

Okanogan County Board of Commissioners' Meeting

6/27/2016

Planning Study Session

JD - Jim DeTro

RC - Ray Campbell

SK - Sheilah Kennedy

LJ - Lalena Johns

PH - Perry Huston

DB - David Bowen, Wa. Dept. of Ecology

MG - Maurice Goodall, Emergency Manager

AL - Albert Lln, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

**Summaries of subjects discussed in detail**

**Department of Ecology (ECY):** PH informs commissioners that there is a new draft of water availability guidelines. He criticizes it for failing to integrate guidelines with existing legislation and policies. PH will be in Olympia 6/28, testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee on the need to integrate various state environmental legislation, including SEPA, SMP and others. PH believes that SEPA should not apply to SMP.

**Methow Watershed Council Planning:** MWC is concerned that the County is not moving forward with instream flow rule revisions quickly enough. PH will conduct outreach to WDFW, and the Colville and Yakama tribes to see if they are in favor of revisions. MWC is reviewing its mission and considering developing a work plan involving public outreach, forest management, and studying groundwater/surface water interactions. PH & commissioners expressed concern over mission creep.

**USFS:** Continuing dissatisfaction about the USFS Travel Management Plan and frustration that they are not receiving information that is being requested. The need for a County-generated alternative proposal was mentioned but not initiated. PH is preparing FOIA request for information that they have not yet received. AL suggested another meeting to 'get everyone at the table'. RC wants to meet again with Forest Supervisor Williams.

**Emergency Operation Center Plan:** MG updated commissioners on status of recruiting the individuals needed to run the Emergency Operation Center during an emergency. Burn ban is in place. Ordinance has banned fireworks in the County; Colvilles banned fireworks on the reservation. MG clarifies that he stopped soliciting contributions for the match needed for FEMA funds because the donations had already made the County 'whole', and the County is not allowed to accept more than that.

**Oroville and Tonasket EMS:** Oroville EMS agreement has been signed by commissioners & is awaiting signature by city officials. Tonasket agreement is being developed, with the Oroville agreement being used as a template. Tonasket EMT housing and the condition of equipment and vehicles were discussed

*Juvie: PH updates commissioners on available options for funding repairs, which are evidently subject to state legislation. A 0.1% sales tax dedicated to the criminal justice system is already being collected. There is an existing resolution from 1999 that put funding for Juvenile Detention on the ballot (evidently the ballot measure failed, but the resolution is still valid). There is also an option to put a 'public safety' tax on the ballot.*

### **1:36 Notetaker arrives**

#### **Budget**

PH - \$15,000 from Public Works to Planning - budget neutral. Also, savings from salaries and benefits can go to professional services; no formal amendment needed.

#### **Department of Ecology**

PH - New draft of water availability guidelines. In my opinion it brushes over the rough spot; doesn't get to problems - legislature/agency has not gone back to look at what was on the books. Legislation that tied Counties/State. Availability guidelines don't get to what who does what and are only guidelines.

RC - Saw them do that... 2 basins where water availability restrictions were in place but usage had gone down.

PH - We did same thing... (explanation that was too quick to catch). Moral of story/talking point with legislative steering committee...

SK - It is coming my way.

PH - I'll be in Olympia tomorrow, in front of House Natural Resources Committee. Integrating SMP, SEPA, (& other legislation). It will get down to what is the tipping point; whether the will exists in the legislature to utilize SEPA as a legal tool vs. a process tool. For example, SEPA should not be applied to SMP; effects are already considered. Will keep you posted.

David Bowen is a new hire in the Department of Ecology water division; not sure of his chain of command. He'll be dropping in to meet you. One term Kittitas County commissioner, last 2 years of my 2<sup>nd</sup> term; County Auditor for a term.

#### **Methow Watershed Council**

PH - Char attended MWC for me. They seem to be unhappy that instream flow rule revision is not moving faster. DOE changed leadership in central office. I haven't done any outreach; will begin discussions with WDFW, Colvilles, Yakamas. See if they are in favor of revisions. Try to smooth out hydrograph in the closed basins.

RC - Might hold back a little until we see what is going to happen with the case out there. (*Inaudible*) works with the Columbia River committee; looking at treaty with Canada. Was at meeting in Moses Lake, we discussed it. Might want to talk with Sage(?) about the before proceeding further.

PH - Obviously most effective player is Western Watersheds (?). Should freshen with them.

RC - Twisp got some relief with their agreement with MVID.

PH - Check with Twisp & Winthrop, see what their approach is.

RC - Don't want to try to make a move at the (*inaudible*)

PH - Would the commissioners like me to contact 2 cities? (*yes*)

RC - Will talk about it with Hans (YN)

PH - Break to David Bowen (DOE)?

