



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
FEBRUARY 2, 2011

PRESENT: Sherry Holliday, Chair of County Commission  
Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner  
Rod L. Runyon, County Commissioner  
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer  
Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant

At 9:00 a.m. Chair Sherry Holliday called the meeting to order.

Chair Holliday asked if there were any corrections or additions to today's Agenda.

Commissioner Runyon requested that Item 2 (b) be moved further down on the Discussion List.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Brian Tuck, OSU Extension Service Agent, introduced Lauren Fein newly appointed Family and Community Health/SNAP Ed Area Coordinator. Fein is replacing Fern Wilcox. Fein will be serving the Counties of Hood River and Wasco. Fein will be coordinating the SNAP Ed Program 60% of her time while serving the Counties of Hood River, Sherman and Gilliam.

Lauren Fein stated that she has been in the area for four years. She was raised in Treasure Valley. She attended Oregon State University earning her Master Degree.

Fein briefly explained what her duties are in both programs.

Judy Davis, Columbia River Gorge Commissioner, brought the Board up to speed on Gorge Commission activities. She mentioned the special meeting held last month in regards to the Vital Signs Indicators Project. There were 51 items

WASCO COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
FEBRUARY 2, 2011  
PAGE 2

that were identified that the Gorge Commission wanted to measure. Staff brought the Commission up to date on how many of those items could be measured.

Davis mentioned the recreation survey conducted last summer. The Gorge Commission will be getting the final report in March.

At next week's Gorge Commission Meeting they will be adopting administrative rule changes. The Commission looked at the rules to see what they could streamline as staff was reduced due to funding levels. Davis noted several of the proposals that are being considered at this time. One change is allowing applications to be submitted electronically.

Davis stated that the Gorge Commission has a good working relationship with Wasco County and the Planning & Development Department. The Gorge Commission wants to hear from Counties on issues concerning the Management Plan.

Davis stated that her term on the Columbia River Gorge Commission will expire in June. She is not seeking reappointment. She feels we need an individual that can negotiate, talk to all the parties and help craft a proposal that is doable. One of the major issues that the Gorge Commission will consider is the expansion of the urban growth boundary.

Chair Holliday stated that Judy has done an excellent job representing Wasco County. Wasco County is grateful for her work with the Planning & Development Department.

Commissioner Hege asked her to give us more information on where the Gorge Commission is on the urban growth boundary process.

Davis stated that Staff is working with the City of The Dalles. The Commission spent two days touring urban areas within the scenic area. She pointed out there are some strict guidelines within the scenic act. The act assigns the responsibility to the Gorge Commission for approving urban boundary revisions. There are people that feel there should be no change.

Some discussion occurred regarding urban growth boundary expansion and funding of the Columbia River Gorge Commission by the States of Oregon and Washington.

Davis noted during the discussion that they only have 1.5 planners. The Gorge Commission has to be careful on taking on a large project due to staffing levels.

Some discussion occurred regarding the outcome of the Vital Signs Indicator Meeting held last month as to economics.

Richard Murray presented to the Board an article pertaining to House Bill 2229, (Attached as Exhibit A). He noted that the Oregon Legislator passed a law that the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) was to make it so Counties could reconsider rezoning rural properties. The Counties of Deschutes and Jackson have already logged on. DLCD is now saying that they have no money to implement HB 2229. Murray stated that if Thomas Teven's property was rezoned properly Teven's property would not be in violation today.

Murray stated in order for them to build a garage at Georgia's Office he needed to sign a non-remonstrance agreement. The City put their property into the City Limits, which raised his taxes. The City would not take over Chenowith Loop Road since it was not built to City standards. The City took in Tenth Street to Chenowith Creek. It is Georgia's position for the County to tell the City they are taking taxes from property owners so they need to be maintaining the street. Murray stated tell the City firmly that you take the taxes. They also get liquor and cigarette tax money. "You take the taxes then take the road".

**OPEN TO DEPARTMENTS**

Teri Thalhofer, North Central Public Health District Director, informed the Board of what the Governor's Office is proposing in the Early Childhood Transition Report. The Governor is proposing to move the Maternal Child Health Program out of the Health Authority to a new Early Childhood System that will work on early childhood issues. Thalhofer finds it disconcerting that they would move these nurses out of Public Health. The nurses are funded to make home visits and are trained to deal with emergency situations. Under this proposal she would lose two nurses and the WIC Program is in it, resulting in a loss of four additional staff members. All of these staff members were important when dealing with H1N1. This could limit the District's ability to deal with public health emergencies. Thalhofer was surprised to learn that this would be moved under the Department of Education.

Some discussion occurred regarding the Governor's proposal and the proposed creation of five regions.

Thalhofer was directed to send a copy of the Early Childhood Transition Report to the Board of Commissioners and to Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer.

Christa Rude, Commission on Children and Families Administrator, stated that she has received all of those reports and the proposed budget. The Executive Committee will be meeting tomorrow. They do not know what the details are at this point in time.

Gary Nychyk, Interim Planning & Development Director, requested the Board's consideration to allow the Planning & Development Department to be closed to the public during the lunch hour. The benefit to the Department is reducing the counter coverage to one employee during the day. As it is now, one employee covers the counter from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and another from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and then from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There is a lot of carry over business from one shift to another, which drags on passed their lunch hour.

Nychyk stated that it is important to remember that it is a customer service issue that they offer. That is the free service that they provide. It is the paid customer service that they need to make sure that we are providing. It is important to expedite the review of the applications. Each Planner has two full days working at the counter per week.

Nychyk would propose that the Department would advertise the new hours, if approved, before implementing the closure during the lunch hour.

Some discussion occurred.

Nychyk noted that the employees currently work from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. No one works on Fridays. The counter is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Nychyk stated that he believes the Department is short two people. The Planning Assistant took 90% of the phone calls. When we lost the Planning Assistant that person's counter coverage was split between the two Associate Planners.

Commissioner Hege expressed his concern regarding closing the office during the lunch hour. He asked if there was another time that we could make that change.

