

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
Monday, May 2, 2022 AM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3  
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Chair, District 1  
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Vice Chair, District 2  
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board  
CHa—Crystal Hawley, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management  
NP—Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager  
RS—Rene Shawver, Executive Director, Community Action Council  
JB—Jessica Blake, Finance and Administrative Director, Community Action Council

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:

- *BOCC will hear a presentation at noon from the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) about applying for funds.*
- *Naomie Peasley describes recurring plumbing problems at the Fairgrounds. Also, the Fair is eligible for a \$15,000 grant from the Washington Festivals and Events Association. Commissioner Hover needs to complete the application.*
- *The Okanogan County Community Action Council (OCCAC) requested \$250,000 in ARPA funds for foods programs and services, but would like to be able to buy new equipment (a cooler/freezer and large generator, and laptops and training for volunteer staff) with the money instead. They'll use money they've received from Community Development Block Grants to fund the food programs as well as assistance for rent and utilities. They'd like to make the change because the CDBG requirements for purchase of equipment are onerous, and ARPA requirements for purchase of equipment are not. BOCC agrees with the changes.*
- *BOCC has a short discussion about the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT), which will pass through Okanogan County and six other Washington counties.*
- *BOCC watches the WSAC presentation and adjourns for lunch at 12:30.*

**0:00**—Because of troubles with the sound for Zoom and AV Capture, the meeting begins at about 9:15 and the recording begins shortly thereafter.

**3:50:00** AH—The PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) money? Is it back PILT money they owe us? Are they fighting about the level they're paying?

JD—That's what I get out of the ECOG (Eastern Washington Coalition of Governments) meeting and Weigner (?) said he's send me documents and an explanation. There's public lands money for PILT and there's a checklist and we qualified. It goes directly into current expense, so we have control over it.

JD—October 27, 28, 29, there's going to be a Washington State Game Commission meeting in Colville.

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AH—The 29<sup>th</sup> is the opening day of elk season. Why would they choose that? They don't want people to go hunting then?

JD—The 28<sup>th</sup> is public comment, and we can zoom it, but I'm going to go over there. ECOG said for as many commissioners as possible to go. The big pressure is: they cancelled the Spring bear season. The guys in the Blue Mountains, their elk herd is rapidly declining, and that's cougar, bear and wolf. They want us to pressure to manage the elk herd. Pressure is on to put the Spring bear season. Bears are maybe worse than wolves on calves. Also pressure on the cougar deal and wolf deal.

CB—WSAC (Washington Association of Counties) will have a presentation at noon. Tribal and county assistance dollars not coming through. There's a local assistance and tribal assistance fund. A presentation at noon to discuss the formal application and distribution process. I was going to get the application ready and submit it.

AH—Is there paper work attached to any emails, or is it electronic? So at noon, watch it, and after noon apply for it?

CB—Yes. And they've got eligibility for use of funds and reporting requirements with it. Also, I talked to a company that provides a service for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for Chelan County. They'll come on today at any time to talk about ARPA funds and they're services. They charge 1% to 1.5%, but it depends on what you want to do.

AH—So that would be \$82,000 to \$120,000?

CB—They were looking at a \$250,000 limit. Best to contract with them because they can do a compliance check, and they can prepare contracts. They seem to know everything that's come up. Told them I'd talk to the other commissioners. That's the 11:00 AM—ARPA Administration Delegation on the agenda. If you're interested, I can get them to come on and do their 15 minute presentation. I was impressed with their knowledge.

JD—Someone from WSAC recommended that at least someone from each county zoom in at noon.

AH—I'd like to watch, too. We could just not adjourn at noon.

JD—I've got an appointment at noon, plus I got the gist of the discussion with them at ECOG, so I'll let you guys listen in.

CB—This is the nitty-gritty stuff so far.

**15:00**—MG arrives for the Emergency Management update.

MG—I turned in the resolution to set the burn ban based on BOCC and Fire Advisory Board say. Right now things are still pretty dry, but the Forest Service is still doing prescribed burns.

MG—We've had a few calls about illegal burns, pile burns, etc. I don't know what the Fire Chiefs are doing. Haven't been any fire-fire calls, just illegal burns.

MG—I think I sent AH info about the fire at a house. It smelled pretty rank after the fire was out on Friday. Maybe some filters need to be changed.

MG—That's all I've got.

**17:10**—AH—I'm looking at the allocations and see that \$6,000,000 is the most you can get as a county in the state.

JD—We're at the top for once. (*Notetaker doesn't know what allocations they're talking about.*)

NP updates the Commissioners.

NP—I just received a check from the Fair Youth Foundation and I'll give it to you because you deal with them. I assume it's for the auction.

NP—Toilets are clogged and the grease trap is overflowing.

AH—That's an on-going thing, right? The toilets in the restrooms?

NP—The grease trap hasn't ever overflowed before. Hasn't been serviced since I've been there.

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AH—You have pictures of when they put the plumbing stuff in. Do you have recommendation about how to fix the problem?

