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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**APRIL 11, 2023**

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8 **9:00 AM** Review Meeting Minutes April 3 & 4, 2023  
9 **9:15 AM** Public Comment Period  
10 **9:30 AM** Discussion Methow Watershed Council-Craig McDonald & Jean Bodeau  
11 **10:00 AM** Discussion/Review Voluntary Stewardship Work Group Applications Conservation  
12 Dist. Justin Stanley  
13 **11:00 AM** Update Public Works Engineer Josh Thomson  
14 **1:30 PM** Board of Health 1234 South Second, Okanogan  
15 **3:30 PM** Discussion Board of Equalization Recruitment/Retention-Salley Bull, Sarah Carlberg  
16 **4:15 PM** Approve Commissioner Proceedings April 3 & 4, 2023  
17 **4:30 PM** Commissioners Decide If Wednesday is Needed for Meeting  
18 **4:30 PM** Consent Agenda

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The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on April 11, 2023 with; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch attended via zoom. Zoom link and login was updated on the commissioners online agenda due to Zoom complications.

**Review Meeting Minutes April 3 & 4, 2023**

COB discussed receiving board direction on forwarding the agreement changes of Ms. Milner's and the board to Cortner and MJ Neal for incorporation.

COB informed the board that she filled the Administrative Secretary position within the commissioners' office and the employee starts tomorrow.

Commissioners discussed the letter of Commissioner Wes McCart regarding the EWCOG Snake River comment letter. Commissioner Hover felt this is a cart before the horse without an adaptive plan with generalizations before getting into it. There is a lack of transparency with regard to the wolves, said Commissioner Neal. There was no adaptive management plan for the wolves and they didn't use their own science. Commissioner Branch said the growth of human population and to manage the natural environment interface and think about how our human growth occurs. To manage people and animals in a way that keeps in tact what we may look back to is going to be really hard to get there. Some of those animals do not fit into the developed landscapes they are trying to fit them into.

COB informed the board of a request from Dave Mullins to be scheduled to discuss the level of EMS service within the City of Oroville. Commissioner Neal planned on attending the City's council meeting on April 18 when Mr. Mullins is scheduled. He will know more about what Mr. Mullins wants to discuss.

**Public Comment Period**

No public provided comment.

53  
54 **Discussion Methow Watershed Council-Craig McDonald & Jean Bodeau, Sarah Lane**  
55 Ms. Bodeau is the new Methow Watershed Council chair. She provided background of the  
56 council's mission and what current projects the council is working on.

57  
58 Ms. Bodeau highlighted some of what the council is working on. Plan to identify and apply for  
59 grants, but there is no funding for planning right now. SB 1138 would approve funding if passed.  
60 Also supporting water banking within the county and collaborating to information the public on  
61 how to participate, and water for housing. Affordable housing is an issue and have water  
62 constraints, but not a key player in developing affordable housing but working with those who are.  
63 Outreach and education is a core mission and supports everything else they are doing. Ms.  
64 Bodeau provided that they are participating in community discussions about drought. Rawson  
65 Ruling affected available water in subdivisions and refreshing that. Organizing an irrigators round  
66 table recognizing they are the biggest water user in the valley.

67  
68 Commissioner Hover said many of these things are county related and much of the time he is  
69 abstaining from the votes but asking for a recommendation of the council to the commissioners  
70 for consideration.

71  
72 Mr. McDonald discussed their budget. He explained the council is requesting more funding from  
73 the county in the amount of \$36900. A budget was provided of the council and the meeting  
74 minutes of December 2022. Commissioner Hover stated he has spoken with the Planning Director  
75 as the funds are run through that department. He discussed if we keep the contract going beyond  
76 two years would require additional funding to be identified of the county. Things would need to be  
77 negotiated. Ms. Lane said in the past agreement, they did seek to first pay for their programs with  
78 grant funds before seeking funding from the county.

79  
80

81 **Discussion/Review Voluntary Stewardship Work Group Applications Conservation Dist.**  
82 **Justin Stanley, Craig Nelson**

83  
84 Justin Stanley explained six applications for the nine positions that were received for the  
85 Stewardship Work Group. (attached) There are three others that were recommended. No one  
86 from the tribe has filled out an application. Mr. Stanley said it is up to the commissioners to decide  
87 who to appoint. A recommendation of the OCD will be provided. April 27 is the next group meeting.  
88

89 The Clerk of the Board reminded the BOCC of resolution 126-2015 designating the Planning  
90 Director as the administrator of the program. She does not manage the appointments of this  
91 particular group.

