

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

MONDAY

2:30 PM

March 30, 2026

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

Others: Chad Bala, Jamey Ayling, Jeremy Johnston, Gail Weyand, Community Development Services, Josh Fredrickson, Public Works, 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

Jeff Dunning provided comments regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems. He stated that his family had been approached about siting such systems on their land and referenced research indicating failures and associated environmental/property impacts. He expressed concern about compatibility with designated agricultural lands and shrub-steppe areas and recommended that any process to consider Battery Energy Storage Systems in the county code be highly public with substantial study.

PERIODIC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

CDS Director Bala provided the board with an update on the Periodic Comprehensive Plan. Director Bala reported the planning commission recommended approval 5-0 and included six amendments.

1. Add policy to utilize a joint planning process with utility providers to improve communication during power outages.
2. Add policy to permit innovative sewer system via formation of sewer districts in rural areas as allowed under RCW 57.

APPROVED
4/21/26

3. Incorporate draft redlines proposed by Commissioner Deneen dated March 5, reviewed with staff/consultant and tailored back after discussion.
4. Add a policy to establish a dedicated recreation division led by a full-time recreation division manager, either in CDS or Public Works.
5. Add policy to authorize agritourism, ecotourism, and nature-based recreational enterprises on commercial agricultural and forest lands as compatible secondary uses.
6. Address changes provided by Public Works that were submitted at the Planning Commission hearing on March 17.

Director Bala said the comment period began at the end of January and ended on March 2. Bala noted 13 comments were received, including from Futurewise, Puget Sound Energy, Friends of Easton, KRD, Easton Residences, WDFW, Washington Geological Survey, Manastash Architecture, Ellensburg resident, and Pat Kelleher resident. Director Bala said we are working through findings of facts and creating the amendments to present to the board. Director Bala is seeking direction from the board once they develop the findings of fact, goals, and policies how does the board want to review this moving forward. Director Bala referred to option B, to be able to take in all the public comments they receive, amend policies as needed, and have appropriate documents for approval at the end of this process.

Chairman Wright asked if everything was being ran by legal through this process. Stephanie Hartung said it was being provided to their office. Director Bala stated they are getting the findings of facts and will provide everything to Stephanie Hartung's office. Director Bala said the initial thought was to set a hearing on May 5 for taking in comments at the May 19 agenda hearing. Director Bala asked the board if we should stay consistent and schedule a night hearing, so people are able to attend.

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith agreed that a night hearing would be better to get the most public participation. Wachsmith agreed to stay consistent with what people are used to.

The board agreed that option B would be the right option to continue to allow more public comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

CDS Director Bala shared that the Comprehensive Plan Development code and critical area code review update when out for comment on March 26 beginning a 30-day comment period ending April 27. Director Bala stated they will have a joint meeting on April 14, to have the Planning Commission and the BOCC meet to update with the state-mandated changes that have occurred.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:40pm Chairman Wright announced the Board would recess into an Executive Session for 20 minutes with Chief Civil Deputy Hartung, CDS Director Bala, and PW Director Fredrickson. RCW 42.30.110(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss litigation or potential litigation involving the agency, the governing body, or members acting in an official capacity, when public knowledge of the discussion could result in adverse legal or financial consequences to the agency.

Action was anticipated.

At 3:00pm the Board reconvened out of Executive Session. Chairman Wright requested an additional 10 minutes.

At 3:00pm the board recessed into another Executive Session.

At 3:10pm the board reconvened out of Executive Session.

Chairman Wright made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director's Signature on a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting concurrence on the removal of the Lund Lane bridge for the new bridge per the license.

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith seconded. No discussion.

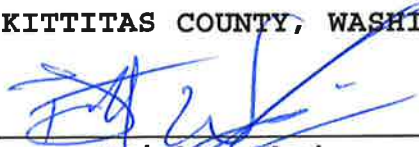
Motion passed all in favor.

Meeting concluded at 3:11 p.m.

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Gail Weyand, Chief
Administator



Cory Wright, Chairman