

1 **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

2  
3 **OKANOGAN COUNTY**

4  
5 **FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

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7 9:00 AM	No Quorum
8 1:30 PM	Citizens Comment Period
9 2:00 PM	Discussion Hirst Decision Update-Treavor Hutton
10 3:00 PM	Discussion North Central Forest Collaborative Processes-Pete Teigen
11 4:00 PM	Approve Consent Agenda
12 4:30 PM	Discussion Extension Office Staffing-Kayla Wells-Moses

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13

14 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 6,  
15 2018, with Commissioner Chris Branch, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns,  
16 Clerk of the Board, present.

17  
18 Chairman Commissioner Jim DeTro was absent due to personal reasons.

19  
20 George Thornton member of the public taking hand written notes.

21  
22 There was no quorum this morning. Commissioner Hover was attending Community  
23 Foundation of NCW meeting in 9 S. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee until about 1:30 p.m.

24  
25 Commissioner Branch was present.

26  
27 **CANCELLED Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

28 **CANCELLED Update –Human Resources/Risk Management**

29 **CANCELLED Update – Communications/Dispatch –Mike Worden**

30  
31 **Update – Public Works – Josh Thomson & Ben Rough**

32  
33 Engineer Thomson updated the board on several items listed on his agenda.

34  
35 *WATV Route Signing*

36 He explained he spoke to DOT about WATV signs min 18x24 inch sign with standard 4  
37 inch letter height on them. The sign was informational and finally concluded we cannot  
38 do that as it is regulatory. He spoke to Director Huston about what to do if we do no use  
39 signs as previously discussed. The funds may be available as that is the direction and  
40 intent of the state. We have all GIS information, we have shape files, KMZ file that is  
41 useable to the public, can be provided to the ATV clubs. Commissioner Branch said  
42 there is a process. Director Huston explained outreach to interested folks should be

43 done, then come up with a plan and go from there. If we need to amend the code, we  
44 will need to reword or remove the condition.

45

46 *Gravel Crushing Project*

47 Engineer Thomson provided an update on the project.

48

49 *Secretary of State Grant –Document Preservation*

50 Engineer Thomson provided an update on the grant application consideration.

51

52 Engineer Thomson discussed the several items on the consent agenda. He spoke to  
53 the issue of cleaning out the guards and who would be doing that. He is meeting with  
54 the Forest Service to discuss further those guards across Forest Service roads that  
55 need to be cleaned out. The thought was that Forest Service would reimburse us to  
56 clean them out for them. This arrangement was applied in the past and we received  
57 reimbursement, but without anything in writing.

58

59 Ben Rough provided his agenda.

60

61 *Open Position Status*

62 Engineer Tech position is still open.

63

64 A summary was provided that outlines the lease arrangement between Noxious Weed  
65 and WSU. (attached) There are some minor issues to be addressed before those  
66 offices can move. March would be the desired moving month. More meetings are  
67 needed to figure out square footage, rates, how utility costs are divided etc.... Everyone  
68 is being kept in the loop. Carrie Port support enforcement asked to be involved in order  
69 to back fill the offices in the courthouse once they are vacated.

70

71 *Solid Waste Update*

72 The audit of the recycle program is going well.

73 The tipping fee discussion has not generated a recommendation yet.

74

75 *Snow Grooming Update*

76 Mr. Rough updated commissioner Branch on the district boundaries and snow park road  
77 maintenance.

78

79 **Citizen Comment Period**

80 Member of the public Katie Haven videotaping her comment.

81 The note takers started about two years ago, but the group is dissolving so there is a  
82 core group of note takers and they decided they were committed and a way to know

83 what is going on in the county. There is only five of them. They decided to form a new  
84 group Okanogan County Watch nonpartisan or advocate for any issue but put the info  
85 out there. They will continue to do the notes for people to make their own opinion. There  
86 are various advisory committees and no one central place to see the list of those on  
87 committees. They want their website to be the place to go. Some groups have their own  
88 websites like the water shed council and public health. There are some obscured ones  
89 snow mobile advisory group. They want to be a place people can go and see. Some  
90 people were interested in the Fair Advisory Committee but ere is no information on who  
91 sits on that board. The other thing is that people want to video tape the meetings, they  
92 would try to do it today. The probably cannot tape all meetings but would like to tape  
93 those meetings of greater interest. She asked if the commissioner has an issue with her  
94 videotaping. They will take a topic and follow it through. Commissioner Branch stated  
95 the forest collaborative meeting coming up later today. The video will be live streamed  
96 to interested parties, three people, to see what it looks like and if it works, this is a trial.  
97 Commissioner Branch said it should be announced that the meeting is being taped.

