

**Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting August 22, 2022**  
**AM session**

AH – Andy Hover, BOCC Chair, District 2  
JD- Jim DeTro, BOCC member, District 3  
LJ- Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board  
CH- Crystal Hawley- Deputy Clerk of the Board  
MG- Maurice Goodall – Emerg. Mgmt.  
PP – Pete Palmer – Planning Director

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:** *Public comments on dysfunctional Fair Advisory Committee; Update from Emerg. Mgr; Update on Code Publishing project; OCCAC needs and funding options; Barnholt Loop Adv. Comm.; Omak meeting re crime; Methow Valley Advisory Committees.*

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.

**00:30** - Pledge of allegiance

Casual discussion about “Roger” and his application for a beer garden permit.

**14:50** – Public comment: Dionne Osmussen (sp?)- Here to discuss Fair Advisory Committee and things that happened at their last meeting. I am here about the public perception about what’s happening with the FAC. Mike Egerton seems to have a conflict of interest regarding food vendors and his being both in charge of food vendors, and being a food vendor himself. He treated vendors with rudeness and curtness. Maybe he could step down as superintendent, or move to another barn..

We have money for barns. You told us 5 years ago, get the people here and we will build it. I have about 80 horses coming in and we need to get these done. Can we get the Powder River panels so that we can build a barn?

AH – even though this is Public comment, I will respond. The Boots and Saddle club indicated they did not like that modular style of barn- they wanted a permanent barn. If you can get together with them and agree on something, you can go ahead. Discussion about how much \$\$ is available, and the issues around a modular barn.

Public Comment: Marty Robbins- I’m here to talk about the concessions at the North end and Mike Egerton. He is out to get Naomi over this. Describes what happened, and expresses support for Naomi. States that the FAC cut their meeting off and refused to discuss the topic.

Public Comment: Lona Fritts –I’m going to submit some photos to you. I’ve been involved with the horse barn for 40 years. I went to the horse barn on Thursday to do some painting. Naomi said it was fine to do that. The barn is a mess. Over the summer they have taken out the dividers and support for back wall. It’s not safe to tie a horse to it. Water lines are laying out. They enlarged the stalls. I don’t have objection to the improvement, but there are safety factors. It’s not safe for a 10 year old to put a horse in the stalls as they are now. Magnets picked up a bunch of metal. Also missing the Powder River stalls that were donated several years ago. They were supposed to be put somewhere for safe keeping, but

are now missing. We would like the building inspector to look at the south barn (west side). The wall is not safe. I was pretty upset. I called Naomi and asked what was going on. She told me it was the improvement of the barns. She said she took the panels down for safekeeping, and told me she put them behind the barn. They are not there now. She said that I was over-reacting. I asked her why I wasn't called because we could have helped safely enlarge some of the stalls. She said she didn't have to and that she had other fish to fry and hung up. She refused to answer the phone when I called back. I have a big investment in that barn (40 years). 5 years we spent the whole summer down there. There used to be 90 stalls, now there are about 45. But only 10 of those are useable.

AH – said that he thought we addressed that.

Lona – last year they were all in there. I'm torn because I have backed Naomi, but I don't know why she allowed this to happen. Dividers are gone, and wires are gone.

AH – if we are able to get that new barn, that will alleviate the problem.

LF – yes but it's going to take a lot of work to get it back together.

AH – we will make sure someone goes to check on the wall issues. And if we can get something else going we will have some extra stalls.

LF – I'm not upset with the BOCC. My co-superintendent and I spend about \$1000 per year or more out of our own pockets for trophies, etc. I think it's really unkind not to notify us about the work being done on the horse barns given that I have been involved for 40 years and basically gave up 3 years of my life to working on those barns. (She elaborates on standards for sizes of horse stalls). I think it was done out of spite with Naomi and she did not go the extra mile to notify the superintendents. You can't stand up in front of us and say "I am just the fairgrounds manager, not the fair manager".

