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District 1
Max Benitz, Jr.
District 2
James Beaver
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Board of County Commission BENTON COUNTY

David Sparks
County Administrator

Loretta Smith Kelty
Deputy County Administrator



AGENDA BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Special Board Meeting Monday, April 27, 2009

**The Board of Benton County Commissioners will meet in a joint hearing with
Klickitat and Yakima Counties**

Time: 2:00 PM

Purpose: Receive Testimony and Take Action on the adopted Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Watershed Planning; and on the proposal for Watershed Management Plan and Rock-Glade Watershed (WRIA-31)

Location: Benton PUD Meeting Room
750 N. Gap Road
Prosser, WA

Memorandum

To: The Boards of County Commissioners of Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties

From: David McClure, WRIA 31 Watershed Planning Coordinator

Date: April 21, 2009

Subject: Staff Report on the public hearing to receive comments on the adopted Addendum to the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW* and hear testimony on the proposed *Watershed Management Plan, Rock-Glade Watershed (WRIA 31)*. This staff report also addresses the joint session of the county legislative authorities to consider approval of the watershed management plan.

Watershed planning was conducted for Water Resource Inventory Area 31, Rock-Glade (WRIA 31) pursuant to Chapter 90.82 RCW. The proposed plan covers matters pertaining to water quantity, water quality, and habitat within the WRIA. The WRIA 31 Planning Unit unanimously approved the proposed *Watershed Management Plan, Rock-Glade Watershed (WRIA 31)*. Per RCW 90.82.130, the counties (i.e., Benton, Klickitat and Yakima) with jurisdiction in the area covered by the watershed management plan must hold a public hearing and then a joint session to consider approval of the proposed plan.

Klickitat County (responsible official, Curt Dreyer) and Ecology (responsible official, Thomas Tebb) acted as co-leads under SEPA for review of the proposed watershed management plan. The SEPA co-leads issued a Determination of Significance and adopted the *Final Environmental Impact Statement of Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW* (FEIS), which was developed by Ecology, and as an addendum to the FEIS, an *Evaluation of the Adequacy of the Final Statewide Watershed Planning EIS in meeting SEPA Requirements Associated with the Adoption of the WRIA 31 Watershed Management Plan*. Public Notice of the adoption of the FEIS and addendum was published in the *TriCities Herald*, *Yakima Herald*, *Goldendale Sentinel*, and *White Salmon Enterprise*. The adopted FEIS is not open for comment. However, comments on the addendum to the FEIS may be received at the public hearing. To date, no comments on the addendum to the FEIS have been received.

On April 27th the Boards of County Commissioners of Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties will conduct a public hearing at which interested parties may provide written or oral comment on the addendum to the FEIS and/or testify for or against the proposed *Watershed Management Plan, Rock-Glade Watershed (WRIA 31)*. Upon conclusion of the testimony, the Boards of County Commissioners may continue the hearing to another time and place or close the hearing.

If each Board of County Commissioners elects to close the public hearing, a joint session of the three Boards of County Commissioners will be opened to consider approval of the watershed management plan. Per statute, the Boards of County Commissioners may approve the proposed plan or not approve the plan and return it to the planning unit with recommendations for change. Approval of the plan requires a majority vote of each Board.