

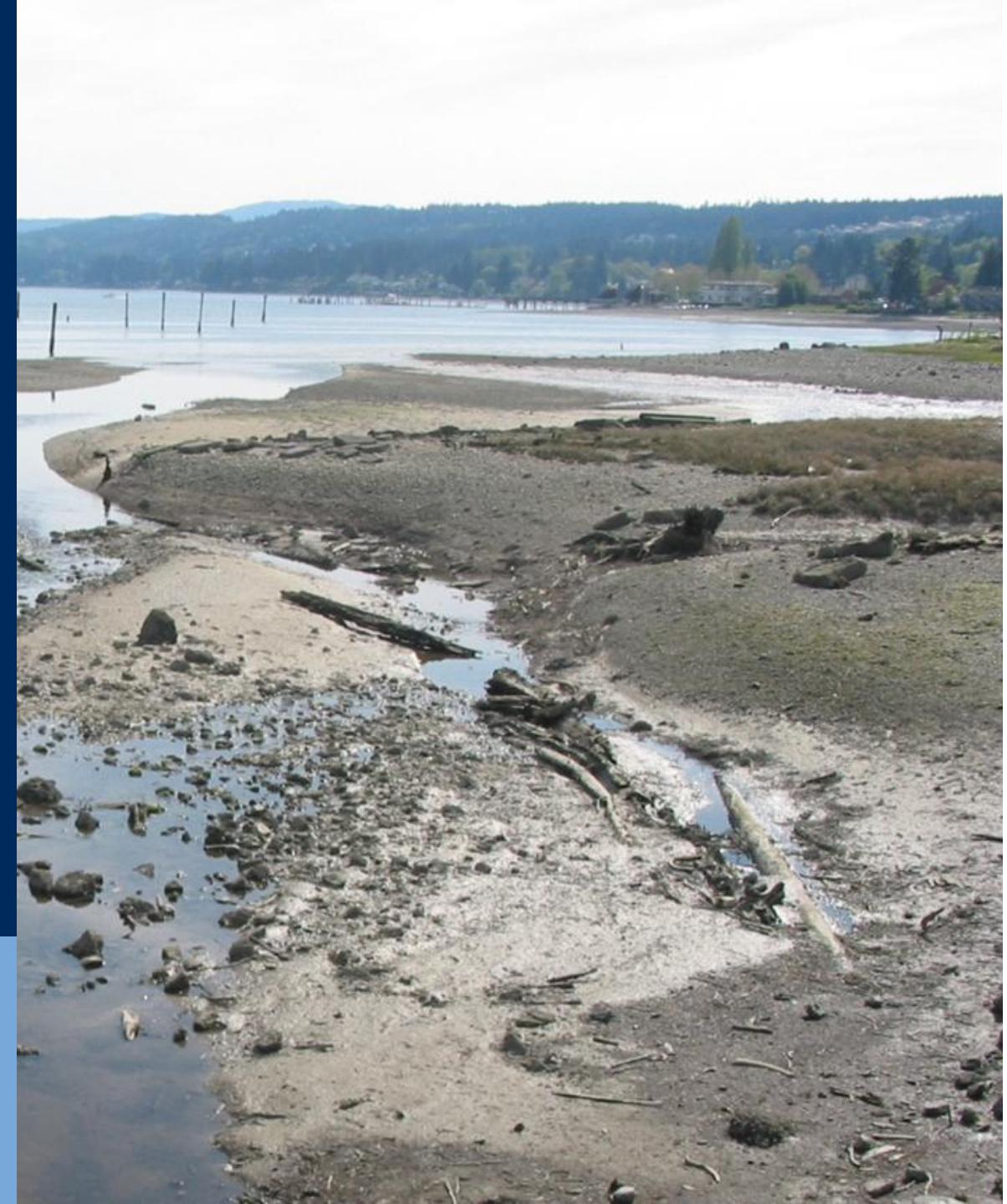
# Department of Community Development

Equestrian Facility Assessment  
Planning Commission Briefing

Heather Cleveland, Long Range Planner  
February 3, 2026



Kitsap County



# Agenda

Purpose

Background

Objectives

Key Stakeholders

Scope of Work

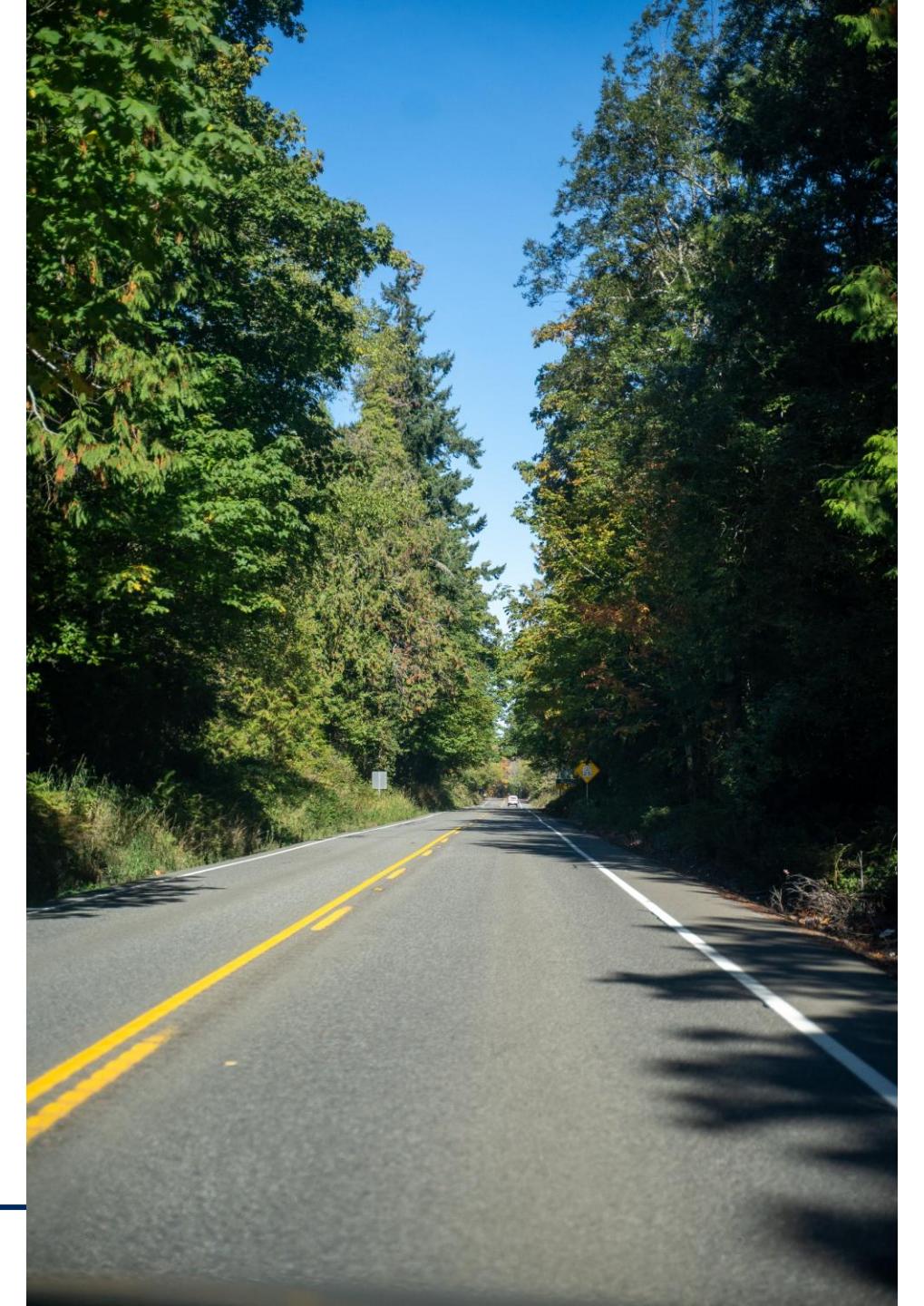
Timeline

Deliverables



# Purpose

To assess regulatory needs for future commercial equestrian facilities, considering rural impacts, economic viability, and the role of equestrian facilities in maintaining rural character.



# Background

The Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners first identified regulation of equestrian facilities as a priority for 2025.

Postponed proposed equestrian facility code update to 2026.

In 2026, DCD will provide focus and staffing needed to assess and present recommendations to stakeholders.



## Kitsap County News

[Board of County Commissioners Postpones Equestrian Facility Code to 2026](#)

10/13/2025

The [Kitsap County Board of Commissioners](#) directed the [Department of Community Development \(DCD\)](#) today to separate the [Equestrian Facility Code](#) component from the rest of the [Year of the Rural](#) project. This decision allows the County and community to focus on other Year of the Rural topics during the 2025 public process while providing additional time for engagement, discussion, research, and refinement of the proposed Equestrian Facility Code.