Nychyk responded by stating that he wanted to avoid putting that hour in the morning or the afternoon. It still takes two people covering the counter.

Stone stated that we need to take into consideration meals and breaks. It is a long and complicated formula. He does not think the 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will cross any boundary there. However, he needs to look into it.

Further discussion occurred.

Stone and Nychyk will look into the matter and will come back to the Board with what we can and can't do in regards to this matter.

**CONSIDERATION of items listed on the Discussion List of February 2, 2011, (Attached as Exhibit B).**

Item #1

The Board discussed appointing someone to the Oregon Consortium.

Commissioner Runyon stated that anyone can be appointed to the Oregon Consortium; it does not have to be a County Commissioner. He wondered if it is even worthwhile for a Commissioner to be a part of the Oregon Consortium.

Commissioner Runyon has no interest in serving on the Oregon Consortium.

**{{{Commissioner Runyon moved to appoint Chair Sherry Holliday to the Oregon Consortium. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Item #2 (a)

Commissioner Hege does not feel that a monthly presentation from the County's Economic Development Coordinator is needed. He is thinking quarterly would be sufficient. If the Coordinator has an issue they could schedule time before the Board to make a presentation.

Commissioner Runyon agreed with Commissioner Hege. When there are specific issues, getting on the Agenda makes more sense. He is open to the Coordinator coming every month if she feels it is needed.

Chair Holliday disagreed. She feels that the monthly report is very valuable. The Economic Development Commission is responsible to the Board. It is great to hear what is going on with the Commission and economic development activities in the County.

Former County Judge/Board of Commissioners Chair Dan Ericksen stated every month may be a little excessive. Every other month may be good. The connection that Jessica Metta gets from the Commissioners is good for her. He agrees with everything that the Commissioners are saying.

**\*\*\*It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to hear an Economic Development Commission Report every other month\*\*\*.**

The Board requested a copy of the current Intergovernmental Agreement with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District.

Item #2 (c)

Chair Holliday stated that she has addressed the issue on whether or not the Wage and Classification Committee is still needed. Staff feels that there is still a need for the Committee since the County does not have a current compensation study.

Stone stated that the County has no statistical data to support the decisions that are being made. We can go out and get the data from comparable Counties. The real issue is looking at our classification schedules and making comparisons amongst Departments. That is where the real struggle comes in. The solution has been to get the study so that they have something to work with.

Discussion occurred.

Commissioner Runyon stated that he went to the last Wage and Classification Committee Meeting. He saw some value of the interaction with the Department Heads. It seemed like shooting in the dark if you don't have the financials involved. He feels it is important to have the financial person involved in the meeting. As far as whether we need it or not he would like to hear from the people on the Committee.

Thalhofer stated as far as financials, it is helpful to other Committee members. Each of the Departments is responsible for their own budgets. Thalhofer noted an incident when she could support her request to reclassify a position in her Department. Karen LeBreton Coats, a member of the Wage and Classification Committee, recognized that Thalhofer could make a case for the reclassification, but Coats felt she needed to put her foot down since we could not justify reclassifying non general fund departments when the general fund departments are not allowed to be reclassified. The Committee feels we need the compensation study.

Thalhofer noted at budget we were asked if we wanted to give up money and staff to fund the compensation study. She could not support that to staff.

Commissioner Hege stated that he concurs with what he heard. If we don't have money to pay for reclassification then it seems pointless to go through the process.

Further discussion occurred.

Commissioner Runyon felt that these types of requests should be filtered through the Administrative Officer and Finance to see if they concur with the request.

Chair Holliday feels that these requests should be brought to the Board of Commissioners.

The Board decided after a lengthy discussion to continue moving on as is and put the Wage and Classification Committee in an inactive status.

**DISCUSSION on the Special Transportation Discretionary Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2013; presented by Dan Schwanz, Wasco County Special Transportation Fund Coordinator.**

Dan Schwanz, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments Transportation Director, provided the new Commissioners with some background information on the Special Transportation Fund (STF) Program. The Program is intended to serve elderly and disabled people. The State distributes funding through Counties and Transportation Districts. The County has contracted with Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG) to handle the administration of the Program on behalf of Wasco County.

The Wasco County Elderly and Handicapped Special Transportation Funds Advisory Committee make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The County has the final say in regards to those recommendations.

Schwanz noted the organizations that receive funding under the STF Program. He also mentioned that there are three different programs that we apply for funding from the state. The Advisory Committee has reviewed and is recommending applying for the grants as outlined in his handout, (Attached as Exhibit C). How the County uses the funding is determined at the local level; how much money we get is determined at the state level.

Schwanz stated that the first grant is a federally funded program, Section 5310, which supports the elderly and disabled program. In the last few years it was modified from a capital program to purchase of services. Wasco County is the recipient of the funding. The County contracts with MCCOG to provide the services. The grant is 90% federal funding with a 10% local match. MCCOG is challenged coming up with the required match.

Schwanz stated that the next grant is for vehicle maintenance. It allows them to maintain the vehicles for a two year period of time. It costs around \$60,000 over the biennium to maintain their fleet. They have 10 vehicles; ratio is 90% to 10%.

The last funding source is the Discretionary Special Transportation Funds (STF). Those are dollars that the state did not use during the Formula Program. This time around there is no required match. MCCOG is able to use this funding as their local match money. There are no strings attached. MCCOG is proposing to use this funding for fuel for Opportunity Connections and for driver wages for the MCCOG Link Program.

Schwanz stated that all of this funding is dependent upon budgets at the federal and state levels. It has been pretty solid funding over the years.

The STF funding is based on cigarette tax funding, identification and gasoline funding. It is somewhat dedicated funding. The Governor is proposing to use some of this funding. The state funding is in question; he is not sure if these numbers are solid within the next two years.

Some discussion occurred.

Schwanz noted during the discussion that MCCOG receives directly a federal grant under Section 5311; Link's ridership is elderly, disabled and the general public; their dispatch and brokerage office was relocated to the MCCOG's Office on Kelly Avenue; they now park their vehicles at the Oregon Department of Transportation Office on Brett Clodfelter Way; and they are no longer the Grey Hound Agent.

**{{{Commissioner Runyon moved to approve the submittal of the STG State Discretionary Grant Program and Federal Section 5310 Program Grant Applications as recommended by the Wasco County Elderly and Handicapped Special Transportation Funds Advisory Committee. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

**CONTINUATION OF THE CONSIDERATION of Items listed on the Discussion List of February 2, 2011.**

Item 2 (d)

The Board of Commissioners discussed conducting meetings with County Departments, as well as the continuation of Department Head Meetings.



Chair Holliday wants to continue to have the Department Head Meetings, at least monthly.

Commissioner Runyon wants to conduct Department Meetings after noticing the public of said meeting. He suggested that a memo be distributed to Department Heads seeking their input on the continuation of the Department Head Meetings.

Commissioner Hege wants to make sure that the Department Head Meetings are valuable to those that are attending the meetings.

Thalhofer stated that the meetings are valuable. She feels one meeting per month is adequate.

Chair Holliday will send out a memo to Departments seeking their input on the monthly Department Head Meetings, while Commissioner Runyon will work on setting up meetings with County Departments.

**CONSIDERATION of the recommendations from the Wasco County Wage and Classification Committee; presented by Hope Vance, Payroll/Human Resources Generalist.**

Eric Nisley, District Attorney, stopped in to address the recommendation from the Wage and Classification Committee in regards to the Chief Legal Secretary Position in his Department, (Attached as Exhibit D).

Nisley noted that Colleen Duncan first started working in his office in 1973 and retired last Thursday. In 1988 she was rehired with the condition that she be allowed to work .80 FTE. He is proposing to hire the Chief Legal Secretary at full time and the other Legal Secretary at .80 FTE. Those two positions produce most of the paper work in his office.

Some discussion occurred.

Stone noted that there will be an increase in costs since Nisley is proposing to offer Step 3 to an existing employee within the office.

Stone presented the recommendation of the Wage and Classification Committee in regards to the Patrol Sergeant. He noted that the Patrol Deputy who is being promoted to Sergeant needs to be moved to Step 4 on the Non-Represented Salary Schedule to allow for a minimal bump in compensation for the huge increase in duties and responsibilities.

Monica Morris, Finance Manager, stated that Sheriff Rick Eiesland and District Attorney Eric Nisley are asking for a higher step not because the employee will make less but because of the benefits change. The benefits are different which makes the net pay less. They are not taking a promotion and getting less pay; it is a different benefit package.

Thalhofer presented the recommendation of the Wage and Classification Committee in regards to the Public Health Nurse II and Program Secretary Positions. Both positions are budgeted at .60 FTE. She is proposing that the Public Health Nurse II Position be refilled at .60 FTE, but the Program Secretary be changed from .60 FTE to full time. They have a need for additional support for the Healthy Communities Grant.

Some discussion occurred.

It was noted during the discussion by Thalhofer that the Program ends in July. There may or may not be funding for the increase in the FTE for the Program Secretary Position in the next funding cycle. If she plans to use other existing dollars to fund the position we will discuss why it is staying at full time during the budget process. If not, the position will return to the prior FTE level.

Thalhofer discussed with the Board the Walkability Study Grant that the Department received. The grant budget included work for a Planner to participate as well as the GIS Department. There may be a request for Jeanette Montour to work up to 40 hours per week to fulfill the grant requirements. Planning work would be the priority. Montour would be building the access data base and would be working with GIS. She would need to train a person to do the data entry. There are limited dollars to spend for the Planner. There is \$2,400 budgeted for the GIS Department. GIS participated in the last survey as an in-kind contribution.

Stone stated that he spoke to Gary Nychyk, Interim Planning & Development Director, about this matter. Nychyk talked about not having the Director in place and covering for that work to be done. Moving the position from 37.5 hours to 40 hours; his concern is that the planning responsibilities come first. Any overtime would be grant driven and would be paid for by Public Health.

Discussion occurred regarding the Walkability Study Grant Project.

**{{{Commissioner Runyon moved to approve the recommendation of the Wasco County Wage and Classification Committee as follows: to authorize the Sheriff to fill the Patrol Sergeant Position at Step 4 or higher; to authorize the District Attorney to fill the Chief Legal Secretary Position at full time up from .80 FTE; to authorize the North Central Public Health District Director to fill the Public Health Nurse II Position at .60 FTE; and to authorize the North Central Public Health District Director to increase the Program Secretary from .60 FTE to full time. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

**CONSIDERATION of the recommendation from the Wasco County Economic Development Commission in regards to a vacancy on the Economic Development Commission.**

Jessica Metta, Economic Development Coordinator, noted that she made an error in her written report, (Attached as Exhibit E). Keith Mobley's term on the Wasco County Economic Development Commission expired in 2010 and not 2011. The Economic Development Commission interviewed candidates and is recommending that the County reopen the search process.

Kathy McBride, Executive Assistant, presented a brief history on the establishment and expansion of the Economic Development Commission.

Joan Silver, Economic Development Commission Chair, stated that we need a little different outreach to bring someone else in from outside The Dalles.

A lengthy discussion occurred.

Silver noted that there was nothing wrong with either of the two applicants for the position. However both reside within the City of The Dalles. The Commission would like to get representation from outside of The Dalles area.

**{{{Commissioner Hege moved to accept the recommendation of the Wasco County Economic Development Commission to extend the time frame for applying for the opening on the Wasco County Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Chair Holliday stated that the current applicants will be considered for appointment along with any other applicants that may apply for the opening.

The Board recessed at 11:17 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

**{{{Commissioner Hege moved to disband the Wasco County Wage and Classification Committee. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Further discussion occurred regarding the hiring process.

Commissioner Runyon felt that the Board of Commissioners would not be making the decisions on hiring.

Commissioner Runyon suggested that Stone recommend to the Board the process change for hiring and refilling positions within the County Service.

Chair Holliday stated that she is not ready to give up that option of the Commission being involved in the hiring process.

Stone stated that he will not take it on by himself anytime when we are taking a negative action, are cutting a position, or we are not allowing someone to increase a position. Stone will bring back a suggested hiring process for the Board's consideration.

**DISCUSSION on the updates to the Planning & Development and Code Compliance Customer Satisfaction Survey; presented by Gary Nychyk, Interim Planning Director.**

Gary Nychyk, Interim Planning & Development Director, presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the updates to the Customer Satisfaction Survey for Planning and Code Compliance. He noted that they are asking customers to respond to eight or nine questions. Nychyk wanted to get feedback from the Commissioners before the updated survey is uploaded to the County's website.

A lengthy discussion occurred in regards to the updated Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Stone suggested that the survey needed to include who the survey is going to.

Nychyk stated that the Board of Commissioners would be given access to the comments received. He believes that it could be set up to send out monthly emails with the survey results. The survey will be on the County's website and will be posted in the Department's notices of decisions and on all code compliance documents.

Chair Holliday felt it was important to know who has completed the survey so that the County could have a conversation with the individual.

Commissioner Runyon agreed with Chair Holliday. He asked if we could include an optional page where the individual filling out the survey could leave their name and contact information.

Nychyk had no problem with including an optional field that would allow the contact information to be included.

Commissioner Runyon suggested that the survey be marketed in the newspaper, by radio and other news sheets around town.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:06 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:59 p.m.

**CONTINUATION OF THE CONSIDERATION of items listed on the  
Discussion List of February 2, 2011.**

Item #2 (g)

Chair Holliday stated that Dan Spatz has been emailing her in regards to the Community Outreach Team. He would like to be present later today when the Board discusses who will be the County's Representative on the Outreach Team.

Commissioner Hege stated that he spent an hour and a half with Nolan Young and Dan Spatz on this issue.

Item 2 (e)

The Board of Commissioners discussed the unwritten Policy on replacing individuals to Boards and Committees. The Policy has been to ask the individual whose term is expiring if they are interested in being considered for reappointment if the individual has not served for two full terms.

Chair Holliday is happy with leaving the Policy as is. She is comfortable with advertising the opening after an individual has served two terms.

Commissioner Runyon suggested that we include language within the advertisement notice that the existing member may reapply.

Commissioner Runyon stated if we ask the candidate if they want to continue to serve and if they do, why not reappoint them. Commissioner Runyon does not feel we should then advertise the opening.

Commissioner Hege stated that he attended yesterday's Planning Commission Meeting where there was a discussion on filling an expired term on the Planning Commission. He suggested that the Board review the Planning Commission's By Laws. Commissioner Hege feels that the Board would like to know if a volunteer is interested in continuing to serve and if the Board is interested in reappointing the individual.

A lengthy discussion occurred in regards to the recommendation of the Wasco County Planning Commission in regards to the appointment of an individual to the Planning Commission, (Attached as Exhibit F).

**{{{Commissioner Hege moved to reappoint Jill Amery to the Wasco County Planning Commission. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Item #4

A discussion occurred on appointments and reappointments to various Boards and Committees.

Commissioner Hege stated that Jim Yuhas is interested in being considered for appointment to the Board of Property Tax and Appeals. He attended the recent training. Yuhas has a financial background.

**DISCUSSION on the proposed Agreement between Wasco County and Thomas Teven for a code compliance violation.**

Keith Cleveland, Code Compliance Officer, stated that he is here seeking direction from the Board of Commissioners on the proposed Agreement with Thomas Teven, (Attached as Exhibit G).

Cleveland went over two proposed changes to the Agreement. County Counsel Eric Nisley requested that the definition of structure be further defined and that there be stronger language in the Agreement noting the County's ability to tear down the dwelling and structure.

Cleveland noted that he has spoken to Teven regarding the Agreement and the requirements that will be applied to his property.

Some discussion occurred.

**\*\*\*It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to authorize Keith Cleveland, Code Compliance Officer, to send out the proposed Agreement to Thomas Teven\*\*\*.**

**CONTINUATION OF THE CONSIDERATION of items listed on the Discussion List of February 2, 2011.**

Item 2 (e)

**{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve the following documents: Order #11-017 in the matter of the appointment of Jim Yuhas to the Board of Property Tax Appeals; Order #11-018 in the matter of the reappointment of Lowell Foreman to the Board of Review; Order #11-019 in the matter of the reappointment of Hal Lindell to the Board of Review; Order #11-020 in the matter of the reappointment of Ryan Bessette to the Wasco County Weed Council; Order #11-021 in the matter of the reappointment of John Zalaznik to the Wasco County Weed Council; Order #11-022 in the matter of the reappointment of Monica Morris as Wasco County Budget Director; and Order #11-023 in the matter of the reappointment of Michael Hunt to the Wasco County Fair Board. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

McBride informed the Board of the request from Denise Minson to allow the Fair Board to recommend an individual to fill the expired term of Kay Tenold on the Wasco County Fair Board.

It is the preference of the Board to advertise the opening and to allow the Fair Board to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on the appointment of an individual to fill the current vacancy.

Item #2 (f)

The Wasco County Library Service District and the Wasco County 4-H & Extension Service District will be convened to conduct business on February 16, 2011, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Item #2 (h)

McBride noted that Reports from County Commissioners use to be listed on the Board's Agendas.

Commissioner Hege likes the idea of listing this topic on the Board of Commissioners Agenda.

Commissioner Runyon handed out a listing of group reservations which have been made at Hunt RV Park in Tygh Valley. He attended a recent Fair Board Meeting.

Commissioner Runyon also reported on The Dalles Community Visioning Meeting he attended recently. The City will be sending out 1,500 surveys throughout the community.

Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer, reported that he just received an email that they are \$4,000 short on the ditch project at the Fair Grounds. They are still looking for funding for the project.

Commissioner Runyon reported that two businesses receiving loans from the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) are not responding. MCEDD will be meeting with their attorney this week in regards to this matter.

