

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, April 19, 2021 AM and PM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, chair, District 2 (absent during the morning session)
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
AC—Aaron Culp, Undersheriff
JT—Jenn Tate, Okanogan County Tourism Council
ML—Mat Lyons, Director, TREAD Map
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning and Development
AHub—Angie Hubbard, Planning Department
TM—Todd McDaniel, City Manager, Omak
CN—Craig Nelson, District Manager, Okanogan Conservation District
JO—Jay O'Brien

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:

(First AV Capture tape, beginning at 9:00 AM)

20:00 Aaron Culp asks for approval to buy a replacement used truck to be used to collect food donations.

*60:00 Commissioners discuss purchasing a .37 acre property in Mazama that the DOT will sell to them.
(Second AV Capture tape, beginning at 10:27 AM)*

28:00 Commissioners hear a presentation about TREAD Maps, a trail use app used by recreationalists land managers both. The commissioners support the program which is supposed to go live in Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Kittitas counties by Memorial Day.

1:33:30—Discussion of WRIA49 Planning and Conservation District—it's scope, duties and composition. After a long discussion, it's agreed that the planning unit will be constituted much like the Watershed Council in WRIA48, with three representatives from instituting governments and six citizens representing geographic areas or at-large.

00:25—Changes to the agenda. CB has an appointment at 4:00 PM. Discussion about who will attend the WRIA 49 discussion. Short discussion about a facility for spaying and neutering animals funded by the American Recovery Plan. CB proposes making a list of an active list of ideas and proposals that come in. AH agrees. County could use it to track any revenue lost due to Covid.

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07:45—CB—Thinking about that building. (County Courthouse renovation)

AH--Remodel alone was at \$11,000,000. Doesn't include 10% contingency or any project costs. Information from Tanya Craig on March30, 2021.

20:00—AC recommends approval to purchase a used vehicle to be used to collect food donations. He got five bids and recommends the 1 ton flat-bed pick-up with diesel and a crew cab. \$36,800 available from Alpine Motors in Sand Point, Idaho. \$6,800 more than was authorized so needs a budget supplemental. Some discussion about moving money from one budget to another. Commissioners approve the bid award.

60:00—Discussion of draft resolution 47-2021 Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant for Mazama Bridge Habitat acquisition.

AH—It's in a wetlands, severe channel migration. Hard to build on. Size is approximately .37 acres, depending on where the high water mark is. Reason we're doing this is because the DOT can sell directly to us, because we're a government entity, without going through an auction.

CB—Probably not very buildable.

AH—Jason Paulsen, of the Methow Conservancy, is doing the leg work for us. He's making application to the RCO hoping it would rank. \$167,000 appraised value.

CB—I'm curious why the DOT wouldn't keep it because it's so close to a bridge.

AH—But it's not a state road.

(continued on 2nd AV Capture recording)

12:15—CB—He makes application, which doesn't cost us anything.

AH—And if they say yes, we can look for the 15% from other sources.

CB—And we can reserve the right to negotiate with DOT. I'd negotiate with them to give us the property. There's little they can do with it and they can turn it over to us to protect.

CB—The resolution needs to be reworked. Possible to do it be the end of the day.

LJ and commissioners discuss how to rewrite the resolution.

28:00—Presentation of the statewide tourism TREAD Map by Mat Lyons of TREAD and Jenn Tate of the Okanogan County Tourism Council (OCTC).

JT—Okanogan County is in the Trails and Lakes Region of Washington, which goes from Ellensburg up to Okanogan County. Includes Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas and Okanogan counties. At a planning session two months ago, ML, from Wenatchee, talked about his project and everyone was interested. Washington State Tourism wants to co-sponsor a pilot project here in this region and stretching state-wide as well. I presented the idea to the OCTC and they wanted the BOCC to learn about it as quickly as possible. So, here's Mat...

ML—I'm executive director of TREAD—Trails, Recreation, Education, Advocacy and Development. In 2014 we formed a group to become the space between land managers, such as municipalities, and organized outdoor recreation groups.

ML—A couple of years ago, I met an app developer and we ended up with TREAD Map. It's taken off locally since we launched last July. We'd like to have the whole Trails and Lakes region included by Memorial Day. You can get to the TREAD Map from here: <https://www.tread-cw.com/>

ML gives description of how the map will work. Demonstrates on his phone. Because land managers have control over the maps, we only include legitimate trails. Ranked by difficulty. Real time conditions, such as a downed tree on the trail, can be added by users. Since some trails were so heavily used because of Covid, land managers will have the ability to add information such as "This trail is usually very

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crowded. We recommend you try these other trails nearby.” Users can do a video about how to find the trail head from the parking lot.

CB—When it comes to updating the info, does TREAD play a role in seeing the land managers do their part?

ML—It’s TREAD’s job to train the land managers how to do their part. It’s not hard at all.

ML continues to explain the map to the commissioners.

CB—Is AllTrails.com a Forest Service site?

JT—No. It’s a for-profit site.

CB—Your app would be good for someone to post that there’s a motorcycle race on a trail, so avoid it if you’re a hiker.

ML—Land managers can approve/disapprove comments people post.

ML—Heat mapping to show which trails are crowded or not—color coded.

ML—Two people can be “friends” and then you can see where the other person is.

