

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

WEDNESDAY

10:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 04, 2009

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell; Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Judy Hallisey, District Ranger United States Forest Service; Kim Larned, Information Officer United States Forest Service.

SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING WITH USFS

COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 10:00 a.m. **CHAIRMAN ALAN CRANKOVICH** opened a special meeting to meet Judy Hallisey the new US Forest Service Supervisor and to hold discussion on RAC Title II grants and other regional topics.

Ms. Hallisey introduced herself and expressed to the Commissioners her goal was to keep a good open relationship with the County and hoped that the County was vested in that same idea. She reviewed RAC Title II funding requests and provided documents for the Boards review. She indicated that she created a "cheat sheet" and was hoping it made the requests easier to understand as it gives the hard facts and highlights the high points of each request instead of the Board having to review each application in full. She indicated that she felt it was important for the Board to see this information before it came before them in a formal request in March. She also indicated that another round of funds would be available in May. She explained that if the Board felt the projects were worthy of receiving funding, but knowing that other agencies would be coming forward as well for funding, that it would provide another avenue of opportunity for funding. She explained that there are currently three campgrounds, which are approximately seventy-five campsites closed at this point. She indicated that they had obtained a pathologist to come in and see the issues with the area specified by the USFS staff and that a "prescription" was given to staff to know what they need to take out of the forests so no further damage is done. She explained her hope was to start the treatment as soon as possible but they were waiting for the snow to clear. Ms. Hallisey reviewed what the RAC II funds can be obtained for. She indicated that they are essentially for clean-up and contract work. She expressed her urgency in getting the camp sites cleaned up and safe for campers. She explained that the actual hazardous trees amount to

roughly one hundred trees a year. Ms. Hallisey reviewed the seven proposed projects before the Board.

Commissioner Crankovich questioned if the Fish Lake area was included in the proposal. He indicated he gets a lot of phone calls from constituents expressing concern over that location.

Ms. Hallisey indicated that she would be willing to come back for a meeting in the future to review a map they are working on to show where all the campgrounds are as well as where ORV's can travel and what roads are appropriate roads for motorized use. She provided the Board with a hand out that she indicated was actually a power point presentation called "Travel Management".

Commissioner McClain encouraged her to bring that map in sooner rather than later. He explained that he has been working on public lands issues and expressed his feelings on the importance of keeping roads open to the public.

There was discussion on the County maintained roads and roads of common complaint. The Commissioners explained that they do not want to get in the habit of maintaining roads unless the County owns them.

Ms. Hallisey explained that they will have public hearings in the future regarding the Travel Management presentation and the Forest Plan revision. She indicated that when it comes time for that the USFS will do everything possible to get the word out to the public so they are aware and can make comments.

Commissioner McClain requested follow up on a request he sent in a few months ago to the USFS requesting that a member of the Kittitas County Commissioners be put on the Committee for the RAC II funding. Ms. Larned indicated that she would follow up with the Committee to see if they had received the request from Commissioner McClain and see that he gets a response back and a contact to get the ball rolling on that process. Commissioner Crankovich indicated that he would like to be the representative on the USFS RAC II funding Board.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Mandy Robinson

Alan Crankovich, Chairman

