

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

1:30 P.M.

January 28, 2025

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

Others: Shelise Smithgall, Administrative Assistant; Amy McGuffin, Chief Executive Officer - Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce; and one member of the public.

SPECIAL MEETING

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COMMISSIONERS

At 1:31 p.m. Chairman Osiadacz opened a Special Meeting to receive a quarterly update from the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce CEO/ADO.

Amy McGuffin, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer, provided and reviewed a handout consisting of the Q1 2025 Washington SBDC & ADO Partnership County Activity & Impact Report for Kittitas County.

Ms. McGuffin reviewed what the Chamber has accomplished as the County's ADO, including what projects she is currently involved in, what projects they are planning for the future, and how the current ongoing projects are creating jobs in Kittitas County.

Ms. McGuffin mentioned that they are tracking private investments and what people are doing to create industry and expand their current businesses.

Ms. McGuffin gave an update on the ADO Grant writing program and said it is going well, and they have been able to help several entities with the grant process.

Ms. McGuffin said they finished their first year of Agritourism consulting. She said they have identified 305 working farms and ranches in Kittitas County. The Chamber has provided 3 workshops on farms and farmstands. She said they are giving farms technical assistance by advocating for farms that have been shut down unnecessarily by an inefficient USDA testing process.

Ms. McGuffin discussed their SCORE program in which they provide mentors that give business advising for pop-up and in-home businesses so that the SBDC can be more focused on established retail businesses. She said they are hiring a new certified advisor.

2025-01-28 MINUTES

1

APPROVED

2-18-25

Ms. McGuffin and the Board discussed the problem of housing affordability in Kittitas County. She suggested that the county needs to recruit businesses that pay higher and/or pressure existing businesses in the county to pay higher to help fix the affordability issue.

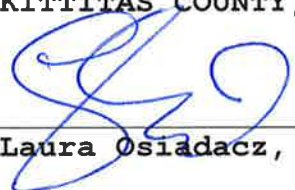
Ms. McGuffin mentioned the possibility of opening a Skill Center in 2028, as she feels students need more training and education before heading into the workforce.

Meeting concluded at 2:09 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT


Shelise Smithgall

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Laura Osiadacz, Chairman