

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

MONDAY

1:30 PM

March 13, 2023

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

Others: Josh Fredrickson, Arden Thomas, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works; Dan Carlson, Jeremy Larson, Jessica Miller, Toni Berkshire, Steph Mifflin, Zach Torrance-Smith, Community Development Services; Neil Caulkins, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; No members of the public.

At 2:01 pm Chairman Cory Wright opened the Public Works Study Session.

No Citizen Comments.

MID-COLUMBIA FISHERIES MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT DISCUSSION

Arden Thomas requested the Board of County Commissioners to formalize the partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries. Arden Thomas explained that the organization is uniquely qualified and contributes resources to implementing the Yakima River Corridor Plan. Staff was directed to prepare enabling documents.

TROUT UNLIMITED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT DISCUSSION

Arden Thomas gave background on collaboration with Trout Unlimited working toward the Retirement of Tjossem Ditch, a diversion off the Yakima River that serves water right holders. Trout Unlimited needs limited funding to finalize securing water rights for those property owners and implement the plan. Arden Thomas requested the Board of County Commissioners approval to utilize 2023 budgeted funds from the Flood Control Fund and Water Resources funds due to the associated benefit. Staff was directed to prepare enabling documents.

NANEUM ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the installation of a private gate recently erected across Naneum Road right of way. Josh Fredrickson stated that the gate impedes usage of the end-of-road turnaround thus causing unsafe conditions for trucks and snowplows that currently must back down the road to a safe location. Josh Fredrickson added that survey data has indicated that it is a designated County Road right of way. Discussion was held on the location of the gate and fiscal impacts of removal. Neil Caulkins

applied his legal knowledge to the situation. The Board directed staff to reach out to the property owner that installed the gate.

BERRY ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners of problems associated with the intersection of Tjossem and Berry Roads. Josh Fredrickson stated that a larger turning radius is needed to mitigate frequent damages to the guardrail. Public Works requested to realign Berry Road to the East and seeks direction to acquire property for the right of way as part of the 6-year capital plan. Direction to staff to prepare enabling documents for approval.

At 2:25 pm the Board of County Commissioners announced they would recess in Executive Session for 10 minutes with Arden Thomas per RCW 42.30.110 (b) To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price. Action anticipated.

At 2:35 pm Chairman Cory Wright requested an additional 2 minutes for discussion. At 2:37 pm the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session and moved to approve the Chair's signature on purchase and sale agreement of water rights.

Meeting concluded at 2:39 pm

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative
Assistant



Cory Wright, Chairman