

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

**WEDNESDAY**

**1:30 P.M.**

**JANUARY 16, 2008**

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Kelly Carlson, Administrative Assistant/Airport Manager; Brandon Drexler, Public Works Director; Brandon Foster; Richard Kline, President of WE-ROCK; Rich Kline; Josh England; and Ron Cridlebaugh, Executive Director of the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce; and one member of the public.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**WE-ROCK**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Mr. Kline, President of World Extreme Rock Crawling Championship Series, reviewed the history of WE-ROCK which is a motor sports competition/spectator sport which began in California, as well as other sites that are currently up and running in other Countries. He said the vehicles only go between 2-3 miles per hour and no one has been hurt in the past 8 years of its existence. They are requesting to lease land at the airport to create a man made site for events and would like to have it for at least a five year agreement. Their needs are approximately 4 acres for the event site and between 3 and 4 acres for parking. He said community service organizations could set up as vendors during their event to raise funds. They anticipate using it for their national western series event one time per year, team training day (approximately one time per month) and possibly hosting the grand nationals. At each event they anticipate over 3,500 people in attendance which would bring in a lot of economic benefits to the County. There may be other uses for their site including motorcycle trials, an operator training facility, and other rock activities. He said the State Tourism Board has indicated they will assist with funding. Ron Cridlebaugh, Executive Director of the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce said if 3,500 people came to the event it would generate approximately \$440,000.00 per day for the County. He said they have also met with representatives from Community, Trade & Economic Development and they are also standing behind the event. Kelly Carlson, Airport Manager explained their request must go through the Conditional Use Permit process.

Commissioner Bowen felt there were many benefits by bringing their event to the County it may not fit out at the airport with what the direction the County is currently going. Commissioner Crankovich suggested the

land that's available at Saddle Mountain Pit which is located a few miles outside the City of Kittitas (approximately 17 acres).

WE-ROCK representatives reviewed their process to create their sites, stating it is concrete over fill and they have talked to various companies in the County who are interested in assisting them. They would like to hold their event this year the third weekend in June. They would possibly use the Fairgrounds for Friday night's registration event and the actual event would take place over Saturday and Sunday. If they have a small crew putting together the site, it would take 4 people approximately 1 month to put it up, otherwise 2-3 weeks with assistance. They indicated they do not need power or water at the site for their event, but rent port-a-potties and they may need to find portable bleachers to use for spectators.

Commissioner Crankovich said he looked up WE-ROCK's website and it already indicates they are coming to Ellensburg. He reminded them that nothing is set in stone until they go through the entire process and receive approval from the County.

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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**Julie A. Kjorsvik**

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**Mark McClain, Chairman**