

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting Adams County Services Building, Othello

March 10, 2004
(Wednesday)

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman Rudy Plager
Vice-Chairman Richard Johnson
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Stevens

Correspondence Received

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Richard L. Erickson,
Secretary-Manager re: request for Board of Commissioners to reconsider
decision made on February 9, 2004

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Richard L. Erickson,
Secretary-Manager re: draft ballot questions and two alternate schedules
for the district wide election

ECBID

A letter received from the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District
requesting Board reconsideration of their decision on February 9, 2004, to
accept the petition to re-divide the irrigation districts was discussed. Each
of the Commissioners reiterated their position on the matter. It was noted
that the letter reflected an incorrect meeting/decision date by the Board of
Commissioners.

Commissioner Johnson moved, Stevens seconded, to *approve*
**Resolution No. R-23-04 In the Matter of Findings of Fact and Final
Order Granting Petition for Re-Division and Order Directing Special
Election. Motion carried two (2) to one (1). Voting "yes" on the
Resolution – Johnson and Stevens; voting "no" on the Resolution –
Plager.**

The Adams County Auditor will record the Resolution per RCW 87.04.070.
Commissioner Plager along with Prosecuting Attorney Flyckt, ECBID

Secretary-Manager Richard Erickson and ECBID Attorney Lemargie were scheduled to meet later this date.

Adams County Fair

Fair President Merritt Johnson reported that the Fair Board voted to hire the groundskeeper under “employee status” rather than “contractual” during 2004. Compensation will be paid over a seven (7) month period – April 1, 2004, through October 31, 2004. The Board encouraged the Fair Board to continue to review the groundskeeper status and move towards a contractual basis.

Rural Telework Program

Adams County Economic Development Council Director John Taylor provided the Board with copies of a recent Project Proposal submitted to WA-CERT for a Rural Telework Program. Ritzville was selected as one of five rural communities in Washington to participate in the Rural Telework Program being established by Washington State University Center to Bridge the Digital Divide.

Acting Clerk of the Board

Commissioner Stevens moved, Johnson seconded, to *appoint Nancy Burt as Acting Clerk of the Board for Monday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 17, 2004. Motion carried.*

Adjournment @ 10:45 a.m.

Submitted:
s/Linda Reimer, MMC
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/Rudy Plager, Chairman
s/Richard Johnson, Vice-Chairman
s/Jeffrey W. Stevens, Commissioner

**BEFORE THE HONORABLE BOARD OF ADAMS COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

In Re The Matter of:)	
)	RESOLUTION No. R-23-04
)	
EAST COLUMBIA BASIN)	FINDINGS OF FACT AND FINAL
IRRIGATION DISTRICT)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
DIRECTOR DIVISIONS)	FOR RE-DIVISION, AND ORDER
)	DIRECTING SPECIAL ELECTION
)	
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THIS MATTER having come before the Adams County Board of Commissioners for decision on February 9, 2004, pursuant to a petition filed on November 12, 2003, attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by this reference, by several electors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) requesting re-division of the current director divisions of the ECBID, and the Board having previously held a public hearing pursuant to RCW 87.04.070, and hearing the testimony of the electors of the ECBID, and other interested persons, and having fully considered all such testimony, and giving consideration to the best interest of the ECBID, the Board hereby finds as follows:

1. The previous director divisions of the ECBID were formed pursuant to RCW 87.04.010. The current boundaries of the five (5) director divisions of the ECBID were established by the Honorable Board of Adams County Commissioners by resolution entered on December 18, 1939. A map of the said director divisions is attached hereto as "Exhibit B" and incorporated herein by this reference.
2. At the time of entry of the said resolution on December 18, 1939, the director divisions adopted by the Honorable Board of County Commissioners took into

account anticipated additional development of all of the area comprising the ECBID near the time of the completion of the Columbia Basin Project.

3. The present acreage developed, and being irrigated, in the ECBID made possible by the Columbia Basin Project includes approximately one hundred fifty-two thousand (152,000) acres. The great majority of such irrigated lands, fall within director divisions 1, 2, and 4 of the ECBID. Only minor portions fall within director divisions 3, and 5 of the existing boundaries.
4. A disproportional high percentage of irrigated acres within divisions 1, 2, and 4, and a disproportional low percentage of irrigated acres contained within divisions 3 and 5 resulted in an imbalance between director divisions, whereby divisions 1, 2, and 4 were comprised primarily of irrigated lands, and divisions 3 and 5 were comprised primarily of non-irrigated lands.
5. In resolution entered on December 3, 1962, the Honorable Adams County Board of Commissioners denied a petition for re-division of the director divisions of the ECBID. The said petition was filed, in part, as a means to correct the imbalance between those director divisions represented predominantly by irrigated lands, and those director divisions represented predominantly by non-irrigated lands.
6. In entering the said resolution on December 3, 1962, the Honorable Adams County Board of Commissioners anticipated that further development of the Columbia Basin Project in director divisions 3 and 5 would take place in the following years, and such development would eventually correct the imbalance between predominately irrigated and non-irrigated director divisions.
7. During the period of time following the entry of the said resolution on December 3, 1962, no additional development of the Columbia Basin Project has been

completed within director divisions 3, and 5. As a result, the relative imbalance between director divisions comprised primarily of irrigated acres, and those comprised primarily of non-irrigated acres has continued substantially unaltered for approximately forty two (42) years.

8. There is no current time-line in place for expansion of the Columbia Basin Project into those areas comprising director divisions 3 and 5, and it appears the relative imbalance will continue for an indefinite period if re-division of the director districts does not occur.
9. The current petition filed by electors of the ECBID would provide for more equitable representation of all land located within the boundaries of the ECBID, considering both irrigated and non-irrigated lands. Each director district would provide greater balance in representation for irrigated and non-irrigated lands simultaneously.
10. The Board expressly finds that insuring more uniform representation between irrigated and non-irrigated lands within director divisions, and adopting the re-division proposed within the current petition, is in the best interest of the ECBID, and further is fair and equitable to the electors of the ECBID.
11. The Board further finds that the granting of the current petition will not undermine the stability of the ECBID, as adoption of the proposed re-division will not displace any currently sitting director position.

NOW THEREFORE, having considered the testimony, and having further considered the promotion of the best interests of the ECBID,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS: that the petition to re-divide the existing directors districts of the ECBID, filed on November 12, 2003 and attached hereto as "Exhibit A" is hereby granted,

AND THE BOARD FURTHER FINDING:

1. That written objections to the current petition for re-division of the ECBID have been filed with the Honorable Adams County Board of Commissioners by several, electors of the ECBID, and:
2. That the said electors of the ECBID have not withdrawn the written objections to the current petition for re-division prior to the adoption of this resolution;

IT IS, THEREFORE, FURTHER ORDERED AS FOLLOWS: that a special election shall be conducted by the ECBID in accordance with the provisions of RCW 87.04.070, and if the majority of the ballots cast shall be in favor of the re-division as proposed in the current petition, the said re-division shall be deemed adopted,

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 10th day of March, 2004.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

s/Rudy Plager, Chairperson

s/Richard Johnson, Vice-Chairperson

s/Jeffrey W. Stevens, Commissioner

ATTEST:

s/Linda Reimer, MMC

Clerk of the Board