

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting  
 Partner Updates  
 Time: August 17, 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

| Time | Agenda Item  | Speakers, and Desired Outcomes   |
|------|--|--|
| 3:00 | Join ZOOM and Roll Call<br><br>Approval of April notes | Set expectations and clear goals for teleconference meeting.   |
| 3:10 | Real Estate Excise Tax overview                        | Nicole Ogan  |
| 3:30 | Priority Project list brainstorm                       | All  |
| 4:15 | Land Manager Updates                                   | All <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire updates</li> <li>• Land closures</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul> |
| 4:30 | Adjourn  |  |

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/842158553?pwd=a1VwS3dyaUsySkIpc3hhS2cyMDJ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 842 158 553

Password: 848859

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,842158553#,,#848859# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,842158553#,,#848859# US (Houston)

Present: Kathy Young, Eva Tyler, Ted Jackson, Kevin Clements, Wayne Mohler, Bradley Gasawski

Guests: Nicole Ogan, Madison Ford,

- Changes to July's meeting notes
  - No changes
- Real Estate Excise Tax Overview – Nicole Ogan, Kittitas County Public Works, Transportation, Environment, Parks and Recreation Planner
  - A tax to the seller on the gross value of real estate when purchased, including ag and timber lands
  - REET 2
    - Second quarter percent of REET 1
    - Currently REET 1 (first quarter) is applied to property sales tax
    - State REET is currently applied property sales (graduated rate)
    - Eligible counties GMA planning counties
    - Commissioners do not need public vote to decide on implementation of REET 2
  - In 2019, around 1,900 sales collected around \$1.1 million with REET 1. REET 2 would double this amount.
  - Proposed budget for 2022
    - Required to have 6 year capital improvement plan (CIP)
    - 25% of tax income or \$100,000 can be used for previous recreation/tourism projects from REET 1
    - A project must be on the capital improvement plan to be funded with REET 2 income. County CIPs, are adopted by the Board annually as they are updated
      - Some current projects being proposed include HWY 10 County Park, Vantage Boat Ramp Overflow Parking, Gladmar Park Development Plan, Upper County ATV Trail Development Plan, Towns to Teanaway Trailhead Parking
      - Director of public works Mark Cook created current CIP spreadsheet based on needs that have been brought forward to him by the community and current lands/parks in ownership or operation of the County.
  - Next steps: let county commissioners know you support the REET 2 or not
    - Public hearing September 21, 2021 @ 2pm – link will be on Kittitas county website as the event nears, may be in person option too
    - Send letter of support to commissioners or Nicole Ogan (509-962-7610 [nicole.ogan@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:nicole.ogan@co.kittitas.wa.us)) by September 21<sup>st</sup>
    - Kittitas County Treasurer is a good resource for REET information as well
- Priority Project List brainstorm
  - Eva
    - Lemah Meadows to Hyas Lake
    - Esmerelda Basin, Ingalls Lake, Tuck and Robin, enormous use
    - Improvements for I-90 alternative trails, like Kachess Ridge
  - Wayne
    - Finish building Evergreen Sno Park and consider for multiple uses
  - Cathy
    - Road to Haney Meadows, washout repairs
    - Dutch Miller Gap trail and bridge around Ivan hole, needs repair

- Lemah Meadows to Hyas Lake also
  - Bradley
    - Improve maintenance of XC ski trails on Blewett pass in Tronsen Meadows and Pipe Creek
    - USFS focus on NEPA regulations in wilderness areas because it prevents backcountry rec outfitters from conducting business there
  - Ted
    - E&E Funding programs
    - Connectivity routes from towns and vista areas
    - Destination mapping
  - Nancy
    - John Wayne trail, reconnect and resurfacing
  - Suggestions for how to move this forward?
    - Eva - make a priority list for each land manager
    - Wayne – how important is a precise list when there are funding gaps?
    - Nicky - are there metrics that could help in the decision-making process? How do projects weigh against each other?
    - Susan – working as a whole, signing and such as a collaborative
    - Ted – make sure that projects line up with needs user group is asking about
- Land Manager Updates
  - Forest Service - Joe Rausch, 2<sup>nd</sup> day at District Ranger
    - Born and raised in WA, coming from eastern OR overseeing ecology work
    - Worked as an ecologist and botanist for FS, also a researcher
    - Went to CWU and worked in ag in Ellensburg for a few years after
    - Started with FS in Cle Elum Ranger District
    - Left to go to grad school in multiple places including UW
    - Closed on a home in Ellensburg last week, wife and 4 sons will be joining soon
    - Loves to recreate, all 4 seasons
  - Forest Service - Kim Larned
    - Lake Kachess trash dumping, problem did not go away but did die out, there are friends of the trailhead that should help
    - Liberty Beehive Road Washout – fixed!
    - A lot of graffiti, everywhere. Will send a prioritize list of locations
  - The Nature Conservancy – Katie Pofahl
    - Our lands remain closed due to extreme fire danger
      - Keep spreading message, have seen decreased use
    - Logger focusing on work around Rat Pac, hopefully we can open the trail at the same time we can open our lands
    - Meeting with Northwest Motorcycle Association and USFS to discuss \$43,000 in funding available to improve moto access and watershed health in the Taneum
    - Reaching out for letters of support for the Taneum and Cabin Creek for the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) and the [Forest Legacy Program](#)
      - These funds would help us transfer the lands The Nature Conservancy manages on behalf of the Central Cascades Forest, LLC in to permanent protection
  - Bureau of Land Management – Diane
    - Level 2 fire closure, no camp fires, only gas stoves, no driving on unmaintained roads

- Department of Natural Resources – Stephanie Margheim
  - Plugging along on Indian Camp Expansion when they can
  - Closure is still in effect
    - Have not had great compliance with closure, trying to keep getting messaging out
  - In checkerboard with WDFW lands, are those areas open?
    - You may only drive through those lands, gates are shut but unlocked
- Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust – Nicky Pasi
  - Hiring a [Teaway Engagement Coordinator](#)
    - Please help get the word out to possible candidates
  - 2 kiosks to install in the L.T. Murray – hoping moto groups can help access their remote locations