Commissioner Hege stated during the last two weeks he has attended 12 different events. One was the Tri-County Mental Health Board Meeting. One thing he heard was that the Counties might help to finance their building project. He told them in no certain terms that Wasco County does not have any money to loan to their building project.

Commissioner Hege reported on the meeting he attended with a group of no till farmers. The meeting was related to the urban growth boundary expansion. There is an area called "urban reserve". There are some people that have opposed that area from the beginning. They have signed a petition. Based on that information he spoke to Dan Durow and Nolan Young from the City of The Dalles. Commissioner Hege told the City Representatives that they need to resolve that issue.

**UPDATE from the Wasco/Hood River Veterans Services Advisory Committee; *presented by Steve Lawrence.***

Steve Lawrence, Wasco/Hood River Veterans Services Advisory Committee Member, presented to the Board a report from the Advisory Committee, (Attached as Exhibit H).

Some discussion occurred.

Lawrence mentioned during the discussion the following: that the doctor at the Veterans Clinic is there for six months; Lynn Guenther will be addressing the



Hood River County Board of Commissioners regarding the Veterans Services Office in Hood River; the Veterans Ad Hoc Committee is meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Civic; the Ad Hoc Committee is an arm under the Memorial Committee and they will be raising funds separately; the Advisory Committee meetings will evidently be held at the Veterans Office downtown; they have a work study person and volunteers assisting the Office; and that they are looking into the possibility of an answering service that would cost \$500 versus spending \$1,000 on a part time temp.

Lawrence stated that Pat Stone, Jim Burren and himself will assist Les Logsdon, Veterans Service Officer, if a case comes up under appeal.

**Other business:**

Nolan Young, City of The Dalles Manager, and Dan Spatz, Columbia Gorge Community College, met with the Board to discuss the Community Outreach Team.

Chair Holliday stated that there is no question on who is our County representative. The question is if we are going to send anyone to Washington, D.C. in March. Commissioner Hege has already stated that he will not be going. Chair Holliday would have taken the position but she has a health issue that does not allow her to fly.

Spatz stated that he has spoken to all of the Commissioners individually. He knows that they are supportive of the Community Outreach Team. There is money issues involved concerning the Discovery Center, National Guard, Summit Ridge, and providing introduction and guidance. The most important thing in his mind is any unintended message of the absence of a County representative. There has been an election; you don't want a staffer reading anything into it. A physical presence would be important.

Chair Holliday agreed with Spatz. The team is important. At one point Stone stated that he would be willing to go.

Commissioner Runyon stated that he does support the Outreach Team. As a Port of The Dalles Commission Member the Port did not always have someone going to Washington, D.C. He is not sure if it would be a noticeable absence. Commissioner Runyon stated that he would be willing to go at one point; an agency head sometimes has the best information.

Commissioner Runyon stated if Stone cannot go his thought would be for us to skip it and send someone in the fall. The County spends around \$2,400 for the

trip. He is not in favor of sending a citizen to represent the County; it needs to be a Commissioner or our Administrative Officer.

Young stated in March is when Congress starts submitting their appropriation requests and in September they are attempting to wrap up the actual funding packages.

Discussion occurred.

**\*\*\*It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to send Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer, to Washington, D.C. in March, 2011 as Wasco County's Representative on the Community Outreach Team\*\*\*.**

Stone informed the Board and Young of an issue he is having with Frontier Telenet which impacts five Counties.

Young requested that Stone provide him with a one page briefing on the issue so that they could set up a meeting. Young felt it would be good to make our delegation aware of the issue with Frontier Telenet.

Young stated that he heard that the County will be talking to Klickitat County regarding Veterans. He reminded the Board when the County and City were working on animal control it was brought up that we are providing animal control services to Klickitat County residents. It would be great if Klickitat County was able to assist in providing \$10,000 to \$20,000 in funding assistance for animal control services.

**CONTINUATION OF THE CONSIDERATION of items listed on the Discussion List of February 2, 2011.**

Item #2 (i)

The Board discussed participating in some way at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon this summer. Commissioners Runyon and Hege are interested in volunteering at the Conference, which would allow them to attend seminars or committee meetings for free.

**\*\*\*It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners that Wasco County commit \$1,000 for event sponsorship for this year's National Association of Counties Conference in Portland, Oregon\*\*\*.**

Staff was directed to contact Sarah Granger regarding the County's contribution.

Item #3

**\*\*\*It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioner to approve the Title III Project Reimbursement Request from the Wasco County Sheriff's Office for the Search and Rescue Forest Mission Expense Reimbursement Project\*\*\*.**

Item #6

**{{{Commissioner Runyon moved to approve the Amended Personal Service Contract between Wasco County, Oregon and Wamic Rural Fire Protection District. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

Item #2 (b)

Commissioner Runyon will talk to each of the Commissioners individually in regards to reformatting the Board's Agenda.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL of the Regular Session Consent Calendar of February 2, 2011, (Attached as Exhibit I).**

**{{{Commissioner Runyon moved to approve the Regular Session Consent Calendar of February 2, 2011 as presented. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}}**

The Board signed:

- Order #11-016 in the matter of an Amended Order declaring the formation of Tygh Valley Rural Fire Protection District and setting date for election of first Board of Directors.
- Continuation of Lease Agreement with La Clinical del Carino.
- Grant Agreement between The Ford Family Foundation and the Wasco County Commission on Children & Families.
- Order #11-017 in the matter of the appointment of Jim Yugas to the Wasco County Board of Property Tax Appeals.
- Order #11-018 in the matter of the reappointment of Lowell Foreman to the Board of Review.
- Order #11-019 in the matter of the reappointment of Hal Lindell to the Board of Review.
- Order #11-020 in the matter of the reappointment of Ryan Bessette to the Wasco County Weed Council.