### **David Bowen, Department of Ecology**

DB - Came to look at Buckhorn Mine. Section Manager for water quality; 24 fte's; 16 currently filled. Treatment plants - anything with discharge to state waters. We come when we are called to take a look. Checking to see if you have any burning issues. Three main projects; Buckhorn Mine is one, others are down south.

RC - Important issue. Do you look at water quality in our streams, rate them?

DB - yes, we are the ones who measure TMDL's. If there is a problem, we list them. Do you have a concern?

RC - Issue with domestic use, whether our septic systems are affecting water quality. Can I look that up?

DB - If you have questions, contact me and I will get you in touch with the right person.

SK - Is this related to the Mine shutting down?

DB - yes. There was a plan for shutting down. Now they found more that they want to mine. New permit, went to look.

RC - were talking about Methow Watershed Plan/instream flow rule revision. Do we talk to you?

DB - I can put you in touch with the right person, or you can talk to Sage.

(*DB leaves*)

### **MWC (cont'd)**

PH - back to watershed council... What direction would you like us to steer? Want Char to give you high points

Char - Visioning session. George (?) Schneider facilitating. What will happen if they cease to exist? Want to come up with a work plan. Public outreach, forest management; surface-water/ground water interaction. Prof. Conrad making presentation on modeling. Looking for funding.

RC - USGS modelled for the Twisp.

Char - Gregg Knott brought this up. Don't have any information. They are hoping to have the presentation at the July meeting. Lot of discussion of instream flow rules. Mike Port, Rick Karro particularly angry at county.

RC - Was Hans there? What did he say?

Char - He nodded in agreement. They were also upset that DOE gave permit for water for the copper mine exploration without consulting.

RC - Misinformation. USFS gave permit. They want to slow it down.

PH - (inaudible) Have had this discussion in the past. Seen this where group's mission morphs over time. It is okay with me if it is okay with you. (*Likens it to citizens committees for zone code - do some work and go home*). Will try to get to next meeting, give them an update on the instream flow rules.

RC - Give me a heads-up. Would like to go.

PH - Third Wednesday at 5 pm.

## BLM

PH - received response to letter requesting coordination. Had a couple of conversation with Mulligan. Seem to be taking your request seriously. BLM has been most responsive agency.

## USFS

PH - Still working on getting map info for Travel Management Plan

SK - Went to Open House. Didn't think to mention map info. Lots of people there with ATV's. They were upset that the open house was on Friday evening. Had photos showing pickups stuck up to their axles, implying...(*notetaker can't keep up*)

Ted (GIS) - Have been working on ATV maps for years now. (*Shows maps to commissioners*)

RC - (*describes inconsistencies between what has been said by USFS personnel and what has been done*)

JD - They have virtually been lying to us.

Ted - They won't return my calls asking about symbols on maps

JD - Jennifer said they would close all roads, open them one by one on a case-by-case basis. We don't want that. Once they get their foot in the door...

*Discussion of road from Conconully. Paved but unmaintained, no center stripe. Ted complains about the condition of Toats Coulee Rd. since the fires.*

JD - They are not doing any road maintenance because they are putting all their money into biologists. Need to come up with our own preferred option.

PH - The approach in the travel management rule - determine which roads should be open, what kind of vehicles should be allowed.

AL - We had the meeting with everyone at the table. Williams told us all that they were going to coordinate with and listen to us. Should have been no confusion. Suggest we get them here for another meeting.

SK - he told me Friday night that he is willing to come up and meet.

PH - you want us to create a map showing the roads that we believe should be open.

SK - all roads should be open, then figure out which ones won't be used anyway. Recommend to close those.

PH - last meeting, we met with Liu after Williams left. They talked about travel management plan, didn't talk about integrating Chewuch or Mission plans.

RC - suggest we get Mr. Williams here. Ask what process will be with overall Forest management Plan.

LJ - Liu contacted me on Friday, scheduled a meeting for 13<sup>th</sup> of July to talk about Mission Plan.

PH - we are preparing the FOIA to get the information that Ted needs.

RC - Some concerns are roads that have been washed out because of the fire. Black Canyon is shut down at the snow park. Want to find out their intentions on those roads. Was meeting with Liu and his associates. They mentioned that Black Canyon was going to be their accommodation to get ATV's over Cougar Mtn, to Chelan. Guess you hear all kinds of rumors.

Ted - this is their preferred alternative. *(Hands RC maps)*

### **Zone Code**

PH -Went through changes the other day. Do you want any more study sessions before public hearing?

SK - half a day. Look at all changes, just so we are aware.

