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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

MAY 24, 2021

9:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

9:30 AM Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings and Schedule

11:00 AM Discussion- Public Health Mutual Aide-Memorandum- Lauri Jones

1:30 PM Review Meeting Minutes

3:00 PM Discussion- Travel Management Plan- Forest Service

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on May 24, 2021, with; Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

AV Capture provided audio and video of the meetings held today, while ZOOM provided best audio accessibility and public interaction.

The county experienced internet interruptions today so ZOOM and AV Capture was intermittent due to power outage last night.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners discussed the recent L&I COVID information regarding masking and vaccinations. Commissioners discussed the right of businesses to refuse service to those not wearing a mask. Commissioner Hover said ostracizing people for not getting a vaccine is wrong. Unvaccinated workers still have to wear masks. Employers must demonstrate they have

Commissioners discussed water banking and development restrictions in the Methow.

Brief Update L&I COVID Rules

Human Resources, Shelley Keitzman, provided the commissioners with a copy of the recently released (May 21, 2021) L&I Mask & Distancing Requirements regarding mask wearing and vaccine documentation. Ms. Keitzman explained the employee's proof of vaccination record information will be maintained in human resources to protect the health information. (attached) A record is required to be on file of each employee's COVID vaccination. Employers must demonstrate they have verified vaccination status for workers on file.

Commissioners agree that compliance with the rules is necessary. The Board does not mandate employees get vaccinated.

Commissioner Branch discussed the meeting he attended on Friday with Ameresco (Kurt Lungren), DES (Kirsten Wilson) trying and County Maintenance staff regarding the Geo Thermal Courthouse Jail system and the issues of flow and injection well.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:30 for 5 minutes under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor motion carried.

Executive session ended at 10:35 a.m. no decisions were made.

54
55 **Briefing Among Commissioners- Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings and Schedule**
56 Commissioner Hover discussed his priorities in water banking. Planning around cities and towns and
57 looking at Mazama and Carlton, Methow is constrained, but Carlton could be a little node like Mazama
58 and how those four places are going to expand in the county needs looking into in terms of water.
59 Strategies should be placed on paper, said Commissioner Branch. Maybe a one- or two-year plan, most
60 organizations do one and it could facilitate discussion.

61
62 **Discussion- Public Health Mutual Aide-Memorandum- Lauri Jones**
63 Maurice Goodall

64
65 Community Health Director Public Health Official Lauri Jones provided a draft Mutual Aide Memorandum
66 and explained its purpose. The commissioners reviewed the memo and a spreadsheet showing
67 Fairgrounds rental costs from January 21 through May 31, 2021. For the purpose of Dept of Health and
68 FEMA Funding as the county is allowed to charge for rent. This allows the County to invoice Public
69 Health for rent. They are storing supplies on the grounds worth \$1,000 per day for storage and \$5,000
70 for use of the grounds for the mass vaccination events. As of this Friday it would be a grand total of
71 \$198,000. The Mutual Aide Agreement will need to be approved between the county and public health
72 allowing the county to bill public health. This is an acceptance to FEMA's match rule as they are paying
73 this at 100%. Mr. Goodall explained the whole fairgrounds is rented during vaccination events.

74
75 David Gecas has not reviewed the agreement, but the agreement has gone through the state and is an
76 acceptable form for this use. Commissioner Hover would like David Gecas to review.

77
78 Commissioner Hover asked if a rental agreement has been considered as the regular process for use
79 of the Fairgrounds which would generate the invoice to public health.

80
81 **Motion Mutual Aide Agreement Fairgrounds Rental**

82 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Mutual Aide Agreement for Off Site direct support
83 contingent on David Gecas review. Commissioner Branch asked what the involvement of the incident
84 commander provides. They provide the check and balances for approvals. The overall is managed by
85 the State Department of Public Health. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

86
87 The Clerk of the Board was asked to check with DAHP about whether the Fairgrounds and its buildings
88 were on the National Register of Historical Places. She stated the none of the fairgrounds were listed.

89
90 Commissioner Branch stated he would be meeting with Mayor Culp and Dennis Rabidou on Friday for
91 a site visit at the proposed Forest Service building.

92
93 Commissioner Hover discussed the timeline for installing the underground sprinkler system and getting
94 bids were discussed as either a phased project or all at once. The plan is to prepare this for next year.
95 He also discussed the racehorse barns and the high cost of lumber and materials.

96
97 Commissioner Hover will be absent this afternoon from 1-2 for the interviews.

98
99 Commissioners discussed among themselves things they wish to discuss with Forest Service regarding
100 the Travel Management Plan.

101 Commissioner Branch adjourned until 3:00 p.m. today.

102
103 **Review Meeting Minutes**

104 Commissioners reviewed May 10, 11 17 & 18 meeting minutes.

105
106

107 **Discussion- Travel Management Plan- Forest Service**

108 Aaron Culp, Laura Wright, Josh Thomson, Chris Furr Methow District Ranger, Sendi Kalcic, Kari Grover
109 Wier Chelan Eniat FS, Kristen Bail joined at 3:35 p.m.

110
111 Victoria Wilkens, Forest Service internal affairs representative began the meeting. The regional office
112 participant is running a bit late. Introductions were made for those on zoom.