# Objectives

Identify and evaluate impacts

Assess existing County regulations and enforcement practices

Evaluate the applicability of the Washington State Right to Farm Act

Compile and assess best practices

Define and assess operational thresholds and intensity levels

Evaluate infrastructure and environmental impacts

Assess which impacts and intensity levels may warrant regulatory oversight

Gather stakeholder input

Assess alignment with existing county code and permitting frameworks



Bainbridge Island Review: A chestnut horse grazes on hay at Lazy K Stables



King 5 and Kitsap Sun

# Key Stakeholders

Board of County Commissioners

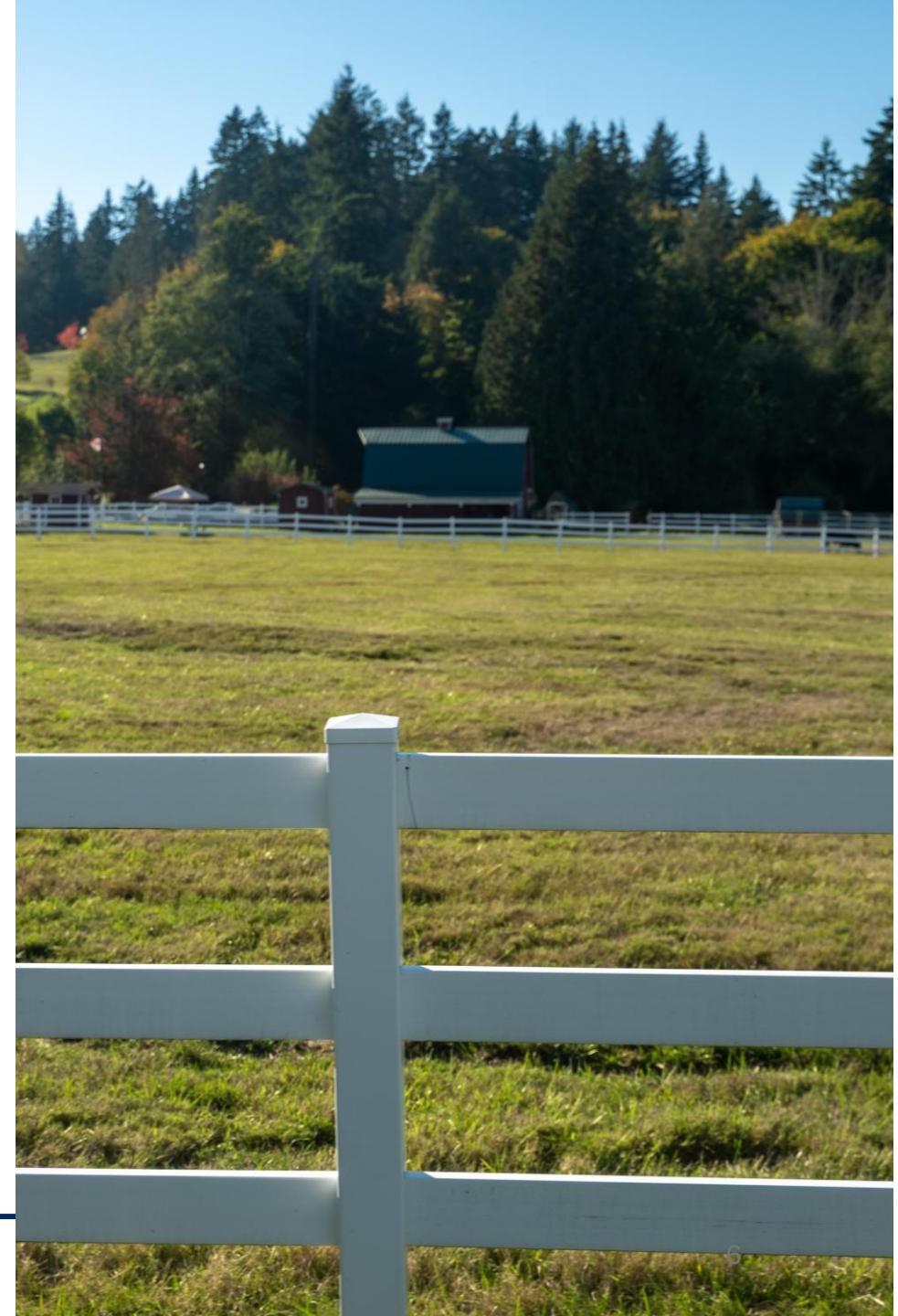
Planning Commission

DCD staff

Commercial equestrian facility operators and equestrian associations

Rural property owners near equestrian facilities

Community and neighborhood representatives and customers