WASCO COUNTY COURT  
REGULAR SESSION  
FEBRUARY 2, 2011  
PAGE 20

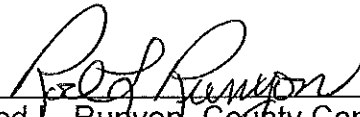
- Order #11-021 in the matter of the reappointment of John Zalaznik to the Wasco County Weed Council.
- Order #11-022 in the matter of the reappointment of Monica Morris as Wasco County Budget Director.
- Order #11-023 in the matter of the reappointment of Michael Hunt to the Wasco County Fair Board.
- Amended Personal Service Contract between Wasco County, Oregon and Wamic Rural Fire Protection District.

At 3:00 p.m. the Board adjourned.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Holliday, Chair of Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod L. Ruryori, County Commissioner

## House Bill 2229 Update

*By Dave Hunnicutt, President, Oregonians In Action*

In past editions of Looking Forward, we've discussed the provisions of House Bill 2229, the bill passed by the 2009 Oregon legislature that made important changes to Oregon's land use laws.

The most important change resulting from HB 2229 is a provision that authorizes county governments across the state to reconsider the zoning of their rural properties. Under current Oregon law, nearly 97% of all privately owned rural land is zoned as farmland or forestland, regardless of the capability of the land to be used for natural resource production.

This zoning pattern is the result of two Goals adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission in 1975 – Goals 3 and 4. Goal 3 defines "agricultural land" and Goal 4 defines "forestland."

Each Goal contains an overly broad definition, encompassing hundreds of thousands of acres that have not and cannot be used for farming or forestry. The end result is a rural Oregon landscape composed of miszoned land that has been idle for decades, contributing nothing to Oregon's struggling rural economy.

At the same time, thousands of rural property owners have watched in dismay as their property remains vacant, good for nothing but the hope that someday the laws will change.

Over the years, the Oregon legislature has struggled mightily to fix the problem of these "secondary lands" – lands that are zoned as farmland or forestland yet are incapable of being put to profitable use in either industry.

Efforts to change the zoning of these lands have been hindered by special interest groups who enjoy open space created by this massive rural miszoning. Despite claiming to be interested in maintaining Oregon's agricultural

*continued on page 8*

## **House Bill 2229 Update**

*continued from page 7*

and timber industries (look to see if any of these groups ever intervene on behalf of timber or agricultural groups when the environmental corporations sue to block timber harvests or new regulations limiting farm practices), these groups are simply trying to keep the land as open space.

Fortunately, the Oregon legislature stepped forward in 2009 and approved HB 2229. Under the bill, counties can work with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to rezone some of the miszoned rural land in their county. Each county will be evaluated on a separate basis, according to a work plan developed between the county and DLCD.

HB 2229 was approved by the legislature on a near unanimous vote (there was one "no" vote), and was signed by Governor Kulongoski.

After HB 2229 was approved, a number of counties informed DLCD of their interest in rezoning some of their rural land under the bill. Two counties, Deschutes and Jackson, have formally informed DLCD of their interest in the bill.

Unfortunately, as is often the case with complicated bills, HB 2229 cannot be implemented until LCDC adopts administrative rules to create the process to carry out the bill.

At present, LCDC is scheduled to begin rulemaking in March, 2011. That process, however, can be sidetracked due to reductions in DLCD's budget. As a result, Oregonians In Action will be working with the 2011 legislature to ensure that a portion of LCDC's budget is directed toward implementing HB 2229, and working with counties to fix some of the zoning mistakes that have plagued rural counties for over three decades.

**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
FEBRUARY 2, 2011**

**DISCUSSION LIST**

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Discussion on whether to appoint a County Commissioner to the Oregon Consortium.
2. Discussion on the following items:
  - a. Presentations from the Economic Development Coordinator.
  - b. Will there be an Open to the Public and Department time on the Board of Commissioners Agenda?
  - c. Discussion on the Wage and Classification Committee (Need for Committee, and Appointment of Individuals to the Committee (Linda Brown, and Molly Rogers).
  - d. Annual Department Meetings.
  - e. Discussion on Board Appointments (Policy, Fair Board, and Weed Council).
  - f. Meeting date and time for the Governing Body to meet as the Wasco County 4-H & Extension Service District and the Wasco County Library Service District (February 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>).
  - g. Discussion on the Outreach Team Representative for Wasco County.
  - h. Reports from County Commissioners on meetings attended, etc...
  - i. Discussion on the National Association of Counties Conference.
3. Consideration and approval of the Title III Project Reimbursement Request from the Wasco County Sheriff's Office for the Search and Rescue Forest Mission Expense Reimbursement Project.
4. Consideration of the approval of Orders appointing or reappointing individuals to various Boards, Committees, etc...

Order #11-017 appointing Jim Yuhas to Board of Property Tax Appeals  
Order #11-018 reappointing Lowell Foreman to Board of Review  
Order #11-019 reappointing Hal Lindell to Board of Review  
Order #11-020 reappointing Ryan Bissette to Weed Council  
Order #11-021 reappointing John Zalaznik to Weed Council  
Order #11-022 reappointing Monica Morris as Budget Director  
Order #11-023 reappointing Michael Hunt to Fair Board  
Order #11-024 appointing Linda Brown to Wage and Classification Committee  
Order #11-025 appointing Molly Rogers to Wage and Classification Committee

5. Discussion on the request from the Wasco County Fair Board to recommend a replacement for Kay Tenold on the Fair Board.
6. Approval of Amended Personal Service Contract between Wasco County, Oregon and Wamic Rural Fire Protection District.



## Wasco County Special Transportation Fund

## Special Transportation Discretionary Grant Program, FY 2011-2013

The following is a description of each grant request that is being made through the Special Transportation Discretionary Grant program Section 5310 Grant Program. Note, for this period the Discretionary and Section 5310 amounts are allocated by formula to each STF agency for a two year period.

