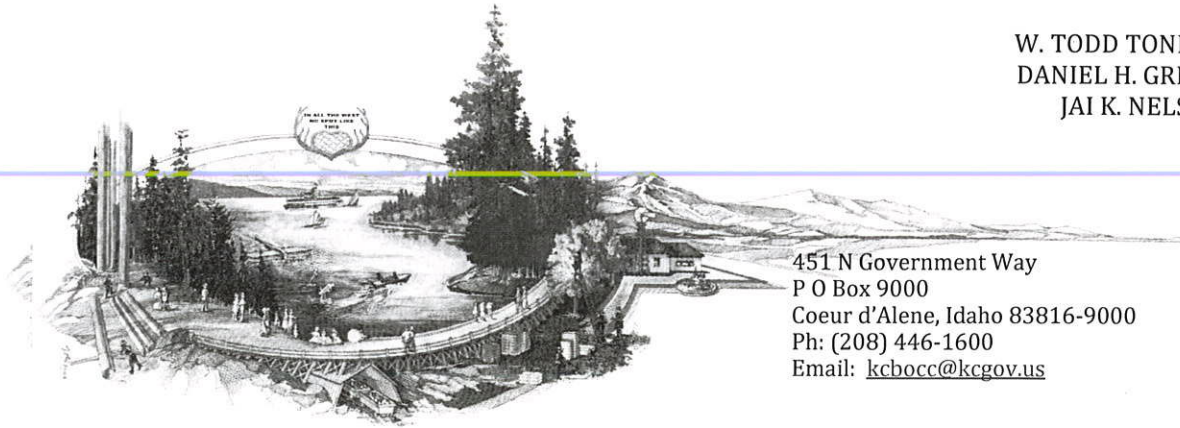


# Kootenai County Commissioners

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## Press Release

**Date:** March 21, 2012

**Re: Clarification of Facilities Master Plan Article**

The Board of County Commissioners has received several calls regarding an article in the Cd'A Press on Tuesday regarding the development of our Facilities Master Plan. There appears to be some confusion as to the development of the Plan and the eventual implementation of the Plan.

The Plan is a work in progress. The Board is working with NAC Architecture and the plan is only about 50% complete. The plan's emphasis is to streamline our operations and consolidate County facilities as much as possible. Currently, county facilities are very fractured in nature. For example, we have court rooms in four separate locations with two of those locations being off the main campus. The manpower required to service these sites is a substantial drain on county resources.

Once the Facilities Master Plan is completed the Board will present the plan to the public and explore multiple funding options. These options may include, but are not limited to, existing county fund balances, grants, local option taxes, a facilities bond and/or cost sharing with the City of Cd'A which could include urban renewal funds.

The City of Cd'A has expressed an interest in partnering to develop a shared use parking facility to address parking issues near Independence Point and Memorial Field. Discussions with the City have only addressed a shared parking facility.

The Master Plan includes two primary projects at this point, a new Justice Building and a parking garage in order to address current overcrowding and additional cars due to the proposed new building. A parking garage must be built first if we are to proceed. Preliminary cost estimates for the parking garage and the Justice Building are in excess of \$27 million. The County would need to float a bond to build both facilities or use the local option tax if this became available. Either a bond or a local option tax would require a vote of the public.

We apologize for any confusion. There is still a great deal of work to be done and numerous options to be explored before any implementation of the Facilities Master Plan can begin.