

Okanogan County BOCC Notes
March 28, 2016

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)
Ray Campbell – RC (BOCC)
Sheilah Kennedy – SK (BOCC)
Lanie Johns – LJ (County Clerk)

Albert Lin – AH (Cnty att’y)
Perry Huston - PH (Director of Planning and
Development)

All writer’s comments are 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.

CONTENTS: Wolves & Forest Plan; Coordination v. Collaboration; Vet Bd; Public Wks Temp Emp v.Contracting; Pfarr Rd Vacation; Edelweiss; Fair, facilities/purchases; VSP Comm; Zoning; Mazama Land Exchange; Oroville EMS.

Executive Session

Opens with an Exec. Session: Regarding performance of an Employee. Return at 9:35

Wolves

JD – Denny called in an update on Wolf, wants to get around to all Northern Tier Counties. Now well received due to WAG situation. Someone paid Francine Madden \$850,000 for a contract. JD – could have used \$ to cut down on predation. \$ was to bring all parties to the table to reach a consensus. JD –says Denny non-lethal control proponents are beginning to see need to control problem packs. JD, 3 yrs ago went down to Cox’s Ranch down in the Blue Mtns. – jurisdiction issue with cross border packs between OR & WA.

Forest Plan

JD – Mike Blankenship says Forest Plan meeting was a disaster. Didn’t listen, broke up into topic groups giving input – was a Collaborative process. RC – not there to collaborate, would use coordination process. – a few years ago @ another meeting.

Coordination vs Collaboration

JD – BLM Plan 2.0 – need for BOCC to comment. Feels BLM wants to eliminate coordination. “Nate” has requested extension on comment period. RC – elected officials at grassroots should hold sway over bureaucrats, the decisions need to come from the people. BLM argues that collaboration works better over coordination. SK – should we be on record as in favor of extending the comment period? JD – yes, will bring it up with PH this afternoon. RC – NGO entities are listened to more than local gov’t. See’s this in the Chewuch Travel Plan. JD – This also in the Management plan. Mike Blankenship says not to allow more wilderness. RC – Concerned about fire as apart of Forest management as we see in Okanogan County. SK - Obvious letters not working , what do we do? RC – Once decision made then can take legal action. Agencies have

not listened. Once on record can then challenge in court. SK – want to make sure we are doing the right thing in our voice heard. JD – Wilderness Society gave \$131,000 for Chewuch scoping. He's told this is the one issue to focus on. (Is this true? Might also reflect how \$ short USFS might be due to Congressional stranglehold and fire burning up overall budget.

Upcoming Schedule

Discussion over meetings – Newhouse: Calendar. SK – will have a tour with Jeremy Moberg about GrowOps. JD – argues all marijuana implementation is a state bureaucratic role, the vote was only on just making use legal. (JD conflict over Juvie meeting tomorrow is a source of some ribbing).

Tonasket EMS – discussion of their board, appointment of a new Board member.

10:10 Quad Co. meeting coming up. Asking if there is any agenda updates from other counties.

LTAC (lodging and Tourism Advisory Committee) Arnie Marchand will be appointed to the Board that allocates or recommends how the money is distributed in county. BOCC expresses a lot of support for A. Marchand due to his background, history, knowledge – other person good but not the same.

WIRA meeting 4/24 – 4/27. Flights and housing are arranged. Will fly out of Spokane 4/24 and return on 4/27. **BOCC meetings during that time are canceled.**

Misc.

LJ – handing out a packet & comparison price list for US Community Purchasing – apparently many items cost less compared to current vendor. County already registered but not using. SK – need to have AL look over, also who registered County & when.

SK – Did anyone respond to Ben Rough (BR) request for leave – NO. SK & RC - need to discuss with BR about leave request process.

RC will be at a conference all Thursday – Columbia River Commissioners Advisory Committee.