PH - Tuesday or Wednesday of next week?

*(discussion of scheduling - long day Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> - 1:30-2:30 & 5-6 pm)*

### **VSP**

PH - Upcoming meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Public meeting training; YN & Colvilles on line. Next step, share with commissioners - still think that centerpiece will be the inventory; snapshot in time of existing conditions, agricultural activities in sensitive areas, what we have to protect. That is the way to approach this thing. Give us something realistic to talk about, give us something to talk about, develop attainable performance standards.

RC - Certain amount has already been accomplished; information that can be used.

PH - (talks about information sources - NRCS, etc.). At this stage we are gathering existing information. Hanging on to a fair chunk of funding for staffing, in case they want to do additional analysis.

RC - When is the next meeting?

PH - the 6<sup>th</sup> (?)

### **Conservation easements**

PH - Public hearing July 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Miscellaneous**

PH - Any comments on grandstand?

SK - I thought it went good.

PH - I'll take another look (at RFQ), see if it needs any more work, then we will get this out.

Nothing new to report on (?)

## Emergency Operation Center Plan

MG - been in contact with department heads, looking for people we can use - maybe a day, maybe a week. Positive feedback. Don't have a hard list. Have been in touch with some retired people. People to go to. Vouchers from last year paid. Went to meeting in Chelan. Burn ban announcement?

PH - July 1.

MG - thought it was immediately. Need to update Facebook page.

*(LJ - reads announcement)*

MG - County has ordinance making fireworks illegal in unincorporated areas. Colvilles banned fireworks in reservation. Columbia River Road - nothing yet, some architectural design. When it opens, it opens. Concerned about ambulance access. You could get a vehicle down there. Was told not to think about anything until 2017

SK - talked to Con. Newhouse. Trying to develop a route through.

MG - Question about donated resources. Said that amount of donated resources - stopped collecting them. Exceeding what we needed for FEMA; couldn't use any more beyond our match. Can't make money for the County, can only be made whole.

SK - I understood that. Are we up to speed with cities and towns, make sure we are all on the same page.

MG - Will be in contact with them again this week. CMP deadline. EFS will be going out to everybody.

SK - Two weeks is pretty short. Other question - you have been putting in a lot of hours. Are you ready for an emergency? Do you need to take some time off?

MG - Thinking about that. Doing okay. We are getting good responses on Facebook.

## Oroville & Tonasket EMS

PH - Waiting for Mr. Lang to sign Oroville agreement and send back. Tonasket - do not have agreement but have meeting of the minds. Using structure of Oroville agreement.

SK - should we say equipment and ambulances in 'as-in' condition

PH - Mr. Walker has asked to access so that he can look it over. On track for Aug. 1.

RC (asks about services during July)

LJ - We are covered for July. Pastor contacted me. That can't provide house to the EMT's if it is a for-prot. Could rent it out. Sounded like the church thought we were cutting a deal for them. Told him no.

SK - 'As-is' condition? What is going to protect us? Does the equipment need to be in a certain condition?

PH - It is up for negotiation/up to the commissioners. Lifeline will want to know how much the start-up costs will be. *(Discusses specifics of equipment, ambulance maintenance)* Could hire an independent guy to evaluate or could have Lifeline do it.

RC - Think Lifeline should do it.

PH - Have no concern with that. They are on hook to provide service. Barring orders to contrary, will make arrangement for inspection. Will keep that ball moving forward with Lifeline.

3:08 PH - Ask for 10 minute executive session to discuss personnel issues. Ask AL to attend.  
*(moved, seconded, passed)*

3:22 Juvie

PH - Clerk found you are already collecting 0.1% tax dedicated to criminal justice system

JD - that's the council-matic(?) one. That's been going on a long time.

PH - yes. That is already in place. In 1999, the commissioners put funding for Juvie on the ballot.

SK - was that for a new building

*(PH reads part of the resolution: ...'paying for juvenile detention')*

PH - so, there was one attempt. There was that tax, there is what I call the public safety tax. You can use it for more things than law enforcement or fire, but you have to use at least one third for law enforcement or fire. You can use some funds for current expenses. *(Goes over different types of bond measures)*

SK - Given that we already have a resolution, can't the cities use that?

PH - yes. Still have to use 1/3 for law enforcement or fire. Gave the cities a revenue stream to pay for detention. Continuing research on what is out there, in terms of revenue. Am working on an RFQ to find someone to look at facility. Very rough still.

RC - a week or so away?

PH - we got side tracked.

3:30 PH - Ask for 15 minute executive session for an employee performance review *(moved, seconded, passed)*

3:42 End of Planning Department Study Session. Commissioners leave.