JT—One of the things that impressed to the Washington Tourism Alliance is that Mat & TREAD has been able to get the land managers together and got them to use it and update it. I know personally working with the National Forests and different organizations that it can be difficult to get this done.

CB—I can see why people got excited.

AH—So what’s the county’s role in what you’re asking?

ML—Depends. If each county in the Lakes and Trails Region signs on, there’s a match of \$30,000 for each of the five counties. So it’s us to county or groups within the county to decide how to get the \$30,000. Maybe Chamber of Commerce, maybe Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) money.

AH—Another question re: land managers. A lot of our trails are on private property. How does that work with multiple agencies?

ML—Whoever is the land manager. Ex: PUD is in control of the trails on their lands. Or if Methow Trails has permission from private land owners, they can be the land manager for those trails. Mountain Bike Alliance has taken control of trails on Forest Service lands with Forest Service permission.

CB—Short time frame to get the money. Discusses funding options with JT.

CB asks other commissioners if they think this is a good idea and project.

AH—I think so. Good use of LTAC money, but I have to look at the RCWs. But I need to see a formal proposal of what we’d get for the money we’re spending.

JT—A letter from Washington Tourism should also be included, to show it’s a state-wide program. They’re underwriting half of the cost for the five counties.

CB—Can you meet the Memorial Day deadline?

ML—We’ve got a commitment from Douglas, Chelan, and Kittitas County. Introducing it to Grant County. Knew the timeline was so tight, that WTA committed to \$300,000 for us to move ahead. We’ll be able to meet the deadline. As far as money from the counties goes, the commitments are holding up, so however long it takes to come up with the \$30,000, that’s a risk we’re willing to take. Verbal commitments now are OK.

CB—Thinking outside LTAC dollars, there’s a lot of Covid-related issues to outdoor recreation.

ML—Also infrastructure. This is signage in your pocket. Safety issues. Lots of different pots of money that could be used to fund this.

AH—Can you send us a digital project description that I can send to the LTAC members? I like the Covid idea, but we’ve got lots of LTAC money.

Discussion about how to apply for the LTAC money.

1:33:30—Discussion of WRIA49 Planning and Conservation District.

PP discusses an item on the Consent Agenda.

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AHub—We put this meeting together to see how WRIA 49 planning unit group will move forward the adaptive management portion for the addendum that was just adopted by the DOE.

AH—Today, we're just trying to get the structure settled.

PP—How you want the planning unit to form and who you want to be a part of that group.

CB—What letters of interest have you received?

AHub reads a list of people and organizations she's heard from.

AH—Basically, we've got a Watershed Council for WRIA 48—3 initiating governments (IGs) and 6 people who represent districts or are at-large. For me, I'd like consistency.

TM—I want to clarify what we're doing. I think we need to stay with the scope. The IGs came together to do that plan. We figured out the consumptive use and how to offset it, and recommended some projects. That was all we were supposed to do, but it took two years. If you are looking for something else in the future, that's a different project and I want no part of it. I think we should stay focused on what we were supposed to do. There are other things to talk about that are important, but that's another group.

JO—I agree with Todd. We need to get a few people who are qualified and interested in the project and the IGs take a back seat and over see what's going on. Maybe quarterly meetings to check and see how the development is going. That's my opinion.

AH—Double check how many houses are being built, etc.

TM—We can recommend projects to deal with water needs, but the commissioners make the decision. That's what adaptive management is. We're not the ones to build reservoirs, etc.

AH—If you have this group

CN—Watershed planning is never going to go away. But having a standing group keeps the conversation going.

TM—This is an unfunded and we need to figure out what to do.

AH—We're probably going to get a request for administrative costs for WRIA 48. But at what level as a county are we going to fund continued watershed planning.

CB—discusses the relationship of Methow Watershed Council's relationship with BOCC.

AH—I wanted it to be more of a recommending body for water issues.

Long discussion of possible scope, duties and composition of WRIA 49.

AH supports six people and three IGs.

AHub—So you just have to decide who the other six will be.

TM—And IGs will dictate the parameters of the other six?

AH—Yes. By geographic area is nice, but you try to get a diverse group of people.

CN—I like the idea of creating a mission statement—a few bullet points and people should represent everyone in the area, not just their commodity group or whatever. A list of criteria to use to select members. And it should be clear when they show up at the first meeting what they'll be doing.

TM—What the job description is and what the prerequisites are for people in the positions and then the figure out how to advertise it. How to broadcast.

AH reads by-laws of WRIA 48 concerning how members are chosen.

AHub—We did create geographic boundaries when we picked the last group.

CN—Something that I've noticed—having a group like the Methow has gives them points, especially by DOE, when it comes to applying for grants, etc.

CN—One question: What about the technical entities? Are they included in the six?

AH—They're non-voting advisers. They come to the meetings.

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CB—I think that the technical advisers should get as much respect as anyone at the table, and that's not always been the case.

CN—I like to get together with Jay and Todd and hash it out and we'll report back.

AHub—Need anything from us for the next meeting?

CB—The geographical boundaries and the list of interested people would help.

3:08:25—LJ has several quick items. Budget amendment to pay for the water truck is approved. The auctioneer needs affidavits of loss of title signed for two vehicles. Finally, she wonders if she should schedule someone to appear before the board. He's recently filed a lawsuit and wants the Commissioners to agree about jurisdiction. CB will discuss the issue with the prosecutor before the person is put on the agenda.

Adjourn