

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

TUESDAY

10:30 A.M.

JULY 29, 2008

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

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Tom Carpenter, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance Board Member Treasurer; Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance Board Member Secretary; Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance Board Member Chairman; Urban Eberhart, Citizen.

SPECIAL MEETING

YAKIMA BASIN STORAGE ALLIANCE

COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 10:30 a.m. Chairman McClain opened a Special Meeting to meet with Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA) Board Member to receive a presentation and update regarding Black Rock.

Chuck Klarich, provided the Commissioners with packets of information regarding the Yakima River Basin Environmental & Salmon Restoration Act. He explained that the map provided should help the Commissioners get a better understanding of the project. He reviewed the documents in the packet and indicated that most of the information is strictly geared toward the benefits of Black Rock. He also explained that they had enclosed an "Executive Summary" for the Commissioners review. He expressed his excitement to the Commissioners about the progress that the YBSA Board has made up to this point. He indicated that the YBSA Board feels that the public will eventually want to buy into this project once they are able to see how it will benefit the Ag community. He explained that at the present time the agriculture community cannot be charged more then what they benefit from the project, according to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Sid Morrison, reviewed the different sources of power they are considering with the current water bodies here but indicated that currently the problem is keeping the water high enough. He explained that the Yakima River is good for a million returning salmon.

Commissioner Crankovich, questioned whether Upper County Reservoirs could be made deeper and if so when could that happen.

Urban Eberhart, indicated that in 1994 Title XII Section 1207 "Enhancement of Water Supplies for Yakima Basin Tributaries" provides

the authority to investigate and implement measures for fish and wildlife on tributaries of the Yakima Basin. Grants may be executed and agreements signed with State and Local agencies for investigation and implementation of improved stream flow and riparian habitat restoration. However it hasn't happened yet.

Sid Morrison, explained that dredging is very expensive and could potentially put homes in danger by raising the water on Lake Cle Elum.

Chairman McClain questioned whether the Farm Bureau and Conservation District supported the proposal.

Urban Eberhart, indicated that the Farm Bureau and Conservation District share the same idea, they support additional storage to be constructed and they are in hopes that the Yakima Basin project works. He indicated that the new trend they are seeing more of is that groups like Futurewise trying to use water as a growth management tool.

Tom Carpenter, expressed his frustration with groups not looking at the damage potential droughts can do to the farmers. He explained that although people don't think it can happen we can experience a drought two years in a row. He indicated his support for Black Rock because it is the only thing out there that has a solution.

Chairman McClain asked the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance members what they were seeking from the Commissioners today.

Chuck Klarich, asked the Board to look at the project, review the benefits, and get knowledge so they're able to show support. He indicated that it was not the YBSA member's intent to leave with the Commissioners signing a resolution of support today. He also indicated this meeting was not set to seek financial support.

Commissioner Crankovich asked the timeline for the project.

Chuck Klarich, explained that the project will be presented in January of 2009 to the committee then they will present the project to the Department of Interior then the Department of Interior will present it to the Office of Financial Management and finally it will be taken to Congress.

Sid Morrison, explained that the current return on a dollar is 16 cents. He indicated that since the Carter years nothing has passed.

Chuck Klarich, indicated that Black Rock can retain 1.3 million gallons of water over a two year drought.

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:20 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Urban Eberhart, wanted to thank the Commissioners for taking a chance on him and appointing him to the newly formed committee formed for the Board of County Commissioners and Department of Ecology.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Mandy Robinson

Mark McClain, Chairman