

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
Jan. 29, 2019**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)
Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)
David Gecas – DG (Civil Att.)
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)
Leah McCormick – LM (Treasurer)
Cari Hall – CH (Auditor)

Debi Hilts – DH (HR)
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)
Perry Huston – PH (Planning)
Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)
Stella Columbia – SC (Fair Events)
Maurice Goodall – MG (Emergency Mgmt)
Mike Worden – MW (Dispatch)
Dan Higbee – DH (Building)
George Thornton – GT (Citizen, County Watch)

Notes are impressions and interpretations of the note taker. Every attempt is made to assure accuracy. Specific comments by the note taker are in italics and not part of the official record or intended in any way to be other than the impressions of the note taker.

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Summary: Measuring water levels, Sage Grouse populations, Civil Attorney: Public records requests, Omak HS for a mock trial, Tax title property seizure at Nespelem, Interrogatory to the County on the French Creek, Bail bond justification, Clerk's Office office key, **Planning & Admin: Notetaker unavailable, Admin & Fair Grounds Maintenance:** 5 vendors Jail/Admin sewer project, Jail kitchen drain blockage, **Fair Events:** Washington State Grange, Jones Hall, Operations and Events manual, Floor drain in the Agriplex Annex, Possible Agriplex usage, **Omak/Okanogan Business Week, 5 tips for supporting a ballot propositions, Discussion of dealings with Okanogan TV District & CCT, HR, Risk Mgmt & Claims, Proposed HB 1579, Noxious Weeds:** Supplemental 2019 budget, Aid from F&W for aquatics, Cooperation depends on local managers, Emergency road kits, Additional help 2019 field season, Washington Invasive Weed Council, Education sessions a month & ID, Job Descriptions, "Bad Event" list and manual, **Public Works: Department Organization, SW & Admin:** Office Manager new position, Summer Temps, **Engineer: Maintenance & Road, Elmway Levee repairs, Riverside Levee, Similkameen Trail, Omak/Okanogan Rotary, Public Comment, Miscellaneous Business, Miscellaneous Actions**

9:05 JD, AH, CB present. LJ, DG, SC & PH staff in attendance.

PH & AH in discussion of **Ways to measure water levels in County**, ideas include measuring static well pressure, instream flow levels, well levels and more. There is an overall lack of data as well as any history of data in the area. This in reflection on deciding water availability and impact on senior water rights in closed basins and for the upcoming WRIA 49 water availability study.

From JD: Douglas Co. around Mansfield – **Sage Grouse populations** sometimes benefit from cattle grazing while protected or cattle exclusion areas sometimes do less well.

DG (Civil Attorney)

- **Public records requests** - one done, another with the Treasurer's Office with some difficulties.
- Will be at **Omak HS for a mock trial**
- **Tax title property seizure at Nespelem.** The property did not sell in auction but may be sold directly to buyer within one year of auction provided the sale price is not lower than the

minimum advertised bid price. A discussion of the process to make such a sale. There is interest on the part of family of the deceased owner and looking at about \$1100 total including fees. This is well over the original minimum bid.

- **Interrogatory to the County on the French Creek** road issue from both the plaintiff and defendant.
- **Bail bond justification** process for accepting or revoking for doing business in Okanogan County and with the courts being formalized. Working on language and details.
- **Clerk's Office want only key to their offices.** No way to guarantee this is the case due to many years and many keys over the year. Legally OK and BOCC concurs but only way to guarantee is to rekey the office.

PH (Planning & Admin)

- **Notetaker unavailable** during presentation due to being in conference with DG over issues with Okanogan TV District.

JP (Admin & Fair Grounds Maintenance)

Toured 5 vendors around the Jail/Admin sewer project, all 5 are expected to make a bid.

- Have not started on **Jail kitchen drain blockage**. Does not have a concrete saw capable of cutting into the 7" thick floor to reach the blockage. Is looking to an outside contractor. Problem is complicated due to inability to shut down the kitchen and the limited space to do the work.