	Applicant	Project	Cost
	Wasco County	Purchase of Services	Total Project Cost - \$123,236 5310 Grant Share - \$110,580
This grant is to Wasco County who then purchases transportation services from Mid-Columbia Council of Governments			
	Mid-Columbia Council of Governments	Vehicle Maintenance	Total Project Cost - \$60,000 5310 Grant Share - \$53,838
This is a request to conduct regular preventative maintenance on our vehicles for two years. This includes the vehicles leased to the Opportunity Connections and vehicles in use in south Wasco County.			
	Wasco County	Discretionary STF funds to support MCCOG's services and fuel for Opportunity Connections	Total Project Cost - \$30,000 STF Share - \$30,000
This grant will support the purchase of fuel up to \$15,000 for vehicles operated in Wasco County by Opportunity Connections. \$15,000 would go to driver wages for MCCOG in support of the dial-a-ride services.			

**Wasco County  
Wage & Classification Committee**

Date: January 25, 2011

To: County Court

From: Tyler Stone  
Wage & Classification Committee

Subject: Sheriff – Patrol Sergeant  
District Attorney – Chief Legal Secretary  
Public Health – Public Health Nurse II and Program Secretary

The Wage & Class committee met on January 12, 2011. It is the recommendation of the Wage & Classification Committee:

Patrol Sergeant (Sheriff's Office) - recommend that the Patrol sergeant position be filled at a Step 4 or higher.

Chief Legal Secretary (District Attorney's Office) – recommend that the fte be increased from a .80 fte position to full-time, since there would be no additional cost to the current budget.

Public Health Nurse II (Public Health) – recommendation to fill the budgeted position at .60 fte.

Program Secretary (Public Health) – recommend the increase from .60 fte to full-time based on the need for additional support for the Healthy Communities grant.

CC: Tyler Stone, EAS Administrator  
Wage & Classification Committee Chairperson

**WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

515 East Second Street The Dalles, OR 97058 ♦ 541-296-2266 ♦ www.co.wasco.or.us/county/wcedc

**To:** Wasco County Board of Commissioners

**From:** Jessica Metta, Wasco County Economic Development Commission Coordinator

**Date:** January 25, 2011

**Subject:** Economic Development Commission Vacancy Recommendation

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**Action Requested:** The Wasco County Economic Development Commission requests approval by the Wasco County Board of Commissioners to conduct a wider search outside of The Dalles to fill the current vacancy.

**Background:**

In November 2010, Keith Mobley informed the Wasco County Economic Development Commission (EDC) that he would not be seeking reappointment for his At Large position on the Commission, set to expire December 31, 2011. To fill this vacancy, an announcement of the vacancy and request for applicants was posted in The Dalles Chronicle, on the Wasco County website and shared through the EDC Commissioners. Two applications were received by the deadline of December 20: Kenneth McBain and William Lennox.

The EDC met on January 20, 2011 for their regular bi-monthly meeting. One of the agenda items was to review the applications and vote on a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to fill the vacancy. During the discussion, it was determined that while both applicants were well qualified to serve on the EDC, the Commissioners thought the EDC would benefit from broader geographic representation among the Commissioners. Because both applicants reside in The Dalles, the final motion was passed to request the opportunity to conduct a wider search in order to meet the countywide perspective for which the EDC was intended.

The applicants were made aware of this motion; William Lennox subsequently withdrew his application. Kenneth McBain's application is included with this memo.

At the Board of County Commissioners meeting of February 2, 2011, I will therefore request the opportunity to conduct a search outside of The Dalles to fill the current vacancy on the EDC. I propose sending a letter or email to the contacts I have through the Needs and Issues process that are outside of The Dalles. I will also seek publication options besides The Dalles Chronicle. Deadlines would be appropriate towards a goal of voting on an application at the EDC's next regular meeting on March 17, 2011.

Jessica:

In a call to your office yesterday, I was advised to submit a letter and resume to you for consideration of me for the open position on the Wasco County Economic Development Commission as recently advertised. Having just returned to The Dalles in late November, my personal files containing a more formal Curriculum Vitae still elude me. I hope the brief Bio attached will suffice. If not, please advise.

I feel the scope of my career experiences can contribute much to assisting the County and region in issues of economic development, particularly in these very challenging economic times. Wasco County has exceptional potential on a variety of fronts - recreation and tourism, agriculture, energy development and light industrial capacity. As the hub for an ever-growing regional populace, the demand for planned expansion is vital and how we utilize our resources, both natural and manufactured, is essential. I hope my application will be seriously considered.

Thank you,

Kenneth A. McBain

(Jessica informed him that his email was sufficient for a letter of interest in the position.)

WASCO COUNTY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

2705 East Second Street  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Phone: (541) 506-2560  
Fax: (541) 506-2561  
Web Address: co.wasco.or.us

# Memorandum

**To:** Wasco County Board of County Commissioners  
**CC:** Wasco County Planning Commission  
Gary Nychyk, Interim Planning Director  
**From:** Brenda Jenkins, Planning Coordinator  
**Date:** 2/1/2011  
**Re:** Wasco County Planning Commission Recommendation

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The Wasco County Planning Commission met on February 1, 2011, to discuss the applicants for the Planning Commission position #6 currently held by Jill Amery.

Applications were received by the Wasco County Planning Office from Jill Amery, Kenneth McBain, and Brad DeHart. After reviewing the applications, the Commission members voted unanimously 4-0, 2 absent (Commissioners Wood and Archer), and 1 abstained (Commissioner Amery) in favor of recommending the following:

For the vacancy of Position #6 of the Wasco County Planning Commission; the Wasco County Planning Commission recommends re-appointment of Jill Amery for the term of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2014.

## AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2011, by and between **WASCO COUNTY, OREGON**, (hereinafter referred to as "**COUNTY**") and **THOMAS TEVEN**, (hereinafter referred to as "**TEVEN**").

