

**KITTITAS COUNTY
CDS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5th ROOM 109
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

2:30 PM

March 9, 2026

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

Others: Chad Bala, Gail Weyand, Jamey Ayling, Jeremy Johnston, Community Development Services, Stephanie Hartung, Chief Civil Deputy, and (2) two members of the public.

At 2:30 pm Chair Wright opened the Community Development Services Study Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

KCCDS has been awarded the Clean Energy Site Permitting (CESP) grant. This grant allows Kittitas County to prepare for clean energy development while ensuring environmental protection aligning with the state climate and energy goals.

This amendment authorizes the CDS Director to move forward with the Clean Energy Siting and permitting (CESP) Grant funding and administer payments for work related to the CESP Grant

CDS Director Chad Bala presented that CDS has been awarded the Clean Energy Site Permitting (CESP) grant. This grant allows CDS to complete a programmatic EIS over the entire county and take a look at areas that may be viable for clean energy types of development. The grant also deals with the environmental factors, the mitigation process and procedures. Staff has participated in programmatic EIS workshops with the Department of Ecology and EFSEC and the consultants have been hired. CDS Director Bala stated that the packet provided includes a memo from our consultants with the different energy uses and it includes examples of the energy components. Staff recommends moving forward with wind energy, solar, battery storage, small

modular reactors system and the geothermal energy system and adding the small nuclear system and geothermal energy.

Chair Cory Wright asked why we were not proceeding with the biofuel. CDS Director Bala stated the biofuel has a lot of reliance on biomass and there is already a facility in Spokane. There is a lot of fuel required, and we are looking for clean energy sources. Staff is looking at the heavy areas with shrub-steppe that may provide us with a pathway of mitigation. One major deciding factor is where these will be located.

Chair Cory Wright suggested staff connect with PUD and bring this item back for discussion after checking in with them. He stated PUD is currently pursuing geothermal work with Energy Northwest. CDS Director Bala stated he will and asked if staff could move forward with the two additional uses so we could move forward with Chamber of Commerce. The timeframe for scoping is to be completed by April 1st and have all of the grant completed by June 2027. Planning Manager Jamey Ayling mentioned PUD is on our list of stakeholders. Staff was directed to proceed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Bala gave a briefing about the Planning Commission meeting coming up on March 17th. The comment period ended on March 2nd. Director Bala said we received 12 comments, some were from Future wise, PSE, Friends of Easton, KFRD, WDFD, and Easton residents.

Meeting concluded at 2:39 p.m.

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Gail Weyand

Gail Weyand, Chief
Administator

Cory Wright

Cory Wright, Chairman