Vet Board

10:30 Vet. Relief Bod – MS – Michael Stewart, Eric Fritz – EF. Need to rethink vet board membership & attendance. Concern over absences of current vet board members & need to get participating board members. MS – felt there was a 3 & out rule for attendance. But could not find any language in the actual Bylaws. Request to BOCC to have one vet board member removed due to lack of attendance – Ken Lee. Looking at might having to replace as many as 4 vet board members. There is much illness as well as the one not attending & not communicating. SK – are the vet people requesting above to remove people or as advisory? MS – whichever BOCC sees appropriate but need to meet duties assigned by BOCC. SK – will meet with AL to see where posers of BOCC are concerning dealing with vet board members. EF - wants interaction from

BOCC, if send email would want a response. Hope this can be forthcoming. EF wants to know he's moving in the right direction. MS – bridge from town to memorial should be completed by June 4 and would like BOCC to attend opening. Okanogan program being picked up in various places across state. The local leader, EF, is being asked to present & train. Will be asking State Vet Board to reimburse for costs. MS – why EF only to Step 16 when Vet Board asked for Step 18. RC - BOCC felt is was too fast an advancement. JD – need documentation to support efforts over time. BOCC needs to keep consistency across whole county. Sk – vet board needs to coordinate with Homeless Housing, include EF in the work of Housing. EF is currently in discussion with Community Action. Needs to have a good hand off from Community Action to Vet Board efforts. SK & BOCC recommending vet board to be at Fairgrounds @ 5:30 to meet with Rep. Newhouse.

11:00 Ben Rough, PW Administrator.

Seasonal Temp. Positions – Flaggers, M-w Truck Drivers, Landfill laborer. SK – positions already budgeted? BR – no specific line item but \$ are sorted out by function. SK – wants new budget to show positions to better tracked. Are the positions being filled because they are budgeted or because the need is there? Why no contractors? BR has seen the position/budget issue and will look into in for the new budget. SK – wants to see personnel costs also, not just costs by project. BR – personnel during the summer are much more project directed, emergency work requires complication – many things come up that contracting out is not timely. SK – feels contracting out should be cheaper. This because County costs do not always reflect overhead costs. Feels this freezes out public sector. JD – level of service from PW might be better because not always coming from a profit motive. SK – many contractors sitting around while County hiring. BR – understands but needs to move ahead due to need & tight schedule. Need to explore & study for next year. RC – need to put time into finding where contracting would be better choice, also benefit private sector. BR – needs to find #s so can address issue. SK – wants to know for record that work will be impacted in positions not filled. BR – yes, new mechanic position less urgent, wants blanket OK to move ahead on temp. positions. SK – yes on landfill (hope to decrease overtime), mechanic position not sure – drivers do routine maintenance. Not enough info to decide if some shop expense could be shifted to private sector. Want to get \$ to work on the roads and less on overhead. RC – do we need temp jobs due to budget \$ available or need to get job done? BR – yes, allows more flexibility & staffing by permanents. Also more work to do in summer. Really need to get advertising for temp jobs for April forward. (RC – need all of April or could put on later? BR – now. SK – are wages for temps determined by job or by hiring category? BR – by hiring position. JD – feels PW are utilizing as best they can.. BR – if get OK on Mechanic/Welder will put together overview of possible contracting out. SK – how much backlog at shop on work due to work not being done? JD – feels there is a backlog. (difference in JD & SK about need direction in PW. SK is really looking at saving \$ and supporting contracting out. JD supports current request on part of BR & PW). SK – can start out mechanic/welder on probation/temp then change to permanent? BR – need to check with Rocky Jackson (negotiator paid by County) to see if possible with union contract.

BR – discussion of landfill overtime & perception by workers of “right” that would be lost and how that might affect worker relations. Rocky recommended a discussion with OBCC. Might save County \$13,000. SK – would \$13,000 pay for advertised temp. for landfill? BR – really are different roles and positions but \$ are about the same. Need to give 2 weeks notice for shifted work schedule. Avoided last year due to wanting to avoid union complicating negotiations. SK – this is not a union discussion, it’s how to cover need. County has role to determine hours and best service to public. Decisions need to be based on efficiency not on other issues (worker morale, for example). RC – concur 100%, not a worker feeling issue. Best use of taxpayer \$ is driver. JD – just double check with Rocky. BR – has checked with Rocky. Rocky agrees that is a BOCC right but cautions about impact on worker morale and upcoming union negotiations.

Grant Accountability – done. Paper work filed.

Pfarr Rd Vacation – had been combined with a plat application but this was not allowed by hearing examiner. This was sent back to PW for proper process. This is a road that was never constructed. Fee would be \$750. There is a work burden to accomplish the task of vacation. SK – did BOCC do something that may have mislead parties? BR – state law clear, PH & local office may have done different but that didn’t come up. Plat application process was told to party would work. This was not correct. Need to include in public hearing over matter that there is an adjustment of fee due to mix up.

USFS 4200 road letter was passed by BOCC.

12:05 Break for setting up projector & computer for Road Log discussion by Verlene. Did not work out so the discussion is being postponed to another day. BR – Verlene & Shelly have a lot of work done. They will start addressing the real work of resolving problems discovered in going over road history & 1955 rule.

Scheduling meeting with Ok-Wen Forest Supervisor. JD leaves at 12:21

Misc.

SK - Need to look at work schedule for fair work and work backwards from Fair Opening to make sure there won’t be a conflict. Has new Facilities person been able to print out his contract, as that is where all his duties are outlined. LJ – has been shown but unsure if he has been able to accomplish that task.

Minutes Review

RC & SK – reading over some minutes. Not sure what/when they are for. SK – reading report from DRS about county fine for mishandling some employees. Looks a bit ugly – a variety of violations from retirement / rehire, etc. LJ – most likely there will be follow up audit by DRS to make sure there has been appropriate changes and compliance, payments, etc.

12:353 Lunch

1:30 -Planning Update - RC, SK, JD PH & AL

Edelweiss Application. Was not returned on time. Voided due to expiration of time. Request for reconsideration was filed and denied due to lack of supporting information. New request and letter of explanation background for reconsideration. PH – this is within power of the BOCC to accept contract due to extenuating circumstances. RC – understands circumstances. SK - has been through process and was OK'ed by planning. BOCC accepts and will have a resolution & motion to accept.

Report on Fair facilities

Comment on US Communities purchasing program. There are savings compared to current costs. Grandstand – bid & vendor opportunities; Restroom – supply of fixtures at no cost but locks in a particular supplier of consumables, i.e. – soap, paper. SK – review details of US Communities contract. AL reviewing agreement – not sure whether this organization is a private coop or what. Whole idea was bought up by one of the supplies for the facilities. Discussion about validity, state law allowing, cost issues and even if using US Communities is possible. Dale _ Facilities & Grounds Manager. – nothing decided, still need to follow a lot of procedure. SK – still wants to go through legitimate, approved process. Dale – appears that same supplier can provide products to County the US Communities at a reduce price. Needs to be investigated further. SK – basically who are these guys? Need to know. PH – 1) are we signed up, if not how, what cost? 2) Can County buy grandstand through this group? 3) Design issues. AL – seems to be a statement from about 2015, need to look further.

VSP – looking for 9 member board: 1 from each district – JD: N. Keuchal (?), RC: Kent Stokes, SK: none yet, Watershed: Barnes, At Large: Ewing, Enviro: Megan Kernan, Hort: None yet, Farmer's Bureau: John Wyss, Cattlemen: Les Kinney All this currently, not final. Nothing from the tribes- Colville & Yakama.

