

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 26

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRI-COUNTY (PEND OREILLE, SPOKANE, AND STEVENS) WATER BANK FOR WATER RESOURCES INVENTORY AREA (WRIA) 55 AND AUTHORIZING DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS RULES AND CONTRACTUAL MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE WATER BANK.

**WHEREAS**, groundwater and surface water resources within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 55, the Little Spokane Watershed, are vitally important resources, in that they provide the foundation to maintain current and fulfill future agricultural, domestic, environmental, industrial and municipal needs, as well as other needs, and to maintain the economic viability and prosperity of these areas;

**WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been previously established among Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties in December 2015 to provide for constructive consultation and information sharing related to water resource policy issues within each of the counties' jurisdictions;

**WHEREAS**, to-date Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties have supported a cooperative approach toward a feasibility study to evaluate the development of a water bank in WRIA 55;

**WHEREAS**, said feasibility study to evaluate the development of a water bank in WRIA 55 is complete as of June 30, 2015 and indicates a water bank is feasible in WRIA 55;

**WHEREAS**, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties have agreed in principle to form a cooperative, Tri-County water bank for WRIA 55 based on said feasibility study;

**WHEREAS**, funding has been secured for development of an operational and management mechanism for the WRIA 55 water bank in the form of a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology;

**WHEREAS**, based on a meeting held between Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens County Commissioners on May 20, 2016, all three counties understand and agree that there will be fiscal and policy commitments associated with water bank establishment and operation that will need to be approved by each county's Board of County Commissioners;

**WHEREAS**, ongoing work on development of an operation and management mechanism has identified decisions and actions to be resolved as part of establishment of a WRIA 55 Tri-County water bank, including but not limited to: establishing pricing standards, addressing administrative costs, establishing market goals, determining priority areas to be served by the water bank, establishing mitigation credit packages, developing a scientific framework for bank management, and establishing agreements for interaction among the Tri-Counties and between the Tri-Counties and Ecology;

**WHEREAS**, Pend Oreille County understands that there will be several future resolutions, Memoranda of Agreement, and/or contracts to support water bank establishment in WRIA 55, including but not limited to resolutions addressing water banking business rules and agreements for water bank operation between Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Pend Oreille County, Washington, that the Board does hereby agree to proceed cooperatively in forming a Tri-County (Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties) water bank for WRIA 55, including development of business rules and contractual mechanisms to support establishment and operation of the water bank.

**PASSED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

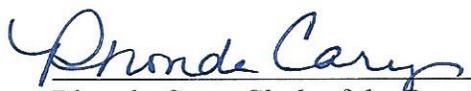
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PEND OREILLE COUNTY

  
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Mike Manus, Chair

  
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Karen Skoog, Vice-Chair

  
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Stephen Kiss, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Rhonda Cary, Clerk of the Board