

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
February 24, 2020

Present:

Jim DeTro - JD. BOCC, Dist. 3
Chris Branch - CC. BOCC, Dist 1
Andy Hover - AH. BOCC, Dist 2
Angela Hubbard - AHu, Interim Director, Dept of Planning & Development
Lalena Johns - Clerk of the Board.
Nicole Rondo - Website Productions Program-NACo (National Association of Counties - Conference Call)

Notes were taken at the meeting by a citizen volunteer with Okanogan County Watch. 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>.

Summary of Significant Items: Methow Interim Control Ordinance: If hearing held within 90 days, RCW 36.70.795 allows interim ordinance to be renewable after 6 months if there is a plan. Hover requests addresses of those commenting if possible. **Planning commissions/Watershed Councils:** AH asks AHu to bring up to PC that in the Methow there is a watershed council that could be a resource for them for integration with the implementation plan for WRIA 48, particularly an upcoming WDOE presentation on rule revision. **CAO vs. Shorelines:** AHu alerts BOCC to inconsistencies among CAO, Shorelines/Channel migration zones. Options discussed. **NACo: (National Association of Counties)** - Offer to produce free videos for county website, and videos for county businesses and other interests on website.

1:30 - Planning Update

AHu - Anything additional you need to give me? Reminder that there is a hearing tomorrow.

Interim Controls:

AH - Did you get my email regarding the RCW 36.70.795 (*hearing within 60 days and renewable after 6 months if there is a plan.*) Would like to see if any of the commenters provided their addresses. A lot were commenting that they were supportive of MVCC's position in going back to 2002, sort of like form letter. Would be interested if any of those were in regards to subdivided properties between now and 2002. It came to me when I saw so many addresses, etc. I do not expect thorough research. Many comments. Would be curious to see.

A Hu - Char and (?) met with DOE re competitive grant funding for Pine creek water. I was literally just checking the box. We are not drafting any required documents at this point. Reminder that PC will continue going through from where they left off, and going with the changes they have made so far.

Planning Commissions/Watershed Councils

AH - Would you bring up to PC that over in the Methow you have a watershed council that is a group that could be a resource for them, in order to integrate and look at the detailed implementation plan for WRIA 48. RCW 90.82. Formation of committees. They created a detailed implementation plan. Make sure there is some level of integration there.

And over in 49, we are going through the planning process. George is pretty much up to speed on that. Hopefully it's on his radar that we have these integrated groups that are working on water and to pull it together.

AH - Currently there is something - It might be good for PC members to attend Watershed Council meetings, quite interesting. Over there (*in the Methow*) next month, DOE is giving a presentation on what rule revision looks like .

Critical Areas v. Shorelines

AHu - I did a comparison between Critical Areas and Shorelines:

Critical aquifer - Shorelines Master Program added some requirements outside of the guidance for the SMP. Plus they added Fish and Wildlife conservation areas that are totally different. (From?) draft that the PC came out with....

So they divided habitat into levels: 2 - riparian, 3 - habitat of local importance. The SMP did not do that. I created conservation areas as FW habitat. For upland species, have to have management plan. CAO matched water type - DNR was going through transition of labeling. The ones that are S, like Bonaparte - the SMP jurisdiction stops at a certain point., but it continues on further down as an S. The SMP might have a rule designation like 75 feet, but when the county takes it up, it would be 150 feet. Language in the draft from PC that they can reduce that buffer if there is something to still protect habitat, and maybe they don't need 150 feet.

AH - So if the SMP looks at flowing water, and the rest is non-flowing water, it would be very inconsistent.

JD - Doesn't the VSP go into that?

A Hu - Yes, (and explains)

AH - But they would be rated differently anyway. If CAO and Shorelines are inconsistent....

AHu - But there is almost no way to make them consistent. An inventory analyst for SMP....The designations not only on existing uses, ...the ecological analysis stopped at the end of the jurisdiction. Maybe conditions are that such that the residences could be closer.

AH - My consternation is not with you.....I know CB would say we are out of compliance... What is the consistency of the SMP and current CAO? (Not draft.)

AHu - it still used the numbering 1-5. We did our best to cover this system to the new DNR numbering. It is even further out of consistency.

AH - CB makes a good point, but I'd like to see the changes from current to draft.

AHu - I can do track changes from way back. The documents I have given you have listed the major changes, with the CAO that was never adopted. The ...ordinance was completely placed into the CAO. Right now, it's under building code. Now, would be under title 14 under CAO and frequently flooded areas. Might also conflict with the SMP because the floodplain ordinance, etc. needs to be checked.

CB - Flood damage prevention building ordinance, right? Not an environmental law.

AHu - Basically. Yes. A building code ordinance.

AH - Maybe we should figure out how much of a cost to get a person who would review this for consistency and a consultant to actually do this? (*Asks CB about timeline.*) Is there an issue of holding up something?

CB - If we are interested in this type of review, for CAO we have an update due in June of 2020. If we were to do that, I'd say yes, let'd do that. We could could get into compliance soon, and then go right back out of compliance.

AH - Basically I think if we did this but didn't do it again in June, we are out of compliance again.

CB Yes

AH - It would be nice if we were out of compliance in June, we could..... We could get it back into compliance a section at a time..

CB - Interesting position in that the one we have today is the one that is (???) We should get as consistent as we can so we do not have grief or lawsuits - like adopt the CAO...how much work would it take to get there?

AH - We need to farm out some of this stuff. We do not have the resources in-house.

AHu - Let me take a look at the situation and try to get a snapshot....

CB - So we have gone through the public process. The only thing missing is the adoption and any adjustments made on the basis of the concepts.

AH - Yes. It got all the way through to BOCC.

CB - There was a comment period, right?

AHu - At one time, CAO was under everything else, but then separated. The process eventually just fell off....

CB - I would say, try to get this adopted, and try to coordinate with other regs...

AH - Do you want to try to make any changes in the existing draft in order to make it more similar to SMP?

CB - Right.

AHu - The big test section is Geological Hazards - both have channel migration. CAO almost completely comes from Golder, when they did Channel Migration study. So the ordinances between Methow plan and the Okanogan/Similkameem were almost identical. So they took that into CAO; but the SMP is different on channel migration because it talks more about shoreline stabilization - not needing it, approving something else, since has changed. And requirements in the guidance for shorelines management.

CB - the Channel Migration zone exists outside of the

AHU - You have the severe Channel Migration zone and then the moderate. The moderate is frequently the same as the floodplains so it will go past the severe. The SMP is more concerned with severe.

(AH?) Would the SMP trump CAO?

(CB?) Yes. But there might be channel migration zone that gets bisected by the....

A Hu - yes, there might be some very inconsistent policies...

CB - In the moderate zones, you can....

A Ahu - I'm almost positive the moderate zone means just to be within the requirements that the building be safe. Only the severe is drastically different in SMP vs outside the shorelines.

CB - And it's mostly within shorelines?

A HU - Yes. But not all. Sometimes it's just outside.

CB - Any language within CM zone that has flexibility or adjustments to conditions?

A HU - Yes, they can prove they are not within CMZ. They did their best, but soils, etc. do not match up. There are ways they can do that.

AH , CB. - So we are out of compliance now, and won't get that grant.

CB - But Ecology is wanting to go where we want to go if possible. If there is a back--up to have the city of Oroville assume the contract. But I don't want to see that because.....If any action had to be taken by Ok Cty or Oroville, if they could take that action we could go under their jurisdiction and be compliant.

AH - We need to get some help, regardless. I'd much rather see us not take a whole bunch of time, but to pay money, get a consistency review, get it adopted in June, and have CAO that's compliant in June....

CB -So if we went to Professional Services to do that?

AH - Do an RFQ?

CB - I think we could just contact (???) But it just changed.. I'll look at professional services - if we didn't have to go through the whole process, there's bound to be a couple of planners hanging around that could.... I have, in the past, been the consultant with Highland Consultants on such things - we worked for ecology.....

A Hu - Will look into that.

All agree that consistency is needed.

CB - In the Resource Lands part...in the Comp Plan....

AHu - It's almost like it doesn't speak to that specifically so that's a problem too.....

Side conversation:

2:05 JD talks with AH. They are saying his well is too close to the creek. So he took to to Dave Hilton, who said he'd review it. Turns out the creek is all the way over on the other side of town. Something about the well needing to be tested, and it has been in use for over 100 years.

Can't hear -(loud conversation beginning on phone.)

NACo: Work with Counties on videos for websites: Nichole Rondo

Nichole: We work with many municipalities across the country. Calling from NY City. We have Kittitas and other counties on board. Lanie and I talked about the program awhile back. Wanted to revisit. This is a free service. We have been helping counties put best foot forward for over 30 years. Affiliated with many ...almost 5 counties onboard, largely because it's a free service. We know if we need any info, we get online and get the answers. We provide counties with another way to deliver info. Not just one, but a series of videos here.

(Showing idea on screen) Examples of how we come in with our video production and capture content for you. We produce 5 topic videos about a minute to one minute long.