113
114 The Forest Service is discussing some pre-planning on their Forest Management Plan. Ms. Kalcic
115 presented Motorized Travel Planning presentation via zoom. (attached) The presenter provided history
116 of the Travel Management Planning efforts since 2006.

117
118 All Terrain Wheeled Vehicles WATV miles of routes were included in the draft assessment. In 2020 the
119 Tonasket Ranger District was transferred to the Colville District and is no longer part of the project.

120
121 The Current status (2021) was presented. The Forest will complete planning at a ranger district/county
122 level instead of forest wide. The Forest Service is reengaging with key partners to discuss scope, scale,
123 and approach and seeking input from those partners to help identify where to start planning efforts,
124 ascertain level of engagement, and receive feedback. Methow has over 740,000 acres and does not
125 have WATV trails, less than one mile of mixed use is around 10 miles....for around 50 miles of motorized
126 trails.

127
128 The Motorized Travel Management Planning outlook and proposal decision would be expected in 2023.
129 Final NEPA would be complete sometime in 2026. What the plan will do and what it will not do was
130 discussed. It will amend the existing forest plan, and close the forest to cross country travel. It won't
131 address the travel analysis (Subpart A was completed in 2015), Address over-snow motorized travel
132 (subpart C is a separate process) and it won't address non-motorized trails and are not covered under
133 the rule. Chris Furr said some roads may be added WATV use through this analysis. Commissioner
134 Hover understood that. There are two categories official motorized trails and have a maintenance level
135 assigned and currently in their system. The other category is cross country travel user created routes
136 that have been allowed and folks have traveled across country on the routes. Those will be looked at to
137 determine what unofficial user created trails are there and do those need to be included in the system
138 or stopped. Are they looking at existing trails to see if those need to be closed, yeah, said Ms. Kalcic.
139 Commissioner Hover asked if the 1600 miles of roads should be closed to licensed vehicle travel.
140 Maintenance Level one roads are closed to public use. Maintenance level 2-5 roads are the meat and
141 potatoes. There is an opportunity to identify WATV roads in this process.

142
143 Commissioner DeTro explained how vocal he has been regarding the 3- & 4-digit system roads under
144 the plan being closed. Those roads were engineered to county road specifications, so it is a redundant
145 effort to close roads and open one by one. If they are closed it will be decades before an analysis is
146 done to open them again. Ranger Furr said they don't have roads in the Methow where WATV use has
147 been authorized he said this effort is to solicit input on what folks see as an opportunity for WATV use.
148 Commissioner Hover said the county is interested in the Forest Service Back roads study. The county
149 completed its own analysis on WATV use on our county roads and did open up Commissioner districts
150 1&3. The planning effort should include looking at the maps when considering opening up roads to
151 WATV use and how can we make the most out of the county and forest service roads that are
152 maintainable and usable for everyone. How will roads near the district lines be handled. Ranger Furr
153 said there is some coordination needed for those roads that cross district lines.

154
155 Victoria explained a high level of participation is vital to the process. The more in-depth dialogue on
156 these things the better. These engagements can range from briefings to more in-depth efforts and a
157 good working relationships. User groups working together and working through issues at a grass roots
158 level is exactly what they are hoping for.

159

160 Trails Collaborative, ATV Club, and we have been waiting on Forest Service and we should be first on
161 the list, stated Commissioner Hover. Commissioner Branch said Commissioner Hover district is more
162 controversial. He is concerned with the ability of Forest Service to manage the WATV uses in some
163 areas. Does the Forest Service have the ability to manage those uses? There is a trail's group out of
164 Wenatchee who may have helpful information about where users can use the roads and trail systems.
165 Roads already have an established use by vehicles where trails are different. Motorcycles can access
166 areas WATV's cannot. Consistency on applying the rules is important to the county. The county roads
167 are signed and we are telling people we have established routes and not to go off them.

168
169 Commissioner Branch asked if the Sheriff or Public Works had comments. Engineer Thomson said from
170 his side concerns have already been addressed as the Methow is closed for WATV use right now. We
171 do not know which forest roads will connect to which county roads and the county waited until the forest
172 service began updating its Motorized Travel plans.

173
174 Ranger Furr said the WATV clubs will really need to be engaged and have buy in into this. Commissioner
175 Hover asked when FS will be starting this process in Okanogan County?

176
177 Victoria said the Forest Service wanted to ensure the county had opportunity to express concerns and
178 provide comments about the plan to Forest Service and begin the conversation.

179
180 Commissioner Branch discussed fire wood gathers and roads or areas where people have to go off road
181 to reach the wood. Commissioner Hover asked when the county would be first and would like a time and
182 date so the board can help engage people. The Forest Service looks forward to engaging with Okanogan
183 County on these plans in the future.

184
185 Laura Wright said everyone is all over the place with the WATV's. It looks like many go off road. There
186 is only one law enforcement person enforcing this. The Jamboree is happening soon. She would like
187 something to be official. Consistency between the areas and WATV/ORV uses is needed. Cross country
188 travel is happening.

189
190 The board adjourned at 4:12 p.m.
191