COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
STUDY SESSION  

TUESDAY  

Those in attendance: Commissioners Max Golladay, Perry Huston, and Bruce Coe

Others: Shannon Carlson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Debbie Strand, Bob Titus, and Lyn Jenison.

STUDY SESSION  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
BOCC

At 10:00 A.M. a study session was held with the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County.

Debbie Strand of the Economic Development Group of Kittitas County gave the Board packets of information. She explained that this was the first time that the group produced an annual report. She went over a power point presentation of the goals.

She explained the reasoning over the name change. The mission statement that was adopted in 1998 of the development group remains the same which is that Economic Development is a creation of wealth. They have been working with property owners encouraging them to get their properties prepared for business owners so that they are ready to go. They assist in the permits and process in obtaining regulatory standards.

Commissioner Huston said in a way, the County assists with contracts and grants and WACERT listing. Commissioner Golladay expressed some concerns with assessments.

Mr. Bob Titus explained that letters were sent to property owners asking them if they were interested in pre-permitting their land, and received only one response. He said that there are beginning talks with the City Manager and some Council members about the possibility of deferring the cost of utilities and services until a business is up and running. He explained that Washington State as a whole, is not a business friendly state, when it comes to taxes and regulatory measures.

Ms. Strand explained that they are currently competing with other counties on property. Many counties have “ready to go” properties with
less permitting issues. Kittitas County can't compete now but hopefully with getting properties pre-permitted they will be able to compete with other counties. They will keep educating property owners.

The Board suggested that the group talk with Paul Bennett, Director of Public Works and work with the consultants on the Transportation Plan. Mr. Titus went over the organizational chart for the Economic Development group.

The Board encouraged Mr. Titus and Ms. Strand to give them feedback on ways they can help out and if any issues arise in permitting processes to let them know.

At 11:15 A.M., the Study Session was adjourned.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Shannon L. Carlson

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Perry D. Huston, Chair