

**< Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021, 1:30 PM**

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Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Superior Court officials

(Time stamps refer to Zoom recording posted on this website.)

Summary of important discussions: 3:05 - Letter of support requested for a bio-char enterprise, C6 Forest to Farm soon to begin activity in the valley cleaning forests and creating energy as a bi-product; 19:08 - Roland Smith approved as a member of the Pest Board; 22:4 - County Watch's list of boards and commissions is commented upon more or less favorably; 30:00 - Budget supplemental, to be reimbursed, approved for Oroville Housing Authority's homeless shelter sewer project; 38:07 - Felony Deputy Felicia Chandler was re-appointed and she will also serve as Chief Criminal Juvenile Agent; 1:02:29 and 1:40:00- Watershed Planning/WRIA 49 - discussion preceding the upcoming Public Hearing covered the composition of the Watershed council, whether it would be the same going forward as before and that it should be similar to the Methow's; what adaptive planning should look like, differing opinions on water use in the main stems which would be made available by efforts to increase stream flow in the tributaries; 1:37:00 - Water Purchase - Crown Columbia has applied to buy water from senior rights holders in the Columbia basin. BOCC will write a letter to the Dept. of Ecology to oppose the purchase.

3:05 - Bio-char - Tom and Gina McCoy present C6 Forest to Farm, their newly formed company for the conversion of excess forest into bio-char. They are in line for a \$80,000 state grant, facilitated by local legislators, and are working on a SBIR (Small Business Innovation and Research) grant in partnership with a biomass engineering firm and a California Indian tribe to develop a system for transporting wood to a centralized site for perolysis. 7:18 - County will write a letter of support. They have been approached by an aquatic center to furnish heat generated by the pyrolysis system (turns out AH suggested it). The oil or gas produced could power a back-up power generator.

19:08 - Roland Smith approved for the County Pest Board. AH proposes a calendar reminder to advertise vacant board posts two weeks before their expiration. Motion to set this outline for board employees passed. LJ will add the inclusion of exceptions. (Watershed Council votes on a member to be recommended to the BOCC.)

22:4 - CB mentions that County Watch has produced a list of boards and commissions with member names. AH: That's good and bad in a way. LJ: There was a time when County didn't have a policy and she and Terry provided the lists. At least the information will be accurate. AH: Hopefully our new website will help a lot of stuff. (--) called me talking about the more completely planned area, A,

so it's on the planning website but it's upside down. CB Other sources you find on the net are less consistant...A site could help.

30:00 - Budget supplement voted so the Oroville Housing Authority can pursue the Homeless Shelter sewer project while awaiting a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant). The County will be reimbursed by Oroville.

38:07 - Resolution passed on changes in Felicia Chandler's position: she was re-appointed as Felony Deputy and will also assume the duties of Chief Criminal Juvenile agent.

44:55 - CB would like to consider following Chelan County's example by adoption of code by ordinance instead of resolution, except when not allowed by the code. Says he'll check it out.

1:02:29 - Watershed Planning - WRIA 49 (Okanogan Basin) - CB reads: "Planning...should be deemed to satisfy the larger planning authority. The department shall use the plan as the framework for the future water resource decisions." Discussion between AH who says Ecology formally adopted the plan, that a planning unit is dissolved once a plan is adopted, and CB who says in the past the planning unit was called back into action; nothing is said in the code about elimination.

1:14:41 About the public hearing to be held the following Thursday, commissioners agreed that the the Okanogan River Watershed Council should mirror the Methow's in having three initiating governments and two at large posts for each part of the valley. "Adaptive management" strategies will include AVR (aquatic vegetation rake), offsetting unused water from senior rights holders and establishing water banks.

1:37:00 - Water Purchase - Crown Columbia, a private equity water resources firm, has applied to appropriate water resources in the Columbia Basin. AH calls this application a "water grab," and recommends writing to Ecology to question its validity. CB says a draft has been written, that with the legislations in place this bid is not likely to succeed. AH wonders if the Conservation District could serve as a water bank. CB: That's just for ag, right? AH: All sorts of water. Can go for housing or be converted to industry.

Watershed planning (cont.) - AH: the result of efforts to increase instream flow in the tributaries should allow for an increase in available irrigation possibilities in the main stem. CB: To a limit.

1:53:00 - AH sees need to adapt to population growth, envisions increasing city water in the Methow. CB's wish as an experienced planner is to "watch this unfold over a 20 year period" and be wary of uncertainties.

2:13:11- Meeting Adjourned