98

99 Commissioner Hover arrived at 2:00 p.m. from his earlier meeting with Governor's  
100 office.

101

102 **Discussion – Hirst Decision Updates – Treavor Hutton – Ecology Resources Dept.**

103 Perry Huston, Char Schumacher, Ben Rough, Craig Nelson, Dan Higbee

104

105 Members of the public Katie Haven, videotaping the meeting and George Thornton  
106 taking notes.

107

108 Mr. Hutton explained he was here to receive our comments on the new legislation  
109 SB6091. Okanogan County, more than most, has a bigger regulatory issue to figure out.  
110 The headquarters did send out a letter to the county. (attached) They are still figuring  
111 out the provisions in the law. They wanted to share what they did know and understand  
112 follow up may be needed.

113

114 Mr. Hutton explained primarily there are two big sections of the county the Methow and  
115 Okanogan basins. The Methow basin was deemed to have an explicit rule in place so  
116 WRIA 48 business as usual working consistent with the rule. They have been providing  
117 technical assistance to use. Commissioner Hover said it seems the existing wells are  
118 grandfathered in? The Hirst basins the clause applies and in this case only WRIA 49. A  
119 well drilled outside a tributary would simply come under the 2cfs allocation. Yes, Mr.  
120 Hutton replied, but with monitoring.

121

122 Commissioner Hover explained a scenario on in-continuity. Mr. Hutton replied the Wolf  
123 Creek memo could be relied upon for that. Commissioner Hover explained what form  
124 and process we would employ that would provide the subject property owner the  
125 necessary information to determine. Mr. Hutton stated in 48 a rule explicitly states how  
126 to address the restrictions, and is not the case in WRIA 49 and uncertainty. A process  
127 must be created to help tie the well log to the parcel. Mr. Hutton believes the county will  
128 be allowed to be flexible in how it addresses this as long as it is consistent with the  
129 provisions and rules set out and a comprehensive data base that includes the relevant  
130 information.

131  
132 Can the county tap into the \$3 million dollars for the software needed. Mr. Hutton replied  
133 they are still prioritizing how the funds will be used. It is good to document all the places  
134 with affects. The funding portion is to be worked out and line item requests from the  
135 counties will be considered. Commissioner Hover asked if the funds are granted or what  
136 process will be used to receive the funds. Mr. Hutton stated it would be both through  
137 grant cycles of applications but not sure what that looks like at this point.

138  
139 The position paper was discussed in terms of the consumptive use and quantity to be  
140 measured. If the watershed group wants to go into consumptive or non-consumptive  
141 uses the base lines should be considered. DOE encourages people to monitor their  
142 wells by taking water level measurements. As the county, it will be up to us whether or  
143 not to amend Title 20, but he sees the law as giving us the flexibility and authority to rely  
144 wholly on the legislation put forth.

145  
146 Commissioner Branch asked if a senior water right holder contacts us about  
147 impairment. DOE cannot preemptively act without the proof of impairment.  
148 Commissioner Hover explained we still have some of the same issues we had before  
149 Hirst. Mr. Hutton said those issues are being reviewed by their attorney and they will  
150 look at those questions. Singe versus domestic use is critically important but largely  
151 untested. That information will be shared once they get it. He sees some evolution of  
152 watershed planning and believes some definition on that will be forthcoming.

153  
154 Commissioner Hover discussed the need to bring together all the plans, studies, and  
155 data that will be used by the county to discuss with the watershed councils and different  
156 planning groups.

157  
158 The Yakama Nation has issues with the rules in terms of water usage. In 48 do we need  
159 to report and notify the interested parties? Mr. Hutton said it goes a long way to keep  
160 those parties informed. It is hoped lines of communication are opened to the different  
161 groups and it provides a level of transparency. Commissioner Branch discussed the

162 Watershed Planning Act and asked Craig Nelson of the Conservation District his  
163 thoughts on dusting off the WRIA 49 Watershed Plan.

