

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners

2/7/17, PM

County Personnel Present:

AH - Andy Hover, BOCC
JD - Jim DeTro, BOCC
CB - Chris Branch, BOCC
LJ - Lanie Johns, County Clerk
Ann Fagerlie - WSU Extension

Content: 4H regional plans; Homeless Housing heating need; Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board update; Forest Health Collaborative.

1:30 pm - Citizen Comment Period

Citizens comment period. No citizens showed up to make a comment. Commissioners sat quietly going through paperwork.

2:00pm - WSU Extension Update, Ann Fagerlie

Anne Fagerlie, Interim Director for Okanogan County WSU Extension, introduced Yadi-Olivera as the new 4H regional specialist for NC Washington. Her area covers Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas counties. Ms Olivera introduced herself, and said that she goes by Yadi. She will be in charge of 4H leadership in the region. Yadi gave a quick review of her educational background: she recently received her Masters Degree in Prevention Sciences, and is working on her PhD. Her focus in her new job will be to identify community needs regarding positive use development. She will develop, implement and evaluate plans for positive use programs.

JD: asked if Yadi has met Linda with the tribes.

Yadi: Yes she has.

AH: What are the goals for academic side of 4H?

Yadi- She will look at what services communities have and where their needs are. She will fill in gaps. She specializes in family development. She wants to avoid overlap, focus on complementing 4H in youth development.

CB: What other organizations are you contacting?

Yadi- She is identifying what services are here already, and where we can fill in.

AH- What types of programs are you talking about?

Yadi- She is looking at evidence based programs. Examples- obesity prevention program, stress coping program (teaches mothers how to help their children handle stress).

AH- What about drug prevention?

Yadi- She is interested in public health which includes drug prevention. She wants to focus on positive things that will prevent drug use, as well as treatment programs.

CB- What about community action groups?

Yadi- She is in the process of creating surveys; open ended questions plus multiple choice. She will employ quantitative and qualitative analysis such as looking at health district stats, etc. She wants to be thorough and find out all the groups and programs that are already out there, and how effective they are.

JD- What about funds in sheriffs dept that may be available? She should talk to Sheriff about using old drug task force money that is earmarked for drug prevention and may be available. Talk to Laura Jones at health dept. who is well informed about opioid epidemic.

CB- We would be interested in seeing Yadi's list to see if there is anything the BOCC can add.

Yadi- She can arrange for BOCC to be on conference calls with groups.

AH- What about vocational programs? They could help youth. Schools would be interested, and it could be helpful to train youth in skills that could help them find work here in the County.

JD- Where is your home base?

Yadi- She is from Prosser, grew up in an agricultural family. Her father is a cherry orchard farmer. She currently lives in Wenatchee and is learning the area and Okanogan County in particular.

There followed a short casual conversation about Washington state geography in general and our County's place in it. BOCC thanked Ms Olivera for coming and said they looked forward to working with her.

2:20 pm - Homeless housing funding need

There were a few minutes before the next presentation, and County Clerk, Lanie Johns (LJ) presented an issue that had just come up.

A shelter that provides housing for homeless families and operates under the Housing coalition/Housing authority has asked for the BOCC to authorize a transfer of funds from an account that has been already approved but the funds have not been released. The purpose is to pay their heating bill, which is unusually large because of the cold weather. There is apparently about \$2500 left in an account that was approved last year and if it is carried forward to this year, they can release the funds. The estimated heating bill is about \$2300.

CB: How will this work? Will the shelter pay the bill and then be reimbursed when they show a receipt?

LJ: yes, that is how it would work.

BOCC discussed which shelter it is, identified as being in a particular area of town run by River of Light Church. Four families are living there (18 people total), and will be evicted if shelter has heat shut off due to non-payment.

LJ: If BOCC chooses to release the funds, there will need to be an amendment to the existing contract.

JD: Does this need to be run by the County Treasurer?

LJ: No. This is already in the budget (about \$2500), it just needs to be carried forward to allow shelter to use entire amount.

CB: How does Housing coalition/housing authority usually pay their bills?

LJ: Usually they just pay it, but this time there is not enough money.

BOCC agreed that they would approve the funds transfer. LJ said she will prepare amendment for BOCC to vote on.

2:25 pm - Jail tour schedule

Planning Dept personnel asked if the jail tour scheduled for 3:30 could start 10 minutes early, due to last minute meeting demands on the jail personnel.

AH: Maybe, but we have important business coming up.

BOCC discussed briefly. Decided not to commit- will play it by ear.

2:30 pm - Upper Columbia Salmons Recovery Board

Char Schumaker, planning dept rep, introduced Melody Kreimes Executive Director of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB). She will be giving a presentation about what the board is and what they do, and also introduce the Forest Health Collaborative.

Melody Kreimes (MK)- Thanked BOCC for giving her time to speak. Introduced Bob Anderson, who will give perspective of forest harvesting industry. He manages timber harvesting for the Colville tribe. MK gave a brief introduction of herself and said that she is interested in hearing BOCC concerns. (More information about the UCSRB can be found on their web site at <http://www.ucsr.org>.)

She then gave a Power Point presentation:

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is a non-profit with 5 board members: One rep each from Chelan, Okanogan and Douglas county, one each from Colville and Yakima tribes. Andy Hover will be representing Okanogan County.

