

BOARD ORDERS AND MINUTES

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL

SITTING FOR THE TRANSACTION OF COUNTY BUSINESS

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF YAMHILL COUNTY, OREGON (“the Board”) sat for the transaction of county business in special emergency formal session on February 28, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 108 of the courthouse, Commissioners Leslie Lewis and Kathy George present, and Commissioner Mary P. Stern participating via telephone conference.

Also present were John M. Gray, Jr., County Counsel; and Bill Gille, Director of Public Works.

B. O. 06-123 - Adoption of a declaration of emergency regarding dredging on the Willamette River at Wheatland Ferry; request for an emergency permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Commissioner Lewis called the special emergency formal session to order.

Commissioner Lewis moved to allow Commissioner Stern to participate telephonically. The motion carried, Commissioners Lewis, George, and Stern voting aye.

John Gray stated that the basis for the emergency session is Marion County’s request for Yamhill County to join in a declaration of a state of emergency in order to obtain necessary permits to dredge portions of the Willamette River. He stated that if adopted, the request will be signed by the chair and returned to Marion County to forward to federal authorities.

Commissioner Lewis moved to adopt a declaration of emergency regarding the necessity for a federal dredging permit on the Willamette River at Wheatland Ferry. Ms. Lewis stated high water has deposited gravel in the path of the ferry, and that unless dredging is undertaken, the ferry will have to remain closed. She stated both counties worked through the usual channels last week to pursue all available remedies for this situation, culminating in a lengthy telephone conference this morning between the two counties, congressional representatives and senators. She stated this course of action was recommended because the Corps is reluctant to approve emergency permits absent a declaration from local governments.

Bill Gille stated dredging is very river-dependent, in that if the water rises too much, the work can’t be done because of the danger to crews and equipment, and there is concern about the weather predictions for the next few days. He said that dredging can begin as soon as the permit is issued.

The motion to adopt a declaration of emergency carried, Commissioners Lewis, George and Stern voting aye.

