



# KITTITAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Mark Cook, Director

## STUDY SESSION MINUTES

April 24, 2017

### THOSE PRESENT:

Paul Jewell, Laura Osiadacz, Obie O'Brien (BOCC); Luke Huck, Candie Leader (DPW); Dan Carlson (CDS)

### GUESTS:

Chad Bala, Pat Deneen

### AIRPORT LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE EQUIPMENT RENTAL AND REVOLVING FUND:

Luke stated that in his attempt to re-strategize the chip seal program and rock products he worked with Maintenance staff to find preferred locations for stockpiling the chip rock. One of those locations is out at the Airport on Public Works property. There are two lots off of Bowers Road that were selected. Staff did go through the SEPA process which had a two to three week comment period.

Comments were received from the regulatory agencies and from some of the neighboring properties. Those comments were addressed and a Determination of Non-Significance was issued. What was failed to be recognized is that in order to get into a lease agreement there is typically a Public Hearing process to go through. After discussion with Mark Cook, Director, we are requesting to waive the Public Hearing requirement for these two properties and recognize that public comment was open through the SEPA process. The ER and R Fund will own the rock, purchase the rock, pay for the lease and the Road Fund will buy back the rock from the ER and R Fund as we deploy the chip seal process.

### Board Direction:

**Waive the Public Hearing process and submit lease for consideration.**

### ROAD VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Luke reported that he and Mark Cook met with the members to discuss the problems they were seeing with the functions of the committee. One member had a strong opinion that one of our other members of the committee is definitely needed to remain on the committee even though

there is a pattern of having to recuse themselves from the decision making process but due to the history that they have being on the committee from the beginning and they know the county they should remain. There is an importance to have the citizen's involved but we do need to have contributing members on the committee. The third citizen appointed to the committee has yet to show up for any meeting since Luke and Mark have been with the county. Luke is suggesting sending a letter to this member excusing them from the committee and seeking to fill that opening. Currently, there are no guidelines to direct members in dictating decision making for approvals. Staff is willing to draft these guidelines for review. Discussion was held.

**Board Direction:**

**Draft Letter to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Citizen Representative and bring to the Board of County Commissioners for signature at a Monday morning meeting and Draft Guidelines and present at the next Study Session.**

**SCHAAKE LEVEE UPDATE:**

Luke stated that the BOCC is aware of the decision made with the US Army Corp of Engineers to not move forward with the PL 84-99 program on the Schaaque Levee. Since then several meetings have been held with the Bureau of Reclamation, City of Ellensburg and Twin City Foods to determine who is going to be the local sponsor for the levee. Staff is getting the impression that the City of Ellensburg does not want to be the local sponsor for the levee; however, we are seeing some interest from the Bureau of Reclamation to be the sponsor to support their setback project. Luke and Mark have gone back to the regulatory agencies recognizing their opinion of not liking the proposal brought forward by the US Army Corp of Engineers. Mark has set up a meeting the first part of May to meet with the regulatory authorities to get a feel on what level they are willing to work with staff to define what repair action would be supported and what permitting options are available. Discussion was held.

**Board Direction:**

**No Direction.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Gravel Road Maintenance:**

Luke reported that he had received a call from Senator Warnick's office regarding gravel road maintenance program. Commissioner Jewell stated that he found it strange that their office would call regarding this issue and inquired if staff had been receiving complaints. Luke replied that several constituents have called complaining about the gravel road maintenance. Commissioner Jewell added that their office has not received any complaints regarding this issue. Luke stated that the weather has not been cooperative in performing maintenance on these roads and running equipment on the roads will make the issue worse. Usually, crews perform this maintenance in March/April time frame. Mark and Luke are developing a gravel maintenance program to establish a level of service and to help with budgeting.

**No. 81 Road Project:**

Luke informed the Board that he is preparing to amend the Annual Construction Program and the Transportation Improvement Program for their approval. He stated that due to the weather maintenance crews have a lack of ability to perform crack sealing and pothole repairs. A part of the amendment to the Six Year is to advance the No. 81 Road Project which is budgeted in the amount of \$450,000 to \$550,000. The original project involved piping the ditch sections, paving, and widening of the bridge. Luke reported that he was able to do a site visit about two weeks ago and after the site visit he determined it's an easier project and less expensive than first anticipated. Luke added that bike lanes are about 4-5 feet with symbols and he feels this is adequate for this roadway and there are no sidewalks involved. It really is just widening the shoulders for the pedestrians to get out of the roadway and the current bridge from the fog line to the barrier is about 5 feet and all the rest of the stretch there is minimal work to be performed. Luke is thinking this is a Road Maintenance Project and should take about a week to complete. If this work is completed now crews can chipseal in July. Luke added that he may be sending a crew out there ahead of the Six Year Amendment since the timing to perform this work is right. Discussion was held.

*Countywide Safety Plan:*

Luke informed the Board that staff has been working on a countywide safety plan and he is aware that the Board adopts the plan. He inquired as to what level of involvement, if any, the Board would like in the development of the plan. Currently, staff is wrapping up the grant to rewrite the countywide safety plan that was originally adopted in 2010 or 2012. When Mark and Luke started looking at the current plan they had some differencing opinions on the priorities stated in the plan. They are seeing other roads that are more critical and staff has gone through accident data and is at the very end of the update and reprioritizing projects. Luke is hoping to bring the plan to the Board on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for their review. Discussion was held.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luke Huck". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Luke Huck, County Engineer