



# KITTITAS COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

---

### STUDY SESSION MINUTES

July 14, 2008

#### THOSE PRESENT:

Alan Crankovich, Linda Huber, Mark McClain, Jim Van de Venter, Kelly Carlson, Jan Ollivier, Doug D'Hondt, Jennifer Steward, Kelly Bostick, Christina Wollman, Maria Fischer (DPW) Darryl Piercy, Allison Kimball (CDS)

#### GUESTS PRESENT:

Catherine Dunn, Chad Bala; Patty Garvey-Darda, Brandon Smith, Leland Fisher, Lucy Bull (USFS)

#### ROAD VARIANCE PROCEDURE:

Christina Wollman presented changes to the variance procedure that the Road Variance Committee came up with while updating the Road Standards. They would like these changes implemented as soon as possible. Her presentation included a revised variance application and Notice of Decision, along with statistics on the number of variances from January 1, 2007 to present, and what the fee for a variance should be to cover costs. The Road Variance Committee would like to see public participation in the variance procedure, through published and mailed notifications. The Committee also came up with Rules of Engagement for public participation during a meeting. Both Darryl Piercy and Christina Wollman explained the frustration voiced by the public regarding the lack of public notice for road variances that affect them a great deal. Piercy noted a "for instance" that economic issues are not to be considered grounds for a variance, but are being used that way. He stated that the Road Standards should have very specific variance criteria. Piercy stated that applicants are being guided by consultants how to go through the platting process and come back later for a variance that requires no public notice. Piercy suggested establishing some criteria for minor road variances and having width, easement and other major road variances go back through the whole public process, as some variances have very significant impacts on the neighboring landowners. Doug D'Hondt noted that sight issues are very important and have safety concerns associated with them.

#### Board Direction:

**Amend the proposed variance procedure language as discussed today and bring back to an agenda study session.**

**SUNCADIA LETTER  
OF CREDIT:**

Doug D'Hondt noted that Suncadia asked to postpone this for two weeks. They are changing from Wells Fargo Bank to Bank of America.

**Board Direction:**

**No direction.**

**UMPTANUM TRAFFIC  
STUDY:**

Jan Ollivier stated that a year ago this road was discussed at a public hearing and the speed was reduced from 50 to 35 mph from the overpass to the City limits. Staff was directed to look at traffic safety in the area and reviewed accident reports. Traffic on Umptanum has not significantly increased to require additional turn lanes. Traffic is still averaging 43 mph in the 35 mph zone. Jan proposed that the County continue to monitor the road on a yearly basis.

**Board Direction:**

**No direction.**

**USFS:**

Patty Garvey-Darda, Acting District Ranger explained the problem with National Forest lands and Forest Service roads that are used to access development. She is being inundated with calls regarding dust abatement, resurfacing, etc. and the USFS has no mechanism to handle these issues. This has become an unworkable situation and the public is upset. The USFS would like these roads that access development to go into the County road system, and are here asking for the County's ideas on this problem. Brandon Smith, the USFS surveyor for three National Forests, stated that the USFS manages their roads for a recreating public and natural resource management; that the demands of development are out of their scope. According to Smith, Kittitas County is the only County he works with that requires fee ownership of roads prior to taking them on system. He presented boiler plate language from Chelan County's agreement with the USFS for road management. Patty stated that the USFS could try to obtain funding to replace bridges as necessary on these roads. D'Hondt noted that some of these USFS roads would be very costly to bring up to County Standards. Lucy Bull stated that Developers are over-burdening easements on these roads. After further discussion, Brandon stated that the USFS is willing to work with the County to form road improvement districts, and Patty added that the USFS could contribute funding to the maintenance of those roads that the USFS is still using. Discussion followed on work in the right-of-way on USFS roads. Brandon suggested

starting with a smaller focus road first. Patty stated that Road #4510 is the road with the most calls.

**Board Direction:**

**Review other County's agreements for road maintenance/ownership on USFS roads that access development. Look at USFS roads re: emgineering.**

**KITTITAS COUNTY**  
**RURAL SERVICES CENTER:**

Kelly Carlson stated that this center would affect Airport property and she would like more information. Commissioner Crankovich stated that Commissioner Bowen had been the lead on this issue. Kelly noted that the location of the former Trap & Skeet Club could be paved and would be a good location for this center. Commissioner Huber noted that using this site would solve another problem and she will speak with former Commissioner Bowen about the matter. Kelly noted that the Trap & Skeet Proposed Site would simply have to be re-named on the Airport Binding Site Plan in order to remove the "Trap & Skeet Club" label.

**Board Direction:**

**No Direction**

**CHARLTON ROAD**  
**BRIDGE:**

Doug stated that he met with legal and they had no issues about this. The hydraulic project application specifies that the County go back to what it was pushing for a year ago; remove the third drop structure upstream and shore up the rip rap. The request for appeal needs to be in 30 days from July 3<sup>rd</sup>. If the BOCC wishes, he can contact State Rep. Judy Warnick, and additional State legislators for help. Doug explained the problem with the temporary construction easement, and ownership issues. He explained his proposal for piles and ecology blocks, and noted that the Corps. of Engineers permit expires in September, 2008.

**Board Direction:**

**Contact State Legislators for help. Give notice to all known landowners and move forward with the project with the help of legal.**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:38pm**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Van de Venter  
Interim Public Works Director