

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109 - ELLENSBURG  
Regular Meeting**

**MONDAY**

**1:30 PM**

**May 8, 2017**

Board members present: Chairman Paul Jewell; Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz; Commissioner Obie O'Brien

Others: Mark Cook, Lucas Huck, Candie Leader, Public Works; Five (5) Members of the Public

At 1:30 pm Chairman Jewell opened the Public Works Study Session.

Additional items were added to the agenda: Currier Creek Estates property; Flooding update; Comp Plan Status; and Gravel Roads. Comp Plan Status was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

**COMP PLAN STATUS**

Bruce Coe spoke about the Comp Plan process and is concerned about the process going sideways. Bruce Coe stated that it was his understanding that currently there was no Consultant on staff to assist in this process and he gave some suggestions on the process and current update. Discussion was held.

**WIEHL ROAD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Mark Cook gave background on Wiehl Road and conversations with property owners are being had regarding the road issue. Mark Cook stated that staff has been working on design options and estimated costs for those designs. Mark Cook continued that residents are working on a petition to form the road improvement district. Discussion was held. No direction was given.

**EXIT 70/I-90 DISCUSSION**

Mark Cook stated that about a month ago Commissioner Osiadacz and himself attended a meeting with Washington State Department of Transportation - South Central Region to discuss sustained closure periods on I-90 and the impacts at Exit 70. Mark Cook continued that the issue is the large tractor trailer vehicles are reluctant to consider turning around and return to a place to park during the closure. Mark Cook added that if the truck traffic could be controlled in one lane and have Exit 70 be used for a turnaround for the travelling public to get back to resources in Ellensburg and/or Cle Elum. Discussion was held. No direction was given.

## **RINGER LOOP UPDATE**

Mark Cook stated that in November 2015 the Yakima River cut across the north/south leg of Ringer Loop which resulted in recurrent flooding of the Papineau property with the east/west portion of the roadway acting like a dike for the river. Mark Cook continued that Kittitas County was awarded half million dollar grant award from the Yakima River Basin Plan for acquisition of two key parcels in this area. Mark Cook added that one property, Stalder/Sparks, is currently in escrow under Board action and staff is finalizing the acquisition on the Papineau property. Mark Cook commented that staff has also come up with an alternative project through the Federal Emergency Management Agency in lieu of repairing Ringer Loop. Mark Cook stated that the funds will be used to purchase around one million dollars in equipment and a temporary bridge for future use. Discussion was held. No direction was given.

## **HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN GRANT UPDATE**

Mark Cook stated that in 2012 the Board of County Commissioners adopted a multi-jurisdictional hazards mitigation plan. Mark Cook continued that these plans are being represented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a head start for communities involved after a federally declared disaster. Mark Cook added that this plan is scheduled for an update and staff submitted a grant application in late 2015, with a notice of award in 2016. Mark Cook commented that there is approximately ninety one thousand dollars in FEMA funding and the match from Kittitas County brings the total amount to one hundred and thirty thousand dollars total for the update. Mark Cook added that he met with other county agencies to solicit interest in possibly partnering for an update as well. Discussion was held. No direction was given.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mark Cook moved onto other business with Lucas Huck presenting the Road Safety Plan afterward.

## **CURRIER CREEK ESTATES**

Mark Cook stated that David Duvall approached Public Works over a year ago with a request for Kittitas County to surplus property adjacent to his property in Currier Creek Estates. Mark Cook continued that this property came to the county through a tax foreclosure and Public Works has never maintained this small piece of property but Mr. Duvall has been maintaining it and asked for compensation during a previous conversation on this issue. Mark Cook added that after discussions with the Board of County Commissioners it was decided that no compensation was available and

he could go through the proper channels to purchase this property. Discussion was held. Vice-Chairman Osiadacz will contact the Treasurer and Prosecuting Attorney offices for further information and update staff.

#### **FLOODING UPDATE**

Mark Cook stated that with the temperatures rising last week there has been increased runoff in the stream systems in lower county, specifically, Whiskey and Mercer creek. Mark Cook continued that some flooding is occurring causing a limited closure of the runway at Bowers Field and Bar 14 Road was closed. Mark Cook continued that the flooding conditions are still in effect, however, they are decreasing. Mark Cook added that the Blackhorse Development was also flooding and he noticed the engineer for D.R. Horton of the event. Discussion was held. No direction was given.

#### **GRAVEL ROADS**

Mark Cook stated that Public Works has been late on all maintenance activities this year. Mark Cook continued that there has been a lot of moisture and frost heave damage after snow melt. Mark Cook added that there has been a crack sealing crew added, along with normal efforts recognizing the amount of damage staff has seen. Mark Cook commented that the weather has been so wet that any grading activities on gravel roads will destroy the subgrade during operations because of the weight of the equipment. Mark Cook stated that he and County Engineer Lucas Huck have met and will be putting together a draft gravel maintenance policy for Board of County Commissioner consideration. Discussion was held.

#### **KITTITAS COUNTY ROAD SAFETY PLAN 2017**

Lucas Huck stated that in 2014 Kittitas County adopted a road safety plan that was done with a grant award from the Highway Safety Improvement program for fifty four thousand dollars in 2015 to update that plan. Lucas Huck continued that in November of last year staff began to work on the update and in the briefing provided it states the plan is about ninety percent complete, however, that percentage focuses on the data collection and project identification with the narrative coming after the data is compiled. Luke Huck gave background on the program funding for the safety plans from Washington State. Discussion was held. Staff will bring forward the completed plan for adoption at a future agenda or study session for Board of County Commissioner approval by resolution.

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Candie Leader



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Laura Osiadacz, Chairman