

Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting April 11, 2022
AM session

AH – Andy Hover, BOCC Chair, District 2
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
JD – Jim DeTro, BOCC member, District 3
DH- Dave Hecker (Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board)
LH- Larry Hudson (Mngr, Okanogan Noxious Weed Board)
TM- Terry McNabb (Aquatechnics, Inc.)
LJ- Lanie Johns – Clerk of the Board
CH- Crystal Hawley- Deputy Clerk of the Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.countywatch.org/commissioner-and-board-of-health-meetings.html> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, Click [here](#).

Summary of Significant Discussion: Pros and cons of remote access to meetings; Upper Salmon Recovery Board Citizens Advisory Council appointments; Discussion on Planning, Growth Mgmt Act and how planners are trained; Discussion about protocol for using new chemical to treat milfoil in Lake Osoyoos.

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date. Click [here](#) to go to the video.

3:35 – pledge of Allegiance.

4:00 – LJ enters to tell BOCC about a cancelled meeting.

4:45 - Exec session “regarding performance of an employee”.

26:30 – BOCC return from Exec session. “Jim” shows up, AH says he thought the meeting was cancelled. Jim states that he is just there to resolve any issues with the planning department. AH says that they just thought that things were a little premature to talk about details but they should be able to next week. Jim- says they just want to address any concerns that planning department has ahead of time. AH says that shouldn’t be a problem. *(Note- there is no indication of who “Jim” is or what issues he is referring to.)*

33:00 – JD brings up discussion about covid19 and remote meetings. AH says he likes having Zoom because they have a little more interaction with people. CB says that they might want to look into the rules about using remote meetings and the OPMA act and how they apply now that covid mandates are removed. Talks about how Okanogan County has AV Capture as an additional way for people to listen to meetings. AH asks if CB has seen the LTE that Isabelle wrote. CB says that he was concerned that if people are watching AV Capture and chasing them down over every little detail it makes it hard to conduct business. Other jurisdictions have been advised by legal counsel to cease recording meetings because of legal liability of what they say being used in court against them. Discussion between AH and CB about the value of recordings, how statements can be used out of context, etc. CB mentions Planning Commission and use of Roberts Rules as an example. Mentions FAC and difficulty with recording their meetings, especially if they are held at the Fairgrounds.

40:13- CB asks JD about some information about cell service vs broadband. Asks if an area has good cell service, would they need broadband? Discussion about cell service and how it is poor in many areas of the county.

44:17 – Conversation turns to scheduling and discussion of meetings for the following days.

46:50 – vague discussion about something having to do with roads and timber harvest followed by about 15 minutes of silence while BOCC look at their computers.

1:04:30 – Dave Hecker – discussing OK County Citizens Advisory Committee for Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board. Has slides that show the process for choosing members, a review of nominees for two open positions. There are 3 nominees, two will be chosen, one will be an alternate. UCSRB is the lead entity on the salmon recovery efforts involving state and federal money. There are two counties- Okanogan and Chelan, with each having a committee of 7 members. Overall, there are two scoring groups that determine funding allocation. 1) Regional Tech team made up of professional scientists, and the CAC. Each county scores their projects independently, then the two counties come together and agree on scoring regionally. Ultimately the CAC has the final say. This year there is \$2M available, and about \$5M worth of projects, so CAC is very important. There will be an annual Spring tour of potential projects. Current nominees – Gertrude Webster, Larry Hill, Phil Davis. Discussion on the applications and qualifications of each. Dave Hecker states that all are qualified and it will be up to the commissioners to decide which two are appointed. CB moves to appoint Webster and Hill, with Davis as the alternate. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

1:32:30- Discussion about agenda and whether to approve minutes now or tomorrow. Discussion about minutes from April 4 – typo corrections. More discussion about how the minutes reflect what the commissioner said, in relation to what he actually meant.

