

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTTAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY

10:00 A.M

JUNE 27, 2007

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman David Bowen and Commissioner Mark McClain.

Those present: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Louis Musso and Nick Henderson, President of the Cle Elum Downtown Association.

Louis Musso introduced himself and Nick Henderson. He said the Cle Elum Downtown Association is sponsoring a rail district project from back in 2000. He gave a history of the project and distributed copies of RCW 36.60 relating to County Rail Districts; a passenger, a commuter rail potential committee report dated September 7, 2001; and minutes from a Public Hearing held on August 31, 2004 by the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners.

He requested the Board of County Commissioners hold a public hearing to consider placing the creation of a Rail District on the November General Election ballot. He said by just "creating" a Rail District, it does not impose a tax, but a tax could later be imposed and since the Rail District Commissioners are the Board of County Commissioners, it would not create additional bureaucracy. He noted the ad-hoc committee could not apply for grants or go to the State for funding without the creation of a Rail District, and they would like an indication of public support. He said they would not want any funding from the general county revenue however, they would be requesting a portion of the States shared collected in the County, to be returned for rail district operations.

Once it passes, they would go to the legislature and then move forward to meet formally with necessary parties to go over actual costs and information for passenger rail system from Auburn to Cle Elum, Ellensburg and possibly Easton and they would use the existing tracks. He said if the railroad does what they intend on doing for their freight service, the passenger service would then just go along with that and it would be good timing. He said all of Kittitas County would be included within the boundaries of a Rail District. Commissioner Bowen wanted clarification on the boundaries.

The Board of County Commissioners indicated they did not have a problem with setting a public hearing to consider the request to be held in early August in both the Upper and Lower County. Commissioner Bowen asked Mr. Musso to get information on the boundaries and he offered to contact the Prosecutors office to get their opinion as well. Chairman Crankovich asked that the committee provide the Board with documentation of

letters of support from cities and other applicable entities in the County at or prior to the Public Hearing.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Julie A. Kjorsvik

Alan Crankovich, Chairman