

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 44  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 8, 2003

**Motion** – Mr. Brock: I am very pleased to move for approval as specified. This is Resolution 2003-19. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 11 grants preliminary approval of Short Plat 2002-17 subject to the seven findings of fact and seven conditions of approval.)

**Recess** at 9:55 a.m.

**Reconvened** at 10:00 a.m.

**PROSECUTOR**

Prosecutor Steve Lowe, Deputy Prosecutor Darin Campbell and Deputy Prosecutor Heidi Ellerd met with the Board.

Release

Mr. Campbell asked for Board approval of the Settlement Agreement in the case of Franklin County v. J R Simplot Company, Cruz M. Castaneda and Jane Doe Castaneda, Franklin County Superior Court Cause #01-2-50633-4. The county has received a check in settlement of the claim for damages to a sheriff's car.

**Motion** – Mr. Brock: I move for the approval of Resolution 2003-20 as specified. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 12)

Public Hearing: to take testimony for and against establishing a Mosquito Control District within Franklin County

Public Hearing convened at 10:05 a.m. Present: Commissioners Miller, Corkrum and Brock; County Administrator Fred Bowen; Prosecutor Steve Lowe; Deputy Prosecutors Heidi Ellerd and Darin Campbell; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Ron Montgomery, Randy Gerard, James Henrikson of BCMC, Kevin Shoemaker of BCMC, \_\_\_ Wa \_\_\_, Harvey Crowder of Benton Franklin Health District (BFHD), Larry Bell, Bruce Perkins of BFHD, Rob and Robbie Dupuy, Stephen Ingalls of Clarke Mosquito Control, Dr. Larry Jecha of BFHD, Pamela Cravens, Assessor Steve Marks, Tri-City Herald Reporter Brent Champaco and TV Reporter Karina Shagren.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 44  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 8, 2003

Harvey Crowder is the Region 8 public health emergency preparedness coordinator for Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Yakima and Klickitat Counties. He is a veterinarian by training. He gave a computer presentation about West Nile Virus (WNV) in the United States.

Rob Dupuy asked was there any downturn in WNV around the time DDT was used. Mr. Crowder said he is unaware of that.

Mr. Crowder commented that it will be more effective to coordinate action against mosquitoes than to have only individual actions.

Rob Dupuy listed a number of diseases and asked are those also passed through the same mosquitoes? Mr. Dupuy said I think the answer is yes. Mr. Crowder said some of those are mosquito-transferred diseases. Mr. Crowder said in particular I wanted to address WNV. There are other vector-borne diseases that are potentially transmitted. We don't see those other diseases frequently. Many of the diseases you mentioned are not present here now.

Lyle Esser asked how would you plan on controlling mosquitoes when we have vast acreages of swamps, thousands of acres? Mr. Crowder said there are many ways of approaching mosquito control. I am not a mosquito control expert. Many methods deal with controlling habitat or eliminating and/or reducing the amount of habitat or preventing mosquitoes from maturing into adults. There are a wide variety of innovative pest management activities including: habitat reduction; ensuring movement of water through areas; eliminating water from remaining in an area for longer than a week so there is not an opportunity for mosquitoes to hatch; use of mosquito control type of chemicals from bacteria to more commonly used pesticides. There is a wide spectrum of control activities available. The more effective we can become at reducing breeding habitat and preventing mosquitoes from turning into adults, the better control we will have.

Rob Dupuy asked aren't we prevented by various legislation including the Clean Water Act from doing a lot of these things as far as habitat protection? Mr. Crowder said the mosquito control experts are more effective at answering this question. There are

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 44  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 8, 2003

rules on how we approach mosquito control using chemicals. Most of the control activities are well recognized and have been in use for a number of years. I believe we can be effective and operate within the guidelines available to us.

Dr. Jecha said I think he's right. I think this year we are going to be seeing WNV in Washington state. It is best to be in the prevention mode. It's important that we discuss it now.