1:40:20- CB discusses planning, GMA and how professionally trained planners from other parts of the state approach it. AH – talks about how the GMA was intended to save rural America. CB talks about the history of the GMA and what prompted it. AH – talks about how we don't need things on the same scale as other parts of the state. Talks about Urban Growth Areas and how some of our small towns don't have the money to deliver services to some of the areas that might be considered for a UGA. More discussion about Omak/Okanogan area, Winthrop, etc. CB talks about how the one-size-fits-all approach had some negative results in rural counties. Douglas County had to go through a lot because of challenges. States that potential students that might benefit from coming to a rural county to learn about our particular issues.

1:54:00 – some people enter the room, short discussion among BOCC about another county and it's staffing levels.

2:03:41- Larry Hudson manager of Okanogan Noxious Weed office. Here to address the Lake Osoyoos Lake Mgmt district. We have coverage to treat on Lake Osoyoos. There were some concerns about the Canadian side so Anna (previous Manager of the Okanogan Noxious Weed office) put in for a buffer of ¼ mile from the border. Handed out packets with some history. DOE was concerned about the buffer. Since the Lake Management District (LMD) was formed, we have tried to remove the buffer area. We have reached out to Canadians and heard back from one agency that said if you don't hear from us, go ahead and treat it. DOE was concerned about maintaining the buffer. Letter from 2011 (prior to LMD being formed). Talking with DOE and I brought this up with the weed board. They are concerned because of litigation risk. We did treat up to the border in 2020. When I took over last year, we put the brakes on that. AH – doesn't think the weed board will get any traction with the Canadian Govt. suggests that weed board contact WA state Gov office to see if they can make contact with Canada.

LH – introduces Terry McNabb from Aquatechnics, Inc. who is trying to get approval from Canada for use of a new chemical called [ProcellaCOR](#).

TM says they hold a permit for many places to apply this product. Canada doesn't have a system for registering some of these products, so it's hard to get approval. ProcettaCOR is intended to treat milfoil specifically. The Canadian govt has approved it for use in a specific area. In August this year Canada is supposed to approve this particular herbicide (assumption is that they will approve it). It's already approved in the US. Last year the heat dome killed off the milfoil, so we did not use it. We intend to use it this year for the first time. The probability is high that Canada will approve it which should alleviate the DOE concerns.

AH- reviews timeline of when we normally review the rules for LMD.

CB- asks about relationship between Canadian Federal approval, and Provincial approval.

AH- clarifies that the ¼ mile buffer was created by former Weed Board manager (Anna) to comply with requirement to notify landowners within ¼ mile of application.

Several people on Zoom are introduced. CB – wondered what communications have been had with people who are concerned about invasive species and water quality.

TM says that the company who makes the product is working with various groups to replace dangerous chemicals such as 2,4-D with less harmful substances.

CB- states concern about hazardous chemicals and need to address concerns of the public.

AH – asks if they have talked with DOE and their suggestion is that if we want to remove the buffer, we need to use something that is approved by Canadian Govt, which should happen later this year. If it doesn't for some reason, we have some time before the LMD meeting to change the rules.

CB- Likes to involve the Canadian residents in addition to the government. Those who live just over the border. TM states that he knows the person who is involved with the homeowners assn from the Canadian side and they are communicating. Discussion about the different approaches in each country regarding environmental issues. LH relates a story about something in the 1970's that resulted in a lawsuit by Greenpeace.

LH – one more piece of info is a treaty between Great Britain and US involving boundary waters. Research has only found this one treaty (very old) which could be an issue. One of the Zoom callers recommends a contact in Canada that they might want to contact. The Canadians harvest right up to the border which has resulted in more milfoil growth. In Canada they can use a chemical that we are not allowed to. But they can't use the aquatic version. Caller says he has not found anything that says they cannot treat in the buffer zone, just that they must notify people and take into consideration the salmon needs.

CB – suggests that we reach out to the Canadians and have conversations so that everyone is in the loop.

Zoom caller says he has counted 10 homes on the Canadian side that are within ¼ mile of the border. Also mentions some discrepancy with parcels and how they are assessed for their LMD fees.

AH – says to contact Planning Director because every year they have an assessment adjustment opportunity.

CB- says the main thing is to have a spirit of cooperation.

2:35:10 – end discussion of LMD and water treatment. Meeting adjourned.