

BOCC
Feb. 29, 2016

Jim Detro – JD
Ray Campbell – RC
Sheilah Kennedy – SK
Lanie Johns – LJ

Albert Lin – AL
PH – Perry Huston

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.

9:05 Review of Consent Agenda

RSN – Regional Service Network

Meeting with Regional Service Network was canceled. This is support for mental health out of Spokane. This was on the agenda as a matter of course, the meeting is in Spokane if BOCC wishes to participate. Generally BOCC does not attend due to distance and time considerations.

SK & RC generally feel Spokane RSN is OK and reliable but open to change to new state proposal to re-organize into Chelan, Douglas, Grant & Okanogan counties RSN. Feel would be good to have beds 7 services through local hospitals and Behavioral Health – this would avoid long distance, keep local and support local jobs. They need state to get settled in its own “house” and provide adequate funding before BOCC will consider issue. They are keeping tabs on the process. SK speaks well of a Steven County model where they have a staffed house that provides local care and feels that may be a good local model under Behavioral Health and acute help through proper hospitals.

Forest Mgmt, Fire issues

RC – discussing with SK issues around forest health – need “reasonable harvest”, prescribed burning, avoid “paralysis by analysis”, sees as a problem. Feels DNR reacts to input by listening but can't be sure how/if message gets through.

RC – discuss getting support for “Bill Moody” plane, from previous weeks this is a 747 refit to a retardant plane. DNR sent a letter of support that would they would utilize if available and applicable to a specific fire. This is part of getting certification and on list for use.

RC – Feels a lot of coordination allows DNR, USFS to check off that these agencies did what they have to do but may not mean much more.

SK – a rep. from governor's office dropped by and a message was relayed that we need a local onsite visit and discussion about fire and forest issues. SK will follow up this lead.

RC feels he and other locals have gone out of their way to communicate while state focuses on other areas and issues. Feels there is a mentality to let it burn, promote grizzlies & wolves; and this is not good management of forest, again “paralysis by analysis. RC had been at a meeting in Portland with Regional Forester and others.

SK – Okanogan County not getting attention from ‘powers’ despite big fires of past two years. RC – discussed one view is that fires are part of a natural cycle of drought due to natural factors, not a human influence. Still a real problem that needs to be dealt with.

9:30 Agrees with need to get ahead of fire cycle. National Guard Commander spoke on this at Portland meeting. *(we can all have a different view of what “get ahead of fire cycle, forest management, reasonable harvest, get in and manage our forest might mean.)* RC felt that USFS was not echoing this message – did not elaborate on what this comment meant. Discussion evolves to need for IA (Initial Action) – local IA . Need to aid and fund local and rural fire departments to get involved.

MISC.

LJ – getting capitalized item list from various departments. A lot of last minute calls from depts. about needing to use overtime to meet today’s deadlines. This happens every year. SK & LJ are expressing concern about the lack of planning or foreseeing the need to meet the deadline.

(JD working on computer, hasn’t participated in any depth with discussions so far this morning)

9:45 DNR Fire Camp Rental

SK need to discuss standing DNR Contract for use of Fairgrounds. Wants some clarification on proposal contract. Generally if DNR uses fair it forecloses other users on grounds so county loses potential revenue. Need to rent at full value that recognizes that loss to county. Also can’t maintain or construct during such a rental. Hand out from SK is original DNR contract, with SK modifications reflecting above thoughts. The rest of BOCC agrees with this position support SK asking for this contract conditions and a need to reserve some space for evacuees and their animals/livestock. *(Further discussion involves what other facilities for evacuees and animals are in other areas of county. Agreement for stables in Methow in place, Emergency Mgmt is looking for other opportunities. Possible in north end of county – Lake Osoyoos Park, Chesaw rodeo grounds, Oroville Grange & nearby Princes Park as tenting area or possible fire camp site. If these possible then Emergency Mgmt would pass onto Animal Control to implement in emergency the animal part.)*

10:10 Water Resource Issues.

RC – discussion of impact of old irrigation systems and interaction with ground water, water flow, wells and in ground water storage for better seasonal availability. This is often overlooked in decision making over water.

Misc.

LJ – has an email on Fair Grounds Manager. JD – Ken Stanley Bid opening on soil stabilizer – not on old agenda, LJ – provides new agenda indication will be on Tuesday consent agenda.

Fair

SK & LJ – need to have a discussion with Kathleen on Fair Grounds about staffing and future needs as work level picks at Fair Grounds. LJ – once fill jail position and returning worker can open up maintenance jail job. Possible move to temp position at Fair, also seasonal Fair could go to temp at Fair. Could grow to full time Maintenance at Fair. SK – need to advertise for jail maintenance to get application pool to set things in motion. RC 7 JD in agreement. OK for now, work will pick up later in March. Fair Manager being hired, clerical person shifting hours to responsibility to work Fair issues.

(LJ has turned on microphones – helps a lot on hearing commissioners. Response to ROC request.)

