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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

OCTOBER 23, 2023

9:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
9:05 AM Review Meeting Minutes from October 16, 17, 18, 2023
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Commissioners Staff Meeting
10:30 AM Update-Methow Valley Ranger District Planning Projects-Ranger Chris Furr
11:30 AM Voucher Approval
11:40 AM Approve Meeting Minutes October 16, 17, 18, 2023
11:55 AM Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules
1:30 PM Discussion-Lake Management District-Planning Director Palmer

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on October 23, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch was on a phone call at the start; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Deputy Clerk of the Board, Cameron Burnette, present.

Deputy Clerk of the Board Cameron was sitting in for Clerk of the Board Lalena while she was out of town.

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

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

There was no consent agenda to review, so Commissioners moved on to review meeting minutes.

Review Meeting Minutes from October 16, 17, 18, 2023

Commissioner Hover and Commissioner Neal directed Deputy Clerk Cameron to edit meeting minutes from the above noted days.

Public Comment Period

Emily Sisson, member of the Public attended via Zoom

Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Sisson at 9:21 AM if she had any public comment, she stated she did not.

Commissioner Branch came back from his phone call with Brightly, the company doing the Permit Tracking System for the Planning Department. He stated that if they have to worry about every little detail in the contract then this is too much hassle and its hard to have a trusting relationship in the long run if this is how it starts. The woman he was talking to couldn't speak to the issues regarding the data migration, and said she could not do anything until she talked to her people. Commissioner Hover asked how could you go to a new system without migrating the data? Commissioner Branch said the Planning Department Staff agreed and this is a huge issue. There is a weekly meeting and there are issues regarding the mapping and this will be a public interface map so its important that it works.

51 **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

52 Maintenance Tim Meadows, Planning Director Palmer

53
54 Mr. Meadows provided pictures to all of the Commissioners of the damage to the roof on the
55 Agri-Plex at the Fairgrounds, showing many holes in the roof and stripped screws. Mr.
56 Meadows noted the picture of the tree near the Agri-Plex and that it needs trimming at the
57 minimum and eventually get that tree completely cut down. The gable end flashing needs to
58 be taken off, re-caulked and then screwed back down as there was a lot of debris under that.
59 Also, many of the screws on the roof are in the condition shown in the pictures, the washers
60 are disintegrating and allowing water in. Most of the seams on the sheet metal roofing are only
61 7 to 8 inches and they should be minimum 12 inches overlap.

62
63 Mr. Meadows followed up with a Jail/Admin update, the rails they are putting up on the stairs
64 down there are being fabricated right now, and they will install behind the flag fist, so that if
65 bad weather comes in at least the parking spot will be available to use. The glass for the
66 Auditors office is done and D&R glass is storing the glass for now, and he will be ordering the
67 parts for retrofitting the counter this week, and then will work with the distributor for the ballistic
68 fabric to have it finished.

69
70 **Director of Planning Pete Palmer followed with her update.**

71 They do have a correction to the Agenda, the Planning Commission meeting is today, but not
72 until 6:00 PM. Deputy Clerk Cameron made the correction. There is about 4,600 that will have
73 to be added to the Planning Budget for 2024 because of unforeseen GIS software fees, and
74 6,300 for the new plotter.

75
76 Ms. Palmer needs a list of projects, funding, habitat achievements for land acquisition. She
77 emailed Craig about information on the projects because Ms. Palmer had nothing.
78 Commissioner Hover recommended she call Chris with the Tribe because they bought Antoine
79 Creek Ranch, and see how they did that. Commissioner Hover and Branch noted the Green
80 Acres culvert project looks like it is done. Kimberly Preacher, Department of Defense, expand
81 the fly space and will hit the Methow and the Reservation pretty hard, will not affect the
82 elevation or the times they fly, but it will expand it to the West. 11,500 for the bottom level flight
83 elevation, and 25,000 ceiling height. Commissioner Hover asked if Ms. Palmer had a floor
84 area map of the flight area, she said she did and she sent the map to the Board and the Deputy
85 Clerk.

86
87 Commissioners decided to move the discussion for the Lake Management District to 15
88 minutes from then, at 10:00 AM.

