

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
In-Person and Webex
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

1:32 PM

February 28, 2022

Board Members Present: Chairman Laura Osiadacz, Vice-Chairman Cory Wright, and Commissioner Brett Wachsmith.

Others In-Person: Mark Cook, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works.

Others Virtual: Candie Leader, Public Works; (3) Members of the Public.

At 1:32 pm Chairman Laura Osiadacz opened the Public Works Study Session.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR/COUNTY ENGINEER EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

Mark Cook is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners give expenditure authority to the Deputy Director/County Engineer. The Board of County Commissioners supports the authorization and staff is directed to prepare enabling documents.

NORTH THORP HIGHWAY/ YAKIMA RIVER BRIDGE OUTREACH DISCUSSION

Mark Cook informed the Board of County Commissioners of anticipated construction in Summer of 2022 on North Thorp Hwy - Yakima River Bridge. Mark Cook stated that the work will require the bridge to be encapsulated resulting in periodic closure of the bridge. Mark Cook added that Public Works recognizes the inconvenience to commuters to use alternative routes and staff will begin public outreach and informational meetings with the community. Staff was directed to move forward with outreach as presented.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mark Cook proposes the creation of a new job description, this is including shuffling duties to provide additional construction management support in the Public Works office. The new delegation of work eliminates the need for Project Manager position. The previous Project Manager duties will be split between Administrative Supervisor and Finance Manager. BOCC supports the creation of the new job description.

TEN-YEAR TRANSPORTATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mark Cook is requesting the Board of County Commissioners for support of a public outreach campaign to propose a \$0.15/\$1000 Road Levy rate lift on the upcoming 2022 election. Discussion was held about how

quickly county residents would see decline in the current service levels of county roads due to lack of funding. Chairman Laura Osiadacz requests to set-up a brainstorming meeting to plan the public outreach methods.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark Cook announced the retirement of Maintenance Manager- Jim Van De Venter after 41 years of service to Kittitas County. Mark Cook shared accomplishments, and history of the exemplary employee. The Board of County Commissioners would like to recognize Jim for his years of service to the county.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



**Rebecca Cruse, Administrative
Assistant**



Laura Osiadacz, Chairman