SC (Fair Events)

- **Washington State Grange** will be have a walk through at the Agriplex on Feb. 9. The state convention will be later this summer at the Agriplex.
- Will rent out **Jones Hall** to the Grange for office space, looking to use scrap trimmings from Remand & Reload to finish the wall in the Hall. Experience has shown the beauty and effectiveness of the material. Large bundles of the material is \$20 a bundle. Asking Jerry Barnes if he would be willing to deliver to the Fair Grounds. Unused & unusable portions can be used for other purposes on the grounds.
- Working on an **Operations and Events manual** as time allows. BOCC considers the development of the manual an important effort and applauds SC for working on the project.
- Might consider a **Floor drain in the Agriplex Annex** for things like mop water.
- **Possible Agriplex usage:** swap meet, winter farmer's market, sportsman show, flea market.
- LJ & SC discussing contents of Fair Handbook, Operations manual

Resolution 11-2019: Reducing rental fee for **Omak/Okanogan Business Week** for beneficial and educational costs – based on the number of poor and infirm for students served by the schools. – Approved, 50% reduction in fee.

CB – Passing on **5 tips for supporting a ballot propositions** on the part of governmental bodies from MSRC (<http://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/July-2012/Five-Tips-on-Supporting-a-Ballot-Proposition.aspx>). Information was forwarded to all of the BOCC and Notetaker.

CB & GT: **Discussion of dealings with Okanogan TV District & CCT.**

10:00 TC (HR, Risk Mgmt & Claims)

- Received grant money from Office of Public Defense for approx. \$51,886. In 2018, the County expended \$995,662.79 in total public defense costs.
- Criminal Justice billings for 2nd half 2018 are under way.

- Non-Commissioned contract is nearly complete. Working with the Guild to solidify language for the red-lined contract so legal on both sides can review.
- Working on draft Tonasket PD contract
- Active shooter training being scheduled
- Records – retention: Not OK to delete email correspondence due to need for FOIA availability. Some employees leave County employment and delete emails. County needs to prevent this in the future by informing and educating all employees.
- Courthouse security officer being worked on
- CJTA grant monies – unexpended funds return to the State Health Care Authority
- Year-end reports for the Treasurer’s Office
- Phone conference today (Tuesday 1/29) with attorney & a former detective. Working to schedule another meeting as well.
- Obtained an appellate attorney
- Will attend the Public Works staff briefing to discuss Office Manager position
- Will be gone Th & F and maybe M due to death in family.

10:19 JD - Down to Courthouse for 10:30 meeting.

AH – **Proposed HB 1579** would exclude non-native fish from game fish designation (Small mouth bass, some catfish, walleye and more). They would not be subject to game fish regulation if the bill were to pass.

Anna Lyons & Larry Hudson (**Noxious Weeds**)

- Some carryover in grant funds from 2018. Will want to have a **Supplemental to the 2019 budget** to allow expenditure of the funds for the intended purposes in the 2019 budget. Looking at GPS units, additional treatment on Okanogan River & some lakes not included in original grant list.
- AH asking about **Aid from F&W for aquatics control** around boat launches. AL: Yes, but F&W wants a report on how used, what & when. F&W contributed \$1000 in herbicide. DNR is easy to work with to get herbicide, easy to work with. DNR land to be treated around boat launches but not water. **Cooperation depends on the local managers.** If the local manager makes weed control a priority and budgets it works. DNR will treat for Knapweed and loosestrife. AH – NCW has a large portion of all F&W boat launches in state. DNR allows treatment based on their list of species, F&W only for required treatment species. AH: goal is to encourage local directors (F&W, DNR, others) to request in budgets for herbicides to control local problems.
- AL wants to purchase some **Emergency road kits** for vehicles (Flat tire fixes, gloves, LED lights, warning triangles, etc.). About \$1000 in the supplemental under machinery.
- Looking at **Additional help during the 2019 field season** – periodically bring in Jo Mason – 2 da. A week s needed. No more than 800 total hours due to retirement limits. She is fully certified and trained.
- Want to get to field season earlier than in past.
- Has \$70,000 form BIA for work on CCT, \$40,000 from USFS for work on Tonasket RD – RD is unable to get reliable personnel. DNR contract for \$10,000 - work above that amount will be authorized if enforcement is required.