89
90 Commissioner Branch also discussed the Intercept Model meeting he is setting up for
91 Tuesday, October 31, 2023 with the local hospitals and school districts, and that he would like
92 a round table at the end of the day, Commissioner Hover will be absent but Commissioner
93 Neal agreed he would like to do a roundtable next Tuesday after the meeting.

94
95 Mr. Goodall Director of Emergency Management arrived for Staff late at 9:59 AM. He will be
96 out of town from this Friday October 27th until next Friday November 3rd but is able to be
97 contacted on his cell. He said overall Emergency Management has been quiet, they had a
98 meeting with the Local Fire Chiefs last week that went well. There are many valves that need
99 to be dug up and replaced for the Fairgrounds well, and he's working on getting a map of all

100 the valves and the water system for the Fairgrounds. He said that all the sprinklers are working
101 and they are being blown out but it just needs to be fixed in some places to prevent issues in
102 the future. There was some water gurgling out of the gravel areas while the lines were being
103 blown out so in the spring they will have to be dug up to figure out the issue. All the irrigation
104 lines are blown out, now they are working on the domestic, which normally wouldn't need to
105 be blown out, but because of how the pipes were installed that is the only way to get the water
106 out of the pipe. The truck is going to be delivered back to the shop, it was dripping antifreeze
107 out of the rear back side of the head on the engine block, and there is probably problem with
108 the head gasket, hopefully nothing warped.

109

110 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

111 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and
112 those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been
113 recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by
114 unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$597,564.73. Warrant
115 numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

116

117 **Discussion-Lake Management District-Planning Director Palmer**

118 Director Pete Palmer arrived for the discussion at 10:00 AM and began at 10:07 AM.

119 Ms. Palmer stated they could have the ballots in the mail tomorrow, the notice would go in the
120 paper November 9th and the 16th, and the hearing would be on December 4th, which they
121 already have a hearing that day. The vote would be out from the 24th of October to December
122 3rd. Commission Branch asked is there not a Resolution needed for the intent of the ballot, her
123 understanding is the renew the District it is not a requirement but she will double check and
124 make sure. Commissioner Neal stated that is understanding was that if there were any
125 changes to the district or the wording that it would have to go through Resolution again.
126 Commissioner Branch noted that they would reach out to Director palmer to get a calendar of
127 all the dates for this, he ran in to ask her while they had a moment.

128

129 **Approve Meeting Minutes October 16, 17, 18, 2023**

130 Commissioner Neal moved to approve meeting minutes from October 16, 17, 18, 2023.

131 Commissioner Hover seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

132

133 **Motion Authorize Final Payment Duane Hall Fairgrounds Race Horse Barns**

134 Commissioner Hover moved to approve payment to Duane Hall Construction the final 50% for
135 construction of the Race Horse Barns at the Fairgrounds, Commissioner Neal seconded
136 motion, all in favor, motion carried.

137

138 **Update-Methow Valley Ranger District Planning Projects-Ranger Chris Furr**

139 Executive Director of Methow Trails James DeSalvo, Chris Furr from the Methow Ranger
140 District, Rosemary Sefried Director of Trails for Methow Valley Ranger District, Joe Brown
141 President of Evergreen Methow Bike Alliance, Julie Melart Board President of Methow Valley
142 Sports Trails Association.

143

144 Mr. Furr noted that he had a discussion with Commissioner Neal awhile back regarding trails
145 and that it is something that needs to be addressed within the County. Commissioner Hover
146 noted that the last Grizzly Bear meeting talked about a "No Loss Ecosystem" rule for the
147 incoming Grizzly Bears and if they added new trails would old trails have to be removed? Mr.

