

**WHITMAN COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION
ZOOM MEETING
June 1, 2022**

MEMBERS:

Chad Whetzel, Chairman
Weston Kane
Fred Wexler

Brian Davies, Vice-Chairman
David Tysz
Keith Paulson

Staff: Alan Thomson, WC Planner; Grace Di Biase, WC Assistant Planner; Mark Storey, WC Director; Art Swannack, BOCC; Tom Handy, BOCC; Brandon Johnson, Public Works; Elinor Huber, Clerk.

Others: Rachel Granrath, SCJ Alliance; Lauren Bromley, Department of Ecology; Justen Scholle, SCJ Alliance; RJ Lott; Ken Duft; Richard Wesson; Nancy Belsby; Shelly Chambers Fox.

7:00 p.m. – Chad Whetzel opened the meeting with introductions.

MOTION by Keith Paulson and seconded by Brian Davies to approve the minutes from April 6, 2022. Roll call vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Alan Thomson – **Reports.**

- a. Board of Adjustment forthcoming hearings – None.
- b. Forthcoming Administrative Use Permits – None.
- c. Forthcoming Variances – None.
- d. Update on previous conditional use permits and variances – We had one conditional use permit for Kirk and Melissa Dugger and that was for extending their RV Park on SR 27 and Palouse-Albion Road. That was approved on April 14, 2022.
- e. Update on previous administrative use permits – None.
- f. Board of County Commissioners’ action – They will have their public hearing on the comp plan on June 21, 2022. We will find out if they approve the comp plan and potentially there could be some changes but we will have to tune in on June 21st to see what happens there.

- g. Update on previous Board of County Commissioners' action – None.
- h. Forthcoming Shoreline of the State Substantial Development Permits – None.
- i. Update on previous Shoreline of the State Substantial Development Permits – None.
- j. Planning Commission forthcoming hearings – None.

Adjourned – 7:07 p.m.

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Others: Rachel Granrath, SCJ Alliance; Lauren Bromley, Department of Ecology; Justen Scholle, SCJ Alliance; RJ Lott; Ken Duft; Richard Wesson; Nancy Belsby; Shelly Chambers Fox.

7:08 p.m. – Chad Whetzel opened the workshop. We will have the SCJ Alliance introduce themselves and give us a presentation on the Shoreline Master Program update.

Rachel Granrath – Hello everyone. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. We are kicking off a Shoreline Master Program for Whitman County and every incorporated jurisdiction that has a designated shoreline, except for Malden. I'd like to introduce our team so you can get used to our faces as you see us on the Hollywood squares of Zoom and hopefully in person.

We have a couple folks here with us. I'm Rachel Granrath. I'm a senior planner with SCJ Alliance in Spokane. I've worked on a bunch of shoreline master programs and so I am excited to work with WC for a lot of reasons. One of which, my mom is the youngest of seven from St. John. So, I still have cousins that farm lands in the area and aunts and uncles who all live all over the place and relatives in Colfax but I visit frequently. It is exciting to work with you. It is very close to home. I would like to introduce Lauren, as well.

Lauren Bromley – Hello everyone. I am the shoreline planner that is assigned to WC and all the jurisdictions that are in it during the SMP Periodic review. I am going to be assisting Rachel. I'm going to be doing the final review. I will participate in the, because it will be a joint periodic review, I will be doing preliminary reviews at the early stages prior to anything really going on for public consumption. That just helps us get through the process faster.

We will eliminate a couple of steps when we do the joint review that are usually separate steps that extend the timeline and we will double them up and then proceed forward together. I will be around and if you have questions, you are welcome to give me a call or an email.

Rachel Granrath – I will let Justen Scholle introduce himself.

Justen Scholle – Hello. I have been with SCJ about three months and most of my time has been working on SMP updates in Chewelah and Coulee Dam so it is a pretty familiar process. At this point, I will be helping Rachel get through it and working with Lauren to make sure everything is in line.

Rachel Granrath – This is a collaborative update between the local jurisdictions, WC, and Ecology. I will get into the intent and purpose of this too. What we like to do is have Ecology walk you through because I know you haven't done this in a while and walk you through what it means and what Ecology is looking for.

Things have changed since your last go around so Lauren will do a refresher for those who weren't in the appointed Planning Commission with rules that they are now. I know we have some local jurisdictions on here too. This is our first meeting and with the Shoreline Master Program periodic review.

