

Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting March 22, 2021 AM session

CB—Chris Branch, BOCC chair, District 1  
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC vice-chair, District 2  
JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC member, District 3  
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners

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/Commissioners/Minutes%202014/March%204,%202014.htm>

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date. Click [here](#) to go to video. To locate items in real time, the clock on the wall in the AV Capture screen can be helpful.

**Summary of significant discussions:**

**1:15 - Approval of new truck purchase for Assessor's office.**

**21:25 - Implications of Crown Columbia proposal to obtain area-wide permit for water rights**

**35:15 - Lobbyist update**

**48:10 - Discussion about "cancel culture"**

**58:30 - Award for retiree Dan McCarthy (Pest control officer)**

**1:02:10 - Discussion about Water usage and accounting, climate change, using science as basis for decision-making.**

**1:28:55 – Discussion about how much water has been put in trust in WRIA 48**

00:30 – Pledge of Allegiance

1:15 – Assessor Larry Gilman presents bids for new truck for assessor's office. Discussion among BOCC, vote to approve purchasing a Chevy Silverado for \$32,365.

10:00 – Break for executive session regarding performance of public employee.

21:25 – Return from Exec. Session. Discussion between CB and AH about proposal by Crown Columbia to purchase area-wide permit to obtain water rights in Columbia Basin. Discuss how it would impact Okanogan County agricultural producers, and how it would allow bypassing the local Water Conservancy Board review. CB questions the profit motive behind this concept and who benefits. AH talks about how it would impact development and agricultural land.

35:15 – Zak Kennedy, county lobbyist, gives update on WA state legislature and the recent Supreme Court Blake decision. Emphasis on law enforcement, public health, gas tax, Suicide prevention hotline.

48:10 – JD relates anecdote about friend in CA who paid \$8.98 per gallon for diesel, and starts discussion about changing names of local landmarks. Specifically mentions Squaw Creek, opposition to name change. AH mentions that the Squaw creek change resulted from petition of local residents. CB mentions recent article in Wenatchee World that addresses this issue and

talks about the sensitivity of the issue and need to consider cultural differences. AH asks why are we cancelling cartoons instead of cancelling pornography. CB says that it's often about race which is important to consider. AH brings up Dr. Suess, valedictory speech.

57:41 – Short discussion about a letter from construction company regarding an issue with a bid and possible litigation.

58:30 – Dan McCarthy, retired Pest Board agent, is presented an award for his service.

1:02:10 – AH discusses Methow Watershed Council meeting, well-tracking grant, Aspect Engineering report (from 2011). County needs to send DOE a report. AH has asked Planning to provide information on assumptions that are used when calculating water usage, and asks to have Methow Watershed Council review this information before report is sent. Conversation continues regarding water measurement and usage. Metering is brought up, as well as how wells are going dry and whether this is a result of climate change. Discussion continues on how to determine whether the science behind claims of water limitations is valid. CB asks why we are where we are today and whether it has something to do with the county not providing the necessary information. AH suggests that the County provide the MWC with specific information about the parameters and assumptions they are going to use when making development decisions. Suggests that building dept, planning dept and GIS meet in a facilitated discussion to agree on this information.

1:19:50 – AH shares information from DOE about their response to his question about obtaining a list of every trust water donation on record in the Methow Valley. CB mentions a water right application from Grant County for a 5000+ Acre-ft water right, and concern that it may be transferred from OK county. LJ reminds BOCC that there is an agreement that adjacent counties have an agreement to share information about water rights transfer applications with each other regardless of where the water will come from.

1:26:20 – CB talks about vaccine distribution in Yakima County.

1:28:55 – AH resumes conversation about DOE letter. 135.7 cfs has been put in trust in WRIA 48.

1:31:50 – LJ reminds BOCC that the NE WA Counties (NEWC) meeting is March 31 at 9 AM. It will be a Zoom meeting. AH would like to make sure that the Crown Columbia permit application is on the agenda for that meeting.

1:37:40 – AH asks JD if he is going to the EA WA Council of Govt's meeting on Friday. It will be an in-person meeting in Davenport. JD says he is going.

1:38:18 – JD shares more info on diesel in New Mexico at \$8.98/gallon. AH fact checks and finds that AAA site shows \$4.02/gallon for diesel in CA. More discussion about gas prices and sharing travel experiences and encountering a wide variation in fuel prices depending on location and circumstances.

1:44:00 adjourn until after lunch.