

Minutes for July 22nd, 2002

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059890 THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **July 22, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Board Business.

D059890A 1. Call to Order/Executive Session.

Present: Bev Welch, Bob Lothspeich, and Kelli Shrope.

D059890B 2. Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session with the above individuals for discussion of personnel matters until 10:00 a.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

9:30 a.m. - Return to Open Session/Recess.

10:00 a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Emily Wagnitz, Emily Adams, Kirk Suess, Joe Reynolds, Bob Lothspeich, Don Nelson, Bill Nelson, Eunice Coker, and Bob Curtis.

D059890C 3. Motion by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

10:05 a.m. - Chris Anderson, Bev Welch, Steve Tomson, and Evan Ellis.

059891 4. Claims/Payroll warrants numbered 137569-37597, 137600-137694 for \$226,789.95 approved.

FUND	FUND NAME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
001	Current Expense	\$ 50,662.90	\$ 6,251.83
102	Building & Development	1,000.00	223.49
103	Countywide Planning		709.79
104	Developmental Services		32,329.29
105	Mental Health	6,675.20	537.10
107	Chemical Dependency	1,672.60	321.89
110	County Roads	14,843.00	1,826.61
118	Inmate Welfare		46.93
123	Paths & Trails		7.49
127	Drug Enforcement		17.55
129	HB 3900		73.36
400	Solid Waste	1,750.00	104,158.49
410	Solid Waste Reserve		11.29
501	Equipment Rental & Revolving	3,983.00	78,222.49
513	Communications Revolving		2,052.35

059892 5. A \$122.00 unresolved Sheriff's claim for Ryan Kelly was approved by the Board after a **motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

059893 6. A \$68.01 unresolved Coroner's claim for Hamilton Drug was approved by the Board after a **motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

059894 7. July 15, 2002 minutes approved.

059895-059902 8. Personnel board orders approved.

D059902A 9. Commissioners' pending list reviewed.

059903 10. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign a resolution canceling outstanding warrants from 1996-2001.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION CANCELING OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

Resolution No. 059903

A resolution authorizing the Whitman County Treasurer, in accordance with Title 36.22.100 R.C.W., to cancel the following outstanding warrants:

<u>DATE ISSUED</u>	<u>WARRANT #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01/29/96	036519	JURI SOFT	84.87
03/20/96	038533	UNKNOWN	7.50
04/15/96	039290	DUSTY GUN CLUB	30.00
05/20/96	041088	MATT VISSER	47.88
06/24/96	042391	ADULTS SUPPORT KIDS	30.00
06/24/96	042443	AARON EVANS	8.48
09/23/96	046580	UNKNOWN	8.38
10/14/96	047541	TYLER K. FRANSEN	19.92
10/14/96	047614	MITCHELL JOHNSON	19.92
10/14/96	047704	DREW PETERSON	11.00
11/13/96	048810	ELEANOR MORRISON	79.63
11/18/96	048985	GLEN CAMBRON	20.85
11/18/96	049362	FRANKLIN YOUNCE	19.30
12/02/96	050311	ELEANOR MORRISON	71.05
01/31/97	052726	STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES	500.00
02/18/97	053267	REGION 9 FIRE COUNCIL	75.00