164  
165 Director Huston stated the applications received are from those who are not quite ready  
166 to start but they do want an indication of what they can do if they do not already have a  
167 well. Mr. Hutton said it is difficult when only part of a plan is implemented. The water  
168 availability piece is a big part of the process but it may have a short shelf life.

169  
170 Commissioner Hover stated in light of the time, he encouraged questions to be asked  
171 from folks in the audience. Director Huston explained the county discussed repealing  
172 title 20, does the board wish to schedule a public hearing to talk about that?  
173 Commissioner Hover said yes, but it doesn't have to be a public hearing.

174  
175 Commissioner Branch asked if anyone had questions. No one commented. The group  
176 thanked the board for the information and their time.

177

178 **Discussion – North Central Forest Collaborative Processes – Pete Teigen**

179 Pete Teigen, Bob Anderson, Matt Scott Vaughen Bro, Lorah Super and Ms. Kreimer

180  
181 The group introduced themselves. Mr. Teigen provided the member document and  
182 project operating protocols for the board's reference. The rep on the back is outdated.

183  
184 Ms. Kreimer explained UCSRB was asked to start a dialogue in the region with partners  
185 in 2012. They were then asked to lead a collaborative for Forest Health and that started  
186 in June 2013. She was hired to facilitate the collaborative.

187  
188 Commissioner Branch explained everyone gets a chance to provide input and work  
189 through the issues. It is his thought that treatment be included in the plan and his goal is  
190 that by the time those get out the multitude of issues will be resolved. Mr. Anderson  
191 replied that head butting is not the way to get things done, but collaborative is working.  
192 They work out issues before it becomes a legal issue. They use the red, green, yellow  
193 card process to identify the issues that can be worked out.

194  
195 The collaborative has a work plan the group work's through. Ms. Super said that the  
196 collaborative has asked the Forest Service how the collaborative can help them work  
197 through their issues and accelerate the process. The collaborative then helps them  
198 work through the issues.

199 Commissioner Branch would like to see the collaborative on the ground in the forest. He  
200 discussed the decommissioning of roads and how that can be perceived by some as a  
201 negative and by others as a positive. Mr. Teigen replied it would be a good thing to

202 understand those issues. He further discussed new technologies that bring groups  
203 together which help build relationships and trust between the groups.

204  
205 Mr. Scott discussed the forest products that are taking place mostly due to the  
206 collaborative. He is seeing more timber harvested now than in previous years. He  
207 explained a timber sale that required access easement over DNR road that prevented  
208 the harvest, so a letter was written and sent to Pena. When there are these issues it is  
209 incentive to build more roads, and that is not the solution.

210  
211 Mr. Teigen explained, resource capacity and staffing capacity on the forest are a couple  
212 barriers that were worked out by select staff support. They developed surveys and  
213 talked with the districts and those were the issues. They have not gone away. It is an  
214 area that received some funds in order to help alleviate those issues. The collaborative  
215 has been adaptive to the needs, putting pressure in the right places and keeping the  
216 pressure on the state and feds. They have developed good relationships with district  
217 rangers as they realize the benefits the collaborative brings.

218  
219 Mr. Teigen explained the Wenatchee pilot project will be getting a decision over the next  
220 couple years and then Mt. Hull restoration project will get some traction. Twisp is a  
221 really important landscape for members on the collaborative. Things are happening and  
222 the trend is going in a positive direction.

223  
224 Commissioner Hover thinks it is good to have a county commissioner on the  
225 collaborative, but personally it is important to him to address safety.

226  
227 Ms. Kreimer explained what specifically the collaborative can do to represent the  
228 commissioners issues? Commissioner Hover wants to ensure buy in from county  
229 commissioners because the forest is a natural resource and it needs to be actively  
230 managed.

