

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
Webex
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

1:30 PM

NOVEMBER 9, 2020

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

Others: Mark Cook, Candie Leader, Arden Thomas, Public Works; Dan Carlson, Jessica Miller, Community Development Services; Neil Caulkins, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and One (1) Member of the Public

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

BIG BOULDER FINAL CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Mark Cook gave background on the project and explained the challenges with the first design and the additional work with the Consultant to redesign the project after three contractors declined to the bid the project as initially designed. Mark Cook continued that even with the redesign costs the project was completed still under the original Engineer's estimate. Mark Cook thanked the Board of County Commissioners for their support with the project.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE ABATEMENT

Mark Cook gave background on a recreational vehicle being parked on county property at Reecer Creek Road and Dry Creek Road. Mark Cook continued that he contacted the inhabitants along with Code Enforcement and gave notice to vacate the property and they stated they would leave. Mark Cook added that he was noticed that the vehicle was still on county property and he inquired with legal to see what the next steps were to get the vehicle removed. Mark Cook stated that on November 3rd staff arrived with a tow truck and law enforcement to remove the vehicle and the owners made the decision to tow the vehicle themselves. Mark Cook commented that through this process it was discovered that a neighboring property owner has ownership of the access to the property owned by the county and has expressed interest in obtaining ownership since she owns the access to it. Discussion was held. Staff was directed to research the process to transfer ownership to the neighboring property owner.

APPROVED

12/11/2020

BAKER ROAD CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC

Mark Cook gave background on the ongoing issues with Baker Road and construction traffic using the road as a shortcut to access Suncadia. Mark Cook continued that previously staff has placed barriers across the roadway and the Board of County Commissioners gave direction to remove the barriers and schedule a meeting with Suncadia, Forest Service and Commissioner Osiadacz to discuss options. Mark Cook stated that at the meeting Suncadia stated they were going to keep the other access that could be used locked and the road is still being utilized as a by-pass. Mark Cook added that recently staff deployed barriers again that will allow for smaller vehicles to get through and has had emails and calls supporting the action and no complaints as of today's date. Discussion was held.

KLOCKE LEVEE MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS

Mark Cook gave background on the Klocke Levee and the coordination that has been done to date on getting repairs done to one section of the levee. Mark Cook stated that the County had secured a long-term maintenance agreement from the property owner that provides access to the levee, however, the property owner sold the parcel and the new owner doesn't agree with the new proposed agreement for the county to continue having access to the levee. Mark Cook continued that the other access is through Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and previous attempts by staff to secure a long-term perpetual easement have failed. Mark Cook added that without access to the levee repairs cannot be made and the recommendation to move forward is to remove the levee from the PL 84-99 Program with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Mark Cook presented a previous legal opinion from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office from 1983. Discussion was held. Staff was directed to draft a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers noticing our decision removing the Klocke Levee from the PL 84-99 Program.

GRANT COUNTY PUD LAND USE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Mark Cook gave background on the current agreement from 2016 with Grant County PUD and the original request to seek legal opinion on a termination clause within the agreement. Mark Cook stated that the current agreement does not have a termination clause only a date of termination for the agreement listed as August 22, 2021. Mark Cook continued that recent actions taken against a local resident by Grant County PUD for the removal of private improvements in the Vantage area have brought up a larger communication to be had on how to collectively partner with Grant County PUD on recreation use in Vantage. Mark Cook added that recently he attended a meeting along with Commissioner Cory Wright with a representative from Grant County PUD and was given an application and due date for the local resident to complete for the private improvements. Commissioner Cory Wright commented that it is disheartening that Grant County PUD is requiring the improvements made with private funds to be removed when residents

and travelers enjoy them for recreational use. Commissioner Cory Wright stated that the county needs to take some control back in these areas and has received response on having a meeting with a higher level of decisionmakers at Grant County PUD. Discussion was held. Staff was directed to schedule an executive session with legal for further discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Candie Leader



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman