

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**4:00 P.M.**

**AUGUST 1, 2007**

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman David Bowen. Excused: Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Louis Musso III and four members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING                      KITTTITAS COUNTY RAIL DISTRICT      COMMISSIONERS**

At approximately 4:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened a continued public hearing from July 31, 2007 to consider a submission to the voters, a ballot issue creating a Kittitas County Rail District, pursuant to RCW 36.60.

**LOUIS MUSSO REPRESENTING THE CLE ELUM DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION** gave a brief report stating since 2001 there has been an effort to consider restoring passenger rail service in Kittitas County. He said everything they have found in the past seven years that it is possible to restore service for passenger rail service to Kittitas County, including the engineering aspect. The 2001 legislative session passed a bill to change RCW 36.60 allowing to create freight districts, and it has since included passenger rail districts to be established, but the issue needs to go before the voters. He said the formation of a Rail District does not allow for additional taxes or new entities. He indicated that he had received many phone calls in support of the idea, and stated it was very encouraging that the Commissioners made time available to take public comment. He felt it was important to acknowledge that this issue hasn't been brought up since August of 2004 and it hasn't been a controversial measure. He indicated that the City of Cle Elum has endorsed this idea and they are not asking for any financial support currently. He indicated that at this point they simply want to find out if having a passenger rail service is something that the citizens of Kittitas County have interest in or not.

**THOSE PRESENT AND TESTIFYING:**

**COLLIN POTIT** spoke in support of the Rail District, and stated it was a good first step.

**CYNTHA MURRAY** spoke in favor of the Rail District, and stated that she choose to live a "Green" lifestyle and can't go far with her electric car, and therefore would love to see this happen.

**MARGRET CONDIT** indicated her support of a Rail District and felt there were only positives for the future.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER PUBLIC TESTIMONY THE PUBLIC PORTION WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** indicated that some of the County staff was experienced with putting propositions on ballots, but he wasn't sure how much time the County could provide as far as staffing.

**COMMISSIONER BOWEN** moved to approve placing the issue on the November 6, 2007 election ballot, and to direct staff to work with the proponent to prepare the necessary language for the ballot to include "should a Rail District be formed in Kittitas County", in accordance with the appropriate RCW. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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**Mandy Robinson**

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**Alan Crankovich, Chairman**