

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting  
January 20, 2010, 10:00 a.m.  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

**Present:** Chairman James Beaver  
Commissioner Leo Bowman  
Commissioner Max E. Benitz, Jr.  
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

**Employees Present:** Adam Fyall and Mike Shuttleworth

#### Yakima Basin and Columbia Basin Water Resources Issues

Derek Sandison, Department of Ecology and Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation gave a report on the Yakima Basin and Columbia Basin Water Resources Issues.

Mr. Sandison said that in 2003 Reclamation and Ecology initiated the Yakima Basin Water Storage Feasibility to examine storage in the Yakima River basin. Then in 2008 a workgroup began the Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative with the plan of looking at storage not in a vacuum.

Ms. Christensen said they had three alternatives and part of the planning process was getting the major players and water users to support whatever plan was approved. She said the plan was not supposed to be everything to everyone but at least something for everyone. Mr. Sandison stated they had been studying water storage for 40 years and they had enough information to start building something. Additionally, the Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Ecology were very committed to moving projects forward.

Commissioner Benitz provided a copy of his letter outlining his recommendations for moving forward with a water storage plan.

Mr. Sandison and Ms. Christensen then reviewed the plan, efforts and recommendations to advance a management plan for further analysis and evaluation. They proposed planning out 20 years and to continue planning so it was a rolling process.

Groundwater and exempt well needs and quantities were briefly discussed. Commissioner Benitz asked if a moratorium was being contemplated in Benton County, as it was done in Kittitas County and Mr. Sandison said it was not.

Mr. Sandison also gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Columbia River Water Supply Initiative and briefly discussed the following:

- Legislation
- Development
- Implementation Focus
- 2004 Memorandum of Understanding – prior to legislation
- Lake Roosevelt Storage Release Proposal
- History and Timeline

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman