

**Trout Lake Community Council  
Approved (final) Meeting Notes  
Via Zoom  
February 3, 2026  
7:00 – 9:05 pm**

| <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Council Lead</b> | <b>Start Time</b> |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Regular Council Meeting called to order</b><br>Council members in attendance: Lucas King, Daina Bambe, Aaron Schmid, Dave Wampler, Jim Lambert, Travis Pearson, Tom Binder, Pat Arnold<br><br>Community members in attendance: Lori Zoller (Commissioner), Sarah Arnold, Brian, DLP   | <b>Daina</b>        | <b>7:00</b>       |
| <b>Agenda Review</b>   | <b>Daina</b>        |                   |
| <b>Minutes review:</b><br><b>January 6, 2026</b><br>Motion to approve: Pat, 2nd: Tom - all in favor  | <b>Daina</b>        |                   |
| <b>Guest: Commissioner Lori Zoller</b><br>Very happy with how the board is working together - finally getting through the shoreline plan, the comp plan, etc. They are working on short-term rental ordinance and cleaning up the ADU ordinance, it'll be easier to apply for with a shorter application. The allowable square footage will be increased. The planning commission is working on them, a public comment period coming soon. They like the boards they are on. Ron is chair again. And they maintained current board assignments - Lori is on a senior citizens board which manages transport, food and medicare \$ for senior's. They don't anticipate cuts in funding.<br><br>Anticipated Funding cuts will come through the health dept, Erin Quinn has a reserve. New Jail commander has brought a different culture, better attitude in jail. They are understaffed but working together and they are happy. They cover shifts for each other. The jail had an old expensive food contract which he is working on switching to that will cut the budget for food by \$160K a year - the current contractors weren't doing a good job.<br><br>County budget has been \$2.5 mill short for the last few years. Landfill loss income. KC didn't want to cut employees to save money, the staff are doing great jobs. So they are combining departments.<br>Adelman had a history of planning (add natural resources, water water etc to that dept) , adding code compliance.<br><br>It hasn't been a successful department (code compliance). Ecology used to do some of it but now they leave it to the county. | <b>Daina</b>        | <b>7:05</b>       |

What is the actual issue when someone is out of compliance? Some people just collect junk - oil, diesel, cars etc and some are unhoused. What does code compliance look like? Some people have used it as a weapon to cause problems.

Legislative issues are happening now. Free for all. There's a lobbyist in Olympia who works for KC. Some of the bills they were hoping for included the green energy taxation bill.

Gabrielle Gilbert is spearheading child care efforts in the county  
Combining departments - EMS moved under public works. A lot of info floating around that isn't true. The board has been thinking about it for a long time. Last Oct Jeff King let them know that federal funding had been cut so it needed to be revamped. The draft for the original EMS was 21 years old. They realized that 911 dispatch has been failing and they haven't been able to keep staff (understaffed by 1/2), this was originally why Mr King was hired, they asked that he go back and build out 911, including an improved radio system. There is an outside company that they can hire dispatchers through for 4-9 months at a time so they added 4 folks to the dept.

Frank Hewey has moved into public works and is working to set that dept up  
Concern came from not having a larger committee to assess restructuring efforts. Because it involved employees there were concerns about having folks outside of the board involved. They are in the midst of reaching out and contacting people about this now.

Flagpole was turned down unanimously by the commissioners for various reasons: future financial (Ron), Lori (past request had been turned down, concerns for what's underground and for the parking lot capacity - we don't need a tourist attraction there, offered another locale).

Shorelines and Critical Areas?

The hearing dates will be set within the next 2 months. Waiting for completion of draft before setting the hearing.

**Q:** Jeff King was an invaluable resource during the Williams Mine fire, concerned if he's only focusing on dispatch and if Hewey is retiring then what is the plan if there's an emergency?

**A:** Jeff Hunter is dedicated and has a large staff who are all cross-trained so there's 24/7 availability - things would be staffed appropriately. They will be coming out to each community to go through a game plan once everything is finalized. You will have a qualified staff. Hewey is staying on for a few months (through fire season?) to have a smooth transition.

