

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, July 19, 2021 AM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, chair, District 2
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
MG—Maurice Goodall-Emergency Management Director
NP—Naomi Peasley

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. Volunteer did not use a time stamp, but took the notes in person at the meeting. Times are approximate within a few minutes. Topics can be located also on the AV Capture video screen at: <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> and actual times topics were discussed can be viewed on the video recording.

Summary of significant discussions:

Maurice Goodall reported on fire situation in the Methow, and status of Declaration of Emergency.

Commissioners discussed the need for clarification in County's process for buying, selling leasing properties.

Health Dept. Lauri Jones with documentary film crew came in to interview Jim Detro
Water tracking assumptions in model to be used by Methow Watershed Council discussed.

Commissioners' Briefing reviewed discussions: with tribe about fire in Nespelem, Live-stock Auction, Fair Entertainment, need for clarification of property management of County properties, Job descriptions at the County,
Naomi Peasley Fair report, choosing entertainment

9:00: review of agenda

9:15: Maurice Goodall called in to give an update of fire management in the Methow. Re-evaluating EVAC zones. They are understaffed, need more people. 8 officers coming over from Fish and Wildlife on the West side, maybe some people from the National Guard. A Declaration of Emergency is being authorized.

9:25 AH, CB, JD agreed that the County's process for acquiring, leasing or selling properties is arduous and needs to be clarified and simplified. There are two difficulties: the process is unclear, and also this responsibility has fallen on Lanie for the

most part, adding to an already difficult work load. The possibility of hiring someone to manage properties for the County is being considered.

9:30 Lauri Jones and Radical Media crew arrive for an interview with JD. Adam McGraw, the manager of the company was introduced. The group adjourned to a more private space to get JD's the history of the economy in the Okanogan.

9:35-11:30: Commissioners' Briefing began with a bit more about properties policy clarification. County procedures regarding the Livestock Auction might benefit from adjustment, such as looking at some kind of hybrid of in person auction and on-line auctions. There could be a small cost per animal to pay for the system. **AH** wants clarification: Is the auction service a vendor situation for the county? Another issue: The Fair Entertainment decisions are made differently depending upon whether a Non-Profit takes over this aspect of the fair. **CB** and **AH**: back to the discussion about the possibility of hiring someone to be a property manager for the County. **AH** Job descriptions need to be reviewed and wages should be brought up to 85% of average. The Clerk of the Board could create Job Description for a new part-time employee to help out with administrative tasks. **LJ** has written job descriptions that could be used for this purpose, and she has also compiled data on elements of the task load within the office. **AH** stressed using the spreadsheet **LJ** developed as basis for consideration of creating extra job position. **CB** said "Let's make this an agenda item."

10:40 - Water tracking in Methow Valley: AH met with Yakama Nation re water tracking software assumptions as to how many houses from 1976-1994 there were using water. He presented that the county is using the 710 gal per day per household for maximum consumption in July, which is what MV Watershed Council agreed upon. Yakamas saw no glaring errors, but asked whether we had attributed any of the non-single domestic uses after 1976 such as churches, some businesses, etc. **AH** is having Angie check this because there was a provision that as long as the property had a certain value the county was going to assign it as having water. Methow Watershed Council bought off on the info, Yakama staff didn't have any scientific problems with the info, so **AH** is hoping the rest of the info (hard data from 2018 til now) can be sent to Parker by Angie to load it into tracking software. As soon as that is done, he thinks it should be sent to Ecology. Telling them this is how much water we are using out of our reserves. **CB/JD** appear to agree.

11:30 Naomi Peasley, Fairgrounds: The weed Board evaluated and made recommendations and Maintenance knows what to do. HR restructuring: **AH, CB and JD** are in favor of moving forward with making a clear distinction between Maintenance of Facilities and Maintenance of Grounds. There is no emergency phone number for on-call services, and so **NP** often gets phone calls at inconvenient hours. **AH** stressed the difficulty that **NP** has when people pass misinformation about the fair on social media. Keeping an eye on this phenomenon can involve a lot of work. **AH** thought that it might be a good strategy to respond to misinformation with a short reference to the website where accurate information can be found. A new office person is performing very well on the job. Next week **NP** will talk about safety grant applications. 4 applications for entertainment at the fair have been received. An amount of 45,000.00

was brought up, a question was asked about what is the Fair Committee's responsibility and what is the County's responsibility. **AH** said, add up all the costs, see what is left over.

Meeting Adjourned.