

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

### Adams County Courthouse Ritzville, Washington Regular Meeting

January 17, 2012

(Tuesday due to Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday)

**Call to Order @ 8:30 a.m.**

**Present:**

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

[10:02:40 AM](#)

**Public Works**

Public Works Director O'Brien reported the following updates:

- Road crew is preparing for snow fall and plowing this week
- Several employees are attending weed certification classes this week
- Project charter program training on spot graveling and grading was held with the Ritzville and Lind crew last week; Othello crew is scheduled for this week
- Lights and outlets have been installed in the recycling buildings at the transfer stations
- An old trailer on a county owned vacant lot in Ritzville was moved to the Ritzville transfer site and will be salvaged for metal and other items and then disposed of; the lot will now be totally cleaned making it easier to maintain and/or sell

**Capital Improvement Plan (Fund #321)**

*A Draft Capital Improvement Plan for 2012* was presented for review noting the following proposed projects:

1. Sheriff's Substation HVAC update
2. Courthouse Landscape Outdoor Improvements
3. Courthouse Roof Replacement
4. Electrical at the Adams County Fairgrounds utilizing Department of Ag funding matched with Funds from #321

The Board will further review with final adoption scheduled for January 23, 2012.

Legislative updates provided by Governor Gregoire via the "Connecting Washington Task Force" findings were discussed including the reported exhaustion of two fuel tax increases and factors that compound that situation. A list of tasks for the Legislature to consider for funding actions was included in the paper.

[10:54:43 AM](#)

**Recess @ 12:00**

**Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.**

### **Executive Session**

Executive session was called at 1:30 p.m. under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – "To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee." Todd O'Brien, Public Works Director, was present. Session ended at 2:05 p.m.

[2:10:14 PM](#)

### **Voluntary Stewardship Program**

The Board discussed details of the Voluntary Stewardship Program noting:

- what are the benefits for the county and the farmers;
- can the farmer opt into or out of the program without risk of penalties;
- if there are problems with the program in the future the organizations in support will need to remember that they strongly recommended that the county opt in;
- letters/postcards received in support of the program total fifty (50) in addition to all the verbal recommendations for approval at various public meetings;
- the county retains the option to withdraw from the program if goals and expectations of the County Plan are not met.

Commissioner Hartwig moved, Stevens seconded noting with the concurrence of Commissioner Hartwig that the opt-in was for the whole county not just certain WRIA areas, to approve **Resolution No. R-02-2012 In the Matter of Opting into the Ruckelshaus Voluntary Stewardship Program Consistent with ESHB 1886.**

Chairman Plager noted for the record that it was critical that the Committee developing the County Plan be individuals residing within the County. **Motion carried unanimously.**

[2:18:17 PM](#)

[2:20:30 PM](#)

### **Coordinated Prevention Grant**

Commissioner Hartwig moved, Stevens seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign the Coordinated Prevention Grant Agreement between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and Adams County (Public Works) effective January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for a maximum eligible cost of \$174,312 (State \$130,734, Local \$43,578).*

**Motion carried.**

### **Planning Commission**

Commissioner Hartwig moved, Stevens seconded, to *appoint Michael A. Andersen, Othello, to the Adams County Planning Commission effective January 17, 2012, through March 31, 2015.* **Motion carried.**

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Stevens moved, Hartwig seconded, to *approve the Consent Agenda.* **Motion carried.**

Preliminary minutes of January 9 and 11, 2012

Vouchers audited and certified by the Adams County Auditor as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 and recorded on a listing, which was made available to the Board. These vouchers were listed as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Control Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001	120166-120221	\$ 70,938.98
001E	120222	\$ 2.30
103	120223-120224	\$ 157.01
104	120225-120232	\$ 5,988.37
106	120233	\$ 1,793.04
109	120236	\$ 41.06
112	120237	\$ 182.50
117	120238-120246	\$ 2,222.98
123	120247	\$ 385.00
166	120248-120249	\$ 908.41
502	120250-120256	\$ 20,982.32

001	2714-2717	\$ 16,295.06
108	2718	\$ 2,250.00
115	2719-2738	\$101,921.42
122	2739-2740	\$ 5,901.38
321	2741	\$ 53,351.91
401	2742-2754	\$ 73,939.99
501	2755-2759	\$ 19,325.05
590	2760-2785	\$ 86,298.15
	TOTAL	\$462,884.93

[2:23:49 PM](#)

### **Executive Session**

Executive session was called at 2:30 p.m. under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “To evaluate the qualification of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.” Kristian Boness, Central Services Director, was present. Session ended at 2:50 p.m.