Lauren Bromley – Okay, basically, we are doing this review because the Shoreline Management Act and RCW 90.58 requires this every eight years, after the comp plan is done. The SMA Policies deal with the environmental protection, public access and water-dependent and preferred uses. The public access in water-dependent and preferred uses can touch into recreation but it deals with everything that is dimensional line jurisdiction.

The RCW 90.58.050 establishes a cooperative program of shoreline management between local government and the State. This is what is going on. We are doing it together but we are also tacking on this new thing which is the joint collaborative review that makes it much faster. The local government and all of the jurisdictions that are within the County are going to participate in this as a coalition for the most part, with the exception of Malden. Then this whole thing gets going through the grant process and then Ecology acts primarily as a supportive role, review capacity.

Pretty much I'm a fall back for any questions you have with regards to SEPA or something else. "We had something come up. Can we wrap that into the grant?" Is there something we can do as planners for the SMP? Some of these jurisdictions might have things that they want to do that aren't necessarily in this provided check list.

All of the jurisdictions have gone in phases. It started on the west side. They were the first groupings to actually get started in the periodic review. It is systematically as they finished moved eastward. We just finished Spokane County and there were nine total SMP updates within that county. They were a part of the Class C that just finished their periodic reviews. This is going to be my second large round of periodic reviews.

There are a few within the Class C and a few others over there but mostly it is the eastern regional office, Pend Oreille all the way down to Asotin. The deadline for these SMP's will be June 30, 2023. June 30th is the deadline for every one of them. It just changes based on the year. Ours will be 2023, is when we expect to get these reviewed and approved by the local

communities and commissions. Then they get signed into law or ordinance and then they go through Ecology. They get the final approval and the director's stamp and then it is done. Fourteen days after that final review and then it becomes part of your SMP.

We have a checklist and that is where the revised code the RCW and the WAC from the time that 2013 to 2018, anything that changed within those years that was approved and changed to the actual code, those are in a checklist with a workbook. Each one of them says the date that they were changed, why they were changed and how were they changed. Now what we do is we take those changes and we incorporate them into everybody's SMP. Everybody has to make those same changes.

But, if there are additional changes that you find in doing your review, say a mapping error or maybe some definitions that you want to change or maybe you want to split your CAO and use it as an appendix or just left with it instead of having it incorporated in your document itself is, those are things that you can change now and they aren't necessarily on the checklist.

So, when I say checklist, there is an actual checklist with a workbook that will give you a step by step of what you mandatorily have to change. Everything else is the cherry on top that goes into local circumstances, new information improved data. Anything that changes in your community. Anything that the constituents have an issue with, maybe that got left out the last round, that's what this opportunity is giving all the jurisdictions is that chance to change it. Because this will be your new revised, new and improved SMP for the next eight years.

Okay, this is the checklist I was talking about. On the left you will see, 2014, 2012, 2011, etc., these are the rules that were changed since then. Granted, I believe, is it 2017 was WC or 2016 when they last did their update to the comp plan?

Alan Thomson – November of 2016.

Lauren Bromley – So, all of the ones prior to 2015 you likely will have already incorporated in your SMP because they were already done when you completed it and it wouldn't have been approved had they not been already in there. So, really most of the jurisdictions here are going to be looking at any changes from 2015-2018 and there is just not very much. So, it should be a breeze for everybody to be able to just go through the checklist and see what has changed, what do we need to incorporate into the SMP update and is there anything else?

This little blurb on the right is a little sample from the handbook and this is what it looks like in the handbook. So, the checklist is only two pages and that is the part on the left. Then the workbook is this little sample here and it tells you what the law is, how it was changed, where it was affected, and gives you some example language if you need to change it in your SMP. Both of those we have provided to the consultant and she is going to or has already provided those two for you to look at. But that will be your guidance for things that are required.

The fun thing we are doing now is the Joint state /local review. It is city, county, state coalition. It is us doing a 30-day joint public comment period and a joint public hearing. In the traditional version of this, the jurisdiction would do their own. They would go through the whole process. You go to a 10–15-day notice in the paper, then they would hold a meeting and then they would do a 30-day comment period, then collect their own comments, accumulate it all and review it. It was this really long process and then we did it again from Ecology's side. So, it elongated the process because we were both doing the very same thing and had to do it separately one after the other.

