

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
WEBEX
SPECIAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY

6:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Dan Carlson, CDS Director; Mandy Buchholz, Administrative Supervisor; Jeremy Johnston, Planning Official; Dan Nickel, Consultant; Carly Brettmann, Communications Director; Kelly Bacon, Staff Planner; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; Jeramiah Cromie, Staff Planner; and approximately 12 members of the public.

Per Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28 et seq., the public was encouraged to join the meeting virtually.

PUBLIC HEARING

CRITICAL AREAS

CDS

At 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** opened a Public Hearing to consider the 2021 Kittitas County Critical Area's Ordinance.

JEREMY JOHNSTON, PLANNING OFFICIAL reviewed a Staff Report. He said the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) requires all jurisdictions to adopt and maintain a critical areas policy which includes most current information and data. He reviewed the background on the update process; Staff review and summary of proposed amendments; environmental review; agency and public comments; takings impact analysis, and Planning Commission recommendations. **NEIL CAULKINS, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR** answered questions from the Board. **GREG JOHNSTON, CONSULTANT** provided information including the RMZ widths under the Forest Practices Act. **ELIZABETH TORREY, DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE** provided information and the benefits on riparian eco-systems and maintaining habitat types.

THOSE REQUESTING TO TESTIFY: ELIZABETH TORREY, DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE recommended approval of the proposal and encouraged the Board to adopt the Critical Ordinance. She said the riparian guidelines were the best available science and they were supportive of buffer averaging for property owners in order to utilize their lands and protect critical areas. **GARY GRAFF, REGIONAL SECTION MANAGER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**, spoke of interest in wetlands and impacts. He said they've looked at the documents are supportive of what they've done as well as Staff's recommendations. **JOHN MARVIN, YAKAMA NATION DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES** noted they had previously provided comments to the County. **RYAN ROCKHILL** provided information on how he felt his property would be affected in a

significant manner. He compared neighboring counties and said he was disappointed in the lack of public in attendance, including at the Planning Commission level. **SHONA VOELKERS ATTORNEY FOR YAKAMA NATIONS** noted their comments were previously submitted into the record. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

VICE-CHAIRMAN OSIADACZ moved to approve the 2021 Kittitas County Critical Area's Ordinance, including amendments and direct Staff to prepare enabling documents. **CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH** seconded.

CHAIRMAN WACHSMITH expressed his appreciation to Staff for their hard work and outreach throughout the process.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT recognized the Planning Commission for their hard work and said it was a large document to review.

Motion carried 3-0.

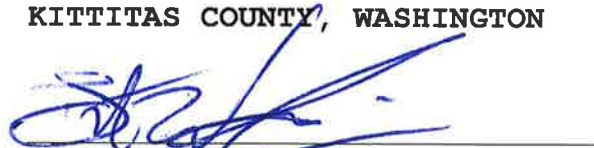
The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD



Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman