

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

MONDAY

1:30 PM

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

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

Others: Josh Fredrickson, Arden Thomas, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works; Jamey Ayling, Jessica Miller, Community Development Services; 1 member of the public.

At 1:30 PM Chairman Brett Wachsmith opened the Public Works Study Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Karraker shared the experience she had with Code Enforcement.

KITTITAS COUNTY WATER MITIGATION FOR UPPER COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER/SEARCH AND RESCUE FACILITY

Arden Thomas requested the Board of County Commissioners support to authorize water mitigation for the new Upper County Emergency Operations/Search and Rescue Facility. The Board of County Commissioners supported the effort to secure water rights for the facility and directed staff to bring forward enabling documents.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VANTAGE INTERCHANGE PROPERTY

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on communications with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding property adjacent to the Vantage Boat Ramp. WSDOT desires an easement to access their land with the intent of using it for staging during the Vantage Bridge construction. Discussion was held on alternative access to the property and Staff was directed to move forward in negotiations so that WSDOT may attain an easement during construction.

SHORT TERM RENTAL COMMITTEE

Josh Fredrickson requested direction from the Board of County Commissioners on requirements for the Short Term Rental Committee Applicants. The Board of County Commissioner's directed staff to vet all applicants for code enforcement cases and assess for full-time residency in Kittitas County using voting records.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY OPERATIONAL CHANGE

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on Puget Sound Energy (PSE) proposed operational changes addressing wildfire risk. Josh Fredrickson stated this included "public safety emergency power shut-off" that could be isolated based on risks associated or affect up to 15,000 residents in Kittitas County. Arden Thomas was asked if this was included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and she stated that PSE has been invited to participate in development of the plan. Discussion pursued and the Board directed staff to let residents know dates when PSE will have public outreach.

ANNUAL BRIDGE INSPECTION REPORT

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on bridge inspections and classification in Kittitas County and stated that Public Works Staff also inspects bridges for municipalities in the county including Kittitas, Cle Elum, and Ellensburg. Commissioner Cory Wright commended staff for their dedication to inspecting critical infrastructure.

Meeting concluded at 2:04 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER:
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative
Assistant



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman