

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

**WEDNESDAY**

**11:00 A.M.**

**APRIL 14, 2010**

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Greg Zempel, Prosecutor; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; Kirk Holmes, Public Works/Interim Community Development Services Director; Dan Valoff, Staff Planner; Bill Hinkle, 13<sup>th</sup> District Representative; Brad Peck, Franklin County Commissioner; Max Benitz, Benton County Commissioner; Kevin Bouchey Yakima County Commissioner; Cindy Carter, Grant County Commissioner; Carolyn Schwartz, Grant County Commissioner; Jim Milton, Yakima Basin Water Resources Agency and Dave Lester, Yakima Herald Reporter.

**SPECIAL MEETING      GOVERNORS RESPONSE TO MORATORIUM      COMMISSIONERS**

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman Mark McClain called meeting to order. He gave the history of the subject which began from a two-party group who filed a Petition with the Department of Ecology in September of 2007. He said they have been trying to work through issues with the Department of Ecology and every time they believe they are coming to an agreement, they come up with something else, similar to a moving target. The Board reviewed where the current moratorium was and they had heard that maps have been drafted to include the lower valley area as well. They expressed concerns of the effects it will have on citizen's property values. Questions were asked regarding DOE's information and what they were basing their decisions on.

Representative Bill Hinkle questioned how to protect senior water rights and exemptions? He indicated a focus on storage may be a part of the big solution. He said DOE wants to completely shut down exemptions. Commissioner Crankovich believed DOE wants to go County by County.

It was noted the study will cost approximately 2 million dollars and the State has set aside \$700k. Chairman McClain said he takes issue with the USGS study which is based on modeling. Commissioner Jewell reviewed the basic Domestic Water Reserve Program.

The Board said it was clearly a legislative issue and the County's were asked to go back to their Board to discuss. Everyone felt it

was important to keep engaged and they believed there would be more sway with a multi-county approach.

Commissioner Benitz suggested the Board draft a letter and send it to all Eastern Washington counties for their input. Representative Hinkle said to make sure the letter states somewhere about preserving senior water rights and also address preserving exemption.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
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Julie Kjorsvik

  
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Mark McClain, Chairman