

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

THURSDAY

4:00 P.M.

APRIL 9, 2009

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

Others: Catherine Dunn, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Betsy Bloomfield and Todd Chaudry, Nature Conservancy; George Shelton, DNR; Jeff Tayer, WA ST Fish and Wildlife.

SPECIAL MEETING

TAPASH COLLABORATIVE

COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 4:00 p.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a Special Meeting to follow up on the meeting with the Tapash Collaborative held in September, 2009. The DNR funds have been transferred from the Teanaway area to the Tapash Area. The Nature Conservancy will buy the Plum Creek land and transfer ownership to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. In return, the County will get PILT monies.

Betsy Bloomfield said that the forests of the Eastern half of Washington State are in risk of catastrophic fire and there is a need to improve the forest health and create jobs. There is a lack of market for small diameter timber. George Shelton has researched a small diameter biofuels market.

George Shelton, DNR, said that there is no infrastructure for forests in this county. There is a lot of interest from the consumer side for biofuels. It is anticipated the biofuels plants could bring 30 jobs to the County as well as jobs in the woods and loading materials.

There was a discussion of the various biofuel technologies and methods. Additional uses could be included in the technologies such as using the small diameter timber for furniture, engineered studs and beams, etc. The end line of the biofuels projects is the good management of the forests.

George Shelton said that the County is a key player in this project to bring biofuel plants to the area. No private entrepreneur would come to the County without County approval.

Chairman Crankovich said that this would have the potential to counteract the feeling that Kittitas County based their economy on the housing market.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Catherine Dunn

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Alan Crankovich, Chairman