discuss it now if you'd like.

JT—Contractor cleared up the road. Crusher will be there in a week & a half or two weeks. Schedule has 20-25 days of crushing. Within time frames we talked about.

AH—Because we had lots of comments from people, I asked Josh if he could get a decibel meter and see what it registers while it's crushing. Take photos, etc.

JT—we're looking to buy one. We'll do cleanup work after the snow melts.

Second Bid—Liquid Asphalt

CB—Two bids. Ergon and another bidder.

Ergon Asphalt—checking for required documents. \$1,127,375.18

Unnamed bidder (Webster?)—check for required docs. \$1,151,357.59

Ergon Asphalt is apparent low bidder. About 150 over the estimate.

CB—we'll review the bids and get back to you.

1:11:25—AH—Back to crushing. Property is almost 600 acres. What is policy for public on county property.

JT—It's our property, so it's as we sign it. We can put what restrictions we want with signs.

AH—we need a policy for that property outside of the actual pit area. Not against the public being able to use it. The RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) was bothered by the fact that there was a pit. But it's not incompatible with deer. There are lots of pits with deer around and in them.

JT—When there's crushing going on, we'd like to keep the gate closed for safety and security. When we get a fence at the top, we could change. Some people go there to shoot.

AH—I'm not all for that. Liability issues. Hunting could be different. We should discuss. Deer hunting with high powered rifle.

JT—The use we see the most is people walking.

CB—we want to remember that if we're going to make a rule, we need to enforce it.

AH—Maybe we make a safety zone. I like the thought of no shooting outside of hunting.

JT—As for the decibel meter, we were going to get a reading before crushing, as well as during crushing.

AH—I think cars going through Methow will make more noise, but I want to be sure we can back that claim up.

CB—State may have noise requirements.

JT—And we'll put the soil to make a berm acting as a sound barrier.

JT—Crush 20-25 days and then 8-10 years of removing gravel, but no crushing.

1:21:35—KK—Will apply for a DOE cleanup grant. \$10,000.

CB—Who will do the work?

KK—Reach out to cities, DNR can participate as well. Regional approach. Possibly hire two AmeriCorp or Ecology Corp people. Clean up illegal dumpsites.

KK—DOE gave us another grant, \$10,000, for disposal of green waste. Split between two events. In Twisp and (?). In April.

1:27:25—KK—Apple maggot conference call tomorrow.

AH—Anybody want to be on the call? I'll do it.

KK—No apple growers so far have requested quarantine (?)

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1:31:20—KK—Discussion of buying a new water truck. Issues include specs for the truck and how bidding process would work. Sole source justification. JD recommends not buying one with a drive line driven water pump. Direct transmission pump mount is much better, especially in a fire.

1:43:25—JT—Several issues.

*Building permit dependent on building a sand filter.

*Lots of sweeping of roads down low, and pushing snow back in higher elevations.

*Webinar about FEMA finding for fires

*Chip seal schedule in areas 1, 2 & 4. Increase traffic in Methow Valley means need for extra flagging crew. Request two additional employees for the summer.

*Old 97 project waiting for an award by Thursday. Hope to start construction by April

*Guard rail safety project will start April 15.

*Moving through design process for bridge in Nespelem. Hope to start in August.

Emails yesterday updated list of possible state funded project. AH—I think we should send Highway 20 and (?) bridges to go on the list. Especially the bridges. Mike Warden called to see if we should submit these. It's a board decision, but I haven't seen him on the agenda. List is due by March 15. LJ—He's scheduled next week. AH—Paul Ward, who works for Tribal Intergovernmental Fisheries Program, wants federal money to continue pinniped removal below the dams. Super important for fish runs.

*Pateros road with new developments, increased traffic and needs lots of plowing.

*Only one item on Consent Agenda this week.

*AH—neighbor brought up need for parking along Wolf Creek Rd. Because of trail system. Also lots of people using the end of the plowed part of the road as a trail head. Interest in talking to Methow Trails and the state to make a parking lot. Parking in single file along the road, some in driveways. CB mentions a similar situation near Brewster.

Adjourn for lunch.