KITTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 1, 2014

ACTION REQUESTED: Request to Set a Public Hearing to consider Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan Compliance efforts.

BACKGROUND: The Comprehensive Plan and the Kittitas County Code were amended on February 11, 2013 through Ordinance 2013-001 in order to be compliant with the Growth Management Act. The amendments came into effect on June 3, 2013.

On May 31, 2013 the Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board issued a decision regarding Kittitas County Code and Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan compliance to the Growth Management Act as a result of adopting these amendments. The Hearings Board found within this decision that the amendments addressed most of the issues of the July 28, 2011 Supreme Court decision of *Kittitas County Conservation, et.al. v. Kittitas County*. Issues still to be addressed include:
1) Measures to Protect Rural Character.
2) Adopting Imperative Language in Policies.
3) Adoption of Development Regulations Implementing Plan Measures.
4) Demonstrate How Existing Zones Meet Limited Areas of More Intense Development, Types I, II, and III.; and
5) Protection of Water Quality and Quantity.

Proposals to meet these issues were provided to the Planning Commission at a public hearing held at the Hal Holmes Center in Ellensburg on August 14, 2013, and recommendation regarding the proposal was made to the Board of County Commissioners on August 20, 2013. In September 2013, an extension to resolve issues was requested by the County and granted by the Hearings board to continue work for determining a solution. The County began negotiations with the Department of Ecology and petitioners Futurewise, Kittitas County Conservation Coalition, and Ridge in September 2013. These petitioners were included in the negotiations discussion since they were the only group that formally addressed the Hearings Board regarding recommendations made by the Planning Commission in August 2013. An additional extension was requested and granted to continue the negotiations in December 2013.

A public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners was held on February 26, 2014 at the Kittitas County Events Center Heritage Room. Testimony was received and the public hearing was continued to March 4, 2014 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners Auditorium. During this meeting the commissioners voted to request an additional 60 day extension from the Hearings Board to allow time for additional

communication with other interest groups such as the Farm Bureau and Water Bank operators within the County.

INTERACTION: Community Development Services and the Board of County Commissioners

ATTACHMENTS: None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board set an open-record Public Hearing on April 22, 2014 at 6:00pm at the Kittitas County Events Center – Heritage Room to consider any changes to the proposal presented at the February 26, 2014 public hearing on Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan Compliance efforts.

HANLDING: None.

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Doc Hansen, Planning Official