School systems, to live and work in, strong county, etc. It is to represent the county. We come in to the videos, production, voice over. You give us approval and give you a video that you can put on website.

If one or both commissions wanted to be on video, you can. End result...give the info your visitors are seeking. If there are multiple websites, they can benefit.

Lanie - were you talking about updates to websites? We have gotten a little closer, may have something this year, depending upon a number of different things.

Nichole - That's how the product comes together, the way you can use it for those people looking from outside at the county, promote the assets of the county, etc. etc.

Asks for input - BOCC likes it.

Nichole - I'll bet you are wondering how it is a free service. Let's talk: One reason it's free is because of the 30 year tenure in working with counties . We know money is hard to come by. Also, if we changed it would put us in another category and we wanted to make it seamless. Would be hard with tax dollars involved.

Shows Bell County, Texas. There are a few glitches with the slide show. It is fixed.

Shows different options for links, chapters, county businesses around the side. She clicks on one that launches a video on their organization for their own official website, etc. Giving them that opportunity...that is how they offset the cost and show both private and public entities. We produce videos, do the outreach to the businesses, if the businesses partake, fantastic. But if not, it is still a free program. There is no threshold. We send this out in writing, which is why we are affiliated with so many organizations.

AH - Typically, how much does a business pay to support?

Different levels of participation. Cost to non-profits is zero. Paying sponsors - frequently the community -minded types of businesses. On lower level, about \$1,000, to \$5,495....depends upon their own video or production . We do the outreach. They also get the video on their own website.

Other questions?

Nichole - Days of yellow pages are not what they used to be. I can give you all this in writing if you'd like. We'd point you in the right direction,we do a letter of validation to the businesses that says you can re-word if you'd like. I'll send the pamphlet and the website agreement.

CB - wondering, is there a limit of how much of this advertising you would be doing on the pages?

Nichole - Typically 20 spots around the edge But there is room to have sponsors on the other page too. We are usually looking at 20 - 25, but room to accommodate anyone who wants to partake.

CB - We would probably get good funding from water law attorneys. (Joke, all laugh.)

Nichole - We are looking for spots now for production for the spring....

CB - You have counties in Washington state? That are actually subscribing to the program? She will send examples. One of them just signed on..

CB - was it Kittitas?

Nichole - Yes, Kittitas has a video.. We had a great response from the community, great program. Google Kittitas county and see videos on the right hand side. She will send the agreement and other things. She will send to Lanie. Can give a follow-up call.

AH - *(All viewing video.)* The lodging tax advisory committee makes a (proposal?) Of \$225,000 dollars to OCTC to do advertising for the county. So how would they integrate with this? We could point them toward OCTC, maybe we should get people from them first, then go to Chambers of Commerce.

LJ - On our website, we have a link to OCTC on the front.

CB - if you click logo on top...click here to start planing your trip.... I could see this being really good for especially those organizations, like medical field, who are trying to attract employees here. It would certainly communicate that there is a lot of outdoor recreation here, historical, that's what we are interested in. Al little bit of "getting away from it all" - dangerous, because sometimes it means getting away from things that create order (laughter.)

We discussed this for Community Action, and conversations went to one of their spouses, one lkes it, one doesn't. Best example was of those who work for USFS....family liked that. That's what they are doing in the greater Wenatchee area too, bringing in medical people.

On our website, the connection to Okanogan Country isn't very clear. *Lanie agrees*. This was the link they provided us with.

LJ - We have all this room (on our website) ...we could do so much more.

(BOCC looking at the website.)

LJ - We had gone out to ...and were collecting bids. They are either bids or proposals.

CB/LJ express they are very excited about breaking new ground on this. Cool opportunity.

CB - Jokes aside, there are those that provide services to folks doing stuff for the county, like surveyors, attorneys, etc.

AH - We should look into doing it. Caveat - only thing that bothers me is that I want to be sure the businesses on there do not think we are buying to solicit money for county gov't. IWhen you are a poor county and are soliciting from people, the message needs to be clear.

AH - Had something fortuitous happen. Have been talking with sheriff's office about program-matically replacing cars. A gentleman from Enterprise are now doing gov't fleet management programs. They do lease programs for gov't vehicles, do a a buy-back on them. The female that hosted- I'm trying to get everyone's info outside pub wks. We can buy through Enterprise like a state bid. They have counties that are using them. He said as far as bid requirements go, we can use the documentation that they have to show due diligence. They will do a fleet financial study, looking at replacement, etc. So I am looking into it. Getting into any program is expensive so how do you do this? He said it can be tiered , however you want it etc.....

Hover, DeTRo leave 2:45.

Meeting over.