Mr. Perkins said I agree with everything Harvey said. It's amazing how quickly the virus has gotten to the state of Washington. We have to come up with a plan to deal with it and then come up with a way to implement the plan because it is going to be here sooner than later.

Mrs. Miller asked if there are any other questions before hearing from people speaking for or against the proposal. There was no response.

Mrs. Miller asked three times if anyone would like to speak in opposition to formation of a Mosquito Control District. There was no response.

Lyle Esser said I still don't think my question is answered. Do we have experts who can tell me how they are going to control this? Ron Montgomery said your concern was the amount of standing water. He responded to Mr. Esser's question.

Lyle Esser said the game department in our neighborhood created a lake for habitat. This is off of Baart and Merion Roads, back of the old Booker place, Lester Neff's place. There is a habitat pond for ducks not far from our place. Mosquitoes are so bad that you cannot even drive by unless you keep your windows closed. It is about six or eight inches deep and covers many, many acres.

Mrs. Miller closed the hearing to testimony in opposition and asked if anyone wished to testify in favor.

Ron Montgomery read a statement (Exhibit 13)

Mrs. Miller asked if anyone else would like to speak in favor.

Lyle Esser said I'm not opposed to it. I just want some questions answered. I think it's great that you get rid of the problem. I'm sure you can get rid of the problem a

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 44  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 8, 2003

lot easier in the incorporated areas of the city. I'm talking about my area where we live many miles apart and there is water all over the place.

Mrs. Miller said we're not specialists on this. We have the problem and we're trying to find out what the public feels about what we should do regarding this.

Lyle Esser said I'm all in favor.

A man in the audience said he can talk to Mr. Esser afterwards to try to answer his questions.

Mrs. Miller asked if anyone else would like to speak in favor.

Rob Dupuy said he is a resident here in Pasco. He said the background of most of the diseases I mentioned is that they are all mosquito-borne diseases. There are 3000 species of mosquitoes and in some tropical areas 150 species have been found in one square mile. An experiment in Canada reported as many as 9000 bites a minute. Mr. Dupuy read from a paper about some historical facts about mosquito bites with explorers of the Americas. Many of the people were infected with yellow fever.

He said we know there is a problem. The question is how do you solve it. There has been an effective means of solving it but it has been outright banned by a political decision, not a scientific decision, with the banning of DDT. The legislator did not listen to testimony but outright banned it. Mr. Dupuy explained further. He said no one has died using DDT unless they intended to die by committing suicide. No birds or insects have died from DDT use. Mr. Dupuy said we need to do something and I think the reversal of the ban on DDT would do that.

Bruce Perkins, Director of Environmental Health for BFHD, spoke in favor. We used to years ago get complaints about mosquito bites and problems. Most of those complaint problems that we received were in Benton County. We had a mosquito control district in Benton County that helped remedy that problem. We still from time to time get calls from Franklin County residents about mosquitoes but the Health Department has no tools to deal with mosquito control problems except to educate on the phone. WNV is going to be here and there needs to be a plan to deal with WNV. I don't believe the commissioners have the ability by themselves to come up with a plan without added input

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 44  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 8, 2003

from other people, at least they don't have the time. Once you have a plan, you have to have someone to implement it. That's where a Mosquito Control District would help. They identify the problem and take the actions to remedy the mosquitoes. If a mosquito control district is not going to be approved or opposed, the calls are still going to come in. There won't be a lot we can do about it. We have people we can use to advise in certain situations but as far as eliminating mosquitoes, other than education we cannot help you out. That's where a mosquito control district would come in to investigate complaints and answer phone calls from the public. If there is even one human case in Benton or Franklin Counties, a lot of people will call exhibiting symptoms or worrying about what is going to be done. I would encourage you to develop, implement, fund, whatever, a mosquito control district to handle these kind of vector problems that will occur in the future.

James Henrikson with Benton County Mosquito Control District spoke. He wants to let the commissioners know that we are definitely in favor of Franklin County getting a mosquito control district. We border next to each other and I think there would be benefit from both sides if we had two different districts operating. We'll be here to help with information or whatever Franklin County needs.

