

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
Feb. 6, 2018**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)	Perry Huston – PH (Planning)
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)	Lanie Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)	Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)	David Gecas – DG (County attorney)
Debi Hilts – DH (HR)	Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance)	

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Building Dept. Staff Report, Conflict of Interest, PWorks Staff Report, PWorks Hirst/Ecology Update, Citizen Comment , Hirst Decision / Law revision (SB 6091) update, North Central Forest Health Collaborative, Finance Committee, Fair Grounds facilities Current Expense budget, WSU Extension Staffing

9:00 No quorum: CB in attendance, JD & AH absent. **All proceedings until 1:35 are unofficial due to a lack of quorum.** Other Commissioners off to other meetings with AH due after lunch.

Beginning of unofficial proceedings:

Dan Higby (Building Dept.) – asks CB about the BOCC review of proposed Bldg Dept. Fee Schedule. Has AH kept BOCC up to date with Twisp city contracting of Building Permits to County with who should be responsible for enforcement issues – County or City? In other similar cases in county the city enforces. DH is having some conflicts with his time and may be pulled away from office for certain periods but is available for recall on short notice – making sure BOCC is away and OK with the situation. DH will contact AH about the Twisp city issue, wants input on how to move forward.

CB and George Thornton (member of the public): GT brought up questions about the importance of recognizing conflicts of interest in a variety of County business, BOCC, advisory committees, etc. A generic discussion occurred. GT brings up a lack of **Conflict of Interest** disclosure or discussion in BOCC and other County proceedings and states that in a County of the nature of Okanogan it seems unusual that this does not arise in the normal course of business. He points out some personal experiences and likely of a similar situation with many County personnel and in BOCC proceedings. In an exchange with CB, it is agreed that the issue is one of disclosure and awareness, not a blanket prohibition of participation with recusal necessary - only in extreme cases. CB to share this discussion with the other members of the BOCC.

10:50 – Pworks: BR & JT: JT (Roads) – tribe has contacted PWorks about **Buffalo Lake Rd.** Tribe wants to do a major upgrade to the road and needs to work with the County on right of ways and particulars. JT shares that it is an early **breakup** in some of the County roads with the ensuing problems. **WATV signage** is in discussion with the DoT. DoT does not support large scale physical signage due to expense. Meeting standard signage requirements causes greater expense to as much as \$100,000 in District 3 initial and necessary replacement and repair schedule adding a similar expense over years. DoT not allowing grant to cover this cost and they favor a comprehensive map being offered. County will need to examine alternatives. PH to contact litigants of original County rule and ATV concerns to share and listen on how to resolve the various problems. **Gravel crushing** project started on Feb. 6. PWorks will send an estimate of cost to have necessary documents for BOCC to prepare a grant to cover all of the Counties costs for **digital archiving**. **Snowmobile:** will explore possible inter-local to allow for County to maintain vehicle access to snowmobile trailheads that are on USFS. Another effort will be for an inter-local for cattle guard maintenance to be explored with USFS. BR (Admin) – Open Position effort to find an Engineering Tech will continue are interviewing for in house promotion to a Lead Mechanic position. **Nox. Weeds & WSU Extension moving to PWorks** Admin Building is coming along well. NW & WSU Ex are clear about not moving into Hancock Bldg. Negotiation with PHealth going well over necessary accommodations. Sharing of various costs are all agreeable. Details are all moving forward. **WSDOE on Ellisforde Landfill:** WSDOE not agreeing to closure. Some groundwater pollutants are above standards. BR feels the contaminants in question need to be looked at carefully. Currently only have 2 test wells, while original agreement specified 4. May need to drill more and extend monitoring time line. **SWAC update:** 1st real discussion over raising tipping fee has SWAC not ready for a decision. They have finalized recommended by-law changes. CB asks if By-laws include Conflict of Interest language and is looking to all advisory committees having such language. BR will consult with civil attorney. **Snow Grooming Advisory:** will forward proposed district boundary revision to BOCC for approval. Meant to eliminate the lack of ability to find a representative from the Bonaparte region. Brings up consulting with USFS about inter-local on plowing for access to USFS snowmobile trailheads. **Union MOAs:** Moving forward.

Discussion of afternoon **Hirst/Ecology Update** and process: Possible uses of grant monies for stream water enhancements.

12:00 Lunch

1:30 CB: present. AH called from Pateros and is on the way.

Citizen Comment: Note Takers group is changing name to Okanogan County Watch. 5 people involved, will do occasional filming and/or broadcasting of specific topics or session. There is a short discussion with CB about process and intent. CB gives OK as long as all present are informed that filming is going on. County Watch will also develop a posting on its web site of the various advisory committees, meeting dates & time and membership. The website will be active soon. The session following at 2:00 pm on DOE/SB

6091 update will be live streamed on a trial basis to test technology and with no public access at this time.

Beginning of Official Proceedings:

2:00 Energy Resources Dept., DOE – Treavor Hutton (TH): AH arrives @ 2:02: **Hirst Decision / Law revision (SB 6091) update** will affect non WRIA drainages – county will need a well log to demonstrate that there is adequate water. DOE may determine a need for a comprehensive water study if needed. Not a likely scenario at this time – would need a complaint from a concerned party, have anadromous fish as an issue and rapid growth for DOE to act.

