

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

MONDAY

1:30 PM

April 14, 2025

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

Others: Josh Fredrickson, Cameron Curtis, Arden Thomas, Sally Kraft, Public Works; Stephanie Hartung, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Greg Shelley, Springwood Ranch Manager; Pat Kelleher, Tim Lawless, Deputy Goeman, and Melissa Schumaier.

At 1:31PM Chairman Laura Osiadacz opened the Public Works Study Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Pat Kelleher shared about the unmet need for affordable housing in Kittitas Valley. To mitigate this need, Pat suggests that the Springwood property be rezoned and made into a manufactured home community.

Pat Kelleher suggested moving Public Works to the Incubator Building located near the airport that was gifted from the city, through a bilateral agreement.

On April 13, 2025, Pat Kelleher submitted public comments to the BoCC via email. A copy of this email is attached.

KITTITAS COUNTY CWU TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER FEASIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE

Josh Fredrickson requested direction regarding the upcoming kick-off meeting on April 29, 2025, for the Kittitas County CWU Technology Transfer Center Feasibility Study. The meeting will have representatives from CWU, City of Ellensburg, Council of Government (COG), legislative representatives, CERB members, and the Board of County Commissioners. After discussion, it was decided that the entire BoCC would attend, and that Commissioner Laura Osiadiaz would be the BOCC speaker representative at the event.

BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECTS UPDATE

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the Broadband Expansion Projects. Project design and permitting are underway for the expansion of broadband in the Thorp and Edgemont area. This project is funded through a grant from the Public Works Board and will provide broadband to over 550 locations. Public Works

would like to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony to kick off the construction. The second project, funded through Washington State Broadband Office, is going through contract development and will expand broadband service to approximately 700 rural locations in Kittitas County. The third project is also through the State Broadband Office, which is administering the BEAD program, identified seven projects in Kittitas County as eligible for the BEAD grant funding. Two project areas received provisional awards. The remaining five project areas are eligible for applications through BEAD Round 2. The BEAD program is federal funding and requires a match. The State of Washington is providing match funding when a local agency applies for the program. A high-cost threshold was established for Round 2 and alternative technologies, such as wireless or low earth orbit satellites, will be considered as options. Round 2 will require a resolution and additional funding will be requested. The BoCC agree that a ribbon cutting ceremony to kick off this project is important and are pleased that Public Works is partnering with local private company to accomplish the work.

SPRINGWOOD UPDATE

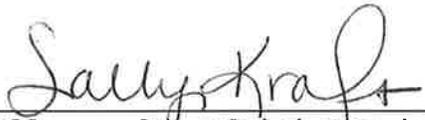
Arden provided an update on the role that Public Works has been playing since the acquisition of a significant portion of Springwood Ranch on October 31, 2024. Essentially, Public Works has been providing both management and planning services. During this transition period, continuity of operations is needed. Two specific items need direction in this interim time. The first item is the grant agreement with the state to help offset costs. Kittitas County will hold the grant and enter Interlocal agreements with KRD, Yakama Nation, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The second item is regarding the possibility of leasing the two hay barn structures that are not being utilized. These leases would end at the same time as the current grazing leases, in order to move unencumbered into 2027 and be able to enter into new lease agreements.

Arden expects Public Works to be soliciting new agricultural uses in a year. There are some key capital upgrades that are necessary to irrigate portions of the property not currently irrigated. There are three key irrigation and field improvements proposed that were not included in the original operating budget. The upgrades will generate additional income from the agricultural lease, but costs will not be offset during the interim period. Staff recommend a phased approach to the upgrades. The first phase would be the upgrade to the gated pipe field and the repair of the pivot system for a cost of \$26,000. Improvements on the 125-acre field and the barn will be deferred at this time. Vice-Chairman Cory Wright shared that deferred maintenance can be a safety issue and that neighbors have shared concern. Cory agrees that the improvements are needed and vital to support this legacy resource. Chairman Laura Osiadacz requested that the Springwood sign be removed. Staff was directed to determine if our partners had any concerns with removing the sign, and if not, proceed with sign removal.

UMPTANUM ROAD SPEED STUDY

Cameron Curtis briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the results of the speed reduction study that was completed on Umptanum Road. The first request came in December 2024, to lower the speed limit from MP 1 to MP 1.69. The criteria ranking was completed, and it was determined that a speed study would be warranted. The County is meeting the federal guidelines for establishing speed limits by setting the speed limit within 5 MPH of the 85th percentile speed of free-flowing traffic. However, there are additional factors such as land use, safety, and community input, that can be considered to warrant a change in the speed limit. There is also an informal request to adjust the speed on the entire stretch of the road. The Board of County Commissioners directed staff to expand the speed reduction request to cover from MP 1 - MP 2.7 and bring forth enabling documents to schedule a public hearing.

Meeting concluded at 2:24 PM



Sally Kraft, Administrative
Assistant

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Laura Osiadacz, Chairman