148 Furr noted that with the Cub Creek Fire some of those trails that were lost were not good
149 viable trails for people to use so the loss of those were not significant to the County, and that's
150 how they would go about removing any trails in the future. Mr. DeSalvo handed out maps to
151 all the Commissioners showing all the project areas they are working on. He showed a picture
152 on the Zoom screen share, showing the previous area they were calling the Cub Creek Trail
153 head, and the area has worked for now but their agreement with the private use landowner
154 is now coming to an end. He then showed the proposed new trail head that would also serve
155 all seasons and motorized and non-motorized trail users. It would add a 2.3 Acre trail head,
156 974 feet of trail construction, and could include bathrooms, better parking, and possibly a
157 CAT Shack for heavy equipment storage for trail maintenance and road maintenance in the
158 winter. The vision is to have a scratched in version by next winter and hopefully funding from
159 the State to help develop it even more. Commissioner Hover asked how does the WDFD
160 closing out their properties for winter affect this? Mr. DeSalvo said it should not at all. Mr. Furr
161 said before development it would go to Public Comment. Commissioner Branch asked would
162 the motorized use include ATV's? Mr. DeSalvo stated yes it would. WA ATV is not allowed
163 currently on Forest Service Roads. Mr. DeSalvo then pulled up the Mazama Fire Break Trail,
164 it runs along the West Fire Line that was cut for the Mazama Fire. 2000 ft of it would be on
165 Federal Forest Service land, the rest of it is on private property land. Steve Devin has carved
166 this trail informally but they are looking to fully develop it. The fire break was used significantly
167 in 2021 during Fire Season. Mr. DeSalvo said he feels it is a win-win, as the trail users get to
168 have a manicured trail for all season use, and in the scenario of a fire coming the Forest
169 Service comes in and also maintains it, so it becomes like a partnership to maintain this trail
170 for multi-purpose. They scoped this with the Methow Home Range and they said they do a
171 lot of data surveys and there is not going to be an impact to Mule Deer or other Wildlife with
172 this project. Steve Devin offered up an additional trailhead location on his property and that
173 would help with parking substantially. Commissioner Branch stated he feels that it is a good
174 idea.

175
176 Mr. Brown shared his screen to show a map of trails they have been collaborating with the
177 Forest Service to Maintain and create. They recently added 25 miles of new trails up by Sun
178 Mountain, which converted non-system trails into system trails and modernize them. After
179 they were finished fires came through those areas, he asked if they had a blank slate what
180 would they like to do up at Sun Mountain, and what does that list look like? He said they came
181 up with about 25 other small projects to add to the original list. They changed a couple of
182 trails to be one way to help prevent near misses on people using trails as two way. They are
183 beginning the connection to the Loup trails to help spread tourism out from the Methow area
184 using the trails systems, and create community trails that connect the Methow to the rest of
185 the Okanogan Valley. Mr. Brown stated there is a hunger for more community trails in the
186 area and creating a connective system of trails throughout the County while not interfering
187 with Wildlife. Mr. DeSalvo introduced Commissioner Hover to attend their weekly meeting on
188 Wednesdays to help have constructive conversation with various agencies. Commissioner
189 Branch commented that he has been involved in the trails systems for a long time in
190 Okanogan County, and there is always bumps to get over regarding the development of trails
191 and he feels that a relationship with Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) is important.
192 Ms. Sefried commented that the PNTA is a work in progress and there is still needed work
193 and discussion about further develop of the trails system. Commissioner Branch asked about
194 the trail across Starvation Mountain called the "Golden Stairway" and the new signage and
195 whether it was an existing trail. He had not seen the sign before and wasn't sure if it's a long
196 existing trail or a newer one? He also saw a lot of ATV's up there on Starvation Mountain.

197 Ms. Sefried stated that yes it was an existing trail, but hasn't always had access to it. Mr.
198 Brown noted that one thing that's interesting is the ridgetop is the border of Tonasket's district.
199 The new sign was provided by a grant, which they really needed because the trailhead was
200 pretty much not visible from the road Mr. Brown noted. Commissioner Hover wants to start
201 inventorying the properties with trails in the Methow to better know what we have.
202 Commissioner Branch feels that the Parks and Recs is an important source of funding for
203 these types of projects on County owned land. Commissioner Branch stated he would like to
204 see the new PW position for Trails collaborate meetings with the different trail's agencies
205 within the county.

206
207 **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules**
208 Commissioner Branch stated on Wednesday he would be in Olympia at a meeting. There will
209 be no meeting Tuesday, or Wednesday this week.

210
211 The board adjourned at 11:47 a.m.