



KITTITAS COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Kirk Holmes, Director

2011 Road Standards Update Citizen's Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES
September 30, 2011
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order:

KIRK HOLMES opened the meeting at 1:00.

II. Attendance:

<i>Citizen Advisory Committee</i>		<i>In Attendance?</i>
Kirk Holmes, Chair	Public Works Director	Yes
Doug D'Hondt	County Engineer	Yes
Christina Wollman	Planner II	Yes
Urban Eberhart	Agricultural community representative	Yes
Marc Kirkpatrick	Encompass Engineering & Surveying	Yes
Brenda Larsen	Fire Marshal	Yes
Pat Deneen	Developer	Yes
David Gerth	Citizen	No
Dan Valoff	CDS Planner	No
Terry Clarke	Cattleman's	No

Public in attendance:

Vernon Sweesey
Catherine Clerf
DJ Evans, Fire District 1
Rich Elliot, KVFR
Jan Ollivier, KCPW

III. Minutes

IV. Old Business

KIRK opened the meeting with a discussion on the future schedule. He stated that we are working under a deadline but he would rather have a good product than rush to meet the schedule.

The maximum grade discussion was continued. It was decided that capping the maximum grade at 12% would be too restrictive and that variances would be allowed. CHRISTINA presented research from other counties. She found that all surrounding counties allowed grades between 10-12%. The committee discussed allowing some flexibility by the County Engineer. Other counties, including Kittitas County in the past, allow grades to exceed 12% for short distances. The committee decided that grades between 10-12% will require sprinklers and there will be a plat note stating this. Also we will work some of the requirements from the 1996 Kittitas County Road Standards into the proposed standards, which allowed grade to exceed 12% for short distances of 300' upon showing that no practical alternative exists. It also had mention of grade transitions.

Maximum driveway grade is proposed at 15%. The committee decided that driveways above 12% must be paved. Rich Elliot suggested there be a plat note stating that there may not be response when driveways are this steep. The committee discussed how the driveway grade would be enforced. CHRISTINA noted that currently we have driveway width requirements but we do not enforce them. We expect the landowner to follow the code. The enforcement of driveway grade will be the same, although by including a maximum grade we have the opportunity to enforce if there is an issue.

The second access conversation was continued from the previous meeting. CHRISTINA discussed some research from Douglas, Chelan, Yakima, Grant and King Counties. MARC stated that these counties will accept deadend roads onto the county system, but Kittitas County does not allow this anymore. He stated that if he knew the county would take on dead end roads the second access wouldn't be as much of an issue. This way developers could build the main road into a development as a county road and then have smaller private roads coming off of that road.

The committee discussed that this is more of a policy decision that needs to be made by the BOCC. KIRK stated that there is a benefit to the public for some of these public roads to be on the public system because we provide assurances that the road will be maintained and built to a quality standard. They are safer and there is more predictable maintenance in extreme conditions. PAT stated developers would build roads to county standards. KIRK stated that requiring roads that serve a certain ADT be required to be built as public roads and be taken on system would solve a lot of problems.

PAT asked about Forest Service Roads. KIRK wanted to research the difference between taking a road right of way and easement before continuing the discussion.

V. New Business

VI. Business not on the Agenda

VII. Next Meeting Agenda

Public Works will take the questions to the BOCC Public Works study session on Monday the 10th at 1:30. The committee will meet on Tuesday the 11th at 2:30 at the Western Village.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by KIRK HOLMES at 3:00 pm.