LJ concerned about some older returning workers need to follow current policies and practices regarding contracts, etc. Need to be informed and monitored. (rental contracts at Fair) Fair advisory Board in charge of priorities, County only legal, financial contract issues. Need to make sure process is open and people are aware.

Budget

LJ needs direction on transfer of \$ to current expense to cover cash flow issues due to not receiving tax \$ until later. Leah M. recommends transfer now, not later. SK agrees to need, clarifying where \$ come from. (Basically out of reserve). LJ says comes from residual reserve that is on short-term investment will be transferred to current expense cash. SK – Possible further shortage in budget issues and revenue shortfall due to sales tax decline from last years fires, lower tourism \$, lower property tax receipts, are all involved in shortfall. LJ will move ahead on resolution.

Tonasket EMS

LJ – Tonasket EMS met and recommends Wendy Burks, would be on 1 year probation, 6 month review. She has been doing well currently. Salary will be at \$500, \$200 less then predecessor. Burks does not have full certification at this time but here is a stipulation that she will have to have by end of probation period. BOCC will need to issue a contract & appointment based on recommendation. BOCC has ability to deny or modify contract. SK concerned about lower pay then previous. In notes from Tonasket EMS is a mention that they have not been paid contractual \$ for standby EMS services from fires last summer. \$46,000, contract went through county process, BOCC needs to follow up. Go ahead to do that.

Payroll error/Risk Mgmt

Tanya – Risk manager – brings up issue with payroll for Public Defender. New employee at payroll made a mistake. Checks were issued for 3/2. Issue is being reissued right now to meet contract specifications. Resolution presented and approved.

11:02 Exec Session

Regarding Performance of a public employee, BOCC, PH & Ben – something about new hire, possible travel time \$. Will sell county trailer. Details & discussion are in session.

MISC. -Quad Cty; RR, coal, Obama; Wolf Haven

SK asks about BOCC schedules for Fridays in April. Wants to look at Quad County meeting. RC & JD are generally open on April Fridays. April 22 and 29 are possible. LJ will run by Quad County to see if possible.

JD mentions discussion a RR employee and how slow down affecting jobs on RR. Comments that Obama's War on Coal cause of layoffs due to much fewer coal trains. *(No dialogue on other important related issues.)*

SK & RC – Wolf Haven on West Side has ability to euthanize as needed How does this fit with endangered species act? Ted Turner getting wolves from Wolf Haven for his New Mexico ranch.

Exec Session

Fair Grounds hiring contract. BOCC, Debbie from HR

Fire Recovery \$\$

SK – State House has approved \$8.8 Million for Okanogan Co. fires for fences, etc. recovery plus \$200,000 for weeds. Senate struck and moved \$ to DNR, DNR is much more restrictive on how \$ utilized as compared to local. Conservation District would be involved if to Okanogan County. SK & Craig Nelson, Conservation District, have sent letter to local legislators, Senate may move \$ back to separate item for Okanogan County. BTW: *local company working on getting native seeds for rehab. – apparently they have seeds on hand despite talk of shortage.*

12:07 JD leaves for Lunch

RC – Something about Public Health advisory board opposing removing/adding something to “Class B”. This is expressed as something bad. No explanation beyond this.

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Concerns with SK & LD, Community Action

ROC Note: The following discussion was not on the BOCC agenda for today. ROC is not able to verify any of the below content. Ms. Duncan was not present at the below session, likely because it was not on the agenda. We are including this discussion because it occurred during this public meeting, whether or not it is accurate or appropriate during a public meeting.

SK – a note was found at end of Juvie session at Board Meeting. Note indicated that, “SK was out get Lael Duncan” of Community Action. SK says this not true. SK: Real concern is over inability of Com-

munity Health fulfill terms of grant for homelessness. There was a need to have adequate records to show effects on homelessness and for timely filing of a report on progress. If Okanogan County gets a deadline as part of a grant they must meet that deadline. SK: feels that she has consistent (?) across various areas regarding obligations and this is an example. If there is an appearance of an issue with Laael & others & SK it is because of SK wanting jobs & work done well, not personal. Wants \$ spent well and correctly. SK expects all people to be accountable.

SK: Claims that the concern is over the homeless grant administered by Community Action and not meeting deadline and how that affects contract with County. Expenditures out of Professional Services contact with LD being spent without the contract being signed. There is also a list of a variety of people including homeless who are banned from local short-term housing (151 people) because of past damage and other problems in rooms. SK wants to bring in all groups, stakeholders, to put issues on table. RC feels a great deal of homeless \$ goes to overhead and not to problem. PH – often sees a conflict with maintaining programs and meeting homeless housing needs.

Planning

Regarding upcoming Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery meeting, Planning will send representative if BOCC wants but really needs her time at Planning to keep up with work load. RC does not want any decision making at UCSR meeting without someone representing Okanogan County present. PH will check on that possibility and then let BOCC know circumstances.