03/17/97	054169	MARC R. CASSIDY	1050.00
03/24/97	054732	NANCY HAEFER	5.00
04/21/97	055463	TOM CHAMBERS	19.54
06/09/97	057632	BURLINGTON & NORTHERN	2500.00
06/23/97	058392	JOHN JOSEPH BIRR	55.00
06/23/97	058423	JAKE HERTEL HAWES	10.00
06/23/97	058504	ROY A. WOLFE	45.00
08/29/97	061236	JASON TULL	92.21
09/15/97	062004	KEVIN HATLEY	20.08
09/22/97	062481	JENNY LEHMITZ	50.00
09/30/97	062718	JEFFREY HOSLER	170.85
10/06/97	062958	MARLENE GARRISON	34.10
10/27/97	064045	STEPHEN F. THEODORE	20.08
11/17/97	064772	WENDY MARIE ONGARO	30.00
11/24/97	065461	SUN RENTAL CENTER	21.90
12/23/97	066608	HUGH JONES	3.00
12/23/97	066700	LISA WEST	1.00
01/20/98	067461	MICHAELS	41.96
01/26/98	067784	CLAYTON D. EVANS	19.95
02/11/98	068262	DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY	1.10
02/25/98	069311	EUGENIA GOLDSWORTHY	19.40
03/16/98	069797	CHARLES RILEY	21.03
03/16/98	069837	BARBARA STONE	19.45
03/16/98	069851	STEVE TOMSON	11.83
04/20/98	070982	EREC HOPKINS	8.33
04/20/98	071029	NEIL MANNING	21.34
04/20/98	071171	WRPA	185.00
05/??/98	075179	RUSSELL LORTZ	7.75
05/??/98	075210	N E PUBLISHING	96.85
05/??/98	075323	WSU	23.11
05/??/98	075683	UNKNOWN	20.26
05/??/98	075693	UNKNOWN	16.16
06/15/98	076241	CHARLES CAMPBELL	10.25
06/15/98	076314	MAUREEN GIBSON	10.00
06/15/98	076395	RUSSELL LORTZ	25.12
06/15/98	076468	DRETHA PHILLIPS	80.32
06/15/98	076537	JUSTIN STALLINGS	10.00

07/20/98	078061	JOEL KNID	20.08
08/??/98	079392	KATRINA NIEHENKE	11.58
08/??/98	079409	JANINE PARRY	20.08
08/??/98	079493	JILL THOMSON	80.32
09/28/98	081718	FERN FEENAN	28.90
10/19/98	082318	BLAKE ADOLPHAE	199.00
11/16/98	083697	UNKNOWN	10.00
01/19/99	086360	AMERICAN SOCIETY	35.00
02/16/99	087790	CANDY REYES	21.78
03/15/99	088741	ARDEN GRAY	19.92
04/19/99	090025	ROBERT PAIGE HUFFINE	10.00
04/19/99	090071	LEGAL+PLUS SOFTWARE	178.15
05/17/99	091312	QUAD-MED WASHINGTON	9.00
06/21/99	092566	SCOTT EVANS	5.00
06/28/99	093058	UNKNOWN	11.55
09/20/99	096582	HEALTH MANAGEMENT CENTER	120.00
10/25/99	098591	JOHN SHERMAN	19.92
11/22/99	099857	RYAN JOHNSON	19.92
11/22/99	099869	GREGRY KNUDTSON	29.30
12/20/99	100933	CARLSON'S PLUMBING	51.44
12/20/99	101186	DARLENE STROMSDORFER	18.31
01/18/00	102531	DANETTE DAVIDSON FARR	20.54
02/28/00	103748	JIM FANNING	21.70
03/20/00	104667	TRADESMAN AUTO	5.38
04/11/00	105276	WHITMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	89.44
04/17/00	105504	GET A GADGET	622.00
05/22/00	107269	PATRICK KELLY	5.37
07/24/00	109744	CLEARWATER VALLEY HOSPITAL	44.80
09/18/00	111770	DWIGHT HAGIHARA	21.05
09/25/00	112217	ASTI GALLINA	25.00
09/25/00	112248	SARA LAVONTURE	25.00
09/25/00	112344	KRISTIALYN YOUNG	30.00
10/10/00	112603	SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	99.00
11/20/00	114640	VINCENT L. WALTZ	1.86
12/11/00	115127	WHITMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	87.14
12/18/00	115443	JEFFREY CLEVENGER	20.40
12/18/00	115521	JEAN IVERSON	20.40

01/10/01	116315	UNKNOWN	300.09
01/22/01	116685	JAMES P. LOWRY	26.55
01/22/01	116762	MATHEW SHOLZ	22.00
01/22/01	116763	MICHAEL SHOLZ	7.50
02/09/01	117459	UNKNOWN	100.00
02/20/01	117824	MAURO PARTIDA	7.21
04/16/01	119507	KATHLEEN BELL	50.00
04/16/01	119653	KRISTIN MALEY	30.70
06/25/01	122572	BRETT MYERS	7.53

Approved this 22ND day of July 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

ATTEST:

G. R. Finch, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

059904 11. Appointment of Interim Auditor.

