

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting  
Adams County Public Services Building  
Othello, Washington

January 11, 2012  
(Wednesday)

**Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Present:**

Chairman Rudy Plager  
Vice-Chairman Roger L. Hartwig  
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Stevens

**Emergency Management**

Emergency Management Coordinator Jay Weise provided updates on the following projects:

- Review of RFQ's received for evaluation and planning of Communications updates
- Pending development by the State to establish a formula for allocating EMPG funds
- Pending State modification of application process for additional emergency funds to simplify the process and provide some uniformity for large entities v. small entities

**Identification Badges/Facility Security**

The Board inquired about the feasibility of combining the identification badge with the door lock security system at the Courthouse as well as the Public Services Building. Discussion followed of the pros/cons of such a program and of enforcement for all employees to wear these badges on a daily basis while at work. A Departmental Forum will be scheduled to discuss this matter with all elected officials and department heads.

Sheriff Barger inquired about authorization to install the coded lock mechanism to his administration office and to the evidence room. Board **consensus authorized in consultation with Dennis Sackmann, Facility Manger, to install the special locking system to the administration office and to the evidence room within his department.**

Authorization was also requested for the deputies to have access to all outside doors of the courthouse and public services building to ensure employee and public safety. The Board concurred that that modification of the system was critical and by **consensus authorized the Sheriff to move forward in consultation with Dennis Sackmann, Facility Manager, with securing building access for his deputies.**

### **Ground Water Management Area (GWMA)**

Paul Stoker presented a verbal narrative of the accomplishments of GWMA along with selected slides reflecting the conclusion of Phase 1 and 2. A summary of capital cost comparisons for Connell, Lind, Moses Lake, Odessa, Othello, and Warden was reviewed based on statistics shown on Table 18 – General Review of Current Groundwater Supply and Potential Future Water Supply Options (dated October 2011).

Stoker emphasized the need for citizens as well as the Conservancy Board to be cognizant of how decisions being made for water rights and transfers thereof relate to known data and how it affects the water levels in an area. GWMA is seeking to be a part of the process with a possible fee structure being imposed as part of the permit and evaluation steps.

Stoker then presented the request from the GWMA Board to proceed with the submission of a Capital Budget funding request to the Washington State Legislature in the amount of \$1.2 million for the completion of 12 of the 16 sub-basin/sub-region models as part of the Hydrogeologic Modeling Project. **The Board of Adams County Commissioners, by consensus, authorized proceeding with the funding submission to the Washington State Legislature.**

### **Voluntary Stewardship Program**

Chairman Plager convened the public session for discussion on the Voluntary Stewardship Program at 10:00 a.m. A special legal publication giving notice to the planned stakeholders was published on December 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012. The Voluntary Stewardship Program was approved under ESHB 1886 and adopted into State law as an alternative way for counties to meld the State's Growth Management Act requirements of providing protection to critical areas with the equal requirement of protecting existing and ongoing agriculture.

Mark Clark, Executive Director of the Conservation Commission made opening remarks.

Ron Schultz, Policy Director for the Conservation Commission, reported that fifteen (15) counties had opted into the program as of January 11, 2012.

Chairman Plager inquired about the “implementation process” given that Adams County has four watersheds, two of which are active; and, three Conservation Districts. Commissioner Plager noted that Adams County has no control over any of the county’s WRIA’s as that responsibility rests with an adjoining county. Schultz responded with some of the options and what would then be required with each choice. Schultz pointed out that even if the County opted in to the Program, nothing had to be done until “sufficient funding was available”.

Building and Planning Director Wiltse spoke regarding his interpretation of responsibilities under the VSP v. regulations already imposed under the Adams County Critical Areas Ordinance.

Chairman Plager reported that the Commissioners were in receipt of forty-nine (49) citizen requests to opt into the program.

Dan Leatherman, Farm Bureau County Chairman, spoke briefly and recommended that Adams County opt into the VSP Program.

Commissioner Hartwig inquired about increased rules and regulations for the County and the farmer.

Chairman Plager noted that if the County opts in, they would be looking to the Farm Bureau members to assist with development and implementation of a plan that would be inclusive of the whole county.

Don Jacobs, Director of Farm Bureau Field Services, spoke in support of the VSP and encouraged Adams County to opt into the Program. He believed that joining this program would eliminate some of the potential challenges that could be filed relative to critical areas.

Loren Wiltse stated that the County’s Critical Areas Ordinance had been sent to the Department of Commerce for review and their response was that “This overall approach is consistent with your responsibilities under

the Growth Management Act and a significant change to your approach to addressing agricultural activities and critical areas protection is not needed.”

Mark Booker, Othello, spoke in support of the Program and noted that he believed it provided a mechanism to have influence on local practices.

Commissioner Stevens disclosed for the record that he is a member of the Farm Bureau, although not active for some time.

Chairman Plager thanked the Conservation Commission, the Farm Bureau and the local citizens for attending.

A decision is scheduled was scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 or Wednesday, January 18 to insure meeting the January 22 deadline.

### **Board of Health**

Callie Moore, along with Karen Palmer, Karen Potts, Kate Brueske, Brent Stenson, and Dr. Moody presented in compliance with Public Health Standards, a review in the following Public Health Indicators:

- Access to Care
- Communicable Disease
- Community Context
- Environmental Health
- Maternal and Child Health
- Prevention and Health Promotion

Rankings County v. State was shown for 2004-2006, 2007-2008, and 2009-2010. A benchmark ranking was provided noting that Adams County ranks 24 among 39 counties.

Dr. Moody spoke regarding his interpretation of the rankings; and, Kate Brueske reported that programming has, and will continue to be, focused on changing policies and on changing the environment to affect change especially in the areas of teen pregnancy, STD, obesity, and diabetes. It was noted that the City of Othello is discussing the installation of lights on the walking path so that individuals may safely walk at various time of the evening.

Director Brueske spoke with the Board regarding her concerns with the recent 2012 Health Department budget cut and the current discussion by staff on how to mitigate those reductions in services in the Ritzville area.

**Adjournment @ 12:25 p.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/Roger L. Hartwig, Vice-Chairman  
s/Jeffrey W. Stevens, Commissioner