

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

**MONDAY**

**1:30 PM**

**MARCH 30, 2026**

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

Others: Joshua Fredrickson, Arden Thomas, Lisa Godden, Public Works; Chad Bala, Community Development Services; Stephanie Hartung, James McCoven, Kittitas County Prosecutor's Office; no members of the public.

At 1:30 PM Chairman Cory Wright opened the Public Works Study Session.

**NO CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners of a clerical error on the Study Session Agenda. The first 3 items include resolutions but the Agenda did not mention the action required. Joshua Fredrickson stated due to this error, the items will be brought forward and presented today to the Board of County Commissioners, but will be brought back at a future Session for ratification of Board Chair signature.

**LOWER KITTITAS REACH FLOODPLAIN RECONNECTION PROJECT**

Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners regarding additional funding needs for the Lower Kittitas Reach Floodplain Reconnection Project. Arden Thomas stated approximately \$10 million had been secured, while the first construction phase is expected to cost approximately \$14 million. Arden Thomas explained the project also includes a significant revegetation component and that Kittitas County has been partnering with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group to lead that work.

Arden Thomas presented a proposed joint application to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Targeted Investments on behalf of Kittitas County and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. Arden Thomas stated the request would total approximately \$7 million, with approximately \$5.4 million for Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group and approximately \$1.6 million for Kittitas County. Arden

2026-03-30 MINUTES

**APPROVED**  
5/5/2026

Thomas explained that the County and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group would serve as co-applicants, with lead responsibilities transitioning as each entity completed its portion of the project.

Arden Thomas requested authorization for the application form, but due to the item not being properly listed for action on the agenda, the matter will be brought forward at a future meeting for ratification.

Chairman Cory Wright asked if there is a final grant deadline. Arden Thomas stated the final grant deadline is June 22, 2026, and that there was a draft application already submitted on Friday.

Discussion was held regarding the Auditor's Office' ability to track the grant between the 2 co-applicant entities.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AWARD AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY REVIEW AGREEMENT**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners regarding a proposed agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce for an independent financial feasibility review related to formation of a countywide Public Facilities District. Joshua Fredrickson stated prior discussions had focused on projects within the City of Ellensburg and an upper county recreation center and explained that the feasibility review is a required step before a Public Facilities District could be established.

Joshua Fredrickson stated the County had previously submitted background information to the Department of Commerce and had received a proposed contract in the amount of \$20,000. Joshua Fredrickson explained the contract would be funded with distressed county sales and use tax funds and that the Department of Commerce would retain a third-party consultant to perform the review. Joshua Fredrickson also stated the Conference of Governments had previously supported use of the funds for this purpose.

Discussion was held regarding the review as a preliminary step to provide information for future Board consideration. Because the item was not properly listed for action on the agenda, Joshua Fredrickson stated the agreement would be brought back at a future meeting for ratification.

## **DIGITAL SUBMITTAL CERTIFICATION TO COUNTY ROAD ADMINISTRATION BOARD**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners regarding the annual certifications and reports required by the County Road Administration Board. Joshua Fredrickson stated the reports include the annual certification of policies and planning requirements, fish passage reporting, and certification of diversion of road funds for traffic law enforcement purposes.

Joshua Fredrickson stated no fish passage expenditures were reported for the year and no diversion of road funds for traffic law enforcement occurred during the reporting period. Joshua Fredrickson further stated the report includes county law enforcement expense information prepared in coordination with the Auditor's Office and Sheriff's Office.

Joshua Fredrickson advised the Board of County Commissioners that signatures would be obtained, and the item would be brought forward at a future meeting for ratification.

## **BOWERS FIELD CAPITAL PROJECT PLAN**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Bowers Field Capital Project Plan. Joshua Fredrickson explained that the County annually submits a capital improvement plan to the Federal Aviation Administration identifying airport projects and funding priorities. Joshua Fredrickson stated major projects under discussion include hangar taxi lane expansion, a parallel taxiway, runway lighting improvements, and narrowing of the runway.

Joshua Fredrickson stated those projects had previously been considered as phased improvements, but the Federal Aviation Administration is now indicating the projects should be bundled into one larger project estimated between \$12 million and \$15 million. Joshua Fredrickson explained airport projects are typically funded at 90 percent by the Federal Aviation Administration, with the County responsible for 10 percent, and that Washington State aviation grant funding may offset half of the County share, leaving an estimated 5 percent county obligation.

Discussion was held regarding the timing of the project, currently anticipated in the 2028 to 2029 timeframe, and the need to plan for the County's future match obligation. No action was taken.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS - NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners regarding recent flooding impacts in Kittitas County. Joshua Fredrickson stated the flooding event was less severe than the December event, but water was observed across roads in several locations including near Naneum, Bar 14, Bender Road near the Black Horse area, and in the Easton Area and Elk Meadows community. Joshua Fredrickson stated Public Works staff monitored conditions to compare flooding observations with modeled expectations.

Joshua Fredrickson further advised the Board that Ringer Loop Road continues to experience recurring flooding impacts and that the gate at Ringer Loop had been closed due to roadway flooding and impacts to nearby County-owned property. Joshua Fredrickson stated the gate remained closed at the time of the meeting.

Brief discussion was also held regarding an inquiry related to SBA disaster recovery. No action was taken.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 1:57 PM the Board of County Commissioners announced they would recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes with Joshua Fredrickson, Chad, and Stephanie Hartung per 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.

At 2:17 PM the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session. The Board then announced they would recess into Executive Session for an additional 5 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) To review the qualifications of a public employee.

At 2:23 PM the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session.

No action was taken.

Meeting concluded at 2:23 PM.

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER:  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



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**Lisa Godden, Administrative  
Assistant**



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**Cory Wright, Chairman**