### **Permanent Minutes Signed**

January 3 and 4, 2012

### **Correspondence Received**

Two (2) postcards from citizens requesting Adams County to adopt the Voluntary Stewardship Program created under ESHB 1886 during the 2011 Legislative session

Attorney Brandon West re: Public Defender Quarterly Report for Period October to December, 2011

Attorney Dennis G. Lewellen re: Public Defender Quarterly Report for Period October to December, 2011

Attorney Kyle R. Smith re: Public Defender Quarterly Report for Period October to December 2011

Richard Parker, Sr. re: status of proposed development of Mobile Home Park

Ken Sharp, Indianapolis, Indiana re: placement of stout wood poles near roadways and placement of electric lines underground

Copy of message from Sergeant Morehead forwarded by Prosecutor Flyckt re: contacting Public Defenders after hours

### **Adjournment @ 3:30 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

**RESOLUTION NO. R-02-2012**

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

**IN THE MATTER OF OPTING INTO THE *RUCKELSHAUS* VOLUNTARY  
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM CONSISTENT WITH ESHB 1886**

**WHEREAS**, under ESHB 1886, known as the *Ruckelshaus* Process Bill, a county may elect to “opt-into” the *Ruckelshaus* Voluntary Stewardship Program (Program), provided that it do so voluntarily prior to January 22, 2012; and,

**WHEREAS**, prior to opting in to the Program a county is required to confer with tribes, environmental and agricultural interests in an open and transparent manner consistent with the requirements of ESHB 1886 and provide public notice before opting-into the Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, an informational session for the public was held on October 12, 2011, with Farm Bureau Lobbyist John Stuhlmiller and various local members of the Farm Bureau providing information about the Program and responding to questions from the Board of Adams County Commissioners as well as members of the public; and,

**WHEREAS**, public notice of a stakeholders meeting to further discuss the Program was published in *The Ritzville Journal* on December 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012, and, in the *Othello Outlook* on January 5, 2012, and then held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Othello District Courtroom at 425 E. Main, Othello; and,

**WHEREAS**, public testimony was received on January 11, 2012, from members of the Conservation Commission, the Farm Bureau, and from local citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, written testimony was acknowledged as received over the last few months by the Board of Adams County Commissioners from forty-nine (49) individuals and organizations all in support of the Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, Adams County Planning staff has consulted and been in conversation with appropriate stakeholders to consider all options in compliance with ESHB 1886 as well as the requirement to “promote plans to protect critical areas, while maintaining and improving the long-term viability of agriculture and reducing the conversion of farmland to

other uses" with respect to agricultural activities within unincorporated Adams County (RCW 36.70A); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Adams County Commissioners deliberated on this Program during regular sessions held October 12 and December 14, 2011, as well as on January 11 and January 17, 2012;

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Adams County Board of Commissioners makes the following findings:

- Farming is vital to the economy of Adams County and is significant within each watershed;
- Lands within the following watersheds - Palouse – WRIA 34; Esquatzel Coulee – WRIA 36; Lower Crab Creek – WRIA 41; and Crab Creek – WRIA 43 – provide environmental and economically important agricultural functions which are vital and critical to the economy of Adams County and the State of Washington which could be impacted by inappropriate farming or regulatory actions;
- A healthy biological diversity within these watersheds is important to water and habitat quality and viability;
- Adams County has a history of local leadership in WRIA 34 and WRIA 43 watershed management teams, local government, and other agencies and stakeholders to make the Voluntary Stewardship Program successful;
- Data relevant to the Program is available and there are watershed plans and implementation strategies that can be integrated into a Program;
- Technical assistance is available locally as necessary to develop and implement the Program; and,
- Given adequate funding of the Program there is a likelihood of success with a local effort to establish and implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as it appears to be in the best interest of Adams County to opt-into the *Ruckelshaus* Voluntary Stewardship Program;

**THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED** that Adams County opts-in to the *Ruckelshaus* Voluntary Stewardship Program effective this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012, and that by this decision and adoption of the Resolution Adams County is now eligible for state grant funding to accomplish the intent of the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Adams County will proceed as required under ESHB 1866 to implement the requirements of the Program once adequate funding is provided by the State.

**DATED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
s/Rudy Plager, Chairman  
s/Roger L. Hartwig, Vice-Chairman  
s/Jeffrey W. Stevens, Commissioner

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