TH: will just work through applicable sections of law. WRIA 48: Methow, has explicit rules in place so it will be business as usual. Will continue current process. AH – it will fall under 2 cfs instream flow restraints if not in an already closed basin. PH – attached to issuing of a building permit? There will be some time future that well drilling will be affected due to impact on minimum 2 cfs reserve. If a well location is adjacent but not in a closed basin then the County can make a determination but should not rely on DOE shape files for boundaries and well must be lawfully constructed.

2:10 DG arrives, several public are in attendance. AH – County will need to generate a letter verifying that a well is in 2 cfs rule area and not in a closed basin. TH – intent of law as to develop a process and develop an instream reserve in WRIAs with no established rule. AH – need to have a process to assure a “new” well in WRIA 48 is under 2 cfs rule.

PH – needs to be lawfully constructed, AH – if in an area a well is arguably adjacent or in a closed basin must submit to DOE to determine? TH – supports that position, same for all of WRIA 49 until an accepted water plan is adopted in 49.

TH – have not developed how the \$300 million enhancement money will be distributed. County needs to document costs and other needed expenditures to be prepared to submit to DOE. AH – some \$ already is being spent. TH – some \$ will be available to cover costs, some will be on a competitive grant basis. WRIA 49 and similar basins will be in a very good position to receive funding. County must track and report all wells. PH – wants to have a software solution for all county well activity.

CB – what if \$500 fee is not enough to cover costs, what can County do? TH – under Section 2 planning process can recommend to DOE that a higher fee would be necessary.

AH – what was legislature intent on lowering daily use cap from 5000 gpd to 3000 gpd? TH – 3000 is not a cap but is an average yearly usage. As long as the 5000 gpd is not exceeded and the 3000 gpd average is followed there no problem. This is not a consumptive use number but a well usage value. A later watershed analysis under a study could examine that issue. Commercial/industrial usage still needs to respect the 5000 gpd limit.

AH – under County Title 20 we were notifying senior water right holders of all new actions in a WRIA. What does DOE recommend? TH – the DOE is not aware of any impairment complaints. Generally not seeing pre-emptive concerns of impairment being substantiated in reality. CB – in issuing a permit how should County deal with senior rights and instream flows? TH – should be a goal of a watershed study group to think about procedures and refine them further.

AH & TH – DOE is working on some definition issues with attorneys – single domestic use, commercial usage are examples. AH – WRIA 48 needs to get usage data quantified, measure consumption/non-consumption difference. Yakama Nation has a lot of concern in WRIA 48, how is the tribe to be notified of what the County is doing? TH – it is important to notify. Hopefully with the current and recent past of communication he hopes this will grow. DOE & TH would be will to facilitate if necessary.

PH - what if someone wants to get a well permit before procedures are in place but not doing actual drilling until some later date? TH – County may want to specify that actual drilling and usage occur within a certain amount of time. Circumstances might change of course so someone might be “let down” later. PH – Ok. Co. currently has a 5 yr. window from permit to usage. AH – lying water right back to title might work along with a subdivision TH- a group on same well would still be limited to 5000 gpd limit, so long as no single user exceeds 3000 gpd average. PH- WRIA must record against title? TH – agrees. PH asks if DOE would give sample language.

TH – will take all input and questions to their regular staff meetings. Sees that some Westside counties are in crisis and Okanogan seems to be OK for now. If and when a question arises please pass it on and DOE and TH will deal that that issue ASAP.

3:00 **North Central Forest Health Collaborative** (<http://www.ncwfhc.org>) give presentation on their mission and role. Refer to website for details of history, mission, processes, where involved and more.

“The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, launched in 2013 with facilitation by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, is a diverse group of local stakeholders represented by timber industry, conservation groups, tribal government, elected officials, and local, state and federal land managers working together to obtain the resources and community support to accelerate landscape-scale forest restoration on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan and Okanogan counties.” (<http://www.ncwfhc.org>)

Share willingness and hope for support and participation from Okanogan County.

4:00 **Finance Committee**: a department’s credit card has exceeded spending limit. Long established County policy (1996) specifies the offending department head be personally responsible for late fees. The Committee wants to make sure BOCC is aware of policy, need to enforce and procedure to assess the charge to the person. This specific fee is for gong over the limit and not for a late fee so BOCC must OK the application of the policy. Committee request the current policy be made clear to include any charge against the card

for improper or exceeding of the card limits or usage as well as specify exact process for having the County being reimbursed for the charge.

4:15 Approval of Consent Agenda, minus last weeks proceedings.

Details on building a budget for the new **Fair Grounds facilities Current Expense budget** BARS code are discussed.

4:30 **WSU Extension Staffing** – Kayla Wells, current office manager is leaving as of the end of the month. She is working with HR about replacement process. Previous person had waived Medical Insurance – the new employee will need the insurance and the budget needs to be adjust to accommodate. KW will work with Treasurer to get process correct for a supplemental request. AH brings in change in language in MOA that describes 4H Educator Position – AH wants to assure that the 4H will be fully supported and that the position is 4H first. AH expresses concern that the intent and role not change. 4H has to continue. They are the 4H person and do Master Gardener on the side and to make sure that the Master Gardener role does not dominate or consume the position. Also wants to make sure that the various 4H leaders be part of vetting of new hire. KW agrees and will communicate to necessary WSU people.

4:50 Adjourned