Present: Jug Daubert, Marlynn Markley, Tim Myers, Bob Reynolds, Bev Welch, Bob Lothspeich, Kelli Shrope, Emily Wagnitz, Emily Adams, Kirk Suess, Joe Reynolds, Bob Lothspeich, Don Nelson, Bill Nelson, Eunice Coker, Bob Curtis, Chris Anderson, Steve Tomson, Evan Ellis, Naomi Daubert, Debra Hooper, Dee Luft, Phyllis Leland, Frank White, Christina Thompson, Diana Dawson, Don Anderson, Jennifer Snead.

Chairman Partch gave a brief explanation of the statute, what the commissioners have done since receiving the County Auditor's resignation, and today's procedure. He also read excerpts from a letter written by Ron Shirley to the Republican Central Committee Chair, John Brabb, requesting the Committee submit 3 names to the county commissioners for consideration of a county auditor appointment. The commissioners must make the appointment within 60 days of the effective date of the resignation. Because the 60 days falls within the primary election period, on advice from the Deputy Prosecutor, the commissioners are able to allow the election to take place. Hopefully, two of the three names will be the individuals seeking the county auditor position. It is the commissioners' intention to appoint whomever the voters elect, which will allow that individual to hit the ground running and participate in the budgeting process.

Ballots were distributed and the commissioners cast their votes for the interim county auditor. The Clerk read the voting results. Finch - Naomi Daubert, Wigen - Naomi Daubert, and Partch- Naomi Daubert.

Motion by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to appoint Naomi Daubert as the interim county auditor (as of August 1, 2002). Ms. Daubert will be sworn in July 29th at 1:15 p.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers.

059905 12. The .08 grant award was before the Board for their decision. Chairman Partch read the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee.

1. City of Colfax Skate Park-Does not meet minimum economic development requirements.
2. Farmington Fire Station - Does not meet minimum economic development requirements.
3. Whitman County Hospital District #2 - Recommended for \$50,000 award. No funds to be disbursed until after the District's bond levy passes. Election is scheduled for September.
4. Tekoa Airport Fueling Station - Recommended for \$32,000 award.
5. St. John Public Service Center - Does not meet minimum economic development requirements.

Recommendations for award total \$82,000 leaving a balance of \$60,500. The Committee anticipates the \$60,500 carry-over would be added to the total .08 funds available for future awards. The Committee also recommended the next round of proposal be called for during January 2003.

Motion by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to accept the recommendations as read.

059906 13. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to sign a resolution revising the countywide petty cash funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 059906

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Whitman County Commissioners met in regular session on the 22nd day of July 2002; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Whitman County, State of Washington, recognizes the need and requirement of regulating the various petty cash/cash drawer/revolving accounts in all county funds; and,

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the various petty cash/cash drawer/revolving accounts must be entrusted to specific individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the following are the revised petty cash/cash drawer/revolving accounts for Whitman County:

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	FUND NO.	BARS CODE	CUSTODIAN	PURPOSE
Public Health, Colfax	\$70.00	001.000.000	111.70.02	Robin Cocking	Petty Cash/Front Desk
Public Health, Colfax	\$40.00	001.000.000	111.70.02	Robin Cocking	Cash Drawer
Public Health, Colfax	\$33.00	001.000.000	111.77.02	Robin Cocking	Petty Cash/Postage
Public Health, Colfax	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.02	Pauline Anderson	Cash Drawer
Public Health, Pullman	\$100.00	001.000.000	111.70.18	Shannon Hatley	Petty Cash
Public Health, Pullman	\$70.00	001.000.000	111.70.18	Shannon Hatley	Cash Drawer
Public Health, Pullman	\$99.00	001.000.000	111.77.02	Shannon Hatley	Petty Cash/Postage
Prosecutor	\$260.00	001.000.000	111.70.15	Dorothy Talley	Petty Cash/Postage
Prosecutor	\$100.00	001.000.000	111.70.09	Dorothy Talley	Petty Cash
District Court	\$96.00	001.000.000	111.77.03	Kristina Sorenson	Petty Cash
District Court, Colfax	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.03	Kristina Sorenson	Cash Drawer
District Court, Pullman	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.03	Virginia Walker	Cash Drawer
Parks & Rec., Colfax	\$200.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Terry Jeffries	Petty Cash
Parks & Rec., Fairgrounds	\$25.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Craig Danielson	Cash Drawer
Parks & Rec., Kamiak Bte.	\$25.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Roger Marcus	Cash Drawer
Parks & Rec., Wawawai	\$25.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Bart Dearborn	Cash Drawer
Auditor, Auto Licensing	\$400.00	001.000.000	111.70.05	County Auditor	Cash Drawer
Auditor, Legal Filing	\$100.00	001.000.000	111.70.05	County Auditor	Cash Drawer
Auditor	\$5,500.00	001.000.000	111.00.10	Dee Luft	Revolving

Facilities Maintenance	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.04	Janel Goebel	Petty Cash
Clerk	\$50.00	001.000.000	111.70.13	Shirley Bafus	Cash Drawer
Superior Court	\$33.00	001.020.000	111.77.19	Eileen Roe	Petty Cash
Sheriff, Drug Task Force	\$30,000.00	127.140.000	111.77.01	Steve Tomson	Revolving
Sheriff	\$400.00	001.000.000	111.77.01	Rita Konzal	Revolving
Harvest Moon Café	\$15.00	105.430.000	111.70.07	Dave Port	Cash Drawer
Mental Health	\$250.00	105.430.000	111.70.07	JoAnn Porter	Petty Cash
Mental Health, Kids Team	\$400.00	105.430.000	111.70.07	JoAnn Porter	Petty Cash
Mental Health	\$50.00	105.430.000	111.70.07	Jeanine Smith	Cash Drawer
Harvest House Thrift Shop	\$5.00	690.021.000	111.70.07	Dave Port	Cash Drawer
Harvest House	\$400.00	690.021.000	111.70.07	JoAnn Porter	Petty Cash
Public Works	\$150.00	110.400.000	111.70.10	Judy McMurray	Petty Cash
Solid Waste	\$300.00	400.400.000	111.70.06	Charlotte Mundell	Cash Drawer
Treasurer	\$900.00	999.000.000	111.70.11	Donna Poland	Cash Drawer
Treasurer, Advance Travel	\$15,000.00	999.000.000	111.00.21	Lana Cloaninger	Revolving

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of July 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Greg Partch, Chairman

ATTEST:

G. R. Finch, Commissioner

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Les Wigen, Commissioner

059906A 14. Chairman Partch indicated the Board had discussion last week as to a proposal from the Nolan's concerning the purchase of their building in Colfax for \$67,750 plus closing costs.

Commissioner Wigen wanted to talk about some things that have been discussed since 1995. A Space Allocation Committee (SAC) was established in 1994 and there has been talk about moving offices around since then. He recalled the first time he visited Information Services in 1995 located in the basement of the Corrections Building. There are no windows and no fresh air. He told Bev Welch at that time that he would like to move the department out of the basement. The SAC was reestablished in 2002 and they talked about various options of moving departments to make Whitman County more efficient. SAC has not made a formal presentation at this time. His contention has always been if they ever got to a point where Information Services was going to move, his vote and support would be to move that department into the Courthouse next to the commissioners, assessor, auditor, treasurer, and finance people. He thought they could save money by putting IS in the Courthouse and not the Nolan building. The county purchased the Harrison building 2-3 years prior and it is still sitting empty. At this time he didn't believe the county needed to purchase more buildings. He respects the decisions of his fellow and former commissioners but he also represents 13,000 voters in this county. A \$200,000 reserve fund was started 2-4 years ago but that was depleted this year and financially, it is going to be even tougher in 2003.

Commissioner Finch realized this is not a popular thing right now, however, when he first became commissioner he read a book that suggested a long-term vision and as a commissioner, he would have to make some unpopular decisions. The reality is with the tight quarters and inadequate parking for the Courthouse he feels the county would be remiss not purchasing adjacent property to the present facility for parking and/or expansion. Commissioner Finch was in support of purchasing the Nolan Building. The reason being is that Nolan's moved out of the building in excess of one year. The building has been for sale and any person could have bought it. This isn't a case of the county taking this property off the market. Commissioner Finch said he had one question to ask of the realtor for the property in attendance, Bob Curtis. He asked if any private individual has shown any interest in buying this building other than the county? Mr. Curtis responded, "none whatsoever commissioner". Commissioner Finch added, "So therefore, you do not feel we are grasping this out of the straws of a private individual to develop that for some type of commercial development?" Mr. Curtis replied, "No, I don't think so. We presented it as much as we could."

Based on that and based on the money bonded for this purchase Commissioner Finch said at the end of the second year, the bond money will have generated over \$50,000 in interest, which basically pays for more than 2/3 of the cost of the building. He too has visited the IS staff in their current location who are working under some tough conditions. Between all the equipment, the desks abutting, no privacy for the Director to speak privately with her employees, and the fact that these people deserve better, Commissioner Finch said his support would have to go toward the purchase of the building.

Chairman Partch said he wanted to revisit some of the thoughts Commissioner Wigen raised, but before that he wanted to point out one of the most

important conditions that Commissioner Finch did not mention about IS's location and that is the fact the IS employees share their facilities with the sewer pump lift station that is open. During a good portion of the time there is raw sewage next door to the IS office. As Commissioner Wigen indicated, the county has been trying for the past 5 years to move IS out of their present location. The Sheriff would also like the space back for storage. Commissioner Wigen mentioned the fact we are in hard times, but this expenditure was built into the bond because they all agreed they needed to look for new space for IS. Initially, the Island Street Building (Weed Department) was the primary candidate, but when the building was inspected by the county and city building officials and Maintenance Supervisor it was determined that the cost would be too great to bring the building up to ADA compliance and for IS electrical needs. The Nolan building is already wired and will require minimal improvements.

As Commissioner Finch pointed out, the county will generate \$50,000-\$60,000 in interest alone from the bond to pay for the building. This money does not come out of the people's pocket. This money is coming from the bond, which is 08 money that can be used for infrastructure improvements. Commissioner Partch said it is his intention to vote in favor of the purchase.

Don Nelson asked why this wasn't included in the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee's recommendations. Chairman Partch explained the bond is totally separate from action required of the Committee. The bond is for infrastructure improvements and expansion of property and the Blue Ribbon Committee rates projects for economic development.

Bill Nelson noted if the county is looking at financial trouble in the near future, maybe the commissioners should be looking at some of the white-collar jobs. He disagreed with expanding during tough times, no matter where the money comes from. Mr. Nelson did not want to see snowplowing services cut back as mentioned in a previous meeting.

Chairman Partch said there have been on-going meetings with the officials about the 2002 and 2003 financial outlook. He explained that Public Works funds are separate from the general fund. Public Works receives most of its money from the state and federal government through grants and gas tax allocations. The general fund money is derived from property and sales taxes. They are two totally separate funds that cannot be mixed. The money bonded is derived specifically from 08 funds for infrastructure and cannot be used for anything other than infrastructure. The 08 money is from the state's portion of sales tax received and not the county's portion. This is a win-win situation for the county.

Don Nelson didn't think the commissioners were getting this information out to the public and the employees. Chairman Partch responded that the Board tries very hard to educate the public and will continue this effort.

Commissioner Finch commented the financial area is a difficult issue to explain. People are under the impression the county has only one pot of money. The commissioners are not permitted to divert any money from the

Road Fund otherwise Public Works runs the risk of losing state and federal funding. Some of the changes needed to allow the county more control must be done through the legislature.

Chairman Partch said all road and bridge work is derived from the state and federal government. Public Works only generates enough county money for maintenance items; snow removal, grading patching, etc.

There being no further comments, a **motion** was made by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Partch and **carried** to accept the proposal from the Nolan's for the purchase of the Nolan Building in the amount of \$67,750 plus closing costs. Commissioner Wigen voted **against** the proposal.

059907 15. A letter of appreciation was forwarded to Kelli Shrope, Human Resources, for the assistance she provided the commissioners on a particular project.

059908 16. Agenda items for the August 20th joint meeting of the commissioners and Pullman City Council received.

059909 17. Information pertaining to the Centennial Clean Water Fund was received from the Department of Ecology.

059910 18. The commissioners' 2003 budget goals and priority letter was distributed to all departments.

11:00 a.m. - Dane Dunford, Public Works Director.

Present: Mark Storey, Julie Fox, Emily Wagnitz, Barbara O'Donnell, and a Legal Intern.

Action Items:

059911 1. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to award the Wilbur-Ellis rock crushing bid to Seubert Excavators.

059912 2. **Motion** by Commissioner Wigen **seconded** by Commissioner Finch and **carried** to publish the notice of hearing for the 6-Year Road Plan.

059913 3. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to award the contract for reimbursement funding in the amount of \$400 to the Town of Albion for their recycling building roof repairs.

Engineering Division:

D059913A 4. The Engineer provided an update on the status of the Darden, Fitzgerald, Warner, and Steptoe Bridges.

Maintenance Division:

D059913B 5. Crews are finishing county sealcoating today and will begin sealcoating for the City of Colfax tomorrow. After that, the crews will return to ditching and mowing. There is a possibility the Johnson Road "S" curve project will begin this fall, but if not, it will be done next year.

Finance Division:

D059913C 6. The Director noted that staff and he are working on budget issues for 2003.

11:10 a.m. - Emily Wagnitz.

059914 7. Mr. Dunford discussed the letter and petition from Tim Esser on behalf of Barbara O'Donnell requesting the speed limit on the O'Donnell Road be reduced. Public Works will proceed with the Engineer's investigation and plan to make a recommendation to the Board in mid-October. The intern requested the investigation include the fact that the bulk of the traffic on O'Donnell Road (with half a dozen residents) is comprised of commuting traffic.

Mr. Dunford said there is a similar issue north of O'Donnell Road that cuts through from the Viola Cemetery near the Roger Swan residence. It is a commuter road from both Potlatch and the Viola area. In the summer months it is a commuter road to the lakes in northern Idaho. Ms. O'Donnell said the residents on that road indicated they wanted to petition for a reduced speed limit as well for the same reasons. Ms. O'Donnell wondered if it would be better to have the other petition for consideration at the same time. The Director said it does not speed up the process because each petition is considered on an individual basis.

11:30 a.m. - **Tim Myers, Parks, Fair, Facilities and Risk Management.**

D059914A 1. The following bids were received, opened, and read aloud for the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail sealcoating project.

Motley-Motley, Inc. - \$39,944.35 including tax.

Mr. Myers will make a recommendation for award at 2:00 p.m.

D059914B 2. Mr. Myers provided a Risk Management update.

- A request for WCCS professional liability insurance was forwarded to the Risk Pool for follow-up.
- A cost recovery check associated with the Kelly accident received; some residual funds may still be forthcoming; Mr. Myers will inform the Sheriff's Office that the BOCC would like all other expenses related to this accident included in the settlement negotiations.
- Pending claims/lawsuits against the county reviewed.
- Reviewed recent and possible future accidents involving county employees/reservists. The commissioners emphasized the need for the Risk Manager to be notified immediately of all accidents.
- Request received concerning legal liability information for open/closed landfills. Mr. Myers will consult with Dane Dunford, Tim Davis, and John Skyles on this matter.

11:50 a.m. - **Recess.**

1:40 p.m. - **Steve Martin, Contractor for the Conservation Districts.**

Present: Kimberly Morris of Whitman Conservation District and Rob Buchert of Palouse Conservation District.

059915 Mr. Martin stated he is under contract by 6 conservation districts (Whitman, Palouse, Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla) to lead the formation of the Salmon Recovery Planning process. He explained when species are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) the federal government has a period of time to develop a recovery plan to keep those species from moving closer to extinction. The federal government realizes they can't possibly write a recovery plan at the rate species are being listed. They also realize plans of this type written in Washington, D.C. or at the state level sit on shelves and are not readily implemented because 1) there is typically no funding behind a regulatory nature, and 2) they are not driven from the grassroots up so they are not well received.

Therefore, the government decided to convert to a locally written, well-funded program to recover salmon at the Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU), which is the entire Snake River Basin from Asotin to Pasco and any Whitman County tributaries that drain into the Snake River becomes part of the geographic area. This includes Almota Creek, Penewawa Creek, Alkali Flat, Wawawai Creek, and Steptoe Creek.

The federal government routed \$300,000 through Washington State Fish & Wildlife to the Asotin Conservation District for this project. Before the Board is formed, the group decided to give each of the Conservation Districts seed money to engage in this process to help develop the Board, get the word out and seek participants for enrollment on the Board so they can begin planning. They have 18-months to get the Board up and running. Mr. Martin said he is visiting with city councils, county commissioners, wheat growers, cattlemen, environmental groups, tribes, state agencies, etc. to solicit their input and involvement as a member of the potentially large, (50 members or greater) board. The board's job will be to oversee the development of the plan that deals with hydropower, hatcheries, harvest, and habitat and then to oversee spending money to help address the risk factors for salmon. The primary focus has been on habitat using existing funding sources. The federal government is now asking to obtain more input on hatcheries, harvest, and hydropower.

Again, the government wants key, local stakeholder involvement. They want a board that is very recognizable so whenever there is money available for salmon recovery from any state or federal agency the money for this region gets routed to the board. The board would then spend the money consistent with the plan. The plan will likely have specific, clear objectives for habitat. There is now money available so landowners don't have to personally assume the expense for compliance with the ESA.

Rob Buchert clarified the roles and responsibilities of the Conservation Districts noting both District received money to participate in this effort. They are part of the Technical Advisory portion of the project. Whitman County is split into two sections. The Palouse Conservation District covers the drainage area from Almota Creek to the Idaho state line, including

Steptoe Creek, Wawawai Creek, and half of Almota Creek. The Whitman Conservation District covers the other half of Almota Creek, Penewawa Creek, and the Alkali Flat drainage area.

Commissioner Wigen was selected to represent Whitman County at the WRIA 35 meetings and for the Salmon Recovery Planning group. Documentation was forwarded to the Palouse Conservation District confirming this action.

2:00 p.m. - Tim Myers, Parks, Fair, Facilities, and Risk Management.

059916 1. Upon review of the bid documents, Mr. Myers recommended the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail sealcoating bid be awarded to Motley-Motley, Inc. **Motion** by Commissioner Finch **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried** to award said bid to Motley-Motley, Inc.

D059916A 2. Mr. Myers advised the commissioners that he is serving on the Technical Review Board responsible for rating the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account grant applications for acquisition, public access, and renovation of public navigable waterways or associated properties. There are a total of 37 projects to be rated and each project review averages 30-45 minutes. This year the Committee will be awarding between \$5.5-\$6 million. Mr. Myers said he would be spending 3 days in Olympia at the end of the month for this purpose.

2:10 p.m. - Recess.

D059916B THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **July 23, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman and Jerry Finch, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

9:00 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/BOCC Workshop.

059917 19. Items discussed included a notary request, unlocked Courthouse doors, the Nolan Building, Auditor's appointment, budget prioritization, Administrative Director interviews, and WSAC Legislative Steering Committee. No action taken.

10:30 a.m. - Recess.

D059917A THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **July 24, 2002 at 11:15 a.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

11:15 a.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued.

D059917B 20. The commissioners traveled to Lacrosse for lunch followed by an on-site inspection of the Darden Bridge being constructed and a tour of a local pheasant farm.

2:00 p.m. - Recess.

D059917C THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met in their Chambers in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington for **July 26, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.** Greg Partch, Chairman, Jerry Finch and Les Wigen, Commissioners and Maribeth Becker, CMC, Clerk of the Board attended.

2:00 p.m. - Reconvene/Board Business Continued/Executive Session.

Present: Bev Welch, and Bob Lothspeich.

D059917D 21. Motion by Commissioner Finch to go into Executive Session with the above individuals for discussion of personnel matters until 3:00 p.m. **Seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**.

3:00 p.m. - Return to Open Session/Adjourn.

D059917E Commissioner Finch **moved** to adjourn the **July 22, 23, 24, and 26, 2002** meeting. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Wigen and **carried**. The Board will meet in regular session, in their Chambers', in the Whitman County Courthouse, Colfax, Washington, on **July 29, 2002**. The foregoing action made this **26th** day of **July 2002**.

ss/ JERRY FINCH, Commissioner
ss/ LES WIGEN, Commissioner

MARIBETH BECKER, CMC
Clerk of the Board

GREG PARTCH, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners