

Observed Meeting: Public Works Study Session Date: 11/13/23  
 LWV Observer: Maureen McKinney Time: 1:30 pm

	Yes	No	Comments
<b>Members</b>			
All members present?		x	Laura Osadacz absent
Members attentive & involved?	x		
Members courteous to each other and public?	x		
Any members recuse themselves?		x	
<b>Agenda</b>			
Agenda available prior to and during meeting?	x		
Agenda followed?	x		Last few items delayed until next meeting
Agenda amended?		x	
Non-agenda items discussed?	x		
Was time given to public input?	x		

**Action:**

Please provide a brief, impartial summary of the meeting, including key issues discussed, significant actions taken, and other observations:

#2 Citizen Comments - Pat Kelleher spoke about the Reed Park Process since the county is somewhat involved (parking). Cory Wright briefly stopped him as this was not an agenda item, then quickly reconsidered and commented that since there was so little citizen commentary lately, he wanted him to continue. Mr. Kelleher then stated that the Parks & Rec department has sent their report to the city council. There may be some tree removal and a sidewalk and ADA access added, which he felt was very important. He felt it was a good plan.

#3 Thorp Mill Survey – Mark Cook spoke. The Chamber of Commerce had asked about the possibility of the county’s involvement and assistance with this project. Apparently, incomplete survey information over the last 100 years has made proceeding difficult as there are discrepancies in ownership information. Mr. Cook asked if they could get a surveyor to address this so that the title could be cleaned up so the project can be handed over to the Chamber. Parks and Rec would pay for the survey. The BOCC approved the survey work.

#4. Short Term Vacation Rental Committee - The Board has met with some stakeholders and the issue is unregulated rentals. Mr. Cook asked if the Board could form a committee with “both sides” of the issue represented so that some legislation regarding these rentals could be put in place and laws on the books. The hope was to keep the “sides” of the issue equally represented through the process. There is a vacation rental company that could be involved as well as Ms. Chavez who represents

the other “side”. The Board approved Mr. Cook sending out a press release asking for people to serve on the committee, then the BOCC could handle the selection of people showing interest. In the meantime, how other areas in the state deal with vacation rentals would be explored. Mr. Cook will have a resolution ready for the 11/21/23 meeting with the Board.

#5 Consor Task Order No. 1 Amendment – Mr. Cook stated that after presenting the 10 year asset presentation, it showed a need for a road fund levy election in 2024. He has hired a firm to help with publication of information regarding the levy and its impacts so the public will understand the issues, outcome and costs. He wants the public to understand the level of service provided and that maintenance costs of roads needing repair is beyond the departments funding base. The only way they can make money is to divest assets. Basically that means that some gravel/dirt roads would be taken off the maintenance plan and possibly closed to save money. This could be a hardship for many residents so getting a levy approved is vital.

#6 Bureau of Reclamation Floodplain Support – Mr. Cook stated that floodplain acquisition is ongoing around the Schaake pit, levy and BLM. They have acquired the Moore property as well as the Ringer Loop trailer park area. They had asked the government agencies in charge about removing the levy but were told they could not. The reality is the levy is failing and when it does fail, it will cause damaging erosion to the other banks and could endanger some homes. He had asked a civil engineer to look at the project and the BLM has agreed to work with him. He had some ideas that really seemed like a solution to protect the banks, the railroad right of way and help with flood control. The engineer did the work for free. Mr. Cook asked if the Board would sign a letter thanking the engineer for his help. The Board said it sounded like a good plan and would sign the letter Mr. Cook will write.

#7 Bowers Field ...Parallel Taxiway – Public Works has been working for 9 years on capital improvements which include a parallel taxiway. This is needed for safety as currently, there can be a plane on the ground taxiing in one direction and a plane landing from the opposite. The FAA would not approve their plan and removed them from the list for getting federal funds. We could rehab the other runway – narrowing it – which may help with the “wrong way” issue, but is not really a good solution. He felt the FAA balked due to the 75 year lease on the airport. He felt if he could get that lease shortened, then resubmit, we could possibly get in line for funding again if another airport failed in their request. He asked for a 30 year lease with (2) 10 year extensions going forward. The Board asked him to prepare a letter asking for a resolution.

#8 Vantage Bridge Deck Replacement Project Update – Mr. Cook recently met with others involved in this project. One of the requirements for this project is to have a Traffic Control Specialist on board. WADOT wants them available within 30 minutes 24/7 during the entire project. He pointed out to the WADOT that the bridge area is in a “hole” with little or no radio or cell communication – really only line of sight – which could be very problematic. WADOT also thought the bridge needed painting. Mr. Cook stated that repainting the Thorp Bridge taught them a big lesson and felt that painting could add another 2 years to the project. The bridge will be only (2) 11’ lanes with no barrier between them. He felt this was very tight and two big trucks passing could knock each other’s mirrors off, resulting in closure possibilities. The project is still estimated at 3 years, starting in 2024. “Travel Time” signs were suggested, but he felt

might not be all that helpful. When full closures were called for, it would mean I-90 would close at Kittitas and he feared many would just go over to the Vantage Highway and try to get around, causing more backups down by the river. He felt we might need some legislation in place to close other roads to avoid this? PW used fiber infused asphalt from toe bridge heading east to the top and he felt that material was great and holding up well. Another issue is that our coroner often uses Wenatchee for autopsies and uses the bridge rather than the pass in winter. Cory Wright asked who/what agencies were involved in the initial planning as Kittitas County was not involved. Mr. Cook felt like Kittitas County was ignored in the process – for example they met with Desert Aire residents, but not the BOCC?? WADOT said they wanted to use the newly revamped boat launch for their lay down area and he told them that was a no-go as we had just spend so much money fixing it and the heavy equipment would ruin it. More updates will be provided in future meetings

