

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE ROOM/WEBEX
SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY

2:00 P.M.

AUGUST 2, 2021

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz, and Commissioner Cory Wright.

Others: Taylor Crouch, Administrative Assistant; Clay Myers, Sheriff; Chris Whitsett, Inspector; Ben Kokjer, Chief Deputy; Pat Nicholson, Fire Marshall; Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Carly Brettmann, Communications Director; and 7 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING MEETING WITH FOREST SERVICE COMMISSIONERS

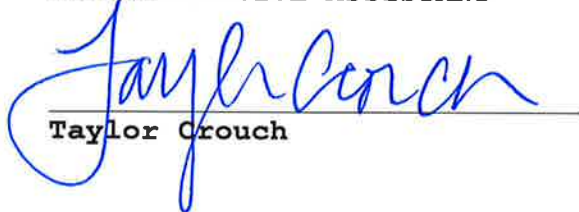
At 2:00 p.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened a Special Meeting to discuss next steps on fire danger in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Victoria Wilkins, Public Affairs, USFS initiated introductions from the Forest Service, and Chairman Wachsmith initiated introductions from the County.

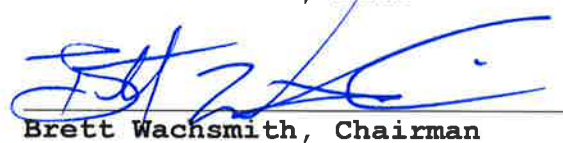
There was discussion on the topic of closing public lands due to fire danger. The Board asked if the closures were unprecedented. USFS said it has happened before but is very rare. The Board was not in favor of blanketly closing public lands for broad fire danger. The Liberty area would be an area of concern due to the diseased forest there. The Board asked USFS to gather more specific data on where and why fires start before closing any lands. The Board will work with Carly Brettmann, Communications Director on messaging to the public on this topic. The County will also provide any data on complaints received around this topic to the USFS to aid their decision making. The Board said they would like to keep all options on the table at this point.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT


Taylor Crouch

KITITITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Brett Wachsmith, Chairman

APPROVED

8/17/21