

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

**MONDAY**

**1:30 PM**

**June 12, 2023**

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Mark Cook, Arden Thomas, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works; Jessica Miller, Steph Mifflin, Toni Berkshire, Jeremy Larson, Jayme Ayling, Community Development Services; Neil Caulkins, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Joe Poire, County Consultant; Jennifer Nelson, Washington Department Fish and Wildlife.

At 1:30 PM Chairman Cory Wright opened the Public Works Study Session.

No Citizen Comments.

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE EXAMINATION OF A REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION SERVING THE CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS**

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on Conference of Governments (COG) desire to evaluate the future planning structure and possible creation of a regional planning organization to serve all COG members and presented Resolution 2023-097 for consideration. Commissioner Laura Osiadacz moved to approve Resolution 2023-097. Seconded by Chairman Cory Wright. Motion passed.

**FEMA LETTER**

Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners on resources provided by the Flood Control Zone District to aid homeowners in the Palomino Fields Sub-Division to remove those homes from designated 100-year floodplain and federal flood insurance requirements. The efforts were successful, and Arden Thomas stated staff has received a letter from FEMA on May 16, 2023 formalizing the request for a map revision for 6 homes in the development.

**ANNUAL WATER LEASES**

Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners on 2 water right acquisitions obtained by the county that included "lease back" arrangements for agricultural use and is seeking direction to set annual water lease rates at that charged by the Kittitas Reclamation District. The Board of County Commissioners were supportive of revising the leases to the lowest rate charged by Kittitas Reclamation District.

2023-6-12 MINUTES

**APPROVED**

**6-20-23**

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING AWARD CONSIDERATIONS**

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on 2 requests received to distribute American Rescue Plan Act Funding. The first request to fund the Roslyn Cemetery irrigation improvements is well underway. Staff is seeking Board direction on the second request for the Evergreen Sno-park parking rehabilitation. Mark Cook stated the estimated cost for improvement is approximately \$1.2 million, and funding source for annual maintenance costs has not been identified. Staff was directed to schedule a meeting with Commissioner Laura Osiadacz and the Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District to discuss how they can participate in the cost of annual park maintenance before consideration of distributing funds.

**BROADBAND SOQ REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mark Cook stated Public Works received 2 submissions from the recent request for Broadband service providers and the next step is formation of a Broadband Committee to review the SOQ's submitted. Discussion pursued. Commissioner Laura Osiadacz requested more time to consider qualified Broadband Committee members. The Board directed Mark Cook and Joe Poire, County Consultant, to identify committee members as well for Board consideration.

**WEST ELLENSBURG FLOOD ALLEVIATION AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT**

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on developments to enhance Whiskey Creek and efforts to alleviate West Ellensburg flooding. Partnerships with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group and City of Ellensburg have been successful, and staff asks for the Board's support to maintain momentum. Recently, Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad has showed interest in eliminating a fish barrier along their mainline. Staff was directed to move forward with habitat improvements and reach out to agencies to form a broader stakeholder group.

Meeting concluded at 2:05 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative Assistant



Cory Wright, Chairman