

BOCC
Jan. 11, 2016

Jim Detro – JD
Ray Campbell – RC
Sheilah Kennedy – SK
Perry Huston – PH
Albert Lin – AH
Lanie Johns – LJ

Public Works – PW
Methow Watershed Council – MWC

All writer's comments in italics. This is a paraphrasing of conversations. As this has periods of BOCC work time, there are extended periods of BOCC members looking at papers, reading correspondence on computers, and texting. All BOCC members are present at opening.

Issues:

Twisp River Ice Dams
Pub Wks shops/vehicles
Trial Ct/Judges \$\$
Methow Instream Flow plans
USFS issues

MISC.

Arrive @ 9:00 Basic discussion among themselves, looking at papers & computer screens.

Trial Ct Improvements

SK - & LJ: Discussion of money being deposited in Trial Ct improvement fund. LJ & SK – referring to revenue / deposits made into trial court improvement does match \$ received from State.

AL appeared. Exec. Session @ 9:30 – review applications fro Fairgrounds manager positon & plan.

RC & JD will be gone Jan. 20 & 21 for Olympia meetings. JD will be gone to doctor's beginning @ (:40, Did not see full packet of applications for Fairgrounds, went back to office & found materials. OK, now reminded of applications.

PW Vehicle Purchases

Discussion of vehicle purchasing by Public Works. Proceed with getting quotes. SK – wants to strike because list from PW is wish list and want to approve as needed. Back to PW PU purchase – why not look at 2015 new models for cost savings? Are 6 4 door Crew Cabs necessary?, or can get by with 3? How often only see 1 person driving a rig? Are new purchase one for each county shop? What's cost differences for lesser equipt PU? Need information. RC – bring support for

purchases but understanding need for more information. SK – wants more facts & figures rather than a simple authorization for purchase.

Twisp River Ice Dams

RC – elaborating to SK: needs to be a @ a meeting over potential ice dams & flooding near Twisp. Were looking for finances to remove potential ice dam if necessary. Involves Corp of Engineers, Salmon Recovery, Twisp & County people. Possible to use an excavator to open up and then allow water to flow. Have an emergency permit with Fish & Wildlife if needed. Whole process is giving good background to Maurice – Emergency Mgmt. Some \$ in PWs flood money – about \$10,000. Need to get permits, groups, cities all on board before crisis. RC discussing that meeting was a good process to discover steps and procedures General discussion of coordinating efforts, where costs come from, how to manage costs. Each city, individual must act to protect its own. Effort is to provide support & coordination from County.

MISC.

Exec. Session – Contracts & Performance of a Public Employee. PH will attend – Out @ 11:15

RC & SK @ desk, paper & computer, JD @ doctor. Very quiet some time.

SK to RC: Was appointment of District Ct judge in 2013 or 14? RC – 2013

Exec. Session @ 11:50 – Performance of a Public Employee *Return @ 12:00*

SK – saw a new piece on Medical Marijuana vs. Recreational Marijuana controversy heating up. Med. MJ applications deadlines in conflict. Only some retailers able to meet med. Mj certification.

Cty Jail

SK – talked to Douglas Co. Com. – wants a meeting with all of Okanogan BOCC. Regarding condition of OK. Co. jail; Douglas CO. apparently gives \$ to Ok. Co. for people in jail. Need to have Sheriff Rodgers help with discussion & questions. In a year or so Jail Director might be retiring. Nothing official so can't move forward for replacement until have a formal letter of resignation.

PW Shops

RC – need to put an agenda for tomorrow on PW with Josh., some issue about Oroville PW shop. A discussion of condition of buildings & newness, lack of maintenance on a variety of Co. buildings, need to have various depts. be responsible for repairs & maintenance. Make it a budget item. Shop supervisors need to take this as a responsibility. Leadership problem? BOCC people need to do some oversight but dept. people primary duty. May need major work at Oroville Shop, perhaps combine Oroville & Tonasket shops? Discussion of service areas of other

shops – Brewster, Methow, etc. Consider rethinking PW districts. Would that provide more efficiency?

Judges Salaries & Trial Ct \$

SK to LJ: Why such a large difference in salaries in Dist. Ct judges? LJ – only a portion of salary is responsibility of State. So only that portion is reimbursed. What shows up is what's left over as County Expense. A report from Leah McCormick showing amounts. There are worksheets showing online records back to 2011. IDs how much came from state. Want to figure out how much was to go to Trial Ct. improvement. Trying to sort out where money to courts is coming from & Going. SK wonders if “they” will give some consideration for Ok. CO. as we fully fund Dist. Ct. otherwise. LJ – State does not have records to see this. Need to demonstrate that are collecting from State and matching comes from County.

1:30 Return from Lunch, RC & SK present. JD arrives 12:35. Roni Holder brings in a document to have signed.

1:30 PH Planning/Admin Study Sessions

Methow Instream Flow

PH - presents a proposal that came from a meeting with Methow Watershed Commission about in stream flow. There are 7 reaches @ 2 cfs per reach which accumulates as it works its way down stream. There are priorities established for use of water. There are water rights for the old Early Winters development & ski hill that are unused. The proposal is to move them down stream and prioritize that water for city use ahead of in stream flow. This would be more than adequate water for city.

This is different from BOCC thoughts. Just move Early Winters set aside and make it available to cities. Due to ownership pattern in Early Winters area not to ever utilize at that locale. Also was a discussion of considering high water excess for diversion to storage if ever available and allowed. Seems better solution than BOCC thoughts as does not need to alter so many pre-existing rules & regs. Much better chance of getting approval.

Early Winters primarily USFS but some water out of Early winters creek out to old ranch & homestead sites. Was bought up, maybe F& W. Resort was going to use that water right. Divert to Ski resort proposal. All this fell through so water becomes available pending approval.

Will not impact current private usage. PH mentions involves surface water, ground water not impacted. PH will produce a map showing boundaries of the 7 reaches. Wants to send proposal to Watershed Council. – Next step is to get DOE to set up rule writing process. County would be lead agency for proposal. MWC not funded or staffed to handle process. – SEPA process if going to rule writing is simpler for County to be lead. – RC wants a study to make sure private land owners in Early winters to see that they have not problems with the proposal. – SK – get an

information letter to our legislators, so that they can be supportive and have a heads up. PH – proposal to MWC that County will be in lead. **If MWC wants to send letter back to County and then start process. Need to do outreach first then go to DOE.**

PH – looks good to BOCC. PH will send a letter to 12th legislatures, present to MWC. **IF MWC accepts then look and begin outreach process. Will run by usual groups, expects usual range of responses. RC – long term idea that cities should have water for expansion. This got altered and now more difficult. PH – If a city has “Domestic” uses then are in jeopardy due to priority issues. Needed to convert to “municipal” right that has a higher priority. Depends if the city involved ever did the conversion.**

VSP

PH VSP – no letter out soliciting applications. Sent a letter asking questions of State. “Shultz” response began time for deadlines. Given time frame it is becoming difficult to spend \$ responsibly. **Waiting on whether response from State over submitted contract that had alterations by County.**

Planning MISC.

USFS issues

PH – there is an uptick in planning activity. Slightly about forecast. Some sign of building activity improvement. **USFS – Rds; found an old paper showing State recognizing County ownership in discussion.** Oroville wanting permission to maintain County sewer in Eastlake area. *(Belongs to County until loan is paid off)* – a “franchise” agreement in process to allow City of Oroville to maintain. No specific response on Forest Plan, a bit of a response on Chewuch Rd Plan from Liu. Ok to set a meeting in Feb. , something from Liu over Copper mine exploration – no details. County sent in comments to preserve standing over Chewuch Rd plan. This does not relate to need for USFS for coordination requirement.

JD – has meeting on Jan 15 over permittees grazing restrictions due to fire impact.

RC – wants to look at Chewuch Rd closures for affect on recreation, potential harvests, public fire suppression. PH brings up some past complaints over lack of revised comprehensive management plan. Feels USFS is using a lot of small policies to do de facto changes.

RC – reiterates not wanting de-commissioning. Fire suppression – maintains that roads are beneficial to geeing water into ground water, more flat surface is a benefit.

PH – should be finishing whole Forest Plan and sub-plans like Chewuch are premature. Rd plan call for which rds by which vehicles. This gets rid of this altogether. **Feels overall approach is a Wilderness Society guidance.** Feels need to see comprehensive Plan for whole forest, then sub plans, there is no coordination currently.

LJ – could possibly get a meeting on Feb. 16, 1:30 with USFS. Will See.

PH – working on a PPT on Forest Mgmt Plan. Remind USFS of their own 7 significant issues.
(No response from USFS on Forest Mgmt letter.

MISC.

Ben has bid ready for Fairgrounds Rest room. Douglas Co. has a concern over Jail. SK - Noah retiring, PH not aware of this concern, Sheriff Rodgers needs to be involved. Both County boards wanting to meet over jail work, Noah retiring soon.

PH - Ameresco letter, no response. *(Seems original project to have 2 adequate wells. Extraction & discharge for heat pumps – did not work out due to the company & contractor not having a realistic view of local conditions. Who bears the responsibility of new wells and fixing problem is source of this issue.)*

2:45 left