

WEEKLY REVIEW



BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 17, 2020

This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

TRIDEC Visit & Introduction of New Executive Director – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

The Sustainable Development Manager introduced the new TRIDEC Executive Director, Karl Dye. He provided the Commissioners with some information on his background and history. He indicated he looked forward to working with County officials in staff on partnerships and programs that will benefit the community. **No Board direction or vote.**

Request by Benton REA for Support of Lower Snake River Dams - Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners received a letter from Benton REA dated March 2, 2020 requesting support of the lower Snake River Dams and encouraging constituents to submit their comments on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). This draft EIS includes consideration of removing the four lower Snake River dams. Federal agencies will review all comments they receive and draft the final EIS, which is scheduled for release in July. Constituents can submit comments online at comments.crso.info or via mail (postmarked by April 13) to:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CRS OEIS
PO Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Benton REA included in their letter example comments/statements for constituents, which can be found on their website at bentonrea.org/about/save-the-snake-river-dams. **The Board moved and seconded to write a letter of support, as requested by Benton REA, addressed to the US Army Corps of Engineers in support of keeping the lower Snake River dams. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Declaration of Emergency & Allowing Changes in Staffing

The Board of Commissioners moved and seconded to approve the resolution in the matter of declaration of emergency in Benton County and hereby grant authority to independently elected officials and the County Administrator to adjust office hours as needed and to approve tele-commuting options and/or paid administrative leave for those employees that are deemed non-essential for the period of March 23, 2020 through April 5, 2020. Motion carried.

###

Contact: Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator
Shyanne.Palmus@co.benton.wa.us | 509-222-3760