#9 2023 Road Standards Review Committee – Josh Frederickson, County Engineer spoke. Our road standards had not been completely reviewed and revamped since 2005. PW had started the review process in 2018, but it stalled during the pandemic. The new standards were proposed in 2022. It is now waiting to get on the docket for a Public Hearing, then the committee would be disbanded.

#10 thru #12 – these issues were delayed until the 27<sup>th</sup> and it was requested that the Sheriff's office be contacted to attend at that time for their input.

If minutes were posted online, please provide a link: Not posted yet.

If a vote on an ordinance will be taken later, please provide the name or number of the ordinance and the date of the vote: N/A

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? No

What action do you recommend, i.e., support, oppose, study, inform the community, other (please specify): Hopefully the county will keep the community updated on the I-90 bridge project as this will have a big impact on our county as well as people who use that route to commute to work.



Observed Meeting: Public Works Study Session Date: 10-23-2023  
 LWV Observer: Maureen McKinney Time: 1:30 pm

	Yes	No	Comments
<b>Members</b>			
All members present?	x		
Members attentive & involved?	x		
Members courteous to each other and public?	x		
Any members recuse themselves?		x	
<b>Agenda</b>			
Agenda available prior to and during meeting?	x		
Agenda followed?	x		
Agenda amended?		x	
Non-agenda items discussed?		x	
Was time given to public input?	x		

**Action:**

Please provide a brief, impartial summary of the meeting, including key issues discussed, significant actions taken, and other observations:

#1 and #2. Meeting called to order, no customer comments. Notes on agenda items by number (copy of agenda follows)

#3. Request to approve resolution regarding letter of support. Mid Columbia Fisheries has asked for a letter of support from the county to help with their projects for fisheries enhancements. They have assisted in the past with flood control and other projects. They are asking for this letter to assist in obtaining funding for their projects. The Board of Commissioners approved the resolution.

#4 Mercer Creek. The county worked with Mid Columbia Fisheries on this project and it was a great success and collaborative effort. It serves as a good example of what can be done in future projects. The project will be in need of some maintenance going forward, such as along Railroad Avenue. Mid Columbia is working to obtain grants and hope that the county will assist in helping them get more money for projects and recommend that the county gets involved in the process. Public Works would like to present a resolution for approval. The board had no questions and said to proceed with this.

#5 Brownfield grant opportunities. Cle Elum and Roslyn have reached out hoping to get the county's help with projects such as coat tailings. There is a grant opportunity open now that closes in mid November that Cle Elum, Roslyn and the county could collaborate on. Areas would need to be identified for cleanup and a work plan created.

Right now the Public works department has so many new hires and low staff and the director felt they did not have the experience or staffing to put this together so quickly. Also, even if the grant were approved, they would struggle to have proper administration for the project. He felt that later next year after staff has had more training, they could more adequately handle this. The director wanted to talk with the Board of Commissioners before responding to Cle Elum and Roslyn about this. He felt regional planning was important but right now staffing could just not take this on. The director plans to create a work program/schedule for the next year so that the board and other groups could see what was online to be done. Also, he felt that these towns should perhaps be involved with cost sharing on projects. It was decided to let Cle Elum and Roslyn know that the county is interested in these projects, but right now they are unable to take them on. The Board of Commissioners were in agreement.

#6 Towns to Teanaway Trail extension. Public Works recently made a larger parking area for this trail. The Teanaway group wants to extend the trail which was felt to be a good project and important for the community. First they would need to do an archeological and natural resource study. Also an easement would have to be acquired and communications with the DNR and Nature Conservancy on the project. Then the route would have to be mapped and plans made to complete the project all with cooperation from interested parties. The director felt it was premature to go ahead without an easement and studies done first. Also, their budget would have to be adjusted to handle the expense. More discussion with the Board will occur later.

#7 Other business – none

Meeting adjourned.

