

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
UPPER DISTRICT COURT  
CLE ELUM, WASHINGTON  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY**

**6:00 P.M.**

**MAY 20, 2008**

Board members present: Chairman Mark McClain, Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich & Commissioner Linda Huber.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board and approximately 25 members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**MOTORS ON COOPER LAKE**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At approximately 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** opened a special meeting to consider amending Kittitas County Code Chapter 9.16 to allow electric boat motors on Cooper Lake.

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** explained the history of the request stating he had been the one to request the public hearing out of respect of his elders and their views should be heard. He said there was no opinion by the Board in support or opposition of the request.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: DAVID GERTH** opposed the code revision to allow for electric motors on Cooper Lake. He felt enforceability would provide problems and felt if electric motors were allowed, it would pollute the experience of the area. **ROBERT HEDIN** was in favor of leaving the designation as a wilderness area and to not allow electric or any other motors allowed on the water. **RODNEY LUCE** described the Cooper Lake area and felt the lake was too small for motors to be used. He questioned if the proposal was approved by the Board, who would patrol and enforce the area. **LARRY FULLER** said he had received inquiries as to why Cooper Lake did not allow electric motors and that it was the only lake in the County that does not allow the use of those. He did not feel electric motors were noisy nor do they pollute the water. He felt they would not cause a disturbance to those in the area. **LARRY SHARPE** said he owned a cabin on the lake and spoke out against allowing electric motors to be used. **RANDY FISHER** read a letter from the Cooper Lake Home Owners Association opposing electric motors being used on Cooper Lake and encouraged the Board to deny the request. **DON DYK** felt the area was pure and encouraged the Board to keep the area as it is. **JENNIFER BRAUVAIS** opposed the proposed change stating Cooper Lake was a unique area. She said it was the only ADA accessible lake in the area and it should not be inundated with motorized boats. **SHIRLEY FISCHER** said she was opposed to motor boats being allowed on Cooper Lake and it should remain in its natural state. She appreciated the quietness and stillness of the lake and encouraged the Board to not approve the request. **EDWARD HORNE** felt Cooper Lake was a pristine area and expressed concerns relating to fish and other animals if motors were allowed on the water. **CHRIS FRANKENFIELD** said Cooper Lake was the only area left that does not allow motorized boats. She raised concerns if the request was approved, that there would be increased traffic in and out of the area with boats being with trailers. **JOHN**

**WAGENKNECHT** opposed amending the code to allow for electric motors on Cooper Lake. He felt it would only be a matter of days before someone would bring a jet ski onto the lake. **BETHANY SPURRIER** read a letter of protest to allow the use of electric motors and felt it should be a man-powered designation. She felt there would be traffic impacts and noise pollution to the area. **ALICE DYK** explained how the handicapped access was beneficial to the citizens. **PAM NOVITZKY REPRESENTING THE US FOREST SERVICE RANGER STATION** said they had previously submitted a letter of concerns of the types of recreation opportunities. She said they do not recall being approached by the public with requests to allow motors on Cooper Lake. She said they offer ample motorized boating opportunities at numerous lakes and opposed the proposed change to the existing Ordinance. **THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** said he was not surprised with the responses received from the citizens and felt the benefits do not outweigh the consequences by changing the Code. **COMMISSIONER HUBER** and **CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** agreed with Commissioner Crankovich's remarks.

**COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** moved to take no action to amend Kittitas County Code. **COMMISSIONER HUBER** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 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**