

**KITTITAS COUNTY
IT STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 108 - ELLENSBURG
Special Meeting**

TUESDAY	1:00 PM	March 31, 2026
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Board members present: Commissioner Cory Wright, Commissioner Brett Wachsmith

Absent: Commissioner Laura Osiadacz

Others: IT Director Doug Fessler, Assistant IT Director Zane Kinney, Infrastructure Manager Bill Davis, Administrative Assistant Grant Shimada

Call to order at 1:00 p.m.

Citizen Comments – There were no citizen comments.

IT Department’s Request for Board Direction of GIS Resources

IT Director Doug Fessler and Assistant IT Director Zane Kinney both gave an overview of the current GIS climate. Due to the growing needs for GIS support within multiple departments, IT has put together a couple solutions: 1) Hire new staff with a broad set of experience ranging from application troubleshooting to GIS support, 2) Train internal staff, 3) Use 3rd party consultants to handle the County’s growing support needs, 4) Use a hybrid approach of internal training and 3rd party consultants. Mr. Fessler and Mr. Kinney requested Board feedback on the presented options and direction for next steps. The Board expressed their understanding that the growing GIS need is a high priority affecting multiple departments and directed Mr. Fessler and Mr. Kinney to continue researching into hiring new talent.

Public Website/Intranet – Discussion

Assistant IT Director Zane Kinney reported that Diagram Inc. is making steady progress on the new public website and commended their work. Mr. Kinney will soon begin setting up training and department data migration. Mr. Kinney commented that they might have a demo of the new website ready by the next study session in April.

Mr. Kinney informed the Board of a cloud-hosted web-based agentic AI that can assist users with their inquiries by pulling information from specific websites instead of searching the entire internet. The Board expressed their support for this idea. Mr. Kinney informed the Board that this will go on a budget amendment.

APPROVED
June 16, 2026

OTHER BUSINESS

SharePoint – Discussion

Mr. Fessler and Mr. Kinney informed the Board that this project will be tabled to allow them to focus on other department matters.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Grant Shimada, Administrative Assistant



Cory Wright, Chairman