



JEFFERSON COUNTY

PLANNING COMMISSION

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JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR AUGUST 22, 2007

- A. OPENING BUSINESS**
- B. PRESENTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS**
- C. CRITICAL AREAS STEWARDSHIP PLAN**
- D. MITIGATION AND MONITORING**
- E. ADJOURNMENT**

A. OPENING BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order at the WSU Learning Center at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman, Peter Downey.

ROLL CALL: Peter Downey, Patricia Farmer, Bud Schindler, Mike Whittaker, Edel Sokol, JD Gallant, Ashley Bullitt and Bill Miller. Henry Werch excused.

DCD staff present: Al Scalf, Joel Peterson and Cathy Alley, secretary. EH staff present: Neil Harrington.

There were approximately nine members of the public present. Those that signed the guest list were: Dennis Schultz, Clark Crandall, Jim Storey, Jim Hagen, Frank Hoffman, Norman MacLeod, Kathy Dickson and George Yount.

STAFF UPDATES:

Al Scalf reported on his meeting with Commissioner Werch wherein they discussed tradition, the importance of unity, work productivity and that principles should be placed above personalities. Mr. Scalf also presented an update on the upcoming CPAs. He further reported on the Hadlock UGA, preparation of briefs for the compliance hearing before the Hearings Board. He presented his thoughts on the pit to pier proposal from FHM, a meeting on 9/27/07 at the Fort Warden Commons that the PC has no role but may attend as citizens, and that STAC & SPAC, the Shoreline Policy Groups meet in September.

Joel Peterson provided a handout from the BoCC endorsing the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Housing Project. He further stressed the importance of maintaining decorum and that it's each individual's responsibility on how to respond to "tough remarks".

Chairman Downey gave his appreciation to the staff for all their hard work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioner Gallant reported on the progress of the 8/22/07 meeting of the Bylaws Committee which consisted of Commissioners Schindler, Farmer and Gallant. He agreed to minor changes in the wording of the bylaws. The committee is deadlocked on wording to be included which ties legislative actions in Section 4. The committee has sought the advice of County Attorney Alvarez. Once Attorney Alvarez responds to their request for clarity, another meeting will be scheduled.

Commissioner Miller reported on a recent UGA Report he received. He will provide comment after he reviews it.

Commissioner Schindler noted that the Brinnon MPR DEIS report is on schedule, flyers are getting out to the community, and people are showing in an interest as they are receiving calls. He estimates that between 50 and 75 citizens will be in attendance.

Chairman Downey noted that there was a motion on the table from the 8/15/07 meeting regarding three Rural Stewardship approaches: Performance, Stewardship, and the Habitat Management Plan (HMP).

B. PRESENTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS

Environmental Health, Water Quality Manager, Neil Harrington, provided an oral presentation regarding the monitoring activities of fresh and marine water in the county. In detail he outlined that for marine water, samples are taken on alternate months from many stations and shellfish growing area. Commissioner Downey added that samples are just for fecal matter and that during harvest season samples are taken every week. Commissioner Schindler inquired as to whether tests are for human or animal fecal coliform. Mr. Harrington answered that the testing is for overall fecal pollution. Commissioner Downey added fecal is caused by seabirds, seals, etc. and that the only area impacted in Jefferson County is the southern tip of Discovery Bay which is related to agriculture, such as Snow Creek. Mr. Harrington continued with that, generally, the pattern seen is across the Salmon and Snow Creek watershed. There are 14 sampling stations where samples are taken at intervals, and that they are always at an upstream station above houses and timberland. These are generally low but as one moves into residential or agricultural land, the numbers increase. The high points are downstream of woods where there is wildlife, cattle, homes and septic system and non-septic system

areas. The watershed is divided into distinguishable chunks. Dennis Schultz commented that the problem is that side streams run through livestock and wildlife areas. There was some speculation as to whether or not the construction of more fences or bridges could prevent side stream pollution.

Commissioner Gallant inquired as to whether the samples are from dirt or water. Mr. Harrington replied that they are taken from water, and there is concern that these things will be in the sediment. There are studies being conducted in order to point to a source.

Regarding streams and their knowledge of a problem with salmon in Snow Creek this spring: The Department of Environment Health was allowed funds and to immediately respond through a DOE grant so that they could coordinate sampