

**Minutes**  
**Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 26, 2011**

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Daniel L. Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners, on July 26, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the public meeting room of the Wahkiakum County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioner Blair H. Brady, Commissioner Daniel L. Cothren, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, WSU Extension Agent Carrie Shofner, Public Works Director Pete Ringen, Columbia Land Trust Stewardship Lead Dan Frieze, Building and Planning Department Manager Chuck Beyer, Columbia Estuary Environmental Education Program (CEEEP) Coordinator Katie Klinger, CEEEP Volunteers Amber Wirkkala, Kyle Mullins and Cramer Smith, Board of Equalization Members Nick Nikkila and Colleen Haley, Assessor Bill Coons and HHS Director Judy Bright. Commissioner Lisa Marsyla attended by phone.

Others Present: *Wahkiakum County Eagle* Reporter Ruby Murray, Frank Loomans, Al & Nancy George, Jerry and Kathleen Hogan, Michael Linn, Habitat Restoration Biologist Teri Butler-Bates and Russ Kastberg.

**Flag Salute**

Vice Chair Cothren led the flag salute.

**Regular Meeting Agenda**

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda for July 26, 2011. Carried.

**Consent Agenda**

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve the Consent Agenda for July 26, 2011. Carried. The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- A. Minutes of July 19, 2011
- B. Minutes of Special Meeting on July 19, 2011
- C. Resolution No. 108-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the county properties cumulative reserve fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$1,285.00
- D. Resolution No. 109-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the interlocal cooperation cumulative reserve fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$656.04
- E. Resolution No. 110-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the electronic communications reserve fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$5,134.38
- F. Voucher Approval - \$112,373.84

## G. Transfer Voucher Approval - \$93,155.75

**New Business**Special Occasion License

Vice Chair Cothren announced the Friends of Skamokawa Foundation has applied for a special occasion license for an event to be held on September 10, 2011. The board had no objections to the license.

MRC Grant

WSU Extension Agent Carrie Shofner reported the Wahkiakum Marine Resources Committee has received notice that they will receive \$21,250 for a coordinator from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Shofner asked the board to consider increasing the MRC assistant coordinator budget line item by \$6,840 to continue the MRC work through the end of the year. Shofner added all funds will be reimbursed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife through the MRC grant. The board asked Shofner to attend the next board meeting for further consideration and action.

**Columbia Land Trust***Indian Jack Slough*

Columbia Land Trust Stewardship Lead Dan Friesz shared some information regarding the Nelson Creek Road project, now known as Indian Jack Slough. CLT is restoring natural habitats on the property to benefit the Columbia white-tail deer and other wildlife species that are found in the Lower Columbia River Basin. Friesz plans to continue restoration activities this summer between August 15 and September 15 all under the original permits obtained in 2010. Some of the activities include: Ditch filling, removal of some poplar trees; wetland basin re-contouring, mowing, swale creation, culver removal, ditch re-shaping, and creation of minor, topographical relief areas suitable to support Sitka spruce trees.

Friesz addressed the neighbors' concerns from last year regarding excess flooding. Friesz stated that with the installation of new tide gates and after analysis with topographical data collected at this site, they are seeing increased drainage and are able to mirror the water flow on the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge.

Terri Butler-Bates, Habitat Restoration Biologist from Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Willapa Hills Audubon Society member Russ Kastberg who has been working with CLT since 2007, both spoke in support of this project.

**Columbia Estuary Environmental Education Program**

Students participating in the Columbia Estuary Environmental Education Program (CEEEP) gave a presentation regarding their program. Student participants were: Amber Wirkkala, Kyle Mullins and Cramer Smith. The program included surveying of the Grays River and Crazy Johnson Creek; touring an active Rayonier logging site; studying macro invertebrates and culvert barrier assessments for any fish blockage for upstream habitat. One of the culverts surveyed, was a county road culvert at mp 10.6 on the Elochoman Valley Road. Some of the problems they noted was the ground beneath the culvert had been scoured away resulting in no pools at the outlet ends and no water going through the culvert. They did report on agencies that fund these kinds of projects and stated they are available to help with grant writing.

## Public Works

### Request for Proposals

Public Works Director Pete Ringen stated the needs of his department for an accounting system are unique in that the level of detail required for grants and other reimbursable expenditures such as those incurred in disaster recovery and management of costs associated with fleet vehicles and equipment. Ringen prepared a detailed request for proposal that describes the type of system that will meet his needs. Once the request has been advertised, a committee will review the results and Ringen will bring those to the board. It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the advertisement of the request for proposal. Carried.

### Sign Retro-Reflectivity Policy

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren adopting the Public Works Policy on Sign Retro-Reflectivity. Carried.

### USFWS Landowner Agreement

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the vice chair's signature the Landowner Agreement between Wahkiakum County and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for replacement of Risk Creek culvert. Carried.

### Consulting Agreement with Skillings-Connolly

Ringen reported in January of 2009 approximately 300 feet of East Valley Road settled on the south side of the road. The road damage was reviewed by FEMA and determined to be eligible for disaster assistance. Skillings-Connolly was hired to begin the analysis and design to complete the repair. Ringen further reported that wetlands were discovered on the site resulting in additional design work are needed to complete the project. The supplemental agreement provides for completion of the plans and specifications. Washington Emergency Management Division has reviewed the proposed supplemental agreement and indicated these costs are reimbursable. The board asked Ringen to attend the next board meeting for further consideration and action.

### Ostervold Road Residents

Ringen explained he was contacted by Port District 2 Board member Kayrene Gilbertson who gave him a copy of a letter with signatures from residents who live on Ostervold Road. Since the port has no jurisdiction in that area, she gave the letter to the county for a response. Ringen drafted a letter to be sent to each of the households explaining our position on the erosion on the west end of Puget Island. It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren approving letters to the Ostervold residents addressing their concerns about the increased erosion on their waterfront property. Carried.

## Board of Equalization

BOE Chair Nick Nikkila reported on the process the BOE has been going through to establish classifications for all of the parcels on Puget Island. They have developed sales data and trending charts from 2006 to 2010. So far, they have calculated values for 719 parcels. Out of those 719 parcels, 71% will show a decrease in value, 26% will be increased and 2% will stay the same. Nikkila further stated the Assessor needs to certify these values and notices sent out by August 11, 2011. The BOE plans to hold a meeting Wednesday night to make a presentation to give the Puget Island landowners an idea what is coming.

**Other Business**

HHS Director Judy Bright asked the board for their support in purchasing the necessary equipment, not to exceed \$5,000, to connect to the fiber optics that is being laid through Wahkiakum County. The board concurred they were in support of this purchase and encouraged Bright to move ahead with the connection.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Vice Chair Daniel L. Cothren adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Attest: Marsha LaFarge  
Marsha LaFarge  
Clerk of the Board

Approved: Lisa M. Marsyla  
Lisa M. Marsyla  
Chair of the Board