Now, what we are doing is doing them side-by-side as a team. I will be present at the public hearing and I will walk you through the comment period and we will go through the comment matrix and that will condense it. So, instead of having 60-80 days, it will just be 30 days for the comment period.

That is a fun thing that we are giving you the option. You can always choose to do a standard review, so if there is a hang-up or something happens or maybe the Planning Commission can't get together. We've had a couple jurisdictions where it got a little wonky, we just reverted back to the standard review, separated them out because it will take a lot of time and we hit some bumps. So, we just reverted back to standard. It took a little longer but it worked.

The ideal situation would be that we would go ahead and do the joint review but just know there are very few reasons to get mixed up and if it does, we can handle it. This would be the best way to go about it.

So, reiterating what I just said, we do the response to comments so you get our comment matrix from that 30-day comment period. The jurisdiction and the consultant will go ahead and insert their responses to the comments. Ecology reviews it and then they will have responses to come.

Then after all the comments are summarized and addressed, and implemented into that draft, that gets submitted for the initial determination to Ecology.

I will provide a document that will say, "It looks great and we did all of the steps." Then you can go ahead to go, and we are giving you a preliminary approval to go ahead and adopt. Then you take that to your commission and get it approved and adopted, get your ordinance. Then you put the whole package together and you submit it back to us.

We send it on and I review it, and I send it to my supervisor. They doublecheck that I didn't mess anything up and then they send it on up the chain, I think there are 4-5 approval steps, to the director. From that the director will turn around and say, "Congratulations, you guys did great. Here is your final letter of approval."

They say, 60 days is the appeal period but that is if we didn't do our due diligence. If we didn't do a public comment period or we didn't do a public hearing, someone could come in during the 60 days and say they want to appeal because we didn't do it right.

But we will do it right so there won't be a problem. It's 14 days from the time you get that letter from the director it becomes effective and then you are done.

This next page is going back to the WAC and explaining why we are doing the amended process and then how it satisfies the WAC criteria. We really just don't want the jurisdictions to have piecemeal development for state shorelines and so that is why this whole process is going on.

This is why Ecology reviews and stays in touch with jurisdictions is to make sure the master plans are still following the rules and regulations, and all of the SMPs across the State have the basic fundamental building blocks that make an SMP. You can pretty much go to every one of them and you still see the same basic things that protect the waters. Because eventually it all goes to the ocean so we are all responsible for it. That is why we are doing this.

This next page is the Shoreline planners toolbox. Anybody can get to this. It is on the DOE's website. This is my email Lauren.Bromley@ecy.wa.gov if you want to shoot me an email. As I said, I am a shoreline planner, I am assigned to this jurisdiction along with 36 other jurisdictions that I am working on.

It is going to be a busy two years and I am looking forward to helping everybody. I am here for you. I was just hired two years ago solely to perform this function as a shoreline planner to help usher these SMP's through. That is all I do and that is all I will be doing for the next two years. If you need anything, please contact me. I will be happy to assist you. That is my last slide.

Rachel Granrath – Thank you. Does anyone have any questions for Lauren before we dive in?

Mark Storey – Just a comment. I'm not sure it is a question, but just to make sure I understand things. This is a Shoreline update. We are not creating a new Shoreline plan. We are tweaking it a little bit to basically match any new laws, new requirements. So, for us to have something substantially out of whack would be very surprising. I want to make sure I understand the process. We are just going to be doing little tweaks and making sure we basically match up with current law.

Lauren Bromley – Yes, absolutely. Honestly, if there is something from your permitting team, where they are having a hard time with this over and over because it is worded funny, now would be the time to do that. Even if you don't like the formatting or you don't like the way it is laid out. This is the time to fix that.

Rachel Granrath - Hey, Lauren, before you go muted, why don't you describe what Finding of Adequacy is before we dive in. I think that might be appropriate for some of the communities.

Lauren Bromley – The Finding of Adequacy essentially says if you don't have any changes at all then you would still go through the checklist and say, "Not applicable, finding of adequacy." What that does is that tells me we are not changing anything. Then I have a special type of

document that would go through a slightly different process. But essentially, it is saying that you guys don't have changes. We still have to do a 30-day comment period and a public hearing just to let everybody know. I might misspeak on that one. I'll have to double check on the public hearing. I do believe that you have to do the 30-day comment period just to say that we aren't planning on changing anything, but if anybody has any issues with it, now is the time.

Then it is just kind of a stamp, we aren't doing anything with the SMP and then it is done. But like I said, I think all of these jurisdictions that are listed here, if they all approved in 2016, there will be at least two checklist items that have to be changed because it was done after those items being adopted by the state government.

I will have to look and see Rachel, if in fact if any of these could apply for Finding of Adequacy based on the date. But if they can and they are not making changes then yes, that is the preferred method, because then we can just get them off the plate. Rachel and I will work together to dive into those different jurisdictions and we will let you know. We will be the ones who tell you that you don't need to do anything with this. Let's just issue a Finding of Adequacy form. So, we will keep you updated.

Art Swannack – You were talking about a simultaneous joint local process. That applies to the Planning Commission process and not to the process where the BOCC will have to adopt the plan. Right?

Lauren Bromley – Correct. The two main factors in a joint review, is that we do a public hearing together. Ecology and the jurisdictions of the coalition and a public comment period together. So instead of those two to three separate months and then two to three separate months for Ecology, we are just doing it together as one. So, it will only take 2-3 months for both of us to accomplish the same task.

Art Swannack – No problem. We just have to hold a hearing before we adopt the ordinance, so that is why I was asking.

Lauren Bromley – Okay.

Rachel Granrath – Any other questions? Okay, thank you Lauren. So, the purpose and intent behind this review is just to bring you into conformance with the Shoreline Management Act and also critical areas. So, we will take a look at that. That will be part of this regulation and update.

The grant funds can be used to look at your critical areas ordinances. It sounds like in talking to County Staff that there are some compliance regulatory changes we can make to make you more in line with state law for Ecology's side and Department of Commerce. So, the WC coalition includes WC as the lead agency. We've got Albion, Colfax, Palouse, Pullman, Rosalia and Tekoa. Not including Malden this go-around for that.

Again, we are updating for regulations. If there other changes as we go through this process that you can think of that is maybe not working for you or the County, we can take a look at those. Potentially, some mapping, just clarities, not changing anything but just making the maps work easier to work with. You'll see that later in the presentation. That was a comment that we heard from staff so that might be something we look at for some better delineation through this process.

So, we so talk about the outreach and process and Lauren threw out a lot of different dates and timelines and 14 days, and 30 days and 60 days and you don't have to remember any of that. We will walk you through the process. That is why we are on board.

Lauren and I work closely together as well as Justen and work through the process and procedures so that we meet the grant deadlines as well as the procedural deadlines for compliance by June 30, 2023. We pretty much work backwards from here.

What we are being conscience of during this process is to avoid harvest in WC and so what we are proposing is due to timeline, we are already creeping up on that. I know the summer and late summer is super busy in this area. We are looking to reach out to local jurisdictions in the Fall and having a series of different meetings and talk about what this means with each of the local government leaders and elected officials. Then talk about what those changes look like if there is anything about procedural and compliance regulatory changes that are required by the State.

My guess is we will probably stick with that unless there are some nuances or better mapping or clarity type works that we can do through this process.

Where we are at now, we had a kick-off the last week or the week before with the County staff, consulting team and Ecology. Today we are talking with you and kicking off this process and just getting your initial thoughts and ideas and what the periodic update looks like it means for WC and the jurisdictions. Then we will work through the summer with some of the agencies in June and talk about what those stakeholder conversations look like.

Staff has given us a great list of folks to outreach to and have that kind of kick off meeting. You may have changes that need to be made by your agency or local non-profit different jurisdictions, leaders like we have RJ Lott here with Pullman. He will be aware of what needs are for shoreline development as he goes through his department at the city level.

So, we will work with each of you on that and then look into that local government outreach in the Fall and hopefully at that point we will have a great document with all of the checklists completed.

The local government will be in the loop as what is going on and then we will go through that procedure for Notice of Intent. That Notice of Intent to adopt that is a joint window that

Lauren has been talking about with Ecology and the local government and county so we will send that out for notice.

We will take care of all that. It will be in the newspaper. We will work with the local governments to get those all out and your designated newspapers and posting on boards and on the websites and all of that, so people will know where to access these meetings. We also have to go through a 60-day notice with the DOE and through the Growth Management Act that has to go Ecology as well as Commerce.

Then ultimately that leads into the Joint public hearing with Ecology. So, we will be busy with those meetings at that time and get stakeholder input whether it is written or public testimony that is incorporated into your Findings, and potentially incorporated into the recommendations depending on what each elected body chooses to do. Then that will go through the BOCC and ultimately adopted by Ecology with that great letter and then we are done. There are a lot of little steps in between that but those are kind of the main ones.

I will pause here if anyone has any questions on the time line for procedure. Okay, moving right along. I figured we could go through the eye level overview of each different jurisdiction starting with WC.

So, you can see on this map that there are 29 different cut sheets that show areas in more detail on this shoreline map that has been adopted as part of the previous SMP update. Each of these different sheets are detailed on the shoreline designation and as you can see there are a few different shorelines in the County. Some of which are focused on local jurisdictions which we will get into a few more slides.

We can start with WC and you can give me your thoughts and feedback and we can work through each of the communities for folks that are here and might have some initial thoughts. This isn't your last time to talk about this. We will have a few more bites on this apple so if there aren't any in-depth thoughts to kick it off, that's okay. If you just say streamline with what is required with the state map, that's okay, too. I'll do a quick pause before I move onto our next couple communities. Are there any questions?

Hearing none, I will assume it is working for WC and we can work with Staff again for some of those minor changes. This map shows that zoomed cut sheet on Albion and Pullman and we have some representatives from them today. Any input if you have any? Each of these local jurisdictions have their plans which we will dive into as part of the, Lauren and I have been talking as to the best way for us to work forward is to start with the county-wide and then have that trickle down to each of the local jurisdictions.

What we will do between this meeting and the next is go through the check-list on the countywide, and see what is applicable and what has changed and then trickle that down and model that with each of the local jurisdictions in line with what the County has.

Okay, Colfax. I know we have the Palouse River through Colfax and it is designed a little differently with the concrete culvert through town. I'm not sure if there are any concerns or comments with that. You can see each of these areas have different designations and so high intensity, shoreline parks, shoreline residential and urban conservancy. Those all mean there are different designations and setbacks and protections based on use and categories of natural conditions with the shorelines of the State.

Okay, the next map is Palouse with the Palouse River.

Mark Storey – I don't mean to presume that everyone knows what this is but maybe, does everyone on the call, does everyone really understand what the shoreline ordinance is and does? It is a little bit self-explanatory but it may or may not be self-evident. So, when they look at these maps it may or may not have a comment because they are not sure what that means to them or their property.

Rachel Granrath – That's a good point, Mark. Each of these plans have goals and policies that we will get into but the maps really just say there are different levels of designations. So, if you have property that is along the shoreline, you will not be restricted but you have to follow different regulations based on the shoreline protection of the State.

Those that are based on setbacks, ordinary highwater mark which is designated on each of these properties, and then we look at existing conditions and natural vegetation. It is designated on each of these properties and then we look at existing conditions and natural vegetation and it depends on the level of intensity of development. Most of the time these areas have historically been developed or they are maintained as natural because they are an ag community.

Mark Storey – I think there are a lot of members on the Planning Commission that may not have been here back when we were doing it before and they may not know precisely what that means. That's all I was trying to get at. Also, the shorelines are very specific creeks and rivers. Not all of them, just a few of them.

David Tysz – I'm in Tekoa and I own land on both sides of the Hangman Creek that comes through as with other people. We were talking about planting trees. Are we going to be restricted then?

Rachel Granrath – It depends. Maybe that is more of a question for Lauren. But there are ways to have planting and the shoreline that meets the natural and erosion control side of things. I don't see that as an issue. It is just something you have to work through and reference in the SMP as adopted.

David Tysz – Our problem here in Tekoa is we are competing with beavers. We plant them and they cut them down just as fast. We are trying to find a tree that will work along the bank for

erosion and everything else. So, I guess we need to be talking about that later on when you come to Tekoa.

Rachel Granrath – Lauren, do you have something you would like to add here?

Lauren Bromley – It does depend on the size. If you are going to be putting in boxed trees and you are using heavy machinery, then there will be a need for a SEPA and a review. But if they are saplings, we've done it before where there was no need for any of that. It does depend on the size. I don't know if you have ever talked to the person, he did a presentation, works for Ecology and we have thousands of employees but he specializes in beavers. I almost want to go hunt him down and pair him up with you because his love and passion is understanding beaver habitat and what works best. So, he might have some good ideas for you in regards to plantings.

David Tysz – I hope so because he went way under my yard and took a pine tree that I have been taking care of for eight years.

Lauren Bromley – Oh, no. I will make a note of that and see if I can track some information for you.

David Tysz – Okay, thanks.

Mark Storey – I didn't mean to hijack your presentation but when I hear zero questions, I just wonder if people are just nodding and have no idea what we are talking about or they just don't have anything to say.

Rachel Granrath – No, that is fantastic, Mark. It is super hard on Zoom sometimes, so thank you.

Alan Thomson – In each one of these SMP plans there is a matrix, a table. In there it tells you each one of those jurisdictions what you can and cannot do within these particular types of shorelines. Rural conservancy, shoreline parks, etc., so there is a list of things you can do and sometimes you have to go through either conditional use permits, or a substantial development permit.

So, there is a review and there would be a SEPA involved with that. Then there are things that are just out right allowed without having to go through a SEPA. So, that table is something that the consultant will be working with you on in each of these jurisdictions. David, you can plant plantings in a shoreline. We have done many of them throughout the County. Sometimes like Lauren was saying, the size of the trees might be a little bit that triggers a potential permit process like a floodplain development permit which would involve a SEPA. It doesn't mean you can't do it, though.

Lauren Bromley – It doesn't mean you can't do it. In fact, we welcome that kind of stuff, especially when comes to your bank stabilization and erosion. It just triggers an additional process so that we can watch it and do it the right way and make sure it is successful and doesn't cause damage in the interim of trying to make it better. That's what the substantial development permits are for and the SEPA process review is for, but we love to see restoration in shoreline areas.

Rachel Granrath – Any other thoughts? We are now on the Rosalia map. Are there any folks from Rosalia tonight? So, we will take a look at Tekoa and connect with the beaver specialist and then dive into any concerns you might have and how we can have the Shoreline Master Program work better for you.

David Tysz – The question I have here is as we get into the Tekoa one, I know the mud comes right down our creek, probably Hangman's. It is a terrible muddy creek. What are they doing about the reservation in Idaho? Are they doing the same thing as you are doing to clean it up?

Rachel Granrath – That is a great question, but I don't know. Maybe Alan knows.

Alan Thomson – No, but when you start talking about Idaho, it is an entirely different ballgame. They don't have the same regulations as Washington. Even if they do have regulations.

Rachel Granrath – Lauren, from Ecology's perspective, is there any class collaboration between borders of adjacent states?

Lauren Bromley – I wish. As far as Idaho, you couldn't get more opposite in regards to how they handle shorelines and what their rules and regulations are. It is unfortunate that the invisible line stops us from being able to care for the waterways.

On some of the tribal lands, sometimes because the tribal lands cross over, they do as a whole look at that kind of stuff. But as far as the State land is concerned, anything that runs through State land is a different ball game. But we are going to be inviting the tribes. So, anything that crosses over into tribal land, even if it is in Idaho, those tribes will be getting a heads up. "Hey, this is going on and the waters are connecting. Because half of that tribal land is still in this area.

Rachel Granrath - That's a good point. Okay, I know we will get into the nitty gritty on this as we go through the process. I just wanted to talk about an overview of what some of the periodic updates are that we will be looking at. There is this checklist that we have, advice on language and example text and all sorts of things that we get out of this process. But what I wanted to go over with you is what actually has changed.

So, typically we update cost thresholds. The level of what we consider substantial development permits and exemptions, changes as inflation happens. That number typically rises. There is

that streamlined process that Ecology has adopted since their last update, so that is both procedural and in your SMP there is some changes that can be adopted as part of this.

There are provisions on non-conforming and conforming provisions. So, things that have existed in the shorelines or wouldn't be permitted today and replacing those and what that looks like from the process and procedure standpoints. Those are things that we will address as part of this process.

Exemptions have been expanded so things that are exempt from a substantial development permit such as, projects that work with ADA, enhancement projects on federal lands, or just enhancement projects in general. So, I have to look into the regulations, but potentially that erosion control is just exempt because those are things that Ecology and the State really want to facilitate as improvement projects in the shorelines.

There are various clarifications to definitions and procedures. It is things like linking them to your critical areas ordinance, like geological hazardous areas or definitions of wetlands. Things along those lines. Then we will take look at wetland delineation and critical areas guidance. We have already had some initial conversations with county staff and talked about referencing your critical areas by reference and not having the text in the code in your SMP.