10:50 JD returns from Courthouse

- BLM – some work to continue from last year’s grant.
- DOE – will finish grant this Summer & will reapply for another grant for work.

- Will be focusing on State land – education & community outreach
- Will have an educational meeting in Twisp and a tour.
- A state meeting with the WIWC (**Washington Invasive Weed Council**) in the fall. Will have a cross border tour before the main meeting, will be at DoT Conference room. Capability of call in & video conferencing in that location.
- Looking at 1 – 2 sessions an **Education session a month & ID** education of stages of weed growth so that people can be more aware of the plants at all stages of growth.
- Has developed updated **Job Descriptions** of Asst. Mgr position – are updating others.
- Working on a **“Bad Event” list and manual**. What can go wrong and what to do. AL relays an instance from last year on the west side of the state where a land owner was killed in an enforcement by a local sheriff as an example. Local Weed people have had incidents with intimidation and being followed by armed people.

11:05 **Public Works** (BR & JT)

- **Department Organization** – SW Division: Wants the BOCC to think about separating SW into its own department within Public Works. JT feels that being the direct supervisor of SW as not the best use of his time. Feels Kent can easily handle the function as head. – doing & administrating grants, vouchers, etc. Would still work together on some tasks. CB: How does the job description look? BR – would need some work to have that position answer directly to BOCC like JT & BR. Ah – need to consider decision tree – now JT makes top level decisions, this would put Kent direct to BOCC. As is current allows more decisions at JT, would this put more to BOCC? CB – allows JT to put more time in Engineering/roads. BR – Transition more and more to Kent currently. AH – in future if can’t get a capable replacement how to draw back various operations? If SW is a separate department then billing of work between departments would be dealt with to keep finances straight. JD & AH don’t want to see a complete separation.
- **SW & Admin** (BR)
 - o **Office Manager new position** – bring back next week.
 - o **Summer Temps**: Normal procedure is to equalize wages between union and non-union hourly rates for same positions. Difference is union positions are year around, full-time while temps are not and temps receive no benefits or job security. Union does not oppose. BOCC concurs and resolution will be in consent agenda next week. Possible discussion for 1 additional SW Truck driver – BOCC wants to see justification for need. BR will take a close look and make sure it is in the budget.
- **Engineer**
 - o **Maintenance & Road**: nothing new
 - o **Elmway Levee repairs** – a lot of trees to replant (mitigation for emergency work last spring). Will plant along river banks. Will check with F&W about appropriate trees. Must be natives and will grow large enough. Additional signature for certification that funds for levee work will not be used to lobby Federal government needed – done.
 - o **Riverside Levee** – currently playing phone tag. Will keep up trying to contact
 - o **Similkameen Trail** – will do maintenance and inspection – not sure on exact timing.
 - o Will make a presentation at the **Omak/Okanogan Rotary** – BOCC OK.

Lunch

1:30 **Public Comment**

- GT: public comment at Planning Commission on Engh Rd cannabis, encouraging working on code enforcement in County, changes in Federal Ag. Bill allows legal industrial hemp – effects on Okanogan County and encouraging future study and possibility of future changes.

2:15 Miscellaneous Business

- Approve special run of Vouchers
- Approve regular vouchers & payroll
- Approve Public Health voucher & payroll
- Approve BOCC minutes 1/14 & 1/15
- Approve BOCC minutes for 1/22
- Approve Consent Agenda

2:35 LJ Miscellaneous Actions.

- Ed Nichol appointed to Work Force Development Council approved
- Teamsters Union #760 Agreement with Juvenile Detention Unit approved

Adjourn.