NP—No. There's nothing to do unless you tear up the floor and re-pipe them.

AH and NP discuss different ways to fix the problem.

NP—I have fair attendance data since 2012 for you to look at. It doesn't include school kids who came on school buses.

AH—Did they have weekend passes in 2012-13?

NP—Don't know. Back when I was a kid, if you brought an exhibit, you got a free pass. And the numbers I gave you include everyone who entered the gate, whether they bought a ticket or had a pass.

JD—One reason attendance has gone down is the MG cracked down on free passes.

NP—MG said there were about 400-500 free passes, and he wanted us to tighten up security.

NP—The agenda has the cost certification for municipalities later today?

AH—Yes. Fee Waiver for FFA (Future Farmers of America, a high school club) Event & Loss Statement at 3:00PM.

NP—It's just that needs to be signed. It's for the \$15,000 WFEA (Washington Festivals and Events Association) grant. And the Washington FFA asked for fee waiver for their meeting at the Fair Grounds.

AH reads the WFEA document. The grant is to cover lost revenue for the Fair in 2020 and 2021. The Okanogan County Fair wasn't held in 2020 due to Covid.

NP—I sent a spread sheet with the financial information to document the lost revenue.

NP—I'm working with the Conservation District to get more trees for the Fairgrounds for windbreak and shade. We're deciding on what type of trees.

NP—Advertised today that the RV Park is closed for the season. We'll winterize the bathrooms in a couple of weeks.

AH—MG and I are going over there to see about winterizing. AH wants her to make sure they put some RV antifreeze in the tank.

NP—Norm is full time now, and was just a temp last year. He's excited to learn all this stuff.

NP—I received a letter from the Boots and Saddles Club about what kind of horse stalls they recommend.

AH looks at the horse stall information. Thinks that the barns assembled on site cost more (\$100,000 for all of them) but look better, are well constructed, durable and have a breezeway.

NP—Boots and Saddles agrees.

AH—Do the Team Penners still exist?

NP—I don't think they have any money left.

JD—The last money they had was \$35,000 dedicated to come to us, but I don't know if it did or not.

NP—The new announcer's stand was built by the Team Penners Association in 2019?

AH—Maybe they spent the money on that.

JD—I think Boots and Saddles was \$35,000 and Team Penners was \$42,000.

AH—And how much for (*unintelligible*) fund? \$120,000? So we've got \$160,000 out of those. Barns were \$200,000?

NP--\$235,000.

AH calculates the cost and money available.—We're about half way there. That's not bad.

AH—We'll do the FAA fee waiver and the WFEA loss statement.

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AH—FFA can be a viable replacement for 4-H (which has gone from 12 chapters to 2 in the last few years). They want to use the annex? I think we should just waive the fee for them because it's important. They're hosting a state meeting to show local students the opportunities available for them.  
JD—I move to approve the fee waiver request for the FFA state meeting. Fee waiver for the annex only.  
Passes 3-0.

NP—I just sent the Fair budget numbers to you for loss due to Covid.

MG—I just came to ask about the water situation and heard you talk about the grease trap.  
AH—The grease trap needs to be cleaned and the bathrooms in the annex need to get fixed.  
MG, AH and NP will decide when they'll all meet to blow out the water pipes. Also more discussion of the grease trap.  
AH leaves to take care of "this thing" (*WEFA grant application?*)

**1:02:15**—CB—The limit is 6,000,000. It's the only one I've seen with all those zeros.  
AH—In Alaska, there were only a few with 6,000,000.  
CB—Maybe Utah. Not too many out there. Lots of 50,000.  
AH—That must be the minimum, otherwise nobody would have voted for it.  
(*Notetaker doesn't know to what they are referring.*)

CB—Tomorrow night I'll go to Oroville City Council meeting and talk about access to the trailhead. Make sure the funding can still go to the group and to get them to agree we're in it together. If there's no access, who cares who owns it?  
AH—They had applied for \$50,000 last year and we only gave them \$10,000. Just to get it going and they used it all. They reapplied for it this year. Asks CHa to look up Oroville Initiative application for this year.  
CB—Either way, I want them to acknowledge that no matter who owns it, we're in the same situation. So what difference does it make?  
CHa—Request \$30,000 last year, we gave them \$10,000. Listed the stuff they've done.  
CB—The issue is the city will maintain it, and stymied by the fact that they don't own it.  
AH—They could apply for the lodging tax. Methow Trails does \$50,000 worth of maintenance for the trails over there.  
CB—I understand, but now there are so many camps along the trail now, the locals are reluctant to use it. Homeless camps. The next thing is to check with the sheriff and see what.... That's happened before on Bonaparte Creek in Tonasket. Years ago.

**1:08:55**—CB—I see the Forest Service has a process going for the planning of the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) in its entirety. It goes through seven counties in Washington.  
CB—Do you get updates from Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest?  
AH—Yes.

**1:10:10**—AH—We'll start a few minutes early with the Okanogan County Community Action Council (OCCAC) request for ARPA and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds with Rena Shawver and Jessica Blake.  
AH—We got your request for ARPA funds but now you want to change the request to the cooler?  
RS—Yes. We received a grant for \$250,000 for food and services, but since then the cooler went out and the freezer was down for two weeks. We don't know how old they are. They were used when we bought them years ago. And if they go out, we can't deliver food to the pantries. We support 8,000 people

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through the pantries (25% of the population). So we need to buy a new refrigerator, freezer and a large generator in case the power goes out. The pantries are mostly run by volunteers and they do paper and pencil tracking. We'd like to use some ARPA money to buy laptops and training for the volunteers. Become more data driven and it would help to gather the data more easily.

AH—Can you keep that under \$250,000?

RS—Yes. John Baker, who does Facilities, has investigated prices and we can do it. Plus, we've got CDBG Covid money for rent and utilities assistance, but we've got a large ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) grant so we feel we can use the CDBG money elsewhere—for food to support the pantries. So we'd like to use the ARPA funds to buy the big equipment (cooler, freezer, generator, laptops). We haven't executed a contract yet, so we haven't spent any of the \$250,000. We'd like to roll most of that over to 2023, use a little bit this year to support the pantries and use the bulk of it next year for the equipment purchases. And roll over \$175,000 in the CDBG grant to do food and nutrition services and away from rent and utilities.

AH—Next year is the end of the biennium for the CDBG?

JB—This is the CDBG-CV (for Covid). It ends in June next year.

AH—We have no say in that particular grant.

JB—We talked to Lanie last week and she says she has to go to Commerce.

AH—Gotcha!

RS—The funds come through the county to us, so you do have a say.

LJ—Spending the CDBG on equipment—there are more onerous requirements.

AH—Yes. You had to have the equipment for many years and you couldn't move it.

RS—I don't know, but I heard it was onerous. That's why we wanted to use the ARPA.

AH—With ARPA, we can sign a contract with you for the equipment, and you can go ahead and do it.

LJ—I made an amendment to the grant.

RS—Thanks so much.

AH—Lanie alerted us to it.

Discussion of the details of how to accomplish the new proposal.

RS—We'll go out for bids early next year.

RS—We need the new equipment because it's a food stability issue for the county.

AH—When you're talking to the vendors make sure that it can be moved if you get a new facility.

CB—I move to approve awarding \$250,000 from ARPA funds to Community Action for food and nutrition whether it be equipment, salaries or supplies to be defined by the scope of the work in the contract they'll submit.

CB—We need to make sure that the contract conforms to ARPA requirements. We don't want to be surprised.

RS—Would you like us to send over the contract with the new scope of work?

CB—That'd be great.

Motion passes 3-0.

CB—Off topic, but are you able track the ages of the recipients?

RV—Yes. Trend is to increase. More applicants for Senior Food Program, and more people driving through to pick up a box. We can send a report.

CB—Useful to wave around in certain circumstances.

**1:32:25**—JD asks if the discussion of ARPA delegation requires him. He would like to leave because of back pain. He'll return in the afternoon if his meds work.

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CB—Back on the PNT trail stuff—a Forest Service notice. Comment period is through this month. Comprehensive Plan for the development of the PNT. Doing the scoping plan right now.

AH—In the Methow in the winter, the trail system is really good, but in Oroville, there's not the snow cover. Weird banana belt.

CB—Can't count of skiing every winter, but people use the trail year round.

AH—What about local wintering grounds?

CB—Be careful with that, but there are lots of uses that go through local wintering grounds. But the PNT would be an attraction, like the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). It starts in Glacier Park.

AH—I found out Trango doesn't go from Mazama to Winthrop, but that's one people would use, people using the PCT.

**1:40:25**—CB—Might be good to look more into tank-less toilets with high pressure. AH and CB discuss possible fixes for plumbing at the Fairgrounds.

AH has received the expense and revenue reports for the Fair. He does the math to see how much money was lost during 2020 and 2021. This is to complete the WEFA grant application.

**1:56:00**—AH—It's 11 o'clock. Time for ARPA administration delegation. There are reports that have been due and you've submitted them?

CB—Yes, but not many have been due.

CB—The reports and timing of the reports. I think it should come through the auditor just fine.

AH—Maybe we should get them (the firm CB has learned of that does ARPA reporting for Chelan County) on the line.

CB—They have a 15 minute video, too. The person's name is Hailie.

AH goes back to the math and the law statement on the WEFA grant.

**2:40:10**—AH and CB will watch a WSAC 30 minute presentation on Zoom about money available for local governments, so they have to end the BOCC zoom meeting to join WSAC. The WSAC presentation will be on AV Capture.

**2:44:55**—WSAC presentation begins. Eligible counties can learn how to apply for the funds available. (The sound is somewhat garbled and the speaker speaks quickly. Discussion is difficult to understand.)