

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 52
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceedings for May 14, 2013

This document is a summarized version of the Board of Commissioners proceedings. The minutes are paraphrased, not verbatim. Access to an electronic audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.

A Special Meeting was called for at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners May 8, 2013, to discuss classification of the White Bluffs Bladderpod as an endangered species and any county actions thereto.

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date in Superior Courtroom #2 (the Historic Courtroom) of the Franklin County Courthouse. Present for the meeting were Rick Miller, Chairman; Robert E. Koch, Chair Pro Tem; and Brad Peck, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Margo Hines, Administrative Assistant to the County Administrator/Acting Clerk to the Board. Meeting convened at 9:18 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were over 100 people present in the audience including those listed on the sign-in sheet (Exhibit 1) which included reporters from KEPR TV and the Tri-City Herald.

Chairman Miller introduced Ken Berg, State Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service, who was in attendance in response to a letter dated May 9, 2013, pursuant to action taken at the Franklin County Commissioners' meeting of May 8, 2013.

Mr. Berg gave a synopsis of his history, his reasons for being at the meeting is to better understand the issue, and his intent to work with the County and those concerned and return next month to work with the Franklin County Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC). He described how the White Bluffs Bladderpod is dependent upon shrub steppe, how Fish and Wildlife has to make the best decision at the time with the studies available to meet the conditions of the endangered species. Mr. Berg noted the endangered species classification does not restrict a landowner from using their land nor does the Service want to condemn or buy that land.

Mr. Berg acknowledged although the public comment period for the listing was in both the Spokesman Review and the Federal Register, the fact individual landowners and the County were not notified indicates the outreach was not adequate.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceedings for May 14, 2013

Kent McMullen, Chairman of NRAC, described NRAC's purpose and how they feel NEPA requirements were violated. Many other members of the public commented on alleged failure to advertise, errors on land descriptions, impact on their land values and use, and asked questions regarding how the classification would affect irrigation practices, pesticide and herbicide application, and how the classification and areas were set, alternatives considered, and requested a copy of the report from inception to date. Several present urged the Commissioners to seek legal action. All three Commissioners asked questions of Mr. Berg.

Mr. Berg explained he could not answer the County's letter of May 9 by the time requested as he needed to consult with his department, nor could he answer legal questions at this meeting. He notes extending the comment period is a legal issue. Discussion ensued.

Motion (12:33 p.m.) – Commissioner Peck moved to seek outside counsel on the issue (of taking action to extend the comment period on the White Bluffs Bladderpod and suspend the proposed final rule). **Second** by Commissioner Koch. 3:0 vote to seek outside counsel.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (12:34 p.m.) – Commissioner Koch moved to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Commissioner Peck. 3:0 vote in favor.

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There being no further business, the Special Meeting of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting regarding the Classification of the White Bluffs Bladderpod as an Endangered Species was adjourned with the next regular Board Meeting scheduled for May 15, 2013.

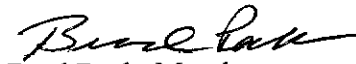
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rick Miller, Chairman



Robert E. Koch, Chairman Pro Tem



Brad Peck, Member

Attest:



Clerk to the Board

Special Meeting May 14, 2013

Name	Affiliation
Michael Lizzo	Public
Geoff Tolson	Tri-City Herald
Sally Cottrell	Landowner
Steve Cooper	Washington State Farm Bureau
Mark Wieseler	Franklin Co Cattlemen Assoc
David Manterola	NRAC
MATT Harris	LSPC
Zachary Miller	FCFB
Mandy Galbreath	Farm Credit NRAC
John Hanges	Hanges Farms LLC
Ben Holling	Farm Credit
Shawn McManus	Farm Credit
Doug Van Batavia	
Russ A. Mertens	Private Citizen
Lloyd D. Mertens	Resident
Gene Wirth	NRAC
Mark Chen	Farm Landowner
LYNDA CHEN	Farm Landowner
Luberto Steeman	Farmer
Susan Arger	WA House of Representatives
Mark Brassel	Omega Farms
Angie Manterola	Manterola Hay Inc
Josh Anderson	Cow Owner
Anthony Zilar	NLC Farm operator
Alice Bidwell	Pedica Farms LLC
Ed DeRubeis	Wilkeson Kelley Angus Assoc
Steve Weich	NRAC
Nathan Smith	Wilkeson Kelley
GT Allen	Farmer
Jex Bion	Land owner
Colleen Berman	Landowner

Gaye Phipps	Land owner
Scott Phipps	land owner
David Phipps	landowner
Janet Blocker	lease.
Doug Bruman	landowner
Ramona Lowdermilk	NRAC Committe
Kent McMullen	NRAC Chairma
Heather Benson	land owner
Carol Kland	hand owner
Bill Blundell	hand owner
James C. Atford	Land owner
Justin Young	Land owner
Joseph E. Pauly	Land owner
David Morgan	OWB
Donald Olson	FCFB
Jamie Gilmore	landowner
Ypr. Hagles	landowner
Julie Reed	landowner
12d 15c h. h	Land owner
BRUNSON	landowner
Scott Davis	Farm m&R
Matt Logan	Farm Hand
Kaitie Velasquez	Farmer
Miguel Velasquez	Farmer
Glenn Wegman	Landowner
Gay Berglund	Farmer
Richard Nielson	Landowner
Stacy Gilmore	FCFB
GARY MIDDLETON	Landowner
Jan McHenry	Land owner
Toni Meacham - Executive Director WOLF	
Nicole Jansen	FCFB
Stacy Knicker	FCFB
James Gimenez	Resident
Kevin Homen	landowner
Kathy Eppich	Landowner
Redmond	Landowner

Robert Washell	farmer
Bill Carpenter	farmer
Nancy Clark	farmer
Phil Helms	
Quint Johnson	farmer
John White	farmer
Adam Mackley	farmer
Frank Watkins	farmer
Dorinda Watkins	farmer
Mike Smith	

Gamache Vineyards
Hi-Point

Morie Swankus	owner
Brod Hansen	citizen
Martin J. Pierrat	owner
Claudio & Luci Johnson	owner
Willy Eastman	etc
Don Baumgardner	owner
Bill Kline	farmer/owner
Wes Wieseley	farmer
Steve + Joyce Danz	owner
Rick Koelzer	
Sheldon Hast	

J J DANZ
Colin Hastings

PASCO Chamber of Commerce