If minutes were posted online, please provide a link: Not yet

If a vote on an ordinance will be taken later, please provide the name or number of the ordinance and the date of the vote: N/A

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? No

What action do you recommend, i.e., support, oppose, study, inform the community, other (please specify): N/A

Observed Meeting: Public Works Study Session Date: 10/9/23  
 LWV Observer: Maureen McKinney Time: 1:30 pm

	Yes	No	Comments
<b>Members</b>			
All members present?	X		Laura Osiadacz was present virtually
Members attentive & involved?	x		
Members courteous to each other and public?	x		
Any members recuse themselves?		x	
<b>Agenda</b>			
Agenda available prior to and during meeting?	x		
Agenda followed?	x		
Agenda amended?		x	
Non-agenda items discussed?	x		Jamie from CDS asked board to talk about Cultural Resources in their planning. Discussion of pallet site cleanup was added
Was time given to public input?	x		

**Action:**

Please provide a brief, impartial summary of the meeting, including key issues discussed, significant actions taken, and other observations: Meeting was called to order. No citizens came forward to speak. The following is listed by agenda item number:

3. No. 81 speed study. Josh spoke and said a study had been completed from Vantage to Snodgrass then to Lions Rd. Data for a week showed northbound averaged 53.6 and southbound averaged 57.6 – the road us currently posted at 50 mph. Approximately 849 vehicles use the road daily and there are 16 approaches/driveways on the stretch. They also found there had been 7 crashes in the last 5 years, most from failure to yield. He asked if the Board wanted a public hearing, The board said no to that and asked Public Works to work with the Sheriff’s office on monitoring that stretch of road. Cory asked Josh how long this study took and at what cost? Josh had no hard numbers, so Cory asked him to come up with that so that a policy could be put in place to decide whether a community members request was worth pursuing in the future.

4. KC Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ardin from Public works spoke. This is an annual report to the board. It was reported that maintenance was good and ongoing, flood control work ongoing. The Easton reach was one area of focus. The county has worked to acquire property along the Yakima River. Better water usage was being studied to deal with drought. The plan has been recently updated and is revised every 5 years. Cory asked if a multi- jurisdictional steering committee could work on wildfires, including the sheriff’s office, health department and the community?

5. Noise Ordinance Update. Kittitas County is compliant with state codes at this time. Many jurisdictions have gone to a numeric standard, but it was felt that might cause even more activity? It was felt the county should look at the risk of going too far, too fast. Noise complaints are often barking dogs, hotrodding, etc. Having better language on the Ordinance would help the Sheriff's Office with enforcement. Right now, they ask for voluntary compliance and it is a process to get to actually penalizing the reported party. The numerical standard would end that as if the noise reported exceeded a specific decibel, that's all that would be needed for law enforcement. It was felt that the Board needed to be more informed and a study should be done.

6. Baker's Acres Petition Request. This property is near Roslyn. Apparently, contractors working in the area have been using this subdivision as a "shortcut". This is causing increases in traffic, speeding, etc., in a residential area not involved in the construction. Public works has put up jersey barriers, but the large construction vehicles just seem to find another "shortcut". Public Works says the residents are very tired of this as it has been going on for a couple of years, and also stated that the volume of trucks going through is also wearing out the roadways in this subdivision. This "shortcut" only reduces the construction vehicles about 4 minutes of travel time. He felt the best alternative would be to gate the entrances. He would like to get the fire district involved so they can help with making sure this works for everyone. There is money in the budget for adding the gate(s). The board approved moving forward with gating this area.

#7 I-90/Vantage Bridge Repair update. It was estimated that it would take three years to complete this repair and contractors were asking for four years. During this time, half of the bridge would be closed and the lanes narrowed. There would also be closures needed during this period. How would the county manage that as the alternatives are going up thru Wenatchee or down thru the Tri-Cities. This would add 3 hours to a trip to Spokane. During this time, emergency response would be affected as well, especially with the narrowed lanes. We might need a helipad? Also, it was felt that Avril Farms and local recreation would be impacted and WADOT has been asked how to accommodate that. Public Works will be meeting in November for an inter-agency planning session to discuss closures, mutual aid, etc. It was suggested that in lieu of a 3 year span including lane restrictions and reductions, there could be a complete closure and the whole project could be completed in about a year, but the state said no to that plan. Public Works will have more information after the November planning session.

Added item: Cultural Resources. Jamie asked about engaging with the Colville Tribes to address cultural resources in construction sites. Right now, to have a study done by an archeologist costs between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and can take up to 10 months. As an option, contractors could be advised to stop construction if any artifact was uncovered instead of waiting for the archeological study since so much of the county has been farmed, tilled and cultivated heavily. The county needs to address this in the building guidelines. Cory asked how we would converse with the tribes and Jamie said he could reach out to them. The Board said to proceed with this issue.

Added item: Pallet site cleanup. It is costing the county \$100 per load to clear out this site. The berm was a potential problem as it wasn't just sawdust, there were board ends and pieces in there too. He felt that 4 more days with 5 trucks and it should be completed. They are also smoothing it all out so it is more like its original state.

Executive Session to start – public was asked to leave so they could proceed.

Copy of agenda and links to more information is attached.

If minutes were posted online, please provide a link: No available yet

If a vote on an ordinance will be taken later, please provide the name or number of the ordinance and the date of the vote: n/a

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? no

What action do you recommend, i.e., support, oppose, study, inform the community, other (please specify): The only item that seemed very important to me is the Vantage bridge repair. This project will definitely impact our area and traffic patterns. I had not heard of this project and hope that more information will be disseminated as they get closer to starting it!