AH- I want to let you know that the BOCC knew about the work being done on the horse stalls several months ago. I apologize for not letting you know about it. Explains discussion that happened in the past.

LF- Elaborates more about the horse stalls and her position about them.

AH – says he is sure the panels are around somewhere. Let's move forward and fix the problem. The barn that was going to be built was intended to be done before this fair but it didn't get done. It would have had many 12 x 12 stalls.

LF – discusses the number of horses they had last year and what they expect this year. I think someone needs to say something to Naomi about her rudeness. When she doesn't get her way she is extremely rude. I am related to her and have known her since she was born. I love her dearly, but someone needs to rein her in. I have never been treated so rudely.

**43:35** - Christian Timms - You have lost vendors at the fair because of how Mike Egerton treats them. There are people who will not apply to be a vendor as long as he is in charge. I understand that there needs to be some control, but at what point do you say that he is picking and choosing his competition? The last time I saw a Hispanic vendor they were put way down at the end and Mike had all the business. The FAC is afraid to have the frank discussion at their meetings. Certain board members are allowed to just do whatever they want without any questions. The problems should be taken care of at the FAC level, not brought to the BOCC. Relates his experience on boards.

**46:10** - Kieann Watson – I'm here to public comment for myself. I can't say what happened at the FAC meeting because I wasn't there. I think that the mgmt. of the FAC is lacking. Maybe the BOCC needs to be paying more attention, or maybe do more via e-mails so they can be tracked. Mentions the food vendor conflict. Thinks that the food vendor arrangement is designed for the supervisors to line their own pockets. I would like to know how to get on the FAC. I've been around 4H and other fairs for a long time as a mom. How can we get more people involved? It would be more transparent. As for the horse barns, my kids have spent hours working on the horse barns. I have two students who are bringing horses who are thrilled about the larger stalls with second door. I just want to be the parent and advocate for my students. Maybe we should have a barn work day where we can run the magnets and help out. I took 26 horses to the Stampede and the kids were thankful that they had bigger stalls.

**50:20** – public comment closes.

AH – We will go into two Executive Sessions. The first one is under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) (potential litigation), and we will invite HR and civil deputy. We will be there until 10:05.

**1:05:00** – BOCC emerges from first Exec. Session, and approves a second exec session under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(f) (evaluate a complaint). This Executive Session will last until 10:20, and HR is invited.

**1:20:00** – BOCC returns from second Exec Session. Shuffling of papers and reading emails for the next 20 minutes or so.

**1:36:20** - short discussion between JD and AH about an e-mail they received. Both agree that the Sheriff is the appropriate person to deal with it based on language that is in the e-mail.

**1:43:00** - LJ – two resolutions need approval. 1 – Fairgrounds fee schedule with waivers and department language that we talked about. 2 – Auditor’s office licensing position. AH says he wants to do some more research on the first one before final approval. Short discussion between AH and LJ about financial details. AH will check with Auditor. LJ – I need to talk with BOCC about Title 3 stuff.

AH – speaking to JD -think how peaceful your life will be in a couple of months.

BOCC approves Res. 1-16-2022 – creating an additional licensing position in the Auditor’s office.

**1:58:00** – Maurice Goodall – pretty quiet except a few lightning strikes in FD 8. Lists a few other fires that were all put out relatively quickly. There have been a few short power outages. More lightning possibly coming this week. Relates some issues with phone communications. AH – asks if that happens often. MG – clarifies that it is mostly a problem with the CCT area and their land lines. It all works fine when it works, but if one part goes down it gets complicated. Talks about Social Media and how he doesn’t post about a lot of the smaller fires, but waits until there is a major issue that needs to be put out there.

**2:03:35** - LJ- Follow up with Code publishing legal review and how to address the inconsistencies that are identified. Who is taking the lead, what is the timeline, who is to be involved, which budget will it come out of, etc. Not urgent but should be addressed sooner rather than later. I just want to plant the idea in your mind so you can be thinking about it.

AH – speculates on which budget it could come out of.

AH – when they did the legal review, do we have to come up with the fix? I thought the contractor was taking care of everything.

