

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
STUDY SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY**

**9:30 A.M.**

**JANUARY 15, 2003**

Those in attendance: Commissioners Max Golladay, Perry Huston, and Bruce Coe

Others: Shannon Carlson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; David Bowen, Auditor and approximately 21 members of the public.

**STUDY SESSION**

**HOTEL/MOTEL FUND APPLICATIONS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 9:30 a.m. **CHAIRMAN GOLLADAY** opened the study session, and advised all parties that they would have a chance to make a statement. **DAVID BOWEN, AUDITOR** explained that there is \$49,900 available for distribution, \$20,000 of that is earmarked for the Kittitas County Fairgrounds request if the Commissioners choose to award the fair the full amount, which leaves \$29,900 for the remaining seventeen applicants. **CHAIRMAN GOLLADAY** explained that the Commissioners would review the applicants in order as listed on their spreadsheet and anyone representing the agency may speak on their behalf.

**ELLENSBURG RODEO POSSE**, a representative confirmed the amount they were asking for and stated that they have two other sources of funding, the City of Ellensburg and any funds that the Posse generates.

**THORP MILLTOWN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY**, Susan Johnson explained to the Board that the plan is to purchase transmitter equipment with the funds. The transmitter would be placed by the Thorp Fruit stand and be able to transmit all the way to the Indian John Hill. After some research on how they would advise people of this radio station, the society could put up a sign like the DOT weather advisory signs telling people what radio station they could tune into to hear some history of the Kittitas Valley. The radio station would provide listeners information about the mill, as well as events that are occurring around the county. The fee to keep the license going is \$15.00 a year, which they have budgeted. There is virtually no maintenance on the transmitter. **COMMISSIONER COE** asked if they would be able to generate funds through advertisements on the radio. Mr. Mack explained that they would not be able to seek funds through selling advertisements.

**CLE ELUM/ROSLYN CHAMBER**, \$2000 would go in conjunction with the Ellensburg Chamber advertisements, \$1200 would go towards a Kiosk outside of the office to place brochures and pamphlets that would be

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available when the Chamber is closed. \$1500 would go towards the maintenance of the Visit Cle Elum signs and \$1200 would go towards the home page site administrative costs. Since December there has been 1400 hits on the web site. City of Cle Elum does acquire hotel/motel funds locally.

**ELLENSBURG CHAMBER**, Alan Walker explained that the money is for administration of the website. The idea is to combine the City and Chamber website updating it regularly with events. They are also looking at changing the face of the website to match different seasons.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG**, 2% of their hotel/motel funds has already been dedicated to marketing advertisements in Seattle. They are looking into to increasing the hotel/motel tax by 2% for marketing costs. The City is also looking into creating an advisory committee to decide if there should be a 2% increase. **LOUIS MUSSO III** explained that Mountain Star would be adding the 2% increase in 2005 when their hotel opens. He also has polled different hotels around the county and they didn't think a 2% increase would hinder their business.

**JAZZ IN THE VALLEY**, the funding would be put towards the advertisement time with Charter Communications. For what they paid for last year they really got a good value of advertisement time. The only other funding they receive is through contributions and money that comes in from ticket sales. For \$1750 they can advertise in the Seattle Times, Seattle P.I., Walla Walla, and Yakima Herald which reaches over 1 million readers. The advertisements attribute to the increase in attendance in the past 6 years.

**YAKIMA RIVER CLEAN UP**, this project was not put in the budget this year. Some years the funds have come from General Fund and some years Hotel/Motel Funds. **COMMISSIONER GOLLADAY** suggested the Clerk talk to Patti Johnson Solid Waste Director to see if the funds can come out of the Solid Waste Grant.

**VALLEY MUSICAL THEATRE**, a representative explained that the theatre has been putting on productions for 5 years. Within the 5 years they have had an increase in attendance. They are requesting funds to pay for additional promotions and more professional looking programs. The performances are held at the Morgan Performing Arts Theatre. They are putting on Cinderella. Everyone in the productions and help out with the productions are local volunteers.

**ALLAN WALKER** from the Ellensburg Chamber suggested when going through the applications for next year a question be added to the application of how receiving the money for their project help them.

**CASCADE RAIL FOUNDATION**, this is the fourth year they have asked for a

contribution. The Depot needs the most work. It has new foundation and roof. Now the siding needs repair. The goal is to turn the depot into an interpreter center/museum. Currently South Cle Elum has added the 2% in hotel/motel tax.

**KITTITAS COUNTY FAIR, MARK JOHNSON** explained that the funding goes for radio and print advertising. Attendance was up 5% last year. All advertisements have endorsed the new renovations. Part of the radio advertising is in Seattle over KMPS radio station, which Mr. Johnson feels contributed to the increase in attendance.

**COAL MINE TRAILS, LOUIS MUSSO III** gave the board a handout about trails in Central Washington that were printed last year with the funding. Mr. Musso had 5,000 copies made and they were gone in 6 months. This year he is asking for less, as well as asking for money through other sources

**WESTERN ART ASSOCIATION**, they are a non-profit organization. Last year they held the event at the fairgrounds and had an increase in attendance. They were very pleased with the turnout. They do receive donations from other organizations. They give the Clymer Museum half of the proceeds that are made at the auction so the money does go back to the community. The money requested will go for advertising.

**HISTORIC ELLENSBURG**, they have a 20-year lease with Burlington Northern Santa Fe for the land and a grant to acquire the building. There is a huge interest for the potential uses. The next step would be to hire an architect to advise what the possible uses of the building would be.

**KITTITAS COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER, CLAUDIA SIKES** explained that during the Fairgrounds restoration there was a commitment that for 10 years the committee would place exhibits of pictures and have movies for people to view. They don't have revenue it is strictly on donations. They had roughly 3300 people visit the heritage center during fair time. The funding would go towards framing and restoring pictures.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MUSEUM**, they are asking for funding to place rack cards at the Indian John rest stop.

**CLYMER MUSEUM**, the funding would be put towards marketing for the Lewis and Clark exhibit. The funding would also be used for presenters that come and give lectures. There has been an increase in visitors from last year due to the marketing.

**KITTITAS COUNT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ERIN BLACK** was happy to report that there has been an increase in visitors and membership to the museum and that 10% of the members are from out of town. The amount of donations has also increased. The funding would be put towards the promotion of a new exhibit. This exhibit would be put on from June-September and would

include numerous amount of hands on activities. Some of these activities would include reenactments and performances from the Pioneer Era.

**GALLERY ONE, MARY FRANCES** reported that Gallery One has seen an increase of visitors over the past 5 years. She is requesting funds to complete the restoration of Gallery One. There has been an increase in interest in hosting gatherings at the gallery. With the empty space upstairs the gallery is going to start renting out the rooms for art students.

The Commissioners went through the list and ranked the requests on how much they contribute to bringing in attendance to local hotels. They also looked at if projects need all funding requested or if they could manage with just a portion. After careful consideration the funds were distributed as follows:

Ellensburg Rodeo Posse	\$1750.00
Thorp Milltown Hist. Pres.	\$ 0.00
Cle Elum/Roslyn Chamber	\$3200.00
Ellensburg Chamber	\$3000.00
City of Ellensburg	\$ 0.00
Jazz in the Valley	\$2500.00
Yakima River Clean-Up	\$ 0.00
Valley Musical Theatre	\$3000.00
Cascade Rail Foundation	\$ 0.00
Kittitas County Fair	\$20000.00
Coal Mines Trail Comm.	\$ 700.00
Western Art Association	\$2000.00
Historic Ellensburg	\$ 0.00
Kittitas Co. Heritage Ctr.	\$1500.00
Children's Activity Museum	\$ 0.00
Clymer Museum of Art	\$1500.00
Kittitas Co. Historical Soc.	\$3000.00
Gallery One	\$5000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,150</b>

The Study Session was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Shannon L. Carlson

  
Max A. Golladay, Chair