



KITTTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926

CDS@CO.KITTTITAS.WA.US

Office (509) 962-7506

Fax (509) 962-7682

"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

CDS STUDY SESSION MINUTES

February 13, 2017

THOSE PRESENT: Obie O'Brien, Paul Jewell (BOCC) Dan Carlson, Doc Hansen (CDS) Luke Huck, Kathy Jurgens, Candie Leader (PW), Neil Caulkins (PA)

GUESTS PRESENT: Ian Elliot

Discussion of Timeline Options for Comprehensive Plan Update:

Dan stated that per RCW 36.70A.130 the County has until June 30th of this year to update its Comprehensive Plan. Staff had been working under the assumption that an extension could be requested under the same RCW. The week before last Doc Hansen spoke with the Department of Commerce about the extension request and found out that under the same RCW in order to be eligible for the extension the County has to have a population less than 50,000 and have its population increase by no more than 17% in the ten years proceeding. We are less than 50,000 but according to the last numbers we are close to the 17%. Commissioner Jewell inquired as to how close we are to the 17% and Dan responded 16.87%. The next numbers won't come out from the OFM until May which is up against the deadline. Doc stated that he sent an email last week showing two different timelines. The first one went out through December to January 2018. The purpose of that was because of the loss of staff last year and the inability to fill those positions. Staff was still maintaining the timeline until the consultant left. Currently, the Department has interviewed for those positions and for a new consultant. The second timeline option would actually meet the deadline at a rapid pace. Doc suggested drafting a letter, right away, to the advisory committee and see if they could meet twice in March, April and have them involved all the way through May while we are going through the process with the Planning Commission. At the end of April we'd be looking at a joint meeting with the BOCC and the Planning Commission like we did with the compliance effort. In the middle of May the proposal would go before the Planning Commission and get a recommendation from them by the first part of June. This would allow the BOCC the month of June to come up with a plan. It's Doc's recommendation to move towards the June 30th deadline and if staff has to go over then it would only be the time period it takes to adopt the plan or revise the plan that we would be non-compliant during that period and would be working with the Department of Commerce. Commissioner Jewell added that the latest compliance effort was just completed in 2014 and that most of that shouldn't need to be changed. He stated that the housing element, transportation element and the critical area ordinance are the most important. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Jewell inquired as to the ramifications for not getting the update done on time and assuming we do not get an extension. Doc stated that two years ago we were eligible for a Fire Hazards Grant. The county had been deemed compliant by the hearing's board and one of the criteria for that grant to even be considered for the grant was being compliant with the Comprehensive Plan. Doc believes that there shouldn't be much because we are indeed trying to meet the goal and if we continue to show progress. We may need to change a few things in the office as far as workloads go. Dan added to Doc's statement that they would reassign some of Doc's current planning work to himself and the current level of service would be the same and Doc's focus would be on the update. Discussion was held.

Luke added that Public Works would have some ramifications as well with the accelerated timeline. Staff was waiting for the City of Ellensburg to complete their update so the County's would have their projections and how it would affect county roads with the city roads. Public Works will get with our Consultant to get going on the update. Luke expressed concerns about any grant funding and/or opportunities being affected by missing the June 30th deadline. Discussion was held.

Board Direction: Move ahead with the accelerated timeline to have the update accomplished by the June 30th deadline and apply for an extension.

X 

Dan Carlson, Director

X 

Paul Jewell, Chairman