

KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS VALLEY EVENT CENTER
MANASTASH ROOM
512 NORTH POPLAR STREET
ELLENSBURG, WA

WEDNESDAY

6:00 P.M.

JUNE 20, 2012

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman Obie O'Brien and Commissioner Paul Jewell.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Kirk Holmes, Public Works Director; Christina Wollman, Staff Planner and approximately 20 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

PUBLIC WORKS

At 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened a Public Hearing to consider the formation of a Flood Control Zone District. He reviewed the hearing procedures and indicated at the conclusion of the meeting it would be continued to June 27, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Upper Kittitas County District Court. He said those who give oral testimony during this Public Hearing would not be allowed another opportunity at the one in the Upper County however, the written record would remain open and they would be free to submit comments.

KIRK HOLMES, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR said they had prepared a Staff Report including background information of the legislative action previously taken by the Board of County Commissioners. He reviewed Resolution No. 2012-001 outlining terms and conditions as well as the various concerns expressed at the public meetings their department previously held. He also reviewed the recommendations from the Citizens Committee for the assessment type, rate and the amount to be used for administration and for projects. The Board of Commissioners asked questions of staff. **MR. HOLMES** said he did not anticipate having to hire any additional staff to manage the program, but would need to be careful because they do receive road funds and they cannot use road tax funds for any work done outside of the right-of-way as it's governed by State tax laws. He said they also have the ability to use river and streams engineers that are available through a contract with Sergeant Engineers. He indicated there is a seven (7) year sunset clause and any future Boards would have to approve it before continuing it for any additional time.

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APPROVED
7/3/2012

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: **JIM MALONEY** said although he generally agrees with the concept of a Flood Control Zone District, he is concerned with what is currently being proposed. He felt there was no personal benefit to him because he lives in an area that never floods and rather tax everyone they should create zones in the areas that are prone to flooding. He questioned a memo from Deputy Prosecutor Neil Caulkins regarding a flat fee per parcel and if the Board were to do it that way there would be litigation. **JASON SMITH** representing the Washington State Department of Transportation described how they have been working on going from a "reactive" approach to a "proactive" approach with Counties relating to flooding. He said they have information available relating to flood analysis and studies as they have been operating on a State wide level which can assist Counties. **LEE ROE** said everyone pays for life and safety issues and no one ever knows when they will be needed. He felt they could not afford it if only those in the areas that were prone to flooding were to try and pay for it. **BRENT RENFROW, DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE** said he is one of the people out in the field when flooding occurs and explained how it seemed like he is always returning to the same areas. **PAUL BENNETT** felt the staff did a great job on presentations and information provided. He supported the plan in principal but not the execution of it as it's currently proposed. He felt the Commissioners have allowed for development in Elk Meadows and Manastash areas and it's the resident's choice to live there. He agreed the plan should be updated but projects should be first identified followed by a determination of where the funding should come from. He urged the Board to send it to a vote of the people and to not make the decision on their own. **SCOTT REEVES** said he had seen flooding over the past 30 years in the Manastash area and was unsure where they can turn to for assistance and did not know where it has come from in the past. He said the land owners have no help available to them with permitting for projects so they can be allowed to do the job that needs to be done to correct future problems. **DEL KNUDSON** representing the Kittitas Association of Realtors said they are against the formation of a district because of the taxes that are proposed. He felt some of the issues have been created by agencies trying to fix areas, but has caused more problems. He did not want the personal rights of the property owners taken away.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH moved to continue the Public Hearing to Wednesday June 27, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Upper Kittitas

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County District Court, Cle Elum, WA noting the record is to remain open, but if oral testimony was provided tonight it cannot be given at the hearing on June 27th, but written comments were open. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Julie Kjorsvik



Chairman Alan Crankovich