

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

**MONDAY**

**1:30 PM**

**JANUARY 27, 2020**

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

Others: Mark Cook, Candie Leader, Public Works; Two (2) Members of the Public

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

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE FORMATION OF THE UPPER KITTITAS COUNTY TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Mark Cook gave background on the Upper County Traffic Task Force and the expectations of the task force when it was first formed. Mark Cook continued that ongoing traffic congestion issues lead to a traffic model being performed. Mark Cook added that the outcome of the modeling showed that the issue was not locally driven and the need for a third lane on I-90 was apparent. Mark Cook stated that safety improvements in this corridor should be implemented and discussion lead to the Board of County Commissioners directing staff to form an official committee to address ongoing issues. Discussion was held. Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-018 authorizing the Formation of the Upper Kittitas County Traffic Committee. Commissioner Cory Wright seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2020 PUBLIC FACILITIES UPDATE**

Mark Cook stated that recently the Council of Governments (COG) gave recommendation to award the Sales and Use Tax for the remaining projects. Mark Cook commented that Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce and Ellensburg Business Development Authority, dba CenterFuse were awarding funds for the funding of employees. Mark Cook continued that COG disqualified three (3) projects and recommended funding the remaining. Mark Cook added that after review COG awarded funds that were not available after awarding the two entities funds previously. Mark Cook added that further discussion was had related to the policies adopted by COG for reporting on projects and the lack of reporting being submitted for processing. Mark Cook reported that at the COG meeting in January no recommendation on awarding additional funds was made and it will be decided at the February meeting. Discussion was held.

At 1:45pm Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz excused herself to attend

another meeting.

**UNPERMITTED FILL IN COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY**

Mark Cook reported that staff was noticed by Kittitas County Water District No. 6 that a large berm was placed along Sunlight Drive on the main water service for the Sunlight Waters community. Mark Cook stated that staff surveyed the area and that fill was placed four hundred (400) feet into county road right of way. Mark Cook continued that the owner of the parcel where the berm was constructed was noticed of the infraction and was given until May 15, 2020 to remove the material or Public Works staff will begin the removal and invoice the property owner. Discussion was held.

**COLEMAN CREEK FISH PASSAGE PROJECT AT VANTAGE HIGHWAY**

Mark Cook gave background on the project stating that the project is at thirty percent (30%) design and is being funded by the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal grant with a fifteen percent (15%) match by Public Works. Mark Cook stated that last week staff met with a property owner in the project area to discuss the relocation of the driveway entering the property owner's residence. Mark Cook added that the driveway is paved, has pillars and a gate that is located within county road right of way. Mark Cook stated that the property is requesting the creek be realigned so the driveway does not have to be relocated. Discussion was held.

**ELN LEASE TERM - MAXIMUM LENGTH IN COUNTY CODE**

Mark Cook stated that he recently had discussion with Neil Caulkins, Prosecuting Attorney, on lease terms for property at Bowers Field. Mark Cook continued that a lessee is requesting a seventy-five (75) year term for a private hangar however, Washington State law states that a lease term at that length requires the lease to contribute to the aviation community. Mark Cook added that staff offered a fifty (50) year term but it was declined. Mark Cook stated that Kittitas County Code reflects a thirty-five (35) year term for leases and is looking for direction on how to move forward. Discussion was held. Direction was given to hold on drafting a lease for the property and start the process to amend county code after receiving a better legal understanding on Washington State language.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

  
Candie Leader

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Brett Wachsmith, Chairman