

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**JANUARY 12, 2026**

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Jodi Larsen, Office Administrator; and one member of the public.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OFFICE STAFF MEETING**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Wright opened the Office Administration meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**CALENDAR**

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed their weekly calendar.

**PAF/VOUCHERS**

**REVIEW OF PAF'S & VOUCHERS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners approved and signed County Employee Personnel Action Forms and Vouchers.

**CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

**REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed the weekly Correspondence Log, a listing of all incoming mail and correspondence for the week ending January 9, 2026.

**REAPPOINTMENT**

**PLANNING COMMISSION - TAYLOR/HINKLE**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith moved to approve the reappointment of Bill Hinkle and Warren Taylor to the Kittitas County Planning Commission for a 4-year term effective 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2029. Commissioner Osiadacz seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**REAPPOINTMENT**

**DDAC - McBRIDE**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith moved to approve the reappointment of David McBride to the Kittitas County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee for a 3-year term effective 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028. Commissioner Osiadacz seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**APPROVED**  
1/20/26

**REAPPOINTMENT**

**HHAC - ESPARZA**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith moved to approve the reappointment of Bradley Esparza to the Kittitas County Homelessness & Affordable Housing Committee for a 2-year term effective 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2027. Commissioner Osiadacz seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**ACKNOWLEDGE**

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith moved to approve and acknowledge the City of Ellensburg's recommendation for Councilmember Joshua Thompson to the City's Airport Advisory Committee Rep. for 2026, and to acknowledge the City of Ellensburg's recommendation for Councilmembers David Miller and Sarah Beauchamp to the City's Disability Board Re.p for 2026, noting only one would attend the meeting, not both. Commissioner Osiadacz seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**REVIEW**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD ASSIGNMENTS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board reviewed the Departments and discussed keeping the assignments from 2025 and how they think it is beneficial to do two years with the Departments. The 2026 Department Head assignments are as follows: Chairman Wright will oversee I.T., Solid Waste/Maintenance, WSU Extension/Noxious Weed. Vice-Chairman Wachsmith will oversee Public Works, CDS, and the Event Center; Commissioner Laura Osiadacz will oversee the Human Resources, Public Defense, and the Public Health Departments.

**REVIEW**

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE'S**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Staff provided copies of the 2025 committees that the Commissioners served on. The Board reviewed them and made changes for 2026, some of which follow the Chairman or are changes that reflect adjustments to allow other Board members an opportunity to participate in an area of interest for them or because they align with the Department Head they are working with for 2026.

**UPDATE**

**WHITE BOARD**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board reviewed their current whiteboard topics and provided status updates.

**DISCUSSION**

**COUNTY FACEBOOK**

**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board determined that for the week of January 12, 2026, they would post the following on their Facebook page: Kittitas County Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Public Meetings on 1/21/2026 from 9-11 at Hotel Windrow - Yakima Room, Ellensburg WA., and 2/3/2026 from 9-11 at the Upper Kittitas County Senior Center in Cle Elum WA; Courthouse Closure on 1/19/2026 Martin Luther King Day

and Kittitas County 2026 Legislative Priorities.

**UPDATE**

**BOCC/ DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Each Commissioner was assigned three different Department Heads to meet with on a weekly basis for the year. The assignments for 2026 were determined during this Board of County Commissioners Office Admin meeting and they will continue to provide updates at future meetings.

Each Commissioner reviewed discussions held with their respective departments and exchanged details of those meetings.

**OTHER BUSINESS/GENERAL UPDATES** - There were general updates on meetings & conversations that the Board participated in, individually, over the past week.

Chairman Wright gave an update on the Deathridge well issue they previously discussed during the 12/15/2025 Admin Meeting.

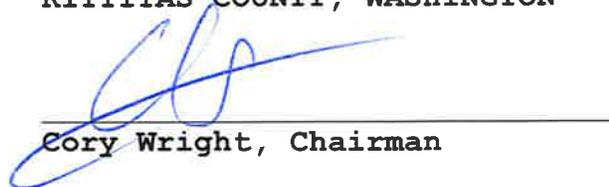
Chairman Wright provided a draft 2026 Washington State Legislative priorities for review. He received minimal edits and stated he would send it to the County Lobbyist Bill Clarke.

Meeting concluded at 9:31 a.m.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

  
Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Cory Wright, Chairman