

**< Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
Tuesday, January 26th, 2021, 1 :30 PM**

*"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer via ZOOM. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>."*

**Present:**

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk  
Pete Palmer (PP), Planning director  
Angela Hubbard, Senior Planner

(Time stamps refer to AV Capture video posted on County Watch website.)

**Summary:**

*(2:06:22) Commissioners agree to challenge the Attorney General - Dept. of Ecology opinion concerning the Methow Valley Instream Rule. (See Reichman letter attached to BOCC notes of 1-25-2021, Mon AM) - Option A of Ordinance 2021-1 is approved, repealing Ordinance 2020-6 and extending certain prohibitions on the subdivision of land in WRIA 48 (the Methow Valley Basin.) (2:14:15) Legal implications are discussed and a public hearing is scheduled for Feb. 22 at 2 PM. (See attached Ordinance 2021-1, along with Options A and B.) (3:06:00) The County has moved to a slightly modified version of phase one of the state's Covid-19 re-opening policy.*

1:51:44 - JD asks to reword the minutes of a previous BOCC meeting. Instead of "No maggot problem has been found in commercial orchards until now," he requests they should read "No maggot fines have been delivered in commercial orchards until now."

2:06:22 - AH proposes to challenge the Attorney General opinion sent last week which recommends a moratorium on all building permits on lots created after 2002 in the Methow Watershed and assimilates subdivisions for single domestic use with subdivisions for group use. (See Reichman letter on this website.) PP, to resolve what AH says creates confusion between County Ordinance 2020-6 from last September and the A.G. opinion: presents "option A": "No new building permits processed moving forward." 2:14:15 - AH points out the impact on landowners. JD: "Pathway for them is to join with us so they don't have to get their own counsel." AH: "I have a hard time with a moratorium on building permits. (But) ...people need to know that (if they build on) one of these parcels it's going to go to court." CB says the issue with Option A is that it stops all divisions that have to be approved including the permit exempt ones. AH: "Let's say we're not going to discuss (them)" and, "If you want to leave exempt segregation out of the moratorium I'm okay." 2:35:40 - Responding to AH's "They can make the argument that exempt segregation is a subdivision", PP suggests "Remove any processing of subdivisions but still allow exemptions to go forth. She says any phone calls will be channeled to herself and planners Angela Hubbard and Char Schumacher to ensure all get the same response. A discussion ensues on how to determine water adequacy with regard to the 710 gal./day reservation use limit and the number of lots this supply can sustain. AH proposes that GIS coordinator Gene Wylson prepare a study of the seven reaches of WRIA 48. The adopted Resolution 2021-1 which repeals Ordinance 2020-6 by adding "minute changes" states "Provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to divisions of land that are exempt from a determination of water adequacy under RCW 58 17 040." As per Ordinance 2020-6 it will be in

effect for one year during which a work plan will be followed to analyze reserves, consider legal precedence and collaborate with the Dept. of Ecology. 3:08:00 - CB : “We’ve actually advanced this issue to the point that we’re actually eliminating a subdivision growth in the Methow Valley.”

3:08:00 - Meeting adjourned.