

Meeting with Paul Jewell

July 16, 2018

3:32 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Stamper, Paul Jewell (by phone), Erik Martin, Lee Napier, Becky Butler

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Former Kittitas County Commissioner Paul Jewell, who now serves as Policy Director with the Washington State Association of Counties, discuss Kittitas County's experience with wind turbines.

Lee Napier said the wind turbines for RES Americas' planned wind farm will be exclusively in Lewis County while the operations will be in Thurston County. She said the project is for 38 wind turbines generating 137 megawatts of power.

Paul said the power would be considered interstate commerce and likely couldn't be taxed. He discussed the use of a severance tax.

Lee said scoping items, but not mitigation items, have been identified for the Environmental EIS. Lee said RES has indicated its project has to be ready by the end of the year.

Paul suggested addressing fire dangers. Lee said county setbacks could be based on structure heights. The group discussed Kittitas County's idea to plant birds to make sure the dead bird count was being performed properly.

Paul said residents voiced concerns about noise, "shadow flickers" and property value.

Paul said residents preferred red lights instead of white lights and that they preferred that the lights blink at same time and for same length of time (instead of intermittently). Paul said Kittitas County worked with the energy company to create a work-share type area.

Paul Jewell left at 4:27 p.m.

The group reviewed the "to-do" list.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

TO-DO LIST / RECAP

BOCC: Follow up about with Dianne Dorey about state-assessed utilities and property taxes.

All: Address decommissioning the site and fire concerns.

Becky: Speak to Dianne Dorey about school districts and DFL removal.

Rieva: Set up meeting with Dianne Dorey (include Becky Butler, Lee Napier, Karen Witherspoon and Matt Matayoshi) to discuss wind turbines.