

**KITTITAS COUNTY
EC STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM/WEBEX, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 108 - ELLENSBURG
Regular Meeting**

WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM	July 14, 2021
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Board members present: Chair Brett Wachsmith, Vice-Chair Laura Osiadacz

Others: Kady Porterfield (Event Center Director)

1. Call to Order 10:00am

2. General Event and Rental Updates –

Things are really buzzing now down at the grounds with the reopening and two large event rentals were just held right after the 4th of July. Buck Brannaman, which took up all the northern end and rodeo grounds, and the first Cascade Cow Cutters show since 2019. Large turnovers and prep after the concert, but all was accomplished, and events were ready to roll. Buck had a great weekend. The Cow Cutters started out great with their new set up, but after their first practice on Friday they ended up over watering the arena and had to cancel remainder of their show. KVEC staff is working with them on the cancellation and trying to be a good partner by finding financial solutions to help with the mid-show blow of a cancellation. It's been great working on a plan with Cow Cutters to get them back to Ellensburg after the end of the pandemic and it's best that headway is not lost on that relationship. They are looking into rescheduling dates with us to make up this show.

4-H events can now happen too, so they are filling our schedule and getting back in to action. Horse training days, shooting sports, meetings, and then 4-H horse show coming up soon too. Posse is also coming in on Tuesdays for their rides.

3. Self Promoted Event Updates

Posse also did a great job ushering for us at Patriot Night Under the Lights and we were excited to have the Ellensburg Rodeo Court there to welcome people and throw t-shirts into the crowd. The Fair Board members that volunteered were also a huge help and they make it easy to know their tasks are going to get taken care of. Kady is so thankful for all of them.

All our major partners and service providers are amazing too and we can depend on them to do their jobs and have our backs. The relationships that have been built with those people are very valuable and by having successful events we are off to a great start on building our reputation as a great venue to work with back in Nashville.

A full financial report has not been compiled yet since some voucher payments are still in the works. With Kady's estimated numbers she's been able to analyze thus far, it's looking better than expected for still only a second-year event. We had a little over 1300 people in attendance, which was about the same as 2019 when we had the first Patriot Night Under the Lights.

2022 Plans – will make some changes to layout and seating but will probably keep stage direction the same. Kady will start looking for new artists to book after the fair is over period.

Tickets go on sale for the Kittitas County Fair tomorrow! We will be able to sell tickets online for the first time in history of the fair. Carnival wristbands will also be available

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online and we're selling a weekly carnival wristband for the first time too. We're very excited to have our new carnival company. The new ticketing system is also exciting because we will be able to track our attendance a lot better than in past years to hopefully get a more accurate attendance count.

The blast pass cashless payment system is also a new feature at the fair this year. Saffire, that runs our website and ticketing platform, also runs this cashless payment system. It will help keep lines down, making payment process quicker, and be more sanitary than having to pass cash around. It will also improve reporting and finance office efficiencies! Kady continued to discuss the process on how to get BlastPass and use it at the Fair.

4. Grant Updates

KVEC is to receive \$370,197.45 in funding through the Shuttered Venue Operator's Grant. This was the only COVID relief funding KVEC qualified for and very happy about being awarded the funds as reimbursement on lost revenue from 2020.

Kady announced we might also receive a grant from the Department of Ecology for a vacuum sweeper truck for the grounds. We are on the list of approved grants, but there is some negotiating to be done to finalize the grant contract. Since next year is the earliest, we can get the truck, Kady did have to order a new sweeper attachment for our Bobcat to help keep up with the degrading dirt and rock coming from the hillside. Bobcat has been backed up on parts due to the COVID shortages, so it's taken a long time to receive the order, which we are still waiting for at this time.

Kady will be applying for the WSDA Health and Safety grant again this year too for the next biennium and will be reviewing projects to apply for. The grant fund has increased in the state budget, so we are eligible for a larger portion of funding now than in the past.

5. Sponsor Business

Sponsorship increased for Patriot Night this year, which was great for the short turn around. There is also new interest in facility sponsors again, so staff will be meeting with potential sponsors towards the end of this month to start conversations and hopefully receive proposals. There is interest and potential in several facilities to help bring in some needed revenue for projects.

6. Special Projects

The old yellow halls are being repainted and the project is almost complete. The new color is great and blends in beautifully with the grounds. The doors on the buildings are also being repaired too so they can be locked open. The crash bars on the doors have been defective the last couple years, so new hardware is necessary for operation. We also kept up the walkway cover and had the contractor paint that up to blend into the building as well. It's a great addition.

Question was presented by the Board on the status of the barns on the Rodeo Grounds. Kady confirmed all those barns need a lot of work. She was happy the wall restoration project on the one Posse Barn that was rotting is complete and it looks much better. The massive flooding this spring did not help the health of the barns either and working with partners to find solutions to keeping the creek from flooding us out, as well as City residents.

Staff fixed holes in grandstands deck and repainted it. We also repainted all the seating in AA-MM sections in the grandstands. The paint deteriorates in the sun over the years. After the painting, everything was renumbered in those sections too. Brett asked about back walls to the grandstands to ask if they are staying sturdy and Kady confirmed the boards have been strong since they were fixed a couple years ago.

The Western Village gates are still to be installed as that project has seen a few delays for multiple reasons. Our goal is to have that done by the end of this month.

Working with Patti on talking with ALSC on the new Grandstands construction project since we received \$1.5 million for from the state. We've had an initial meeting, but many things to explore as well as try to secure another \$3.5 million in funding to have the project fully funded. We haven't heard of any other federal funding being secured from our federal grants submitted through The Ferguson Group.

7. Approve Public Notice for Tent Structures RFB

This is the second round of bids for tent structures as the first round of tents didn't pass City code and tent orders had to be cancelled. Due to restructure of specifications, Kady must go out to bid again. She is still waiting for responses from the City of Ellensburg on what they are looking for and what she is going to be allowed to install, but due to time sensitive operations she is requesting a post for bid to keep the ball rolling. Kady will continue to contact the City to try to get answers on codes and how to permit this project. Brett will contact the City as well and request a follow up on this for them to get back to us. Laura approves posting the RFB for Tent Structures, Brett seconds. Approved to post public notice.

8. Other Business

Brett asked if KVEC staff could complete mowing and weeding in Shady Acres as trailers are removed and maintain it through the summer. Kady said can be done. Patti had us do it a few times already and we have sprayed weeds, but Kady suggests contracting Noxious Weed to spray out all the weeds early next year and she is happy to arrange that as well. She will have the staff go through again soon for another round of weed control.

Brett also had a meeting with West Seattle Bowl and they are interested in renovating the Bowling Alley back in to an operation Bowling Alley. Now that the County has gone out for RFP twice, the County can now work with any interested party that comes forward since no RFPs were submitted in either bid process.

Brett asked for follow up on the security system project and the law and justice grant. Kady met with Doug and Jim in IT on this to start ordering more equipment and schedule installations. She will follow up with them on where the project is at.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.


Kady Porterfield

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Brett Wachsmuth, Chairman