

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners

August 31st, 2020

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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
Dan McCarthy (DM), Pest Control Agent

(Time stamps refer to a recording of the Zoom meeting, available on the County Watch website.)

Summary - 9/21/2020, 9 AM

Social Media and County Policy (00:33) - The commissioners considered two different Facebook posts to be in violation of political neutrality.

Fire aftermath (27:00) - By Friday 9/18 after many long workdays power was restored on the reservation)

Apple Maggots in Okanogan (1:59:53) - Dan McCarthy from the Pest Control Board explains what is in store for orchard growers in the face of confirmed presence of the Hawthorne/Apple maggot in several places around the county.

00:33 **Social Media and County Policy** - *CB declared that a candidate for State Auditor, Chris Leyba, had donated a truckload of hay for livestock affected by the fires and had posted an interview with Fairgrounds Security Coordinator Naomi Peasley on his campaign's Facebook page. The commissioners agreed that it wasn't appropriate to mix fire relief efforts with politics. AH then mentioned that someone associated with Public Health had posted an homage to deceased Supreme Court Justice Ginsberg on Facebook. They all concurred that posts that could be politically divisive should be voted on by the agency concerned and that they needed a policy to guide any media content relative to local government. AH: "We shouldn't have things that stir up the pot."*

27:00 **Fire Aftermath** - *JD reported that the Nespelem Valley Electric Co-op had the power going on the reservation by Friday. To reward the team of electrical workers who had been working 18-hour days, Scotty (Vejraska, PUD commissioner) treated them all to breakfast at the Livestock Café.*

:59:53 **Apple Maggot Update with Dan McCarthy (DM)** - *The Hawthorn Maggot/Apple Maggot has increased in numbers in the last two years. Forty-seven traps yielded 363 adult flies and three larvae pupae in hawthorne; none in apples so far. Hawthorn grows from the border down to the Columbia River. Samples were sent to the USDA who identified them. DM will meet with Commodity Inspector Bill Walker Oct. 12th to discuss two options; 1) trapping around orchards to*

see if they're pest-free 2) Inspecting fruit, ideally seven to ten days before harvest. The latter would be "an inspector's nightmare" as "there are only so many inspectors" and every orchard would need to be inspected. The "hot spots" are south of Oroville on Holmes Rd., parallel to Hwy 97, and at Alta Lake along the golf course and campground with "a sprinkle" around Malott and in Douglas Cty. along the Columbia.

1:08:00 Electronic Surveillance - Discussion is ongoing with the Apple Maggot Working Group. DM proposes to treat it the same as the Tree Fruit Fly which is commonly inspected for apple maggot at the packing house before packing. Most warehouses now have electronic equipment that "detects everything." While confident it will detect apple maggot, DM is concerned that if one county decides to quarantine, its fruit will not be able to cross county lines. He would favor quarantines in Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas counties which would allow fruit to transit freely between them and only fruit passing inspection at the warehouse would be shipped elsewhere. (Chelan has detected adult maggots but no larvae so far.) Trapping is not a viable option because orchards on Holmes Rd. are adjacent to many other orchards along hwy. 97.

44:45 AH: What Can the County Do to Help? - DM suggests the commissioners of the three counties getting together to discuss their common interest since some Chelan growers since some growers have fruit in other counties that they will need to move.

1:14:50 A Concerned Caller_- Rob (Enloe?) calls in, worried about mountains of junk fruit. Does it have to be USDA-inspected? Yes, except fruit that is put directly in C.A. storage or culls put in C.A. for 60 days (more or less, depending on the air temperature) which will kill the maggot. How many inspections? DM will ask Commodity Inspector Walker. AH: Can the electronic inspection replace that of an inspector? DM is confident it can (though there could be the problem of it finding too many defects). Rob is worried about added paperwork, shortage of inspectors and possible check points. DM: A certificate of inspection is needed.

1:20:15 Farm Block Inspections - These are needed for those who do their processing outside the three counties with analyses of so many specimens either on the tree or in the bins. DM will check with the board if it's every 5 or every 20 acres. A certificate is issued for every block. A one-time block inspection may be enough. If most orchards don't have them, people like Rob could be inspected in timely fashion. GF120 spray, "cost effective", may be used, but maybe not on organic crops- -among the questions to be asked at 10/12 Pest Control Board meeting.

1:36:00 Session adjourned.