



Meeting Notes

Date/Time: Thursday, October 6, 2011, 3:00 PM

Location: Swauk Teanaway Grange

Attendees: Kittitas County IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Citizens Advisory Committee:
Jill Arango, Anthony Aronica, William Boyum, David Gerth, Jim Halstrom, Anna Lael, Brian Lenz, Richard Low, Pamela McMullin-Messier, Tracy Rooney, Jan Sharar, David Whitwill, Cynthia Wilkerson

Kittitas County: *Alan Crankovich*

URS: *John Knutson, Will Guyton*

PRR: *Amy Danberg*

Subject: **IWRMP Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Land Use and Economic Analysis Project—Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 1**

Meeting Purpose: CAC Introductions, IWRMP Background Information, and Review of CAC Work Plan

Welcome & Introductions

- John Knutson welcomed the committee members and the committee members provided a roundtable self-introduction.

Why You Are Here

- John gave a brief overview of the purpose of the committee and of the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP).
- Will Guyton reviewed the meeting agenda with the CAC Members.
- Alan Crankovich expressed Kittitas County's appreciation and gratitude to the CAC members for volunteering their time and expertise to this important committee.

IWRMP Background, Current Status, & Future Efforts

- John gave an overview of the IWRMP and its purpose and goals. In sum, the purpose of the Plan is to propose water resource and habitat protection and restorations solutions in the Yakima Basin through a regional effort.
- John presented the seven elements of the IWRMP and showed where many of the proposed projects are located.
- John described what stage the IWRMP is in and presented an approximate schedule for the progression of the Plan. The next phase is to develop a planning report and the programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Plan. The Draft Planning Report and Programmatic EIS are expected to be completed this winter, and the Finals are scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2012.

IWRMP Targeted Watershed Protections & Enhancement Component

- John provided an overview of the Targeted Watershed Protection & Enhancement Component (TWPEC) of the IWRMP and presented the general areas within Kittitas County that were targeted for acquisition. The CAC will be focused on this component and how it impacts Kittitas County.
- Jill Arango stated that the Lands Committee of the IWRMP is still refining the designations of the targeted lands for acquisition under this component. The CAC should have more definite information prior to our next meeting.

CAC Mission, Operations, & Work Plan

- John stated the CAC's mission is to develop comprehensive and inclusive recommendations for the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) which address land use and economic impacts of the TWPEC on Kittitas County.
- John provided the objectives, membership commitments, roles and responsibilities, and the general meeting ground rules for the CAC.
- John outlined the procedures for CAC meetings, specifically noting that the goal is for the CAC to make consensus decisions.

CAC Meetings

- John presented the current outline for upcoming CAC meetings. There will be at least five CAC meetings as well as one Public Open House and potentially one additional CAC meeting after the Open House. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2011; however, the CAC will not meet until the IWRMP Lands Committee has produced a proposal for the TWPEC.
- Alan recommended a second Public Open House be scheduled to allow an open house in each upper Kittitas County and lower Kittitas County.
- John noted that between the CAC meetings, the consultant will be presenting the findings of the land use and economic analyses and the recommended economic compensation strategies to the BOCC at study sessions. John recommended that some CAC members consider attending and participating in the BOCC study sessions.
- John stated that the consultant will provide much of the information (e.g., research materials, tax information) necessary to help the CAC make their recommendations prior to and during the CAC meetings. However, if the CAC has information that may be useful to review, they should forward that data to the consultant for consideration and distribution.

Wrap-Up Discussion & Review of CAC Member Interests

- Each CAC Member gave a brief introduction to their background and interests for this committee. There was a wide range of personal and professional interests and concerns presented. Interests and concerns expressed were:
 - Recreational impacts
 - Stewardship of the acquired lands and how they will be managed

- Teanaway holdings concerns
 - Desire for good public interest and a transparent process
 - How this project will affect the demand for housing based on surrounding environment
 - Long term impacts to economics, land use, and quality of life
 - Ensuring solutions be in line with needs of overall plan
 - Creating and maintaining economic diversity of working lands
 - Establishing a good conservation outcome
 - Impacts on County revenues and the tax base
 - Social impacts
 - Concerns over forest industry moving out of the area
 - Protection of regional resources
- John expressed the importance of the CAC members translating their interests and concerns into feedback for the potential land use changes and economic benefits or impacts in order to capture the CAC's perspective.
 - John stressed that it is not the CAC's goal to develop recommendations that revise the IWRMP, but to address the proposal that comes out of the process by providing recommendations which mitigate for the land use changes and potential economic impacts of the TWPEC on Kittitas County.
 - Jill stressed that it is important for the CAC to remember that this committee is dealing with more lands than just the Teanaway area or just timber areas; we need to keep a broad perspective on all the areas in Kittitas County that are affected by the proposed TWPEC.

Action Items

- Tracy Rooney requested some example information of large lands that have been converted from private to public and the processes that they went through for the CAC to review.
- The consultant will communicate with the CAC as early as possible to set up the next CAC meeting once information is available from the IWRMP Lands Committee. Meeting materials will be sent out one week prior to any meeting date.
- Jill Arango would like to know how the focus and role of the CAC would change should the CAC conclude that there are no economic impacts on Kittitas County from the TWPEC, and therefore no need for mitigation.
- Jan Sharar asked that the economic consultant consider state laws (commonalities and disparities on land taxation) when presenting the economic compensation strategies.