

**KITTITAS COUNTY
EC STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 108 - ELLENSBURG
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY	10:00 AM	March 25, 2024
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Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz, Commissioner Cory Wright

Others: Kady Porterfield (Event Center Director), Robert Eddings (Fair Board President)

1. Call to Order: 10:00am

2. Citizen Comments (1 min. time limit): None

3. Approve Request for Chair’s Signature on the 2023-2025 WSDA Grant Agreement:

Kady reported that the project under this grant had no issues for the Department of Historic Preservation and it received no tribal comments, so it’s time to finalize the agreement.

Commissioner Osiadacz moved to approve the request for chair’s signature on the 2023-2025 WSDA Agreement. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Update on Account Assistant III Position: KVEC management completed interviews and selected a candidate for hire who accepted the position. She will start on April 2, 2024.

5. Discussion on 2025 Proposed Bedding Fees: Fair Board President, Bob, is looking for feedback on the Bedding Fees structure as it’s a continued item of discussion amongst the Fair Board. The Livestock Directors have conducted some calculations and have some ideas of decreasing the bedding fees for small livestock and raising them for large livestock, like Beef. It was discussed that the fees are only a small portion of the actual cost and don’t really serve as a true fee as it is very subsidized. The current bedding fee is also structured more as a per animal entry fee. The feedback received said it might be wise to consider changing the wording of the fee to an animal entry fee, rather than a bedding fee, as it’s truer to its nature that way. The Commissioners all expressed that they do not want to see fees decreased when everything else is so heavily subsidized as is. If fee changes are brought forward in the future, a full cost analysis is to be presented that includes hauling off bedding waste, staff time to clean up and haul it, equipment use and fuel, and any other connected costs to that piece of the Fair operation.

6. Update on Livestock Sale Management Progress: Kady is waiting to hear back from Friends of the Fair President, Becky McDowell, on a time to meet to answer questions

Friends of the Fair have on the proposed amended agreement. It seems there is a struggle from a few involved in Friends of the Fair that believe the County (the County Fair) should own the Livestock Sale, but it has been reiterated that the County (Commissioners) only agreed for the Livestock Sale to move from one non-profit to another non-profit, not obligating the County Fair to any further financial commitments. The County was supportive of the Friends of the Fair taking on the Sale because the Fair would be able to support the Sale with currently owned and operated resources to help make it more cost effective and essentially keeping the cost of commission down for the livestock kids. There is hope that an understanding can be met over the new contract language to make expectations and terms more clear, but if an agreement is not reached, then the Fair Board will have to consider other options for outside management of the Sale and request the Event Center Director contract the Sale out to another entity.

7. Other Business: Kady reported she just received a proposal from ALSC to move forward with a 50% design to help reconceptualize the Grandstands Project so we can evaluate new budget needs and try to get the entire project launched.

Commissioner Wachsmith gave a recap on the Craig's Hill walk through with City and County officials and thought it was a great informational and educational meeting. No results or actionable items came from that meeting, but there is a meeting tomorrow to discuss in further detail with all parties involved.

Meeting concluded at 10:28am.


Kady Porterfield

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Brett Wachsmith, Chairman