

## **PA Update**

**November 17, 2020**

**2 p.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Eric Eisenberg, Chris Panush, Lee Napier, Cullen Gatten, Bill Teitzel, Natalie Dunlap, Amber Smith, Kevin McDowell, Katie Conradi, Steve Wohld, Tailor Albright, Jonathan Meyer (2:11 p.m.)

Guests: Ryan Thode, Bob Guenther, Stephen Ratelle, Commissioner-elect Lindsey Pollock

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Amber Smith said the State Auditor's Office has invited the county to attend exit interview for the Water Sewer District 5 the following week.

Eric Eisenberg discussed Fire Mountain Farms' application to Ecology regarding its five sites in Lewis County. He said the company has applied Class A and Class B biosolids on its lands for the last 10 or 20 years. He said it qualifies as a pre-existing, non-conforming land use. Eric said a recent Wahkiakum court case illustrates only Ecology has the right to regulate biosolids as a health matter.

Bill Teitzel said Ecology has tried to address the county's concerns regarding tributaries and streams, etc.

Jonathan Meyer joined at 2:11 p.m.

The group discussed the disposal of toxins from the Fire Mountain Farms ponds. Eric clarified that the issue is separate from the biosolids application process now under consideration.

Commissioner Stamper asked Bill Teitzel to draft a memo explaining the two issues.

The group noted that Dec. 2 is the deadline for comments to Ecology.

Amber Smith noted that she has reviewed the Port of Centralia applications for potential conflicts of interest. The group discussed asking potential candidates to volunteer to sit out during one another's interview sessions.

Cullen Gatten said there are several old records housed at the old credit union, which is being demolished. Cullen recommended the county consider hiring a records manager dedicated to archival projects. Eric asked for the board to direct Risk, HR, Budget and the PA's Office to work together to develop a job description and hiring plan. The commissioners directed the offices and departments to work on a new records position.

Jonathan Meyer said District Court and Superior Court have postponed trials for four weeks.

At 2:40 p.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 20 minutes to discuss Northern Spotted Owl Litigation and related public

comment process, the Middle Fork Water Sewer System and Beenan v. Skydive Toledo et al. Executive session started at 2:42 p.m. Commissioner Fund left sometime during the executive session.

At 3:02 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 3:07 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 2 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 3:09 p.m. Commissioner Stamper noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to permit Susan Drummond to continue working for Lewis County – and the other two counties – on spotted owl litigation under the same terms she’s been working under.

Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Motion passed 2-0.

The commissioners directed Erik Martin and the PA’s Office explore hiring a water-rights attorney and to present a proposal to the BOCC.

Meeting ended at 3:14 p.m.