

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

MONDAY

1:30 PM

December 11, 2023

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

Others: Mark Cook, Rebecca Cruse, Josh Fredrickson, Public Works; Jessica Miller, Community Development Services; Stephanie Hartung, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Ben Kokjer, Kittitas County Sheriff; 2 members of the public.

At 1:30 PM Chairman Cory Wright opened the Public Works Study Session.

UPPER KITTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on options to pursue a viable funding source for the project. Claire Nicholls spoke on behalf of the Upper Kittitas County Community Recreation Center Alliance and her support of the County Partnership. Gary Berndt stated he wasn't sure if Parks and Recreation District #1 would be the best way to move this project forward. Chairman Cory Wright requested that staff engage with Parks & Recreation District #1 in discussion as the first step.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS AND AIRdna DISCUSSION

Mark Cook briefed the Board of County Commissioners on short-term rentals throughout the county and requested the Board authorize the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce to purchase AIRdna Software using Lodging Tax Funds. Mark Cook stated the software mines online rental websites for data to get a better understanding of the short-term rental market. Direction to staff to inform Amy McGuffin, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, to purchase the software.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mark Cook stated that staff have been monitoring the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Legislative Agenda for 2024 and two items he identified that may impact Kittitas County including: recreational use tax, and water banking.

KITTITAS HIGHWAY SPEED STUDY RESULTS

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on a request received from one resident to reduce the speed on Kittitas

Highway. Public Works conducted several traffic studies to create a dataset and information on engineer features of the road. Josh Fredrickson stated traffic was traveling at or above the speed limit in the section of road and majority of the car wrecks are associated with the intersection of No.6 Road and Kittitas Highway.

The Board of County Commissioners approached the next two Agenda items together.

**NO. 6 ROAD SPEED STUDY RESULTS
KITTTITAS HIGHWAY AT NO. 6 ROAD STOP SIGN**

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on frequency of car crashes related to No.6 Road and majority of all accidents between Vantage Highway and Kittitas Highway on No.6 Road occurred at the intersection. Josh Fredrickson listed the criteria for a traffic signal that isn't met for the intersection but does fit criteria for an all way stop sign. Discussion pursued. Ben Kokjer stated many people in wrecks have said they think it is a four-way stop. The Board directed staff to schedule one public hearing for all 3 items based on the concern of the intersection.

WAIVER OF FEES FOR MARDEE LAKE REZONE SUBMITTAL

Mark Cook requested the Board of County Commissioners consider waiving fees for the Mardee Lake Rezone Submittal. Discussion pursued. The Board supports the waiver of fees for benefit of the public as the applicant's partnership throughout the order of invalidity and their cooperation assisted in the preservation of grants for Kittitas County.

Meeting concluded at 2:38 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER:
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



**Rebecca Cruse, Administrative
Assistant**



Cory Wright, Chairman

**KITTITAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**PUBLIC WORKS – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2023 STUDY SESSION STAFF REPORT**

STUDY SESSION DATE: December 11, 2023

TOPIC: Short-term Rentals and AIRdna

ACTION REQUESTED:

LEAD STAFF:

Mark R. Cook.

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff.

BRIEFING SUMMARY:

- The county is preparing to evaluate the necessity to regulate short-term rentals.
- Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is proposing to acquire “data mining” software supporting short-term rental evaluation.
- A committee recommendation is not expected until late second quarter 2024.
- Is acquisition of the rental data ahead of legislation desired by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC)?

BACKGROUND:

PW/CDS has been directed to pursue formulating a BoCC committee to evaluate the necessity of developing short-term rental legislation for 2024. The Chamber has located data-mining software to extract rental data from national website booking companies.

DISCUSSION:

The Chamber desires direction from the BoCC relative to its pending 2024 work program for tourism support. A solicitation process for qualified consultants preparing a Tourism Master Plan is about to be issued by the Chamber. The desired software “AIRdna” currently costs approximately \$18,000/year for weekly reporting. The costs are scheduled to increase approximately \$5,000/year effective January 1, 2024. The software extracts Kittitas County data from national internet rental booking sites.

It is unlikely that any legislation, with a regulatory component, would be ready to implement prior to the fourth quarter 2024, owing to our annual comprehensive plan amendment process. The data could be useful to frame the extent of homeowners utilizing national booking companies during legislation development.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

\$18,000 prior to January 1, 2024, and then an additional \$5,000 for 2024 service. If we lock in now the price will stay at \$18,000 for 2024 service.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.