# Scope of Work

Task 1. Project initiation and Data

Task 2. Regulatory and Legal Framework Assessment

Task 3. Best Practices and Comparative Review

Task 4. Impact and Intensity Analysis

Task 5. Threshold and Trigger Evaluation

Task 6. Stakeholder Engagement  
• Community Engagement Plan

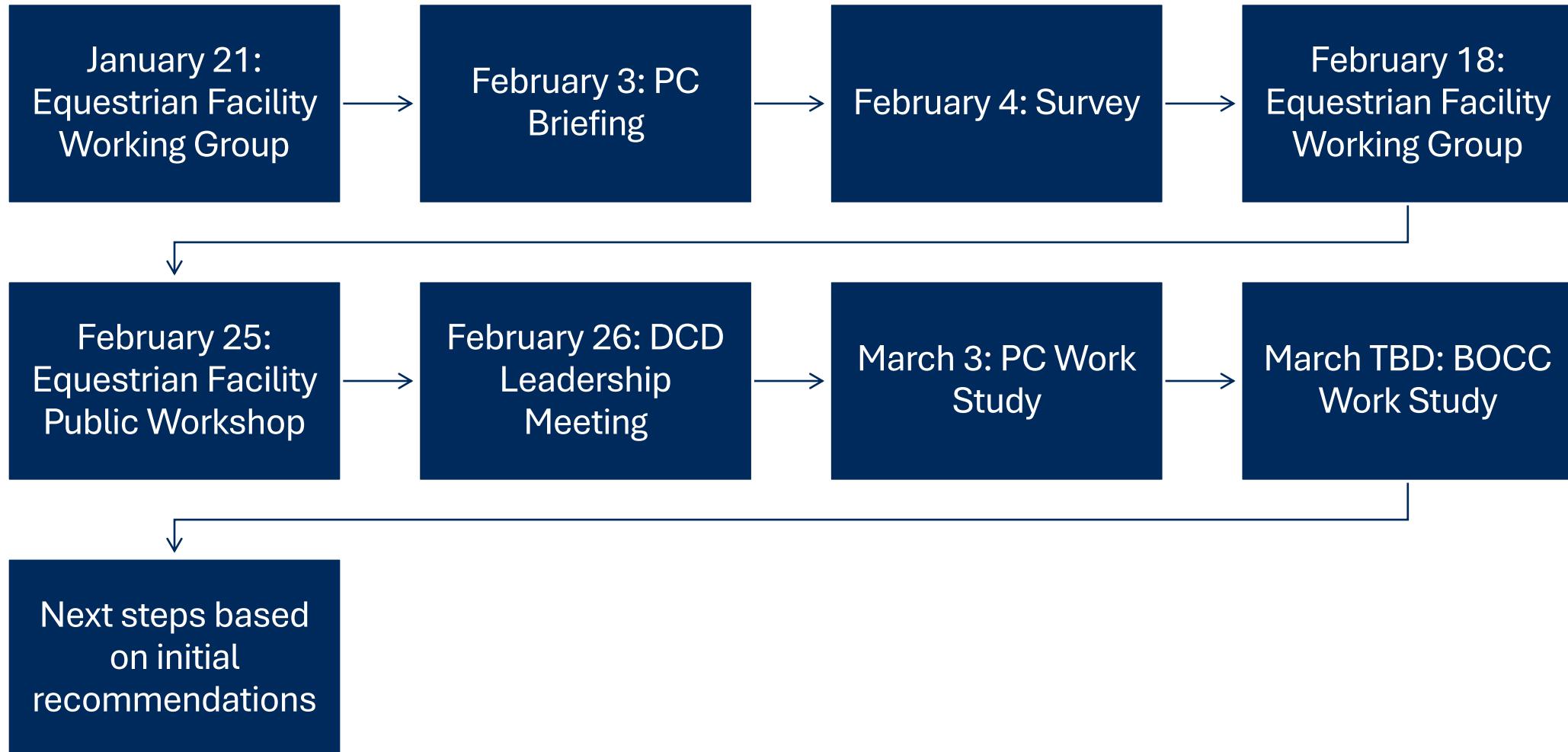
Task 7. Regulatory Alignment and Options Assessment

Task 8. Findings and Recommendations

Task 9. Public Process

Task 10. Implementation

# Timeline



# Deliverables

- Existing Conditions and Regulatory Review Memo
- Best Practices and Comparative Analysis Summary
- Impact and Intensity Assessment Technical Memo
- Stakeholder Engagement Summary
- Regulatory Alignment and Options Assessment
- Final Assessment Report
- Regulations Update (pending regulatory decision)



# Thank you!

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