

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

MONDAY

1:30 PM

December 8, 2025

Board members present: Chairman Laura Osiadacz and Vice-Chairman Cory Wright.

Others: Josh Fredrickson, Arden Thomas, Lisa Godden, Public Works; Stephanie Hartung, Molly McDowell, Kittitas County Prosecutor's Office; Claire Nicholls, UKC Recreation Center Alliance; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, Rebecca Springer, City of Ellensburg.

At 1:30PM Chairman Laura Osiadacz opened the Public Works Study Session.

NO CITIZEN COMMENTS

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHAIR SIGNATURE ON AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF ELLENSBURG AND KITTITAS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT FOR FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP UPDATES FOR WHISKEY AND MERCER CREEKS

Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the proposed Interlocal Agreement between the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County. Arden Thomas introduced Rebecca Springer from the City of Ellensburg who has been helping to prepare the Interlocal Agreement. Arden Thomas stated Public Works has been working on some updated flood risk modeling starting with Whiskey Creek and Mercer Creek. Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners that the City of Ellensburg had received some grant funding from the Department of Ecology which allowed the ability to include some detailed modeling. It was also learned that there is an option to request that FEMA establish an advisory, rather than regulatory flood designation for areas susceptible to shallow flooding. The implication is that it puts both flood plain regulations at the discretion of the local community and flood plain insurance at the discretion of the individual landowner.

Arden Thomas stated that it made sense to memorialize that the City and County are working together to finalize the modeling to translate into mapping to submit to the Federal Government and identify roles and responsibilities. Arden Thomas also stated that the work that is scoped is supported by the Levy Fund and included in the 2026 budget.

Vice-Chairman Cory Wright asked Arden Thomas if the advisory rating would change the county wide rating that we have now?

Arden Thomas stated it would be an indirect effect and that there is a calculation that comes into play, but the adjustment would be a small percentage.

APPROVED

1/6/26

Vice-Chairman Cory Wright motioned to approve Resolution 2025-248 and Chairman Laura Osiadacz seconded the Motion. Motion passed. Resolution 2025-248 approved.

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC WORKS WATER RESOURCE MANAGER TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND SIGN GRANT AGREEMENT SEAFBD-2527-KiCPWD-00022

Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners on a Grant Agreement from Floodplains on Design which is a \$10,000,000.00 Grant. To receive the Grant, Arden Thomas requested authorization to sign the Grant Agreement from the Department of Ecology.

Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners on some of the critical things to know. (1) The project will have some significant design changes and (2) Project costs.

Vice-Chairman Cory Wright asked if this specific grant was to get the project off the ground.

Arden Thomas stated that the grant is for implementation funding and for final permitting. Arden Thomas recommended signing the agreement and keeping the Board of County Commissioners updated.

Vice-Chairman Cory Wright motioned to approve Resolution 2025-249 and Chairman Laura Osiadacz seconded the motion. Resolution 2025-249 approved.

PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT DISCUSSION

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the discussion regarding a Public Facilities District. Josh Fredrickson introduced Claire Nicholls, UKC Recreation Center Alliance; and Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City of Ellensburg. Josh Fredrickson gave a brief description of the Public Facilities District and asked that the Board of County Commissioners consider a Resolution to declare intent to conduct an Independent Financial Feasibility Study that would go to the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Claire Nicholls and Heidi Behrends Cerniwey presented a Power Point explaining the Public Facilities District.

Discussion was had regarding the Feasibility Study, staffing needs and funding.

Joshua Fredrickson requested direction from the Board of County Commissioners to request the Washington State Department of Commerce to start a Feasibility Study and that the cost would be approximately \$20,000.00. The Board of County Commissioners directed staff to prepare the enabling documents for consideration at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the storm moving through and potential flooding. Josh Fredrickson stated that Public Works has been in communication with several Departments and Agencies and is monitoring the situation. Arden Thomas clarified that storm timeline and the importance of notifying the public.

Cory Wright asked if the information was going to be sent out to the public. Arden Thomas stated the Sheriff's Department is putting info out on Everbridge and Facebook and once posted, Arden Thomas stated she would also post onto the County's Facebooks page.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:19 the Board of County Commissioners announced that they would recess into Executive Session for 5 minutes with Josh Fredrickson, Stephanie Hartung and Molly McDowell.

At 2:24 the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session.

No action was taken.

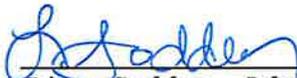
At 2:24 the Board of County Commissioners announced that they would recess into an additional Executive Session for 6 minutes with Josh Fredrickson, Stephanie Hartung and Molly McDowell.

At 2:30 the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session.

Direction to Staff was provided.

Meeting concluded at 2:30 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



**Lisa Godden, Administrative
Assistant**


_____, **Chairman**