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

MONDAY **1:30 PM** **SEPTEMBER 28, 2026**

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith and Commissioner Jeff Leichleiter.

Others: Joshua Fredrickson, Arden Thomas, Lisa Godden, Kittitas County Public Works; Stephanie Hartung, Kittitas County Prosecutor's Office; Kelton Montgomery, Cascade Irrigation; Larry Browne, Ellensburg Water Co.; Bob Haberman, No 9 Hay Co.; Anna Layal, Kittitas County Conservation District and 6 members of the public.

At 1:30 PM Chairman Brett Wachsmith opened the Public Works Study Session.

NO CITIZEN COMMENTS

GLADMAR REACH FLOOD IMPACTS

Arden Thomas briefed the Board of County Commissioners regarding channel changes and flood impacts in the Gladmar Reach following the December 2025 flood event. Arden Thomas reported that reduced Upper Yakima River flows during the annual Bureau of Reclamation fish-flush operation exposed erosion and channel migration near the Cascade Irrigation District diversion. The Blue Cascade Trail was not directly impacted at the time of the meeting, although continued erosion could affect the area.

Arden Thomas explained that the reach is dynamic and that the river has a natural tendency to move toward former gravel-pit areas and away from the Cascade Irrigation District intake. Previous flood-control work following the 1996 flood was damaged in the 2009 flood. Arden Thomas advised that a large river-restoration or channel-control project would require substantial technical analysis, permitting, funding, access, and multi-agency coordination and was not expected to have a quick or permanent solution.

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners that Public Works reviewed available project history and identified the need for a technical evaluation using Flood Control Zone District resources. The evaluation would update site conditions and modeling, assess sediment and channel changes, identify feasible short- and long-term measures, clarify access constraints, and inform potential partnerships and funding opportunities.

APPROVED
10/6/2026

The Board discussed timing, permitting, access to the former levee area, potential assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Silver Jackets program, FEMA eligibility, irrigation-system responsibilities, and the history of roadway vacation and quiet-title action affecting access. Members of the public and representatives of the Cascade Irrigation District provided background and expressed concern regarding loss of diversion capacity and access to the former levee.

Larry Browne presented the Board of County Commissioners with information on RCW 90.03.410, Crimes against water code-Interference with works-Wrongful use of water-Property destruction-Penalty and RCW 90.03.420, Crimes against water code-Obstruction of right-of-way.

The Board provided consensus direction for Public Works to proceed with the technical evaluation and continue investigating available resources, partnerships, access options, and next steps. No formal action was taken.

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AVIATION DIVISION GRANT GCC 1495 SUPPORTING THE BOWERS FIELD HANGAR TAXILANE COMPLEX PROJECT

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division Grant GCC 1495 for the Bowers Field Hangar Taxilane Complex Project. Joshua Fredrickson reported that the $23,750 grant would offset a portion of the local match for the Federal Aviation Administration-funded project, reducing the Airport Fund's match from approximately five percent to approximately two and one-half percent. The grant may be applied to eligible work already performed.

Commissioner Jeff Leichleiter motion to approve Resolution 2026-156 authorizing the Public Works Director to accept Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division Grant Funding for Construction of the Bowers Field Hangar Taxilane Complex Project. Chairman Wachsmith seconded the Motion.

Motion passed.

NO OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting concluded at 1:57 PM

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Lisa Godden,
Administrative Assistant

Brett Wachsmith, Chairman