Zone Code

Planning Com. Hearing – tonight. Will try for making a special meeting. SK – is special meeting important? Seems comments so far (Cannabis moratorium), are in favor of conditional use permits but not moratorium. PH – expect long hearing, there's a resolution to be proposed by Planning Staff, then it will be transmitted to BOCC. There will need to be a reasonable amortization schedule to come into compliance. Otherwise could just grandfather in all old GrowOps then proceed with new code under new conditions. Other issue to be looked at is Nightly Rentals, SK – BOCC can reject Planning Committee recommendations and impose a non-amortization grandfather? BOCC has put out a draft amortization schedule to come into compliance. PH feels too much to do tonight to reach a decision. SO expects a special meeting in early April. Water is another issue, whether enough to support density of homes. SK – recent court decisions gives some guidance to decisions that need to be made.

Mazama land exchange – RCO decided that they need more process – longer comment period, clear that land that County-owned lands were purchased for exchange was with RCO money. SK – has another story, wants to check to verify. SK – Not what I heard at March 18 meeting with Cunningham in Olympia. PH will follow up to check. Something changed since then. Ms. Barker thinks this would make a better proposal to RCO. SK – Want to clarify with Cunningham.

PH – We are not under a time crunch, but proponents might be. For Phase 2 they will have David Ebenger help them through the process. They want BOCC to help this move forward.

AL – Onus should be on proponents, not County. BOCC has taken heat in the past, not advocating for the group. Hayes needs to make justification to BOCC and Court. SK – BOCC has said in public hearings that there is no problem. What good is another hearing? PH – We have met requirements. AL – In past, BOCC has not advocated in court. PH – Three requirements: 1) Are you interested, 2) Is there a public benefit? And 3) Is swapped property of equal value? You have answered those. RCO staffer (*Barker*) opinion only. Will communicate that this is not appropriate. Do you want another public hearing? RC – Let SK get hold of Cunningham.

PH – They want an alternatives analysis. There are no other alternatives. Will push back.

Columbia River Policy Advisory Group

PH – Looking for funding to keep going. Columbia River Office is no longer funding. Webinar next Thursday, 3/31. Do BOCC want to participate?

RC – Do you have time? PH – I can make time. RC – I'd like to know status. Haven't been keeping up. PH – Haven't gone for about 3 years. RC – Last time, the Tribes wanted salmon above Chief Joe and Grand Coulee. PH – Will check with Eric Johnson, see what is going on.

JD – Don't want to give the money. RC – Depends what the issues are. Want to see the agenda.

Executive Session : PH - Requests 30 minute executive session.

RC – Sub-division draft under administrative review? Anything jump out at you? PH – First impression, it is too complex. Enforcement, want to consolidate. I streamlined, stripped out burdensome language. SK – The last draft I looked at looked really close. Does BOCC need a work session on this next week, 4/6? RC – Agree. SK – 10:00. PH – Will bring other code sections that are in the queue.

3:10 : Executive Session

3:55: County Roads vs. Easements

PH – Internal roads in plats, roads have been vacated or altered. How does the County want to view these? Policy? Big discussion, need to include Public Works. For example, landowner associations want to do 'something'. SK – 'Big' public or neighboring public? Platted lots must

have access, but people are gating them. PH – Many different scenarios. Too much for today. If County doesn't assert ownership of underlying land, as opposed to being keeper of easement, who does? RC – If forfeited by County, to whom? PH – Include Hearings Examiner. AL will put together a discussion. Nothing on table right now – policy only.

Oroville EMS

4:10 pm. PH – Requested to get on agenda of the Oroville City Council meeting to try to get on the same page. Analysis underway of who owns what (e.g., ambulances, building). Will report back to BOCC.

4:15 Review of meeting notes

(Silence while commissioners read)

SK – PH has been requested to meet with the Oroville City Council. Don't need a separate meeting with BOCC. *(This was the only correction to the minutes heard by the notetaker. Long period of silence)*

4:45 Conversation between LJ and commissioners regarding software licenses – costs and alternatives. Preferred alternative will cost \$13,000 (\$6,000 more than current vendor). Discussion of how to fund the difference.

(Continued silence)

4:55 Notetaker leaves.