WHEREAS, the dwelling on the property described as Township 1 South, Range 11 East, Section 13, Tax Lot 100 was illegally created and will remain so until it is removed or land use regulations governing the property have changed to allow the use, a land use application has been submitted by **TEVEN** for all of the illegal uses, and the land use application has been approved by Planning and Development Staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms, conditions and covenants herein stated, it is agreed as follows:

**TEVEN** agrees to the following:

1. No new dwelling and/or structures<sup>1</sup> regardless of size, material, or form will be placed, built or erected on the property; and

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<sup>1</sup> **Structure** - Anything constructed, erected or air inflated, permanent or temporary, which requires location on the ground. Among other things, structure includes buildings, walls, fences, billboards, poster panels and parking lots (WASCO COUNTY LUDO 1.090)

2. No persons that are of public school age and would therefore require the school district to provide busing will reside temporarily or permanently on the property; and
3. All other code compliance violations are not a part of this Agreement and may be acted on pursuant to the Wasco County Code Compliance and Nuisance Abatement Ordinance (WCCCNAO); and
4. Only repairs of existing dwelling and/or structures will be allowed. No additions or remodels that increase either the footprint or square footage of the dwelling and/or structures will be allowed; and
5. An Oregon Department of Environmental Quality compliant septic or other human waste system inspected by the North Central Public Health District and maintained to standards; and
6. The Department of Assessment & Taxation will be allowed full access to the property to perform their normal duties; and
7. This Agreement is void when TEVEN no longer either:
  - a) Lives on the property for at least nine (9) months per year; **OR**
  - b) Is the sole owner of the property; and
8. When this Agreement is void for any reason, **TEVEN** is responsible to remove the dwelling and/or structures on the property either before he is no longer the sole owner of the property or within thirty (30) days after he no longer lives on the property for nine (9) months per year; and
9. **TEVEN** agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the **COUNTY** from any and all liability, loss or damage the **COUNTY**, **TEVEN**, or any other party

may suffer as a result of claims, demands, injuries or death, costs or judgments against it arising from the illegal dwelling and/or structures located on the property described as Township 1 South, Range 11 East, Section 13, Tax Lot 100 or this Agreement.

**COUNTY** and **TEVEN** agrees to the following:

1. That failure of **TEVEN** to strictly adhere to the requirements listed in this Agreement or if the Agreement is rendered void for any reason, will result in the **COUNTY** pursuing any or all punitive measures. **TEVEN** grants permission in advance for the **COUNTY** and or an agent acting on behalf of the **COUNTY** to enter the property 30 days after a notice has been posted in order to demolish and remove the dwelling and all structures. All expenses to the **COUNTY** incurred by these actions will be recorded as a lien on the property; and
2. This Agreement does not "legalize" the dwelling and/or structures in any way; and
3. **TEVEN** and **COUNTY** acknowledge that the dwelling and/or structures are in violation, and that **COUNTY** by not pursuing its right to apply all the consequences outlined in the WCCCNAO in no way is admitting or implying that the dwelling and/or structures are not in violation of the WCCCNAO and the Wasco County Land Use and Development Ordinance (LUDO).

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Teven  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



WASCO COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Holliday, Commissioner/Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Hege, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric J. Nisley, District Attorney

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Runyon, Commissioner

**REPORT TO COUNTY COMMISSION****BY****VETERAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE****FEBRUARY 2, 2011**

The Wasco / Hood River Veterans Advisory Committee meets monthly, the first Thursday of the month. Its immediate goal has been to work with the county and other veteran groups regarding the new Veterans Service Office and the open house which took place Friday, January 28, 2011. Volunteers and one work study veteran from the college are already assisting Les Logsdon with providing information to veterans. An additional work study veteran is being sought. New flags were procured and signs were donated by Chris Zukin's company. Food and coffee and a sound system for the open house was also donated.

During the last six months, several other significant achievements have been accomplished which directly effect the veteran community.

The Veteran Clinic, next to the Veteran Home, is now fully staffed, which includes a contract doctor, allowing the clinic to stay open four days a week. The VA is currently completing its search for a permanent doctor. There will be discussions about enlarging the size of the clinic.

The Ad Hoc Veterans Committee has joined the Mid-Columbia Memorial Committee, which is a 501 (c) (3), for the purpose of raising funds to support the veterans service office, outreach and other veteran projects.

Veterans met with Klickitat County Commissioner, David Sauter, regarding financial support for the Wasco County Service Office. He has tentatively pledged \$10,000 and will be requesting a meeting with one of the Wasco County

Commissioners to discuss such an agreement. We will also be talking with Skamania County. Approximately 20% of the walk ins are from the state of Washington. Local veterans will help organize a Washington veteran effort to secure permanent funding for a Washington Veteran Service Officer.

The Ad Hoc Veterans Committee and Advisory Committee have discussed a veteran stand down in July, which would provide services to the some 60 homeless veterans in the area. Around Christmas, veterans and other volunteers provided a Christmas party for families and children of deployed military and another group packed care packages at the armory for deployed military.

Last but not least, the volume of veterans seeking assistance from the Veterans Service Officer has dramatically increased since the move down town. On an average day in The

Dalles, our VSO will see as many as 8 to 10 walk ins before lunch. It will take a concerted effort to manage the volume of new claims and necessary paper work. Many veterans, who were denied claims in the past, have begun to receive benefits and at least five veterans have received back checks in excess of \$100,000 plus increased monthly benefit amounts. A significant number of spouses have been able to receive benefits they were not receiving or were not aware they had a right to. Aid and attendance is a benefit for those persons needing assistance in the home which can make a huge difference to a veteran's family.

There is much work yet to be done and many more veterans who need assistance. As you know, we will have military returning from deployment in the next year. There is a significant problem with the office space in Hood River that needs to be addressed.

The challenge will be to continue the momentum and build a strong program in both counties which will endure. There are transportation issues, outreach issues and processing claims issues yet to be addressed. With the help of community leaders and volunteers, veterans groups and veterans themselves, we can build upon these short term successes.

**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
February 2, 2011**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Order #11-016 in the matter of an Amended Order declaring the formation of Tygh Valley Rural Fire Protection District and setting date for election of first Board of Directors.
2. Continuation of Lease Agreement with La Clinical del Carino.
3. Grant Agreement between The Ford Family Foundation and the Wasco County Commission on Children & Families.