So, instead of having that full text in the plan, it is now on your county code site or your local jurisdiction code, if appropriate for each of those local jurisdictions, and then referencing those as guidance. So that each time those are updated it is the most up-to-date version. Then this doesn't apply to you, but floating home regulations have changed.

So, that is a bit of an overview. Any questions? That is the end of my presentation. This was meant to be a kick-off, talk to you about the timelines, get some initial thoughts, bring Lauren in today and talk about what Ecology has changed since our last update and walk you through the timeline.

So, it is not the last time you will hear from us. We really want to be working with you and talking to the local jurisdictions and getting input on a time where we can get quality input from your community and local leaders. So, that is where we are at and I'll be working with Lauren to get copies.

Hopefully they have word documents of the local jurisdictions of the SMP and then Justen and I will get started in updating those and bringing you those changes and streamlining so you are in line with the State, and fully able to get all of the grants that you need to do what you need for your local governments. I am happy to answer any questions you have for me or Lauren or Justen.

Tom Handy – I'm sorry, I joined late here. I am traveling and had to find a place to pull over. So, the first half hour I missed, is the recording going to be available?

(Clerk's note: 7:57 p.m. - Tom Handy joined the meeting.)

Alan Thomson – The answer is yes. We can get you that.

Mark Storey – I haven't been at the last couple Planning Commission meetings. Just so people realize, all of the consultant services on this are being paid for by DOE through a grant. The grant also extends to the communities, the cities that are involved in this as well, so I believe it will be 100% funded through Ecology. It is not WC money paying for the effort other than the fact that Staff time does take time to deal with things. I didn't know if you had mentioned that Alan, but I think it is an important little factoid, if you will.

Alan Thomson – No, I didn't mention that previously and staff time is accounted for as well in the Ecology budget. Thank you DOE, thank you Washington State.

Brian Davies – Thank you for clarifying that.

Mark Storey – All these consultants show up, and I spent 18 years being a consultant and I know how expensive we can be. They just see the dollars go rolling along. Even though it still costs a lot of money, it is nice that Ecology and the State passes the laws and they make us conform to the laws, which is fine, but they are also paying for the updates that are required of us to do this effort as well. I just think that is a good thing.

David Tysz – Mark and Alan, my kids farm and they are in Spokane County. Are the farmers being invited to be at these meetings also that you have in the communities?

Alan Thomson – We have a list of people that we send emails to and some of them are farmers. Agriculture is not impacted by this David. Ag continues to do what ag does. We've got the Voluntary Stewardship Program which deals with ag uses and critical areas. You can farm up to the banks of any of these shorelines.

Mark Storey – That is one of the reasons the VSP program is I think, very important because it allows the ag community to voluntarily do things to improve the environment. We get as an overall community, we get some credit for those things they voluntarily do. Then the benefit to them is that the State theoretically in time won't subject ag to those same regulations that we develop for other users. So, hopefully, we can keep that going into the future. I think that is an important thing to think about.

Rachel Granrath – I'll just add before we part ways, is that each of the local jurisdictions will probably hear some of the same conversations that we had here tonight. So, it will be a bit redundant. But the reason we are going to do that, and Lauren will be part of those throughout the process, is to re-educate and bring folks up to speed to what we are talking about.

So this body, the Planning Commission, is charged with the overall task. So, you guys are the points and so each of your communities when we go to Tekoa and talk about beavers will

probably get a similar presentation bringing them up to speed on what we are doing here and why and it will be focused on Tekoa.

David Tysz – When you come to Tekoa, bring your beaver guy because those families are causing problems.

Rachel Granrath – Okay. Lauren, I hope you made a note to find the beaver man.

Lauren Bromley – I did. We will get you a contact.

Alan Thomson – That is a good clarification Rachel, that each one of the individual towns you are going to be dealing with them individually, not with the WC Planning Commission. So, you will have those sessions where you are dealing with just Tekoa, Palouse, Pullman, etc. Because your shoreline plans will be slightly different than the County plan.

Mark Storey - That begs a clarification. Each of the communities right now has their own regulation, their own shoreline plan. There isn't just one plan for the County and the towns and cities. There was some conversation about attempting to combine them but I'm not sure that will get off the ground.

Alan Thomson – There is a certain amount of data that is consistent for everybody. That part we are going to combine. But then your table within the towns will be slightly different than the table out in the County. That's different.

Mark Storey – This meeting is really just the kick-off so everyone gets on the same page as we start. The County does not intend to write a shorelines' plan for each of the towns. The towns get to be the guide for how that comes out within the boundaries of the law.

Alan Thomson – That's what the consultant does.

Mark Storey – Correct.

Rachel Granrath – Thank you all for having us here tonight. We are looking forward to meeting all of you in person and have a happy and healthy harvest.

Alan Thomson – Thank you, everyone. Thank you, Rachel, Lauren. So, Chad, that is basically all we have tonight. Unless you have more questions, first.

Chad Whetzel – I do have a question. This is more for our commissioners. If there are two of you, do you guys need to open a meeting then?

Art Swannack – No, we are just observing your meeting tonight. It is not a big deal.

Chad Whetzel – Okay, so you can keep your mouth quiet then.

Art Swannack – Yes. I’ve been going 6 hours. I’m good at being quiet.

Chad Whetzel – I just wasn’t sure. That’s all I got right now.

MOTION by Brian Davies and seconded by Fred Wexler to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Adjourned – 8:06 p.m.

(Alan, you can just delete this if you don’t want it in the minutes.)

Alan Thomson – I don’t know if there will be a meeting in July or if people are available. I don’t know if there will be much to talk about. Probably not much of the shoreline but the BOCC are going to make a decision on June 21st so we might have something to discuss in the comp plan update.

Chad Whetzel – So, you are talking about July 6th?

Alan Thomson – That is starting to get into the busy time. So, Keith and farmers, what do you think? Are you going to be able to join us at that time?

Keith Paulson – We’ll take a look when the time gets closer.

Alan Thomson – So tentatively, we will have another meeting on July 6th, unless there is nothing to talk about. Typically, in August, we don’t meet anyway.

Brian Davies – The consultants won’t have stuff for us until after harvest.

Alan Thomson – You’re looking at September before we can do something with the PC and the SMA. They will be in touch with us. We will have to look at some of the changes that they are making.

Keith Paulson – It would be nice to have a meeting on the comp plan when it gets more finalized.

Alan Thomson – Yes, hopefully, there is a decision out by June 21 and we can meet. It might just be a quick meeting with whatever the BOCC decide.

Mark Storey – They have a draft now. They made a few edits in a way that the PC wanted them to take a look at. I think they have basically a newer version of a draft. I think there are still some final touches on a map.

Alan Thomson – I didn’t want to present anything like that right now.

Mark Storey – I think their language is they are going to talk about in draft form.

Alan Thomson – I know some of the things that they are thinking about changing. So, I will try to get ahead of the gun and make the track changes on the plan right now. That is what the BOCC will be presented with on June 21 so they can work on that one and change it the way they want it. So, I'm getting ahead of things and presenting that to them. The changes will need to be made to the Findings, as well. I'm working on that now but I'm not going to make that public at the moment.

Mark Storey – I think the changes are not major.

Alan Thomson – No, there aren't really any major changes other than the railbanking thing. That is a significant one they are going to change.

Mark Storey – Everyone knew they were going to touch it up.

Alan Thomson – Okay, so nothing until next month.

Brian Davies – So give us a report on the BOCC meeting.

Alan Thomson – I will. You can all join in on that one. It is 1:30 on June 21st.

Keith Paulson – Did you hear about the guy who was walking on the railroad at Pine City and fell through the trestle?

Alan Thomson – No, how badly was he hurt?

Keith Paulson – They air flighted him to Spokane and I didn't hear anything back but he fell about 15 feet. The trestle had been burned in the Malden fire and I came by there just as the helicopter was landing. That's the problem that we have with the railbanking and people that don't read signs, don't pay attention to the landowners nearby and so it is an on-going problem.

Mark Storey – I couldn't agree more. The County manages thousands of signs and rarely are they ever read.

Keith Paulson – It is but is it not going to stop.

Chad Whetzel – Just for a heads up, in July, I won't know until the last minute on whether I can be there or not. I just got my work schedule late. Hopefully, I'll be there, maybe over my phone while I am driving.

Alan Thomson – That's fine. Just keep me advised of it.

Brian Davies – And keep me advised, too, please.

Chad Whetzel – I'll send you a text, Brian, to let you know where I am.

Brian Davies – I'm not planning on going anywhere in July.

Chad Whetzel – Everyone have a good one. See you soon.