

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

MONDAY

1:30 P.M.

JUNE 6, 2011

Board members present: Chairman Paul Jewell, Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich and Commissioner O'Brien.

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board, Jerry Pettit, Auditor; Sue Higginbotham, Elections Deputy, Chuck Ward, PUD #1 General Manager.

SPECIAL MEETING

REDISTRICTING

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:30 p.m. **Chairman Jewell** opened a Special Meeting to conduct a discussion on redistricting of Commissioner Districts.

Jerry Pettit, Auditor, said that the Census reports were in and show the Commissioner Districts are in need of redistricting, which needs to occur before December, 2011. The new 10th Congressional District will cause some change in the Congressional Districts on the East side of the State. He said that precinct lines may also change. The Commissioner Districts need to increase or decrease to equalize the population. Commissioner District #1 needs to increase by 766 people, Commissioner District #2 needs to be reduced by 287 people and District #3 needs to be reduced by 480 people. He said he needed the Boards' thoughts on how to proceed. He said that in the past the Auditor did the work and presented it to the Board for their approval and adoption. He said that method present problems at the public hearing and was sent back to the Auditor for further work.

Commissioner Crankovich asked if this work had to be done this year. **Mr. Pettit** said the work has to be done by December 1, 2011 with the changes effective in 2012.

Commissioner O'Brien asked whether the numbers have to be exact. **Sue Higginbotham** said they need to be as close as possible. She said Jason Eklund in Information Services is inputting the numbers from the Census information and will produce a map that will help with changing district lines.

Chuck Ward, General Manager, Kittitas County Public Utility District #1, said he was at this meeting at the request of one of the PUD Commissioners, as they also would be redistricting. He said he was new to the State and it was good to understand how this process worked.

Jerry Pettit said that when PUD districts are first formed, they do so based on the Commissioner District lines, but PUD #1 has changed the lines.

Discussion followed based on the process from earlier years, including Ordinance 2002-07 and on the division of the City of Ellensburg.

Chairman Jewell said the Board would do the changing of the districts in study sessions with GIS specialists, Jason Eklund and Christie Garcia and then hold a public hearing. He asked Jerry Pettit to inform the political parties when the dates are set.

Commissioner Crankovich said he believed they should look at changing precincts from one district to another before splitting up the precincts.

A discussion followed on the State redistricting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD



Catherine Dunn

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Paul Jewell, Chairman