

(Agenda of meeting was posted in the Tulsa County Administration Building Lobby at 4:43 p.m. on July 26, 2004.)

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
July 29, 2004

The Board of County Commissioners of Tulsa County met at 10:00 a.m., with the following members present: Randi Miller, Chairman, and Robert N. Dick Members. Absent: Wilbert E. Collins, Sr. Others Present: Jack Ball, Mark Burkholder, Frank Keith, David Weatherford, Loy Calhoun, Bruce Ford, Larry Davis, Susan Hylton, and Molly Mechler. Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., and the following business was transacted:

Keith spoke regarding the need for a comprehensive plan for river development. He stated there is a rule regarding no encroachments on the levee, however there are 687 unit apartments sitting on the levee and an 11,000 square foot skateboard park on the levee as well. He further stated there have been a number of encroachments through the years. Keith continued by stating the cause was the Levee District and the Corps of Engineers not taking control of the levee. Keith cited the regulations for the levee, stating the Levee Commissioner is responsible for all claims for or against the levee. Keith advised he went to the Corps and stated that if they would enforce regulations, he would operate the levee. Keith informed members that the Corps sent him a letter in return stating that in 1945 the responsibility for regulations was given to the Levee District. Keith explained that the Corps provides him technical advice but the decision regarding whether or not something will interfere with the operation of the levee is his responsibility. Keith stated there are problems sometimes, especially when dealing with municipalities, where certain projects are accepted even without the Levee Districts approval. Keith continued by stating that, on the other hand, when private citizens make requests they are often denied. Keith stated he believes the decision making process should be more consistent and there needs to be some type of comprehensive plan in place that would allow for a coexistence between recreation and flood control which would not be at the expense of the Levee District. Miller asked if Keith would agree that it might be appropriate to form a committee to look into the formation of a comprehensive plan, such as the local municipalities, INCOG, the Levee Districts, and perhaps a Tulsa County representative. Keith agreed the formation of a committee would be a good idea. Miller stated that a committee could be formed, but that she was unsure of the amount of time it would take to create the plan. She stated that if it were very in-depth, it would be a timely process. Dick asked Keith who writes the Levee District regulations. Keith advised the Corps of Engineers wrote them. Dick then asked who would have the authority to amend the regulations. Keith stated he believed it would be the Corps of Engineers responsibility to make any necessary amendments. Ball agreed, stating it was an operations and maintenance manual and is updated periodically. Dick asked if there was a permitting process in the manual regarding encroachments on the levee. Ball stated it says encroachments are unwanted, but if they must occur due to improvements, the plans need to be submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers for review and approval. Ball continued by stating that the engineering and technical aspects of the projects are reviewed by the Corps of Engineers to ensure safety and make sure nothing will harm the levee. Dick