LJ – the legal review is a very large document that provides recommendations on each section. They did provide a proposal, but someone from the county needs to be the point person for communication.

Explains the collaborative process in more detail.

Next item is to let the BOCC know that the seasonal grounds position needed a new job description.

That has been done, and the job will be advertised soon.

Oroville EMS State assessment audit is underway. There are some language changes that need to be made for consistency. Short discussion about budget categories and classifications and how they need to change to make everything consistent.

ADT (contractor) is here to fix and repair the superior court Clerk doors. Everyone has been notified about the work.

AH – suggests including Sheriff’s dept in that communication.

Follow-up with OCCAC with regard to how a grant is allocated. (relating to a food bank). They would like to know if they can use those funds to purchase equipment, specifically a refrigerator to store the food.

Dept of Commerce said that it can be an eligible cost because it’s crucial to the operation of the food bank. They would have to follow the county’s purchasing policy, AND the Dept of Commerce policy. The DoC policy is pretty onerous. OCCAC is considering what they will do. Also, outlines OCCAC proposal from earlier this year regarding ARPA funds for emergency food and provisions. Short discussion about possible ways to use those funds for the new refrigeration unit.

LJ – WSU extension is doing a manager certification training coming up on Friday Oct 7<sup>th</sup> here in the Commissioners hearing room (all day event).

**2:16:45** – Pete Palmer- I was asked to attend the Omak meeting last week that was called by council member Norma Sanchez regarding crime. Talked about the impacts of state laws on enforcement. I was surprised the Tribe had their mental health director there. Discussed resources available for people with substance abuse and mental health issues. I was asked what could be done- my response was that when they have 3 different jurisdictions responding to calls in East Omak, that’s the best resource they

could get. They all show up and help each other rather than having just one responder show up and leave because they decide they don't have jurisdiction. What are the constraints around nuisance properties getting cleaned up? I talked about what it takes to do a big cleanup and dispose of the waste. I want to commend Sheriff Hawley for how he discussed the new laws and explained how it impacted his department. Did a good job of explaining how he is limited in his response. It turned out to be a good meeting, and the group wants to have future meetings of a similar nature.

AH – clarifies that PP attended this meeting at the request of Chris Branch who could not attend and other commissioners had other obligations.

Barnholt Loop – I've been researching the history of the advisory group there. It was created in 1987 and they formed under a resolution from BOCC but they established their own bylaws and appointed their own members. Records dropped off in 2013. Their Bylaws designated the Planning Dept as Secretary to keep minutes for their meetings, but I can't find any records since 2013. I will continue to research and report back to you.

AH – had meeting Thursday with Methow folks regarding Lower Valley advisory committee. Talked about how to get it underway quicker. They wanted to move quickly to get the advisory group established so they can have input right away. There was strong feeling from the attendees that the north boundary (of Sub-area C) should be around Carlton, rather than where it was drawn south of Twisp. Can you review the maps and change the northern boundary if the other commissioners are OK with it?

PP – that shouldn't be hard to do. We've only received about 5 applications so far. Isabelle has been busy trying to get people interested. I know that there are still concerns about what happened in the past. The article in the MVN had some inaccurate information about the scope that the Advisory committee will be able to do. For example, they won't be giving input on setbacks, etc. If we don't get enough interest for 2 advisory groups, we might consider combining the B & C groups into one.

AH – Advisory committees need to realize that they are advisory only. Things like changing setbacks go to the Planning Commission.

Discusses budget for additional scanning of archived documents. We have the funds, so all I need is for you to sign the amended contract. (BOCC approves)

Tonight is the public hearing for the marijuana code update with the planning commission.

**2:29:50** – PP leaves.

Short discussion between JD and AH about how to handle the issue of fee waivers for the Fair.

Note-taker asks in Zoom chat how many people will be assigned to each committee for Sub-Areas B and C (Methow Valley Advisory committees).

AH – answers that it will be 7 people on each.

BOCC adjourns for the day at 11:33 am.