They work with 8 regional organizations, all doing voluntary actions. Nothing is mandatory. Their work is based on science with goal of restoring species to health and removing from the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Citizens advisory committee decides on the priority of projects. Regional tech team advises on technical implementation. The Citizens Advisory Committee can override the Tech team. There are 2 citizens advisory Committees (based in Okanogan and Chelan). They are comprised of local people who know the area and the people. The board does not make technical decisions- those are left to the scientists. The board is mostly involved with managing the overall program. How has it worked? Major improvement has been documented:

Between 1996 and 2015 there were:

- 68 miles of stream improved
- 16 miles of off channel habitat created
- 110 barriers removed
- 310 miles opened to fish
- 200 acres of riparian habitat improved
- 3400 acres protected

There are also measurable economic benefits:

- \$94M invested in our region
- 1600 local jobs created
- \$245M local economic activity
- 29,565 angler trips, which translates to
- \$1.75M local economic activity

UCSRB does analysis of different areas divided into four groups- hatchery, habitat, hydro power, harvest. Reports are done on each of these with recommendations on how to improve.

There are issues outside the Columbia basin. For Example, sea lions at Bonneville dam eat approximately 20% of the Spring Chinook. There are ongoing discussions about how to handle it. Also birds eat some of the juvenile salmon.

Fires have affected restoration areas, there is a link between uplands and forests with regard to salmon recovery.

Steelhead data shows that trend is going up. More Steelhead are surviving and making it to the Upper Columbia basin, and if it continues, it appears that they could be delisted at some point. (Power Point graph)

Spring Chinook data is not so encouraging. There is currently a flat to negative trend, and it will take a long time to get to level of delisting. This is not unexpected. The original prediction was a 30-50 year time frame for recovery. They are keeping track by tagging and counting fish when they go over dams.

Q & A

AH- How do oceanic conditions play into recovery in our region? For example, we could spend millions of dollars, and if oceans are not conducive to salmon survival, what's the point?

MK: This is acknowledged, but not quantified yet. Trends are being noticed about conditions that impact salmon. It takes a long time to do the analysis due to salmon life cycle and weather patterns.

AH: How are we discerning between salmon in the Columbia, and individual tributaries?

MK: There are targets for the region as a whole, but not for each individual streams. Decisions were made long ago that they would not target Okanogan Chinook specifically. However, the Methow does have a target number.

CB- Are they raising Chinook at Chief Joe hatchery? Yes, but they are considered experimental and not counting towards total.

Forest Health Collaborative

Over 70% of Okanogan County is managed by various Government entities. This must be addressed in terms of salmon recovery, and the focus is on Federal land. In 2012 they were asked to address the health of forest lands. The Forest Health Collaborative (FHC) was formed. (You can find more details at their web page: (<http://www.ucsr.org/newfhc/>.) There are 20 member organizations comprised of private business, local governments and tribal governments. While Chelan And Douglas counties are active participants, Okanogan County has declined to be involved in the past.

What are the barriers to forest restoration? The partners are working with Forest Service to do restoration in conjunction with planned FS projects using private contractors.

Bob Anderson (BA) – Private industry is frustrated by slowness of FS process, and is at the table trying to solve the problems and participate in restoration. FS puts up a sale, but it is poorly written and not viable, so industry is trying to help by suggesting better ways that would work for everyone.

JD: The previous BOCC was opposed to Forest Collaborative. They considered it to be fatally flawed. New BOCC might be open to participating.

MK: Can you give me an example?

JD: The A-Z program is not working due to resistance coming from inside the FS agency. Here is an example. One guy held up draft EIS because he didn't like it. Kinross had put up \$10M to do the project, but finally pulled out.

BA: FS seems to want to do restoration, but not sell anything. This won't work unless the project will pay for itself.

MK: There must be early involvement from all groups in order for success. The North Central Collaborative operates at a pretty high level, not getting into the weeds. We are looking at how do we get more projects done?

JD: Okanogan Nat'l Forest used to have \$180M annual harvest, sustainable back in the 1980's. Now the OK-Wenatchee combined has <\$40M.

CB- is the TFW (Timber-fish-Wildlife) process still around?

BA: That is a state function, and we are focusing on Federal projects.

MK: The FHC would welcome participation from OK County at any level.

CB- Asked for FHC to e-mail with info on meetings.

MK: Invited CB to join monthly steering committee meetings by phone.

CB: Is there a good way to introduce potential projects regarding stream restoration, bridge replacement, etc.? Cited a specific project that he has had trouble getting off the ground due to lack of funding for preliminary work. In Oroville, he had support of landowners, and a proposed solution that was generally accepted by all. The Creek has steelhead, maybe it could be addressed with the collaborative board.

JD: The bridge in that area is a county bridge.

MK: This area (Tonasket Creek) is not in the priority areas, so that is a challenge. But citizens advisory committee could give it weight due to landowner support. Maybe tribes would be willing to help out.

CB- Cited a previous project that was successful.

MK: Wrapped up, thanked BOCC for listening and asked to have regular communication in the future.

CB – Said that he is eager to participate because salmon drives so much of the dialogue about what the County does. He strongly encouraged UCSRB to keep in contact with BOCC.

There ensued a casual conversation about logging and impact of timber lost to fires, etc.

BOCC Approvals

LJ- Said she has several things for BOCC to approve.

Amendment of Housing authority contract for homeless shelter- AH moves to ratify, 2nd by CB. Passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution to transfer funds \$300 from one fund to another. Passed by unanimous vote.

Title 3 expenditures needs to be ratified and move for chair to sign.? (Not sure what this was- the conversation was so fast the note takers did not get the details.)

Letter for contract with teamsters that changes language in the contract. CB moves to accept contract change. AH seconds. Discussion- AH asks why this got left out of contract. Tanya Craig (deputy clerk) was brought in to explain the details. She reported that it was an oversight. New language was inserted in the contract by mutual agreement during negotiations, and old language should have been stricken but wasn't. AH wanted to make sure that this is OK with all parties. Tanya assured them it was, and there is documentation that supports this. BOCC Voted unanimously to change the language.

3:30 pm

BOCC left to go on a tour of the County Jail. Note takers concluded their mission at this point.

