

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM (MOVED TO AUDITORIUM)
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright; Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board II; Mark Cook, Public Works Director/Interim County Engineer; Jennifer Reiner, PE Senior Land Acquisition Project Manager and 9 members of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING BLACKHORSE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE COMMISSIONERS

At 1:00 p.m. Chairman Wright opened a Special Meeting to receive an update from the Blackhorse Development Project Manager and County Staff.

Chairman Wright disclosed that if the Board will allow it he would like to listen in on today's meeting as it's only a briefing with no action. He stated as things move forward he will recuse himself from any future meetings where action is being requested on the topic.

Mark Cook, Public Works Director/Interim County Engineer stated that today's meeting will only be an update and that no action is being sought. He gave the Board a brief history on the Black Horse project at Whiskey Creek flooding/stormwater. He explained that for the past several years Public Works has been working with DR Horton, private land owners and the WSDFW as well as the Ellensburg Water Company to identify a flood solution resulting from pending installation of an eighteen foot box culvert under Bender Road replacing the existing 48 metal culverts. He stated that the Flood Control Zone Dist., has spent the past two years developing a two-dimensional flow model that is in the final stage of FEMA acceptance for regulatory remapping area floodplain and the flow model has been used to test various flood alleviation alternatives at Black Horse. The most recent attempt at restoring area conveyance centers on the creation of a new flood channel parallel to Bender Road along the easterly edge of the plat and for the past several years, DR Horton has been working to remedy failed onsite stormwater facilities; high groundwater and leaky stormwater conveyance systems are the most likely contributing agents. He stated that DR Horton recognizing the long term impact of seasonally high groundwater, and they are electing to redesign the onsite stormwater ponds to "evaporation" ponds. He stated that the decision requires more land for open water storage and the bottoms of existing ponds are being raised to gain separation from water table elevation. He stated that they are

anticipating seeing revised calculations and pond configurations in the next several months.

The Board concluded the meeting without taking any public comment. They indicated they would need to get Legal review to see what is allowed at this point in the project and would regroup once they had obtained a legal opinion.

The meeting was adjourned 1:44 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Cory Wright, Chairman