

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

**MONDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

**JUNE 29, 2026**

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Jodi Larsen, Office Administrator; Mike Hougardy, Assessor; Josh Fredrickson, Public Works Director; Bryan Elliott, Auditor; Amy Cziske, Treasurer; Lisa Murray, Deputy Treasurer 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-**

Amy McGuffin, Chamber of Commerce CEO provided an update on the Cle Elum Catalyst Deed.

**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 June 26, 2026.

**DISCUSSION**

**NOXIOUS WEED COLLECTION**

**AUDITOR**

Bryan Elliott, Auditor, reviewed a Staff Report and stated that in November, the Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 2025-215 revising the Noxious Weed Levy assessment.

Following approval, the Assessor's Office was directed to update the 2026 tax roll.

**APPROVED**

2026.07.21

After tax statements were printed, Staff identified a software error that omitted the increased assessment, impacting 3,532 parcels.

The Assessor's Office and Treasurer's Office reviewed the issue with Staff and the Weed District.

It was determined that reissuing corrected tax statements was not practical due to cost, anticipated public confusion, and staffing impacts on the Treasurer's Office.

It was noted that all payments received—including in-person, online, autopay, and mortgage company remittances—would still be captured and applied correctly once the tax roll is updated.

The Assessor and Treasurer agreed to proceed by posting taxes as originally issued.

Any resulting shortages will be temporarily addressed through the Treasurer's over/short fund.

The Assessor and Treasurer will review collection impacts after the first-half tax payments are received.

A final review will occur after second-half tax payments are received, at which time updated parcel-level impacts will be determined.

The Assessor and Treasurer will return to the Board with final numbers and any recommended adjustments.

Finance was notified of the issue and the interim handling plan to ensure timely posting and continued reconciliation throughout the collection period.

Bryan Elliott, Auditor, requested that the Board acknowledge a temporary shortfall in the Noxious Weed fund of approximately \$5,500 to be covered by General Fund, noting that the difference is expected to be fully reconciled by the end of the year, adding that his office is prepared to facilitate a budget amendment if needed.

The Board acknowledged the proposed plan as presented and thanked staff for their work in resolving an unfortunate error.

#### **APPOINTMENT**

#### **CIVIL SERVICE - ELSTER**

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith moved to approve the Reappointment of Tyler Elster to the Kittitas County Civil Service Commission for a 6-year term effective immediately and to expire on June 30, 2032. Chairman Wright seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

**LETTER****WDFW - COLOCKUM WILDLIFE****COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith moved to approve and authorize Board signature on a letter to Melinda Gray (WDFW) regarding Colockum Wildlife Area Naneum Forest Restoration Project 26-1524, as presented. Chairman Wright seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

**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 June 29, 2026, they would post the following on their Facebook page: one Proclamation for Lillianna McGuffin, for 1st Place in the Agricultural Education competition at the Washington State FFA Convention(July 3, 2026); County Office Closures for 7/3 (noting its America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday for celebration) and also the Kittitas County Press Release from the County Assessor's office regarding 2026 Notice of Value that went out specifically to correct the Solar assessment.

**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 a 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.

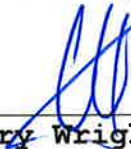
Josh Fredrickson, Public Works Director, reminded the Board that they had previously discussed and approved the option of a \$5,000.00 relocation allowance for a qualified engineering candidate. He stated that he has identified a candidate for whom he intends to extend an offer, and requested authorization to include a relocation allowance in the offer if needed, depending on whether it is requested or necessary as part of negotiations. The Board supported allowing the relocation allowance to be offered at the Director's discretion during recruitment.

Meeting concluded at 9:27 a.m.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

  
Mandy Buchholz

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Cory Wright, Chairman