



Executive Summary – Planning Commission

Issue Title: Department of Community Development: Equestrian Facility Assessment

Meeting Date: March 3, 2026

Time Required: 60 Minutes

Attendees: Heather Cleveland, Senior Long Range Planner
Garrett Ballew, Long Range Planner

Action Requested at this Meeting: Information Only

Background:

The Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners first identified regulation of equestrian facilities as a priority for 2025. Initial work in 2025 indicated that a more robust outreach and evaluative approach was needed, including research, stakeholder engagement, and policy analysis, which exceeded available staffing capacity at the time. As a result, the Board postponed the effort in October 2025.

In 2026, the Kitsap County Department of Community Development (DCD) is conducting a comprehensive assessment and developing recommendations to present to the Board of County Commissioners for further direction. This effort includes research and data review, a stakeholder survey, an open house workshop, and ongoing feedback from the Equestrian Working Group. Together, these activities are intended to identify options for direction moving forward, including near-term administrative or code clarification solutions or education and longer-term policy projects to specifically address commercial equestrian facilities and documentation of existing facilities.

Next Steps:

- March 9, 2026 – Board of County Commissioners Work Study

Attachments:

- Presentation

Reference:

- [Commercial Equestrian Assessment](#) Project Webpage
 - [KCC 17.455 - Agriculture Code](#)
 - [Conservation Practice Standards | Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

- [Conservation Practice Standard Dust Management for Pen Surfaces \(Code 375\)](#)
 - [Ordinance 586 2020](#) – see pages 68 & 69 for addition of equestrian events and Equestrian Facility
 - [1999 Kitsap County Code](#) - pages 101 – commercial stables and 106 – private stables and paddocks)
 - Historic Unclassified Use Permits: [LU 2510](#), LU 2635 – [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)
 - [Commercial Equestrian Facility Assessment Survey](#)
- [Year of the Rural](#) Project Webpage