

**Adjourned Meeting of the Board
Senator Maria Cantwell's Staff Meet & Greet
Ferry County Commissioners
Tuesday November 1, 2016**

The meeting was opened at 10:11 a.m. by Commissioner Davis with Commissioner Miller present.
Commissioner Blankenship was absent.

Introduction & Discussion

Senator Cantwell's Representative Nathan Strege introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Strege covers the 5th District. The Board was invited to the next Wildfire Roundtable, which is mainly first responders. Senator Cantwell is working on a wildfire bill and has hosted roundtable discussions across the state. Senator Cantwell would like to work with the Commissioners on wildfire issues. Discussion was held on the fires. The Board stated that the biggest problem was the lack of coordination with the fire team members do to high turnover of fire staff.

Commissioner Davis feels that there was a lot of back burn that probably shouldn't have happened, it burned far more of the forest than was necessary. Forest Service road closures were discussed. Commissioner Miller feels that the roads should be kept open for safety instead of bulldozed closed, it's a matter of public safety. If people get stuck up in the woods, the roads need to be open to be able to get up there to get them out; ingress and egress for fire fighters as well.

The Fire Crews made an effort to involve the Commissioners, but the high turnover was a problem. Just when they would get people trained, they would be replaced with a new person, or a new whole team of people. Mr. Strege will be in contact with the first responders, the Sheriff's office, and the Commissioners for future roundtable discussions. The next roundtable discussion is still being scheduled, Mr. Strege will be in touch when he has the date. FEMA regulations were discussed. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) lines were discussed. The Board recommended giving the local Forest Rangers more leeway, they know this area better than anyone else. The local Forest Rangers could do a lot more, and that would help us. Discussion was held on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Discussion was held on the damage to the economy due to last year's fires. The Board asked Mr. Strege to tell Senator Cantwell that they appreciate all of her work on the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Discussion was held on the health of the forest. The Board feels that thinning, logging, and treatment needs to be done, it can't be done with controlled burns only. Smoke from the controlled burns is a health issue when it fills up the valley. Diseased trees caused the fire to burn extremely hot. The Board feels that a healthy forest is an economic driver. Discussion was held on Boulder Highway. Mr. Strege would like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) information for Boulder Highway. Commissioner Davis stated that he would get him the information.

Discussion was held on the cell towers that went down during the fires. The Sheriff's Office has a mobile communication truck that can be driven to a necessary location. There are a couple of ham radio operators that can be used in emergencies as well. AT&T works for 24 hours when the power is out. The Board stated that Ferry County needs generators on all of the cell towers. The Verizon cell tower generator does not work right, and doesn't always come on when the power is out. It

only runs for 6 hours after the power goes out. The Board appreciates the good working relationship Ferry County has with the Border Patrol, they are a great asset.

Discussion was held on ways to boost the economy. Mr. Strege told the Board to feel free to reach out to him with any issues. He will be in touch with the Board to schedule the next meeting.

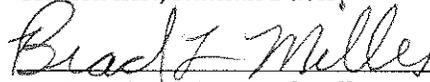
Unfinished Business

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

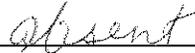
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



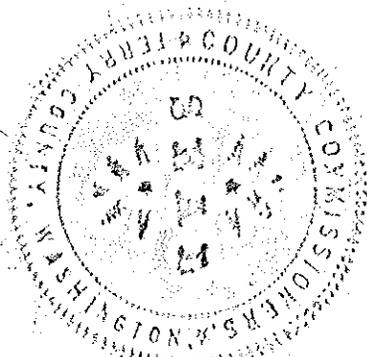
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



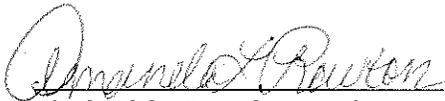
VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller



MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton