

**Adjourned Special Meeting of
The North East Washington Coalition
(Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, and Stevens County)
Friday, December 14, 2018**

Commissioner Exner called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Commissioner Parker gave the Invocation

Commissioner Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

- Ferry County Commissioners: Johnna Exner District 1, Nathan Davis District 2, Ferry County Mike Blankenship District 3
- Pend Oreille County Commissioners: Steve Kiss District 3
- Stevens County Commissioners: Wes McCart District 1, Don Dashiell District 2, Steve Parker District 3
- Also present: WSU Extension Director Trevor Lane, Republic District Ranger Travis Fletcher, Cathy McMorris Rodgers Representative Andrew Engell, Citizen Andy Traeger, Ferry County Sheriff Ray Maycumber, and Wildlife Specialist Jeff Flood.

Minutes Review and Approval

Commissioner McCart made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected for September 14th, 2018. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development Prospective Research

WSU Extension Director Trevor Lane gave a video presentation. In 2019 the WSU Extension office will focus on economic development, food systems, broadband, and tribal collaboration. Commissioner McCart asked if the Ferry County Sunrise was integrated with Rural Resources. Commissioner Davis said not yet. Discussion was held on Opportunity Zones. Commissioner Parker asked if the food systems are to help promote local growers to markets. Mr. Lane said yes, but there is a bigger picture involved. Discussion was held on Promise Zones. Discussion was held on wolves. Commissioner McCart asked Commissioner Davis to ask the tribe about their thoughts on the TAS water quality on the river.

Tonasket Ranger District

Discussion was held on the Tonasket Ranger District, Colville National Forest, and Kaniksu Forest. Discussion was held on habitats. Commissioner McCart said he heard the Marble Marlette bird issue is bigger than the spotted owl.

Medical Coverage for the Incarcerated

Commissioner McCart Stevens County jail ended up with a person that lost their Medicaid, the man refused to sign up for Medicaid and it ended up costing Stevens County \$55,000 this year just on the one person. Ferry County has spent \$86,000 for 6 people. Inmates lose their medical coverage the minute they are booked and the state and medical no longer pay as long as they are incarcerated, this could bankrupt counties. The sheriff has to occasionally let someone go so the person can get

medical care or it will hurt the county budget. One or two cases and a county could be bankrupt. If the State Patrol, Fish and Wildlife or any other state agency picks someone up, the county is responsible. Discussion was held on mental health. Commissioner McCart said he is not giving up on the issue, and we need to bring this issue up to SCRILLS.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Issues

Sheriff Maycumber spoke with ranchers; they feel that they have not been included in this. The director of WDFW said they are no longer concerned about the wolves in this region; there is almost no way of getting rid of them now. The tribe is getting tired of the wolves and are ready to take action if need be. Jeff Flood said that the tribal wolf quota have been met in the lower half of the county. Nothing has been done in the north half. Commissioner Parker asked for a strategy to discuss the matter further. Travis Fletcher said it is illegal in incentivize wolf hunting. Discussion was held on collared wolf data. Mr. Flood would like to see better collars on the wolves. The cattleman's association is willing to pay for better collars for the wolves. Mr. Flood is seeing tracks and wolves in areas that supposedly do not have wolves in them. Jeff Flood described the financial losses of area ranchers. Commissioner McCart asked Mr. Flood to write up an official document to be signed by the sheriff that can be used to give to legislatures and the Capital Press, and to include dates, times, and values of all the rancher's loses. Mr. Flood agreed. Commissioner McCart described the amount of acreage containing wolves in Yellowstone and Denali compared to the tri-county area, there are more here with less acreage. Commissioner McCart said there will be a hound bill for public safety.

United States Forest Service

Parker said their objection hearing is set for the Stevens County wilderness issue. Travis Fletcher reported on their 5-year plan and the San Poil project. Discussion was held on the RAC board. Commissioner Blankenship asked Mr. Fletcher to let Franklin Pemberton know that maybe he would have a quorum if he let the interested people on the RAC board.

Department Of Transportation

Discussion was held on the fish passage culvert issue.

Legislative Matters

Discussion was held on unfunded mandates, Indigent Defense, fish barriers, Columbia River project. WSAC issues were discussed. Commissioner McCart sent a letter requesting another superior court judge; they have too many court cases and not enough judges. Commissioner Davis asked if they would be interested in writing a resolution regarding unconstitutional bills, the county commissioners will talk about it individually.

Unfinished Business

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.