92  
93 OCD would like to have new people appointed sooner rather than later so appointees may attend  
94 the next meeting for the needed recommendation. OCD has room in their office spaces for the  
95 group meetings. They are the technical service provider. Planner Rocky Robbins takes the  
96 meeting minutes. The county provides hourly time for her to attend and manage the grant funds  
97 that come through the county. Commissioner Hover suggested the Clerk of the Board receive the  
98 prior appointment letter in the Planning Department so she can draft the new letters for  
99 commissioners and for the record. Mr. Nelson suggested the appointments be staggered.  
100 Commissioner Branch stated the resolution could be amended to allow terms. The COB  
101 suggested there also be language added that says the appointment continues until someone else  
102 qualifies.

103

104 Mr. Nelson said OCD had a conversation with Ecology and he thinks signatures will be obtained  
105 by May. He said the partnership with the county and still dealing with the water right and  
106 prioritization for Methow but doesn't lift the two million cap. We are unique due to having two large  
107 watersheds in our county. There is definite interest by DOE or acceptance of the county to  
108 purchase a water right for the water bank. The county could also apply for funding for someone  
109 to write the water code. Not using the term certificates anymore, mitigation off set...they are calling  
110 it something else. If we can get to the point of the county setting up that side of the bank. Once a  
111 water right has been purchased, the water has to be accepted into the bank we need the water  
112 trust agreement that will define the relationship between the county and the conservation district  
113 and notes that we are a two-party agreement. The conservation district will set up the agreement,  
114 but we do need to negotiate the language before submitted to Ecology. Commissioner Branch  
115 asked if more was needed before that such as an MOU? Mr. Nelson said yes, having an MOU or  
116 MOA would be good business to establish roles and expectations, the trust water right agreement  
117 would follow and would be the most binding however.

118  
119 Commissioner Hover explained he would like to participate on the North Cascades Interagency  
120 Grizzly Bear Committee.

121  
122 **Motion North Cascades Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee**

123 Commissioner Branch moved to allow Commissioner Hover to participate on the North Cascades  
124 Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

125  
126 Commissioner Branch stated OBHC provides DD services. DSHS has funding for this program.  
127 The BOCC needs to figure out if they can contract directly with OBHC or with the county. The Clerk  
128 of the Board stated there is a contract between DSHS and the county that she thought allowed  
129 them to contract directly with OBHC. The offer has to do with \$300,000 dollars. Objective is to  
130 utilize the state money and the county is to ensure those dollars are used properly. Does the county  
131 take the money or allow OBHC to receive directly? Is the service being provided adequately. What  
132 is the matrix OBHC is providing back to the state about the services provided to make sure the  
133 money is being utilized in the best way?

134  
135  
136 **Update Public Works Engineer Josh Thomson**

137 Nicole Moore,  
138 Kayla Wells-Yoakum

139  
140 Engineer Thomson explained he is reviewing the current lease agreements for the Public Works  
141 building.

142  
143 Ms. Yoakum explained the WSU lease renewal is being considered. She explained how she  
144 understands the agreement for use of the Public Works space that WSU uses. The 2018 lease  
145 agreement section 9, 10 & 11 between WSU and the county includes language that the county  
146 will provide. Public works is responsible for maintenance, and requires WSU to be good tenants.  
147 Engineer Thomson thought an MOA would outline the understanding for the lease. A draft was  
148 provided for review. (attached) Commissioner Hover asked that it be redrafted between PW and  
149 the county. Current expense would then pay PW for the office space.

150  
151 The lease is between PW and the county, but the new document there is some tenant language  
152 and she isn't sure if that stays in there.

153  
154

155 **Motion Lease Renewal/Extension Noxious Weed Office**  
156 Commissioner Neal moved to authorize Engineer Thomson to sign the lease agreement renewal  
157 extension between Okanogan County Public Works and Noxious Weed effective from May 1,  
158 2023 through December 31, 2028. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

159  
160 *Maintenance and Road Conditions*  
161 Engineer Maintenance stated restrictions are being lifted, grading of roads being completed.

162  
163 *Planning Trails Position*  
164 *Position description, authorization, Union concurrence.*  
165 Engineer Thomson explained funding and BARS code and wasn't sure if there was enough  
166 division since it is restricted. The Clerk will research when the Parks & Rec fund 125 was formed.

167  
168 *OCOG MOU*  
169 Engineer Thomson said OCOG did not have additional comment so it is moving forward. The  
170 most important thing is having a fund to charge to. Commissioner Hover said the Paths and Trails  
171 work has gone back and forth, there is a level of responsibility to keep it going.

172  
173 *OCOG Insurance*

174  
175 *Construction Projects*  
176 Engineer Thomson explained bids were opened and contractor would like to begin in May instead  
177 of June.

178  
179 Guardrail project should be completed by the end of the week with Twisp transfer station  
180 beginning after. Flyers are going out to the public. Commissioner Hover asked that the lumber  
181 yards be informed as well.

182  
183 Shops work is starting slow, and the hope is to be able to use them come December

184  
185 Next week Engineer is attending the conference in Alabama.

186  
187 The board recessed until 3:30 p.m.

188  
189 **Board of Health 1234 South Second, Okanogan**  
190 The commissioners attended the Board of Health meeting.

191  
192 **Discussion Board of Equalization Recruitment/Retention-Salley Bull, Sarah Carlberg**  
193 Assessor Larry Gilman

194  
195 A short video of the BOE process was provided. Salley Bull and Sarah Carlberg explained there  
196 has been a long-term problem getting board members appointed. The last couple years have  
197 been terrible with angry appellants mostly due to not having the information about how the  
198 Assessor valued their property. Ms. Carlberg explained some of the reasons and evidence the  
199 BOE can consider. Sarah explained each BOE member can provide insight about the district they  
200 represent.

201  
202 Salley and Sarah are asking the BOCC to be the Board of Equalization and to employ a hearing  
203 examiner who hears the appeals and provides a recommendation to the board for decision. They  
204 would prefer to have a three-member board of equalization. Assessor Gilman explained in past

205 the BOE was a five-member board, and many are retired. The missing position would represent  
206 Commissioner District #1.

207  
208 Assessor Gilman explained why this is such an important public process and what factors the  
209 assessor looks at when appraising properties. Commissioner Hover asked if increasing the pay  
210 would make a difference in generating interest to serve.

211  
212 Sarah would like to see more effort in the newspaper article to let people know of openings.  
213 Commissioner Branch stated it appeals to the public when their peers are reviewing and deciding  
214 rather than their elected officials to interface between the citizenry. He would take part of the  
215 responsibility because it is his district.

216  
217 **Motion**  
218 Commissioner Hover moved to adjust the daily payment to \$160 for Board of Equalization  
219 members. Commissioner Neal seconded the motion. Commissioner Branch discussed some  
220 Boards and Commissions are not allowed to be paid, but BOE's may be paid as allowed by law.  
221 Motion carried.

222  
223 Commissioner Hover stated the Clerk of the Board should draft a news release to solicit members  
224 to fill the open position and publish in all the newspapers.

225  
226 Assessor Gilman appreciates the BOE and said he should not recruit people as that would not  
227 look appropriate.

228  
229 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings April 3 & 4, 2023**

230  
231 **Commissioners Decide If Wednesday is Needed for Meeting**  
232 Commissioners will not have a need for a Wednesday meeting.

233  
234

235 **Consent Agenda**  
236 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion was  
237 seconded, all were in favor motion carried. Commissioner Hover received authorization from the  
238 Chairman to sign documents with the Chairman's signature.

- 239  
240 1. ARPA Request #5 Contract EA2-2022 - Economic Alliance  
241 2. Cattleguard Renewals: Brian Keene CGF#2-90; Brian Keene CGF#10-13; USFS CGF#7-98; Jeff Austin  
242 CGF#1-93; Jeff Austin CGF#38-98; Pat Graves CGF#05-13; Kincaide Cattle Co CGF#9-98  
243 3. Contract Twisp Transfer Station Leachate Gutter-Rudnick & Sons LLC  
244 4. Award Recommendation Old 97 Verestar To Plata-Hurst Construction Inc  
245 5. Testing Agreement-Verestar to Plata Project Materials Testing -North Central Testing & Inspection LLC  
246 6. Road Use Permit -Tunk Mtn Road Use- US Forest Service  
247 7. Resolution 49-2023 PUD Privilege Tax Distribution

248  
249 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**  
250 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those  
251 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a  
252 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to  
253 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$884,404.28. Warrant numbers as cited on the  
254 attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

255  
256

257 **Motion Public Health Voucher**  
258 Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the  
259 amount of \$4,335.54. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was  
260 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
261  
262 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**  
263 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS  
264 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.  
265  
266 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley  
267 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$63,499.66. Motion was seconded, all were in  
268 favor, motion carried.  
269  
270 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the  
271 Tonasket EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.  
272  
273 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**  
274 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS  
275 District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$16,200 to Life Line for March Services. Motion was  
276 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
277  
278 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the  
279 Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.  
280  
281 **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**  
282 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural  
283 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,680 to Life Line for March Services. Motion  
284 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.  
285  
286 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the  
287 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.  
288  
289  
290 The board adjourned at 4:30 p.m.