

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

WEDNESDAY

1:30 P.M

SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Jeff Tayer, WA ST Dept of Fish and Wildlife; George Shelton, Dept of Natural Resources; Steve Rigdon, Yakama Nation; Betsy Bloomberg, Nature Conservancy; Randy Shepard, USFS.

SPECIAL MEETING

TAPASH COLLABORATIVE

COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN MCCLAIN opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. **JEFF TAYER** outlined the Bald Mountain location in SW Kittitas Co adjacent to ST RD 410 near Naches River. The issues are the need for healthy forests and market solutions for forest products. **GEORGE SHELTON** said that infrastructure was needed in the area for forest products. **STEVE RIGDON** said that creation of active management of the forests was needed to curb catastrophic fires. **BETSY BLOOMFIELD** said that the Topash Collaborative had been formed to plan across forest ownership lines for the purchase of the Plum Creek Bald Mountain property so that it isn't split up into small housing tracts. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** said that the County was involved with Wildlife Interface and Firewise to address risk assessment at the planning stage. **RANDY SHEPARD** said that they were adjacent to Plum Creek in the Bald Mountain area and they are seeing housing starting up the mountain. They need is to reduce fuel loading and fire potential. **MS. BLOOMFIELD** said that they needed to work on the Bald Mountain project as a way to rekindle the timber industry in this area. **JEFF TAYER** said that they had funding from an ESA program and matching funds from the State. They have also applied for a grant for the Teanaway River Valley but the landowner is not ready to commit to a project. They would like the Board of Commissioner's support to move the funds from Teanaway to Bald Mountain. This would not affect the Teanaway River Valley as it is a number one priority for the State. **MS. BLOOMFIELD** said that they are trying to market the Central Core Forest to attract industry. She invited the Board to the next Tapash Collaborative meeting in Mid-November at the Swauk Valley Ranch.

CHAIRMAN MCCLAIN asked what the Collaborative wanted from the Board of Commissioners and was told that they would like a letter of support from the Board within the next two to three weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Catherine Dunn

Mark McClain, Chairman