**Q: These Sacred Hills film:** 4 weeks ago, about the Yakama lands on the Columbia Shore. They were asking for help with their treaty rights regarding the pump storage project. What is your position on assisting them with their treaty rights? **A:** The BoCC has stayed involved but FERC on the federal level has authorized the project - not up to BoCC. There are currently lawsuits with the Army Corps of Engineers and the county will have to authorize permits.

**Q:** Code compliance workshop? If workshops aren't zoomed, we have to drive to workshop hearings. Can the BoCC allow for participation via zoom? Lori will ask if they can re-zoom since workshops have been pretty civil lately.

**Q:** Solar panels in the County and TL? **A:** BoCC's concern is the batteries. We don't have the transmission lines to support solar. They started asking for big battery banks which scared our fire departments. They are working on a battery ordinance they will help when a solar industry comes in they will have to have the appropriate fire control and abatement when they develop a site. Does TL have enough sun to support solar batteries? Sodium battery? Has more storage? - what about hydro power from the river? Micro-hydro power is great, small, doesn't pollute or hurt fish.

Hydro power permits were sold and the PUD would never buy power back from us. We could offset our own power but couldn't be transferred on their lines.

Solar storage project in TL/ Goldendale has grants for solar storage projects as well

**Q:** Last year we had some issues with someone who was houseless assaulting someone at a snow park - what are the issues with houseless in the County? **A:** The jail is working on support systems for folks who are being released from the county jail. She sees it in several areas of the county where there are some homeless villages. The BoCC is going to have to address it, if they implement code compliance then where do these folks go. More and more in remote areas and smaller towns. The WAGAP Community Needs Survey was completed recently - Joanna will get results to folks

Jeremy Takala, Yakama power generation is so innovative and feasible. Instead of a reservoir could we have other things to generate power - how can we be innovative?

By 2035, we will experience brown/black outs. We can't get enough power back online from what the data centers are taking.

**Q:** What is the county's stance on data centers and mini reactors? Dept of ecology is saying our rivers will be the only cold water areas for fish - the Columbia is getting too warm- this is making our lives harder and Google/billion \$ corps have no liability or responsibility. Bad thing for the county. **A:** transmission cable under the river - it was a done deal, the public meetings will only be to check a box. The data centers have things planned that are happening and all we can do is create the best ordinances we can to try to protect ourselves. The state sold us out when they created FSEK to oversee green energy development. They overrun our planning. Issues with data centers: some days they have to close the Dallesport airport because the steam from google is so thick - in The Dalles they now have to treat roofs for moss (due to increased air moisture) now where it was never there before.

**Q:** Has the county found a FSEK rep? **A:** 1 application came in today, application period is open

**Q:** Is there any positive info regarding a datacenter at the pump storage site? **A:** Yes there is a plan for a data center there. Can't say the name of the folks who are applying until the application is finalized.

**Q:** Does the County get anything from having a data center here? **A:** Tax money is still in debate if it will be lumped in with green energy. They will make so much money off our land and our water.



Daina - 2/25 wildfire hazard listening session by DNR on risk map that was developed for state, insurance industry uses the maps, at the FACT meeting it was noted that not a lot of community members were engaged in this process. State legislature did pass a bill about it - will forward the email about it. Jake Anderson had stated that the draft map showed all of KC was assessed at high risk.

Joanna - Grief circle in Trout Lake Thursdays in March, pain mgmt training in April/May

TLC - withdrew plan for a sr center at the park

Tom - Current balance in checking is \$1036.41.

Lucas - DNR/NAP meeting, appreciated sharing of the draft but felt that there was a lack of community input that they actually integrated into the presentation. Worth it for us to continue advocating for the community

Solar grant - sounds like it has been awarded, hoping to install this year. It will be good to have some backup during power outages.

Washington Survey and Rating Bureau impacts folks insurance rates - based on our ability to respond to structure fires - rating from 1-10. We are at an 8 right now (which isn't great - 10 is the worst rating), the max we could probably reach is a 6. If we can increase our rating it would reduce our insurance premiums by hundreds of dollars. Rating happens in March - what would it take to lower our rates? Lucas will send out the matrix. Our Fire dept is only 30-40% of rating.

Pat - Joanna has been appointed to board of adjustments

CECK could use a board member, meetings are monday morning in Lyle & via zoom

County is looking for a FSEK rep

**Adjourn**

**9:05**

**Motion - Travis, 2nd: Dave - all in favor**

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