

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

**TUESDAY**

**2:00 P.M.**

**DECEMBER 1, 2015**

Board members present: Chairman Gary Berndt, Vice-Chairman Obie O'Brien; and Commissioner Paul Jewell.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Christina Wollman, Staff Planner; Doug D'Hondt, Engineer; Mark Cook, Public Works Director; Roy Chance, Construction Manager and 10 members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING                    AMEND ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM                    PUBLIC WORKS**

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BERNDT** opened a Public Hearing to consider Amending the 2016 Annual Road Construction Program.

**DOUG D'HONDT, ENGINEER** provided a Staff Report and said the proposed revisions included the East Taneum Road/Thorp Highway Bridge improvements and it also added the 2016 preliminary construction and engineering projects to match the approved budget in the annual plan.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**RESOLUTION 2015-161                    ANNUAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION                    PUBLIC WORKS**

**COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN** moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-161, Amending the Annual Road Construction Program for 2016.  
**COMMISSIONER JEWELL** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING                    STOP & YIELD SIGNS - HYAK DR. EAST                    PUBLIC WORKS**

At 2:04 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BERNDT** opened a Public Hearing to consider updating Kittitas County Code Chapter 10.12.010 Stop & Yield Signs designated for Hyak Drive East.

**DOUG D'HONDT, ENGINEER** provided a Staff Report and reviewed a portion on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Stop Sign Location Guidance. He recommended that the Stop Signs on Hyak Drive East on either side of the intersection with Snoqualmie Drive be removed to improve safety on all three approaches.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**APPROVED**  
12/16/15

**ORDINANCE 2015-009 STOP & YIELD SIGNS - HYAK DR. EAST PUBLIC WORKS**

**COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN** moved to approve Ordinance No. 2015-009, Removing Two Stop Signs on the Hyak Drive East and to Amend Section 16.12.010(1) of the Kittitas County Code. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING IRRIGATION FRANCHISE - SMITHSON RD. PUBLIC WORKS**

At 2:07 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BERNDT** opened a Public Hearing to consider an Irrigation Franchise across Smithson Road.

**ROY CHANCE, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER** reviewed a Staff Report and application from Mr. Robert Hunt for an Irrigation Franchise crossing Smithson Road. He said the Franchise would be to install a ten inch buried delivery pipe to connect flow from the KRD turnout on the north side of the road to a pivot on the south side. He noted how the area is in a location that is largely agricultural and believed that enhancing the irrigation water distribution to local farmers was in the best interest of the general economy and County residents. The design is subject to review, approval and oversight by the Kittitas County Engineer.

**ROBERT HUNT, APPLICANT** reviewed his proposed project and requested the Commissioners approval of his Non-Exclusive Irrigation Franchise application.

**THERE BEING NO ONE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**AGREEMENT IRRIGATION FRANCHISE - ROBERT HUNT PUBLIC WORKS**

**COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN** moved to approve a Non-Exclusive Irrigation Franchise between Kittitas County and Robert Frazier Hunt, to Use County Roads, Rights-of-Way and other County property within Kittitas County. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING YAKIMA RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN PUBLIC WORKS**

At 2:20 p.m. **CHAIRMAN BERNDT** opened a Public Hearing to consider adopting the Yakima River Corridor Plan.

**CHRISTINA WOLLMAN, STAFF PLANNER** reviewed the proposed Yakima River Corridor Plan which had been completed in 2015. The plan was developed by consultants Watershed Science and Engineering and Hererra. A Technical Advisory Committee and Landowner Committee was formed and they met through the planning process. She noted the plan was funded by the Flood Control Zone District and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, assessed the reach of the Yakima River from

Hansen Pits to Ringer Loop Road. She reviewed the identified priority locations within the project reach for improvements to habitat and reduction in flood hazards. The Board asked Staff various questions relating to the plan.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING:** **ROB ACHESON** said he and some of the other landowners had previously put together a letter and submitted it to the County outlining their concerns. He indicated taxpayers had purchased the Schake property for specific purposes and there shouldn't be another need to purchase additional property to accomplish what they'd like to do. **MIKE MOORE** said he owned property in the Ringer Loop area and expressed concerns about all the other agencies having to be included. He said if the County were to need any assistance with going to Court, he and other property owners would be happy to back them. **ROB STEWARD, REPRESENTING M FARM LLC,** said if anything were to go wrong with preparations he was afraid the water would first hit his farm and wondered who he would call since there appeared to be so many agencies involved. He worried about the potential for finger-pointing about who is at fault. **DAVID PAPINEAU** said he owned 62 acres on Ringer Loop which is classified as Ag-20. He thought flooding had become more frequent in the recent years. **KELLY MOORE** said when the Flood Control District first began they were excited about it, but since then he does not see how their recommendations would be helping the landowners protect their property. **BETTY MOORE, REPRESENTING THE FLYING M RANCH LLC,** said they had worked with the previous County Commissioners and had submitted a letter requesting that the dike be fixed. She said the County owns the dike and they have been told in the past it would never be fixed, but it's now one of the options so she was confused. They are not in favor of changing where the boat launch is located as it is used by many people. **PAT MONK, REPRESENTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE** said he was a member of the Technical Committee and believed the information they provided was based on the best available science. He noted how the plan is voluntary and it is to try and achieve a variety of goals. He was supportive of the plan and said it appeared to be good for landowners, flood control, and habitat. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**RESOLUTION 2015-162                      YAKIMA RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN                      PUBLIC WORKS**

**COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN** moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-162, the Yakima River Corridor Plan, with Alternative #3. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** seconded.

**COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN** provided comments on the plan and questioned what action would be appropriate at this time by the County Commissioners. He said he would be comfortable in engaging with the landowners. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** said he shared frustrations as well on the Schake property. He thought some of the bigger projects

outlined in the plan would make sense to delay any action until they see improvements on the Schake property. He said the County can no longer ignore the issues relating to fish and although he understands the frustration it's something they must consider because it is the law and eventually they would need to obtain financial assistance to get anything done. He said one benefit of the plan is that it is non-regulatory and before anything happens an environmental analysis must be conducted, a thorough review, as well as more public comment and involvement by the public. He has concerns including the large size of the scope along with finances and could take decades to get done. **CHAIRMAN BERNDT** expressed concerns of the plan and said that anything done could have potential impacts however; he would support it due to being a non-regulatory plan and to be used as a way to guide the future.

**COMMISSIONER JEWELL** moved to amend the motion to include support of the early action groups, noting the projects on private land requires landowner cooperation and if they don't have their cooperation they will not move forward; identify flood hazard issues for the Ringer Loop Alternative 3; and Hansen Pits project proceeding as recommended and discussed, and that any further projects of the plan must first be discussed and considered by the Board of County Commissioners. **COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION 2015-162                      YAKIMA RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN                      PUBLIC WORKS**

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-162, as amended was approved 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
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Julie Kjossvik

  
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Gary Berndt, Chairman