Steve Ingalls, with Clarke Mosquito Control out of Roselle, Illinois, based in Kennewick, spoke. He lives in Kennewick. Although I'm not living in the area proposed for mosquito control, I am in favor for the reason that the best approach to mosquito control is area-wide instead of spotty. Mosquitoes don't understand political boundaries. They do cross the areas. Having a program on both sides of the river would definitely complement each other. As you've heard testimony today, WNV will very likely be here, perhaps seeing human cases in July or August of this coming year.

Lawrence Bell spoke. He is a resident of Pasco but has lived in Benton County. The mosquito abatement program works well there. We need one here. It will be well worth the money that residents have to pay.

Mrs. Miller asked twice more if anyone would like to speak in favor. There was no response. Hearing was closed to public comment.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 44  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 8, 2003

Mrs. Miller thanked Dr. Crowder for the presentation.

Mr. Brock stated this is something very important that we move forward as quickly as we can. In visiting with various entities, he finds that the larvae stage is probably the most effective and cheapest stage to catch the mosquitoes. One thing that is unique is that there are about three different varieties that winter over. The females as I understand it are the ones that cause the most trouble.

Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks with the testimony that has been given and the advice of experts in the audience that it's something that we need to move forward on.

Lyle Esser asked if there is any difference between WNV and encephalitis that we've lived through. Dr. Crowder said they are related but not identical.

Mrs. Miller closed the hearing. We will not be making a decision today but probably by Monday. We appreciate everyone coming, all your comments and concerns.

Mrs. Corkrum said if in fact we do put it on the ballot and one is formed that anyone in this audience that would like to be on the board should let us know.

Rob Dupuy would like to be on the board.

Pamela Cravens of Cravens & Associates, Inc. would like to be on the board.

**Recess** at 10:43 a.m.

**Reconvened** at 10:48 a.m. Commissioner Brock was outside of the room for a television interview.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

### Continued appointment to Franklin County Park Advisory Board

**Motion** – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Resolution 2003-021 re-appointing Don Lynch and Margaret Till to the Park Board, with terms to expire January 2006. Second by Mrs. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 14)

### Work Plan

Mr. Fife asked if the Board would like to make any changes or if they have any suggestions for the Work Plan. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Corkrum said no. Mr. Fife said the only thing we're considering changing is Falls Road that is east of Highway 395. It needs

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 44  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 8, 2003

Mrs. Miller closed the hearing to public comment because Mr. Champaco indicated he did not want to comment and no one else was present.

Mrs. Corkrum said right now we are receiving funds from the marriage license fees. Mr. Killian said it is \$8 or \$10. Mrs. Corkrum said this will be an addition to that. How is it made possible? Mr. Killian said it's been in the statute since 1993 but was not implemented before. He read from the RCW. Currently we expend almost \$8000 a year. There is about \$10,000 in the fund each year.

Mr. Brock asked how many dollars Mr. Killian thinks this will generate. Mr. Killian is estimating about \$5000 a year. It will be collected through his office. The line item is already created.

**Motion** – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Resolution 2003-022. Second by Mr. Brock. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 15)

## **OFFICE BUSINESS**

Board will have a workshop tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. about mosquito control issues.

**Recess** at 11:08 a.m.

**Reconvened** at 11:09 a.m.

### Northwest Council of Governments (NWCOG)

There was discussion about whether to pay dues to belong to NWCOG. Mrs. Corkrum thinks we should not do it. Mrs. Miller agrees. She doesn't think we should spend taxpayer money on it. Mr. Brock hates to see us break off the contact but does not feel strongly one way or the other. He would be more inclined to pay the dues if they were a lesser amount, perhaps \$250. Mrs. Corkrum asked couldn't we still attend if we wanted to, just not have any say? Mr. Brock said I'd hate to attend without paying dues.

Mrs. Miller asked Mr. Brock to attend the next NWCOG meeting and ask them if the dues could be lowered. Also, she thinks we should try to propose some projects that are more useful for the current time period.