Methow Watershed Council – Agreed with BOCC on their role regarding reallocation of Early Winters water to downstream Class A, towns primarily. There is a need for tribes, Colville & Yakima's, Fish & Wildlife, BOCC to get together so all are on same page. Changing water flow as discussed at a previous session. Early Winters set aside asking to be reallocated. One idea was bringing down restrictions on Class A water. This was felt to be more of an effort than worth at this time. Need to focus on water for cities. RC sees no real need for Class A water outside of city jurisdictions. Current Class As are a few airstrips, designated industrial sites and cities. Issue in Methow is Twisp & Winthrop are up against limits of water so need more legal rights to enable expansion and serving better. Some conditions are needed to upgrade systems to limit leakage and other losses from systems. MWC not opposed to getting more water to towns. BOCC would like to locate sites in closed basins for water storage for future possibilities but not implement or request action at this time. PH will get MWC to set tasks; Class A, storage and review of old water plan. County will be legal entity, pickup cost & MWC will do public process. This is similar to Planning Commission. No need for fund raising on part of MWC foundation.

1:14 VSP ad is out for advisory board positions. RC wants to make sure specific target groups see info. – Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's, Hort. Assn. Ad run once, wait two weeks for closing, hopefully an article in local papers will help advertise. PH will get his staff together to scope task.

1:17 Upcoming Tuesday (3/1) meeting with USFS. Concerns on test drilling on possible pit of proposed Copper Mine are addressed in letters to USFS from Farm Bureau, Citizen Council – no addition concerns from BOCC. BOCC wants proper coordination on part of USFS and this will provide adequate opportunity for BOCC. SK asks if a Cooperating Government's Agreement would be helpful. PH – only

gets you into SEPA/NEPA process, actual role depends on fine print of agreement. Must be aware of costs and obligations in fine print. RC feels coordination will allow County to level of control that it needs. PH feels point of coordination is to get USFS in to talk. USFS is in Public Comment stage & looking at decision about exploration drilling. Meeting tomorrow seen as a 1st step in series of USFS working with and including County. SK – supports mining but has concerns. PH feels BOCC concerns are as important as establishing roll of coordination for future.

SK – what of Mushroom picker permits, numbers, etc.? USFS will provide sanitation, set aside camping areas, arrange for garbage PU.

AL - On direction of RC wants to file a “Motion to Intervene” regarding DNR withdrawal of Loup Loup salvage sale. Gets OK to proceed. PH concerned and will pursue documents about why withdrew. DNR Torgeson said to be economic reasons, but will pursue sale later under reforestation guidelines.

AL concerned about Canadian mining company filing claim without legal status to file a claim. Wants to investigate. Does this Canadian outfit have some kind of proper status.

2:40 Exec. Session regarding potential litigation, return at 3:04. BOCC, AL & PH attending.

Zone Code – public hearing on Mar. 28, there is a 30 day notice out for comment period as well as draft EIS. This is on track. Final EIS after hearing – including subdivisions, administration, etc.

Discussion of bid on Jail ceiling. Would like to check with Douglas County about cost sharing. Would like to bring in Sheriff Rogers & Noah Stuart and get their input.

Ameresco meeting coming up. Want to have local drillers present if possible. JS & RC will contact some driller to arrange their attendance. March 15 at 3:00. Same day as 1st Juvie meeting @ 6:00.

Ben has not received anything on Jones Hall.

P+PH will post through HR a Planner 1 position. This is a position replacement, not a new position. Previous was a Planner 4 and this position will gradually train up to a higher level if it works out.

Oroville EMS – Oroville Council meeting Tuesday night, should get a decision from that. Oroville wants independence and may keep Lifeline regardless. Issue is splitting of funding if Oroville is separate from rural. Possible contract matches depreciation of ambulances, is term of EMS levy. If Levy fails then contract ends 60 days later, other wise a 7 years term (end of depreciated like of equipment.) Discussion of how levy works, EMS levy is a fixed charge per \$1,000 valuation. \$ to Lifeline is basically the same as levy collection. If the levy \$ fluctuate could affect cost to County. 7-year term of levy is tied to equipment depreciation, must recognize that equipment would be “used up” at end of that term and replacement would be necessary. Could be a balloon cost if this falls back on County. Lifeline is aware if they are contracting party they would assume this cost as a private entity. There is a lease on the part of Lifeline for Oroville building and equipment. SK wants to make sure contract is very clear and understandable for all parties present and future.

FEMA – still trading paper, nothing new.

There was a letter about missing old Planning memo from Isabelle. Now on the website. PH feels all caught up with correspondence regarding Juvie. Still needs to arrange information in a sensible manner.

SK wants to know if newspaper article and editorial should be part of official record? Jail Elimination (?) act changes conditions some old info & beliefs so some correspondence no longer pertinent and misleading. Should County filter? PH – statement made at meeting was everything goes on website and will PH only organize information. PH feels that at some point needed capitol improvements will become a topic. BOCC can address that topic at that time. Some of this can be directed by “Critical Path” and its design and tweaked as process goes along. Two distinct parts - operating costs & capital facilities needs. BOCC can decide when and how to proceed. SK – there is need to finalize memo to department about 2015 exit audit.

There will be a public hearing regarding land exchange March 14.

4:04 Interview of Monte Andrews for Fair Advisory Committee.

Note taker leaves for other obligations.