

CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6

7810 La Push Road · PO Box 2385 · Forks, WA 98331

Monthly Commissioner Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2024

Meeting convened on October 14, 2024, at 1:30, at Three Rivers Fire Hall, by Commissioner Chip Keen.

Commissioners Present – Chip Keen; Tom Rosmond; and Scott Horton

Officers Present – Aleilah P Lawson, District Secretary; Scott Swagerty, Chief; Lt. Andrew Chapman

Other Attendees – Community members Jianli Zhang and Sean Wood

Changes/Additions to Agenda – Old Business, item 1, moved to top of agenda items

Timberland Project Discussion & Presentation

Timberland Team LLC owners, Jianli Zhang and Sean Wood, presented information on the status of their proposed glamping and large lot subdivision plans. Highlights include:

- Glamping cabins will be located on Sol Duc River side of the property, 300' from the high-water mark
- No cooking items allowed in the cabins.
- 30' spacing between cabins
- Pellet stoves planned for heat. Chief Swagerty encouraged them to consider propane.
- Phase 1 – tent sites, handwashing stations, porta potties, individual fire pits
- Phase 2 - 11 cabins and manager's residence, communal fire pit
- Ample ingress and egress for fire and other emergency vehicles
- Large lot subdivisions planned for Bogachiel River side of the property
- Single family, 5-acre lots, 7 lots
- Hammer-head roads provide access to 4 of the lots. 3 lots have Olympic Discovery Trail running through the land
- There will be a public hearing in December 2024. A public outreach, meet & greet event is scheduled for November 14th.

Minutes – Minutes of the October 14, 2024, meeting were read, approved, and signed by the commissioners.

Secretary's Report

1. **Auxiliary formation update.** Aleilah reported that she attended a recent meeting of the Joyce Fire Auxiliary. She shared information on their budget process, fundraising activities, and support for District 4 firefighters. Next step is to recruit District 6 community members to create a local auxiliary. Aleilah will assist with creating the nonprofit status, bylaws, and other organizational support. Commissioner Keen generously offered to provide some seed money for the auxiliary once it is fully formed.
2. **2024 AFG application cycle.** Aleilah reported that the 2024 application cycle is from November 12th through December 20th. Commissioner Keen suggested FD06 apply as a sole district this year rather than the regional application submitted in the past. Commissioner Rosmond made a motion to apply as a sole district. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

1. **Financial Statement.** The October 2024 financial statement was reviewed and approved by all three commissioners.
2. **Claims Payment Request.** 15 warrants totaling \$4,947.83 were requested on the Claims Payment Request form dated 11/11/2024 as follows:
 - \$411.80 for operating supplies (2 warrants);
 - \$684.39 for fuel (1 warrant);
 - \$1,450.00 for organizational support (1 warrant);
 - \$350.00 for Q4 dispatch services (1 warrant);
 - \$421.72 for website updates (2 warrants) (reimbursed elsewhere);
 - \$814.84 for final Class B uniforms order (4 warrants);
 - \$284.98 for utilities, including phone & internet (3 warrants);
 - \$814.50 for fence repair (1 warrant); and
 - -\$254.37 for refund/credit adjustment to FD06 credit card.

Commissioner Rosmond moved to approve the request. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the Claims Payment Request was signed.

3. Chief Swagerty's timesheet covering the period of 10/14/2024 through 11/10/2024 was approved and signed by Lead Commissioner Keen. A Payroll Certification was approved and signed by the commissioners for submission to the county for processing.

Chief's Report

1. **Incidents/Calls.** Chief Swagerty reported that the number of calls has continued to slow down over the last month. There were a few FD01 mutual aid calls including a structure fire and a swift water rescue. FD06 also provided flagging control for Clallam PUD response to a tree falling and downing power lines.
2. **Training.** Chief reported VFF/EMT Bridgette Soha will be teaching an EMT in February or March 2024. 5-7 crew members are interested. The cost will be \$650-\$700 and includes books, class fees, and supplies.
3. **Equipment/Mechanic.** Nothing to report.
4. **Other.** Chief reported that the annual Trunk or Treat was attended by around 1,200 people and was a great success. There will be a Crab Feed on November 19th for firefighter appreciation. Chief is interested in an awards banquet in December. It was agreed to revisit this for 2025. Chief would also like to create a protocol for recognition for retiring firefighters.

Chief reported that crew member John Fryer has been offered a position with a veteran PTSD center in California. He will likely be leaving in January or February 2024. He also noted there are two new potential recruits and 1 cadet coming up.

Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Keen

1. Radio Communications

I participated in the Clallam County Amateur Radio Emergency Response “Shake Out” exercise on October 17th. From my perspective, it went well. My major take-away is that our radio communications can be made more efficiently with the addition of Winlink capability, which is the ability to send and receive emails over the Ham bands. I’ve installed the Winlink software on an older laptop that I own, but I have to figure out the hardware needed to connect it to our 2m radio.

2. Emergency Preparedness – West End Area Meeting

The county’s wildfire protection plan is awaiting formation of a Steering Committee. CCEM’s new hire came on board November 1st. His focus will be on their outreach program. Next month’s meeting will fall on Thanksgiving so it will likely be combined with the North Coast meeting on November 13th.

3. Solar + Storage Project / Hazard Mitigation Grant

I attended the two-day NODC Energy Futures conference in Blynn on October 29th and 30th. I worked with Diane Harvey, Rod Fleck, and Mary Ann Rozance (Senior Associate, Cascadia Consulting Group) to add the following mitigation actions to the Quillayute Airport Utility System Upgrade (as listed in Section 5 Mitigation Strategy) of the updated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP):

- development of a site-specific energy generating and storage microgrid system
- new water main from well house
- electrical system upgrade
- installation of on-site commercial septic system

Having these items included in the new Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan will make them eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants. Diane plans to describe Fairchild and Quillayute as the two major airports for emergency response in Clallam County. I’ve asked our contacts at A&R Solar for a quote on preparing a full “shovel ready” proposal for the Quillayute Airport microgrid. The quote will be ready in time to submit with the updated MJHMP.

It’s apparent that funding is starting to roll in from the Biden-era infrastructure and energy bills. Microgrids were a predominant topic of presentations and conversations. There are multiple opportunities to fund energy project grants, and multiple public and private agencies willing to help obtain them.

Commissioner Horton Report – 10/30/2024 Revenue Advisory Committee meeting

Five items were on the agenda. They were presented in the following order:

1. Connie Beauvais summarized land ownership patterns in the county (Clallam County Conservation District 2020 Resource Inventory) as a surrogate for ownership patterns of forest land. Federal lands, mostly the national park and national forest comprise 46% of the county; 39% of the county is private land; 14% is classified as “State Land” mostly managed by DNR, split about 60/40 between lands that provide revenue directly to Clallam County beneficiaries and to state-level programs; the remaining less than 1% is owned by Clallam County and other local governments. This summary does not include tribal lands which total around 30,000 acres in Clallam County.

She used these data to exemplify the amount of DNR-managed land that is “encumbered” by conservation agreements - approximately half of the land that directly provides financial support to local beneficiaries.

2. Duane Emmons, DNR Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands, presented a summary and update on the acquisition and ultimate operation of the lands purchased to replace the revenue lost by five small, timber-dependent counties to the “encumbrances”. Three of those counties are especially reliant on revenue from DNR timber - Pacific, Wahkiakum, and Skamania. Timber revenues are quite important in Clallam and Jefferson counties as well.

About a year ago, approximately 9,000 acres of high-quality timberland in Wahkiakum Co. was purchased with funding from the WA Legislature’s Climate Commitment Act and proceeds from previous land sales. Most of this land is classified “Site 1 or 2”, the most productive timber-growing sites. Nearly all of the encumbered land in Clallam Co. is less productive, Site 3 or 4. Consequently these lands will be able to produce more timber and revenue per acre than those they replaced. The affected counties have not yet agreed upon how to share revenue from this land purchase or from future purchases that will add to this pool of replacement lands.

Commissioner Randy Johnson has been representing Clallam County in this process, he has suggested revenue-sharing be proportional to the level of impact to each county - a simple, easy to understand solution. However, not all the counties agree to that, in part because several of them are so extremely dependent on timber revenue. After the counties decide on how to allocate the forthcoming revenue among themselves, the Clallam Co. RAC will advise on how to allocate among the JTDs.

3. Next was a presentation by DNR Olympic Region on upcoming timber sales of interest to Clallam Co. beneficiaries. Three sales in the Elwha watershed that were paused in consideration of the “legacy forest” and watershed impacts issues - Parched, Tree Well, and Alley Cat, are being brought to the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) for approval in their November meeting. Much of the timber in these proposals was in a deferral status until the BNR adopted the marbled murrelet conservation plan in 2019, field review of these proposals discovered 100 acres of “old-growth” that was reserved from harvest in accordance with DNR’s “Old-growth Policy”. These three sales are expected to bring at least \$2.75 million to Clallam County beneficiaries and the RAC wrote a letter to the BNR supporting the sales.

At the November 5 BNR meeting, Commissioner of Public Lands Hillary Franz put the Alley Cat proposal on hold because of a specific request from the Lower Elwha Tribal Chair. After two motions to exclude some sales including those from Clallam County failed, the board approved the rest of the sales package consisting of about 2,100 acres in 15 sales across western Washington including Parched and Tree Well.

4. Fire District 2, which provides considerable emergency services to Olympic National Park, initiated a discussion of the PILT program - “payment in lieu of taxes” from the federal government because the federal lands are exempt from local taxes. They described the substantial impact that emergency responses into ONP have on their district. They summarized the recent history of PILT funding to Clallam Co. - approximately 1.1 million dollars annually over the past ten years and

proposed that the county share that revenue to offset some of the impact of providing services to ONP. They provided a document that is attached (Presentation to RAC Oct 30th Packet.pdf)

Commissioner Johnson summarized the requirements of the US PILT Act, which in part describes what PILT payments can be used for and how the payments are distributed. The funding can be used for “any governmental purpose” and payments are made directly to the counties with no stipulation they be further distributed to local government entities. States may choose to legislate that payments be further redistributed but Wisconsin is the only state that has done so. Thus, PILT funding is not directly available to JTDs under the current legal environment. He also provided a handout excerpted from the Treasurer’s 2024 Tax and Timber Report that showed income to Clallam County received 2018-2023 from: 1) DNR timber sales, about \$26.5 million of which FD6 received about \$82,000; 2) Timber Excise Tax receipts (from private land harvests) of about \$10.9 million, FD6 received about \$12,800; 3) PILT revenues of about \$7.2 million to the county’s general fund; 4) Federal Forest Funding which provides “assistance to rural counties and school districts impacted by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands” that benefits schools, roads and some county projects, around \$2.2 million for county roads, about \$1.7 million to PA and Sequim schools, and around \$400 thousand to the three smaller school districts.

5. Jim Buck presented a summary of his research into the legal status of the “county lands” managed by DNR, this is contained within the attached file "10-30-24 RAC Agenda and Packet.pdf". He concludes that those lands “are not public lands, state lands, or state forest lands” and that they are “devoted to a particular use...held in trust for the donating county for revenue production” and that DNR did not act with undivided loyalty to Clallam Co. beneficiaries in canceling the Power Plant timber sale due to public opposition. His research is exhaustive and can be viewed as supporting his position although much is subject to interpretation and the outcome of any legal action is not predictable.

Other Reports – None

Old Business

1. **Timberland Project Discussion – see above.**
2. **DNR Surplus Update** – Chief Swagerty reported that DNR will let us know by the middle to end of November if we are getting any vehicles. He noted that FD06 has several crew members with red cards but no wildfire gear. There is a Spring application for PPE coming up.
3. **Smoke Alarm Distribution** – Chief Swagerty will reach out to FD01 for Red Cross smoke alarms and set a goal to install within 30 days. Commissioner Keen recommended that the VFF’s who surveyed those requesting a smoke alarm be the follow-up firefighters to do the installation.

New Business

1. **2025 Levy.** The 2025 resolution for a 1% increase on the levy was reviewed, approved, and signed by all three commissioners.
2. **2025 Budget.** The draft budget proposals provided were reviewed and discussed at length. It was agreed that additional revenue streams will be required by 2026. The budget was finalized and approved by a unanimous vote and signed by all three commissioners.

3. Transfer of routine generator maintenance to firefighters. Commissioner Rosmond proposed that FD06 firefighters attend to routine generator maintenance. It was also suggested that the firefighters be responsible for groundskeeping and general maintenance and upkeep. Commissioner Horton made a motion to designate routine generator maintenance, groundskeeping, general maintenance and upkeep to be a part of the firefighters' regular duties. Commissioner Keen seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Announcements – none

Next Meeting – December 9, 2025, 1:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.

Read and approved on December 9, 2024, by:

Commissioner Chip Keen

Commissioner Scott Horton

Commissioner Tom Rosmond

District Secretary Aleilah P Lawson