



# **KITTITAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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Mark Cook, Director

## **STUDY SESSION MINUTES June 26, 2017**

**THOSE PRESENT:** Paul Jewell, Laura Osiadacz, Obie O'Brien (BOCC); Mark Cook, Candie Leader; Scott Casey (DPW); Dan Carlson, Mike Flory, Steph Mifflin, Chelsea Benner (CDS); Lisa Iammarino (CE); Neil Caulkins (PA)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Pat Deneen, Chad Bala, Jennifer Reiner

### **REQUEST TO SIGN A LETTER REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MANAGING WEEKEND TRAFFIC DIVERTING TO WEST NELSON SIDING ROAD:**

Mark presented to the Board of County Commissioners' a letter addressed to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the detouring of vehicles off of I-90 onto West Nelson Siding Road, due to the construction and heavy traffic, resulting in high speeding vehicles, drivers urinating and defecating along the roadway and in private driveways. Discussion was held.

#### **Board Direction:**

**Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve the letter to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) with edits. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion passed with edits. Commissioner Jewell stated that a meeting in person with WSDOT should be scheduled with the Board of County Commissioners as well.**

### **REQUEST TO SIGN AN AIRPORT USE AGREEMENT WITH IASCO FLIGHT TRAINING:**

Mark presented the Board of County Commissioners' an Airport Use Agreement for consideration. Mark stated that after several unsuccessful meetings with IASCO Flight Training an agreement has finally been signed and a check received for use of Bowers Field. Flight training operations are 93% of the take offs and landings at Bowers Field. After staff research, it was discovered that to obtain full cost recovery for use by the flight training contractor was in excess of \$25,000.00 a year. After discussion with the Board of County Commissioners' an amount of \$1,000.00 per month for continued use of Bowers Field since IASCO was operating without a current agreement. Mark reported that he sent out a letter and the agreement for IASCO consideration and received no response until late last week. The Airport Use Agreement

was sent with signature but without payment. On Monday morning Mark stated that he sent an email to IASCO for a tracking number for the check that was sent USPS to be out of compliance. At 11:00 am there was still no response from IASCO which left them in a trespass status at the airport. Mark delivered a trespass notice at approximately 11:30 am and operations were suspended. Around 1:00 pm the mail arrived and the check to bring IASCO current was received. Mark stated that he then went back out to the airport and lifted the trespass notice.

**Board Direction:**

**Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve the Airport Use Agreement with IASCO Flight Training as presented and Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion passed and approved as presented.**

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AND A NOTICE OF CALL FOR SEALED BIDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A STEEL MODULAR BRIDGE:**

Mark stated that in the November 2015 flood event, Ringer Loop sustained damage and was repaired. In 2016, another flood event damaged Ringer Loop causing staff to decide that there was no advantage in repairing the roadway and elected to go through FEMA's alternate project process. After approval, Public Works was awarded one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to obtain new equipment and a temporary bridge. After discussion staff felt that a new 90 foot structure instead of a 60 foot structure would better fit the needs of the Department. Mark presented a resolution and a Notice of Call for Bids for the procurement of a Steel Modular Bridge for Board approval.

**Board Direction:**

**Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-106 and a Notice of Call for Sealed Bids for the Procurement of a Steel Modular Bridge. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion approving Resolution 2017-106. Motion passed and approved as presented.**

**BLACKHORSE AT WHISKEY CREEK DISCUSSION:**

Mark reported that during the past several winters, the onsite storm water ponds supporting improved runoff within the Blackhorse subdivision have not worked properly since they were constructed. Mark added that it appears the ponds are being influenced by the high water table in various areas. In response to the height of the water table, DR Horton recently attempted to construct a shallow infiltration gallery, which is excavation filled with round rock, setting the bottom elevation approximately three (3) feet below the existing ground surface and the excavation began filling during construction. Mark continued with stating that over the following weekend, groundwater filled the excavation to approximately eight (8) inches in depth. Staff then met with DR Horton on June 15, 2017 to discuss the issue. Currently, Public Works does not have a plan from DR Horton to address this issue. Recently, Public Works conducted a limited flood analysis of the DR Horton property (Black Horse) using a recently completed two

dimensional flow model developed by the Flood Control Zone District of Whiskey Creek. Mark stated that the preliminary results were shared with the Board of County Commissioners and later with two (2) residents bordering the Black Horse property. Watershed Science and Engineering has since completed a final flood study that was sent to the Board of County Commissioners for review. Mark added that the final study was sent to DR Horton and Ellensburg Water Company on June 20, 2017. A follow-up meeting with DR Horton has not been scheduled at this time. In closing, Mark reported that a comprehensive approach to define the extent and quantity of groundwater on the DR Horton site has not been conducted and solutions are unlikely to succeed without knowing the impact of groundwater at the site. Mark is suggesting that to help guide the process, a scope of work defining the likely data collecting effort needed to define the water table and the underlying “aquitar” that is driving swallow water table depth. Discussion was held.

**Board Direction:**

**No Direction.**

**NANEUM CREEK – WILSON CREEK SPLIT STRUCTURE DISCUSSION:**

Mark stated that in early December 2016, staff briefed the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on issues surrounding a flow control structure on Naneum Creek. At that time, the City of Ellensburg expressed interest in having the streambed in that vicinity of the structure dredged in anticipation of potential flooding in the spring of 2017. Mark continued that there has been significant flooding that has occurred in the Naneum watershed throughout this past spring. One tributary of Naneum Creek is currently completely plugged with round rock and debris blocking water delivery. Mark added that the flow control structure is now being exercised attempting to establish fifty percent (50%) flow delivery to Wilson Creek and over the past week numerous water right holders have been gathering at the split discussing individual actions aimed at establishing flow delivery to both stream systems. Mark mentioned that with the pending potential shut down of state government will remove the ability for local Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff to issue an emergency HPA(s). He continued that given the growing tension amongst area water right holders, unpermitted stream dredging activities are a likely potential in the next several weeks or immediately following a government shutdown. Mark stated that in December 2016, staff supported a multi-agency approach to managing streambed materials at the split, staff was not successful in putting a multi-agency team together and the issue was put aside. Now, with the flooding in the Naneum watershed and clogging of creek tributaries bring a new issue of water supply for consideration. Mark added that while the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) mission does not include ensuring water to water right holders and some could argue maintenance is a stated objective of the FCZD. Any action to remove streambed materials could likely be seen by the community as the District’s obligation. Discussion was held on the issue of the BOCC electing to take action removing streambed materials and recognizing the current dilemma faced by WDFW partners. The cost of three days of streambed dredging would likely approach \$15,000.00 and adding mitigation costs to that total is not acceptable to the FCZD. Further discussion was held.

**Board Direction:**

**Schedule a meeting with local water right holders to discuss possible solutions.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**FEMA MAPPING UPDATE:**

Mark stated that last Thursday staff met with FEMA on the remapping project. Mark reported that staff would like to add Mercer Creek into the update costing around \$30,000.00. Discussion was held.



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