

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

**TUESDAY**

**10:00 A.M.**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Office Administrator; Mark Cook, Public Works/CDS Director; Darren Higashiyama, Chief Deputy; and Kristi More, The Ferguson Group (via Webex).

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**THE FERGUSON GROUP**

**COMMISSIONERS**

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Wachsmith opened a Special Meeting for an update from The Ferguson Group.

Kristi More, The Ferguson Group (TFG) provided a review of what's been going on back in DC and reviewed TFG's general report on the Counties advocacy efforts.

Ms. More distributed a copy of the 2024 Federal Legislative Platform there was discussion and review with proposed edits requested. The Board asked her to send the draft to their Staff for approval.

Ms. More reviewed 2024 FY Appropriations/Priorities the County had previously discussed and made a few suggestions. Commissioner Wright stated that there had been some discussion around the Search & Rescue Emergency Operations Center and increasing the ask to 4 million from 2 million. She stated that the Search & Rescue Emergency Operations Center should consider 3 million, however if 4 million is needed then that's what they should ask for. She updated the Board and stated that the Event Center ask is probably going to be done after this go round; She explained that 3 times through is the max usually and suggested they reduce the ask to 4 million.

Director Cook discussed the potential of two roundabouts being added to the County and they are approximately 2.5 million each. There was discussion about including them in the 2025 priorities for the County. Ms. More reviewed the County's priorities for FY 2025 Congressional directed spending & appropriations (I-90 Expansion Project Phase 1; Kittitas County Regional Search & Rescue & Emergency Operations Center; Kittitas Valley Event Center Arena).

Ms. More explained that with Commissioner Osiadacz coming to DC in March it will be good to get meetings for TFG team and the Commissioner in front of the right members of congress to help

champion Kittitas County's asks. She stated that eventually one will rise to the top and be the focus.

Vice-Chairman Osiadacz moved to approve as amended the 2024 Federal Platform as discussed. Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

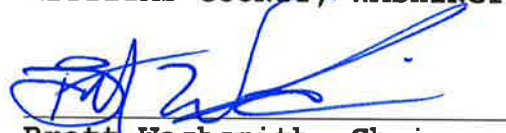
Vice-Chairman Osiadacz moved to approve as amended the FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Priorities as discussed. Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was concluded at 10:43 a.m.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

  
Mandy Buchholz

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Brett Wachsmith, Chairman