231  
232 **Discussion Credit Card Use**  
233 Laurie Thomas, Cari Hall, Leah McCormack

234  
235 Ms. Thomas explained a matter that came up which needs clarification by the board. A  
236 credit card went over limit and incurred a \$35 over limit fee. The department head is  
237 responsible for ensuring the card limit is not exceeded. The department head is  
238 responsible for any late charges. The county has resolutions in place about credit card  
239 use. This happened with a Superior Court credit card. Commissioner Hover thought it  
240 should be paid by the department head. The issue is the policy addresses late fees not  
241 over limit fees specifically. The issue was discussed with department. The policy doesn't

242 specifically say the department head is responsible to pay over limit fees. Commissioner  
243 Hover believes the department should pay the \$39. Commissioner Branch asked if  
244 there is something in writing the department head would sign acknowledging the use  
245 policy. When this has happened to other departments, those department heads did pay  
246 the fee.

247  
248 Commissioner Hover is not ready to approve the meeting minutes today.

249  
250 **Approve Consent Agenda**  
251 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 2-7, excluding item  
252 #1 for further review. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 253  
254 ~~1. Commissioners Proceedings January 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2018~~  
255 2. A-19 Approval – Fairgrounds Bathroom Project – BTO Construction  
256 3. Cattleguard Franchise Renewals – Timm CGF# 1-97, Cross Bar Ranch CGF# 78-73, Jones CGF# 6-89,  
257 Hirst CGF# 43-98, Hirst CGF# 44-98, Double R Ranch CGF# 03-03, Double R Ranch CGF# N-220, Double R Ranch  
258 CGF# 02-03, Double R Ranch CGF# 18-98, Double R Ranch CGF# 03-03, Nelson CGF# 42-98, Oberg Bros.  
259 Herefords CGF# 48-73, Oberg Bros. Herefords CGF# 49-73, Oberg Bros. Herefords CGF# 50-73, Oberg Bros.  
260 Herefords CGF# 48-73, Boesel CGF# 11-13, Poulin CGF# 6-73, Spear Ranch CGF# 62-73, Spear Ranch CGF# N-  
261 207, Spear Ranch CGF# 2-91, Double J Ranch CGF# 05-13, Havillah Farms CGF# 51-73, Crossman CGF# 70-73,  
262 Cox CGF# 4-92, Cox CGF# 3-97  
263 4. Agreement – Edelweiss Lift Station Consulting Services – Century West Engineering – Public Works  
264 5. Acknowledgement of Receipt – Treasurer’s Report – List of Refunds Made to Taxpayers during 2017  
265 6. Resolution 12-2018 – Countywide Guardrail Upgrades for 2018  
266 7. Resolution 13-2018 – Countywide Roadside Hazzard Removal for 2018

267 **Discussion – WSU Extension Office Staffing – Kayla Wells**

268 Cari Hall

269  
270 Ms. Wells explained the staffing issue she would like the commissioners to consider.  
271 The office manager Lynda Hotchkiss handed in her resignation and will be leaving at  
272 the end of March. She is working with HR to get the position posted. The issue is that  
273 person waived medical benefits. It would increase the cost of the positon by \$8,000  
274 because the person we hire most likely won’t waive the benefits.

275  
276 Commissioner Hover thought the needed funds could come from contingency. The  
277 amount budgeted for Extension Agent and 4H Educator. The new bars line in the  
278 budget is there, but the commissioners are not comfortable with the changes without  
279 knowing the details. Ms. Wells chose the label as the positon may need to be Master  
280 Gardner Coordinator basically any type of educator. Commissioner Hover explained this  
281 is an opportunity to form a position to cover multiple functions. She would not want to go  
282 away from 4H. Commissioner Hover explained he has a hard time changing something  
283 without being part of that discussion first. The agreement (MOU) is a boiler plate without  
284 any detail. Director Huston said the MOU is the vehicle where the level of services is to  
285 be articulated. He further explained the cost allocation for in kind exchange has

286 dramatically changed regarding the move to Public Works. Ms. Hall explained the  
287 secretary position does more than just secretary functions and perhaps that question  
288 should be asked. Ms. Hall said she can work within the board's time frame. He would  
289 like to see WSU pick up some of the bill for the move. Ms. Hall said the county really  
290 only pays about 80% of the cost of the educator, what about the other 20%? Ms. Wells  
291 will email the information regarding the details of the position as well as the suggested.  
292 Commissioner Hover supports the position, but does need the information to move  
293 ahead.

294  
295 A response letter from James Pena was received regarding the Smoke Jumper Base.  
296 Commissioners directed that a meeting be scheduled that all parties can attend.

297  
298 The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

299  
300