

# BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Weekly Agenda Meeting

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM

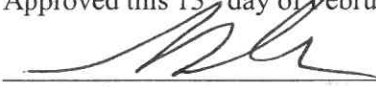
City Council Chambers, 129 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yakima, Washington

- **PRESENT:** Chairman, Ron Anderson, Michael D. Leita, J. Rand Elliott, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, and Deputy Clerk of the Board Linda Kay O'Hara.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT: Jean Mendoza, White Swan** – I would like to address interlocal agreement BOCC1-2018 that extends the completion date for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management area to December, 2018. I am the executive director for the Friends of Toppenish Creek and I have been on the advisory committee since 2012. It has been an enlightening experience for me. One lesson I've learned over the five years is that federal, state and local governments interact out of self-interest and it is obvious to me that people from Yakima County is not nearly so important to the bureaucrats the visit us for the GWMA meetings. There is only one elected official on the GWMA advisory committee and that is Commissioner Elliott. He has a rather difficult job representing the people who live in Yakima County. Today I am asking the three Commissioners to become more involved in the GWMA and asking them to become heroes by protecting Yakima County. There are a lot of problems. A lack of concern on the part of the bureaucracy is near the top. People from Puget Sound don't care very much when people from GWMA are spending a million dollars a year for bottled water. That doesn't seem to matter if we take 10 years or 20 years of 50 years or never solve the problem. They are getting paid either way and their children are not affected. WSDA has estimated that most available nitrate from crop land, about 77% comes from orchards and vineyards. This is just crazy. Apple orchards supply about 60 lbs of nitrates to their crops every year. Then at the end of harvest they have 90 lbs of nitrogen per acre. How is this possible? This was discussed at one of the GWMA meetings. The shaky answer involves some weird assumptions about how much organic nitrogen organic matter breaks down into nitrogen. Commissioner Elliott as a very insightful question at this meeting and was given an incorrect answer by two so called experts. Two authors of the WSDA study were in the room at the time and they did not correct that. The GWMA has spent a lot of time and money doing soil sampling. One lesson we learned is there is a lot of nitrates leaching from some alfalfa fields. The deep soil testing tested 26 alfalfa fields. The results of this testing are in the handout I gave you. There is nitrate leaching from the alfalfa fields. The WSDA chose to completely ignore this data. They relied on some unverified statements from some questionable experts and came up with statements that say alfalfa removes 900 tons of nitrogen's from the GWMA target area each year. As a result, these are now part of the Yakima County GIS system that Yakima County developed to describe nitrogen movement in Yakima County. Frank Lyle is the president of the Farm Bureau. His message has been consistent over the last three years and states that this study does not reflect reality of Yakima County and as it is written it will have no weight with the farming community. There are not a whole lot of point of agreement between the Farm Bureau and the environmentalists, but they do agree that this study is invalid. I am asking you to listen to the people you represent, ask for accountability of the agencies being paid to help develop the GWMA plan.
- **CONSENT ITEMS:** Approved as modified.

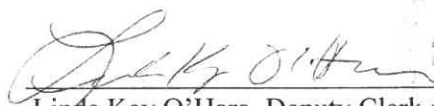
FUNDING LEVEL: A=No Impact B=Under \$100,000 C=\$100,000- \$500,000 D=Over \$500,000				
DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING LEVEL	ACTION
Public Services Vern Redifer, Director	Reso 1-2018	Accepting into the County Road System Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk, Hot Mix Asphalt and Storm Sewer Improvements Installed into Key's Road:	A	TABLED
	Reso 2-2018	Authorizing the Trout Meadows Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration Project:	A	APPROVED
	Agreement BOCC1-2018	Amendment No. 1 with Washington State Department of Ecology for the Lower Ground Water Management Area to Extend the Contract End Date to 12/31/18:	A	APPROVED
	Agreement BOCC2-2018	Professional Services Agreement with Access Geographic for Aerial Photography Services:	B	APPROVED
	Agreement BOCC3-2018	2018 Traffic Policing Agreement Between Yakima County Roads and Yakima County Sheriff's Office:	C	APPROVED
Commissioners Ron Anderson, Chairman	Reso 3-2018	Reappointing Seven Members to the South Central Workforce Development Counsel:	A	APPROVED

FUNDING LEVEL: A=No Impact B=Under \$100,000 C=\$100,000- \$500,000 D=Over \$500,000				
DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING LEVEL	ACTION
	Voucher/Warrant	Certification of Claims Clearing Warrant 732145 through 432765 in the amount of \$3,089,558.98:	A	APPROVED
<b>Human Resources</b> Jacqui Lindsay, Director	Reso 4-2018	Additions/Deletions to Budgeted Positions in Dept. 460 Juvenile Court:	B	APPROVED
<b>Sheriff</b> Brian Winter, Sheriff	Agreement BOCC4-2018	2018 Law Enforcement Agreement with the Town of Naches to Provide Animal Control, Police Protection and Law Enforcement within the Town of Naches:	B	APPROVED
	Agreement BOCC5-2018	Interagency Agreement with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to Provide Funding from the US Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to Conduct Overtime High-Visibility Enforcement and Traffic Safety Emphasis Patrols:	B	APPROVED

Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018

  
 Ron Anderson, Chairman                      Excused

Michael D. Leita, Commissioner  
  
 J. Rand Elliott, Commissioner

  
 Linda Kay O'Hara, Deputy Clerk of the Board

