

April 26, 2021 AM SESSION

Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting

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
Zak Kennedy – lobbyist
Cari Hall – Auditor
Pam Johnson – Deputy Treasurer

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%202021/2021%20Minutes%20Page.html>

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date. Click [here](#) to go to video.

Summary Of Significant Discussion

1:54 Presentation from Dude Solutions regarding software to streamline building permit application process

48:25 – Discussion about water banking and possible funding

50:13 - Zak Kennedy (lobbiest) updates on State Leg.

2:17:45 - Auditor Cari Hall discusses American Rescue Plan funds (\$8.19M)

2:43:51 – BOCC discusses water quality issues and fund to use for that purpose.

1:54 Presentation from Dude Solutions regarding software that County is considering purchasing to streamline building permit application process. Reps from Dude Solutions give examples about how software works, and answer questions from AH and PP.

39:17 – Discussion about item on agenda. Decision to do the 10 AM scheduled hearing in Exec. Session. Discussion about allowing a member of the public to get on the agenda and how to decide if it is appropriate.

48:25 – AH mentions that the recently approved WA state budget has \$\$ for water banking in OK County. Discussion about details regarding the funding. Some may be reserved for Methow watershed. BOCC will get more info.

50:13 - Zak Kennedy (lobbyist) updates on State Leg. There has been a lot of last minute compromising especially in transportation and water. Budget seems to be watered down from what was expected. There is \$\$ for county clerk and biochar project. 1091 (carbon fuel standards) has passed and it's up to DOE to work out details. There are several exemptions. AH asks about how it affects Ag. ZK – does not know details. He only got the information late last night and needs some time to read and understand the impacts. It will require legal review and WASAC has the resources to devote to this. ZK will come back to BOCC with more details in a few days. AH asks to be updated specifically on items that affect Okanogan County.

56:56 – More discussion among BOCC about water banking and how much of the state budget is allocated for that.

59:07 - Discussion among BOCC about communication with staff. LJ states that BOCC could do a better job communicating with staff. Topic was brought up in regard to issue over the weekend with leaking roof at fairground building. Lengthy discussion about what types of screws were used on roof.

1:15:00 – JD asks which other BOCC members will be attending the Eastern WA Council of Govts. (ECOG) All 3 want to go, but CB has conflict. AH says he wants to start attending ECOG meetings to be more involved.

1:18:00 - Executive session to meet with Fairgrounds Manager Naomi Peasley and HR manager Tanya Craig.

1:55:15 – BOCC returns from Exec Session. Casual conversation about allergies, WASAC meeting, fair funding, managing contracts, WA state budget and curiosity about line item for Methow Valley water banking.

2:06:00 - Discussion about changes to the agenda.

2:14:10 - More discussion about funding water banking.

2:17:45 - Auditor Cari Hall and Pam Johnson (Treasurer's Office) meet with BOCC to discuss how they want to spend the funds from the American Rescue Plan. Separate fund has been set up – (Fund No. 170). AH – suggests using some of the funds to offset revenue loss to county. Specifically the fairgrounds & jail. Also other entities have requested funds: PUD and others. \$8.2 M. AH does not want to commit funds until it is certain that they are legal. Auditor will create supplemental for the funds, which will be determined in the future. Funds do not have to be used by any certain date. Want to be thoughtful on how the funds are used. CB – there has only been a handful of proposals so far. Once spending is determined, the BARS codes can be assigned later. AH – discussion about PUD using funds from CAC rather than from County. CH- When are funds supposed to arrive? BOCC – don't know. Discussion about exact amount and what BARS code to use. \$8.19 M.

2:35:00 - CH – clarifies about surplus funds received from sale of vehicles and how it is coded and spent. AH – clarifies about how number was arrived at.

2:36:30 - CH- Mentions a new requirement from State on the county's annual report. Need to say if there are any "ongoing concerns" regarding the county's ability to meet it's financial obligations over the next 15 months due to Covid. BOCC responds no concerns. Another new question on the form – Are there any anticipated severe reduction of operations in the next 15 months? BOCC – no. Are there contingency plans for handling unexpected problems? CB – mentions the court's use of fairgrounds for trials as a change to business as usual. This has not restricted services.

2:42:00 – brief discussion about agenda for the afternoon.

2:43:51 - AH – mentions the Mazama water quality fund and how to use it for gathering data to determine water quality. DOE has an on-going water quality program in the Methow. AH mentions that he was contacted by Alyssa Jumars with a proposal to collect all the data on water in one place. BOCC appears willing to consider.

2:57:10 – Adjourn for lunch.