

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
UPPER COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
700 EAST FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

6:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Board members present: Chairman Mark McClain, Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Alan Crankovich.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Brent Bottoms, Deputy Prosecutor; Kirk Holmes, Public Works/Community Development Services Interim Director; Tom Tebb, Department of Ecology and approximately 40 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

DEPT. OF ECOLOGY

COMMISSIONERS

At 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** opened the public hearing continued from January 20, 2010 to consider a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between Kittitas County and the Department of Ecology. He noted the written record had been closed at 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2010.

COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH recapped the public hearing held on January 22, 2010, and after considering both written and oral testimony, it was obvious the citizens were opposed to the current draft Memorandum of Agreement. He reviewed several frustrations expressed by the public regarding the Emergency Rule and Moratorium, including a significant decrease in property values; the proposed 150 day window is not enough time to obtain permits; opposition to the request to relinquish the right for challenges and the lack of financing options available from banks. He felt there had been some creative options received from everyone, including the Department of Ecology, the County and the public, but it was clear the current Memorandum of Agreement was not adequate. He had hoped that discussions could continue in the future, since he had gained some optimism after talking with the new Director of Ecology.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL thanked everyone for the testimony given during the hearing process. He thanked the local Legislators for their active role in trying to come to possible solutions. He indicated there are some concepts currently under investigation, and felt between those and building upon the proposed agreement, he hoped there could be a fresh approach established.

MR. TOM TEBB, REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY said the effect of the citizen's testimony has been heard by the new Director of

Ecology and the Governor as well, and they want to be thoughtful on how to move forward. He said they are exploring the concept of the Lower Arkansas Valley Super Ditch program in Colorado, which works with the Irrigation Districts where they can purchase water rights during droughts, but would need to talk to other stake holders (senior water right holders) to see if they would be interested in that type of program.

CHAIRMAN McCLAIN said this type of program has never been done in Washington State before, and it may take some time to work, but it's important to make sure that it satisfies environmental concerns, etc.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL said he would like to bring back some solid information to the public at a later date, since they are still in discussions with the Department of Ecology. He encouraged the public to stay engaged because they need citizen input.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL moved to table the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Ecology as presented, to close the public hearing and continue to work with the Department of Ecology on possible solutions. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The Board noted any future public hearing would be re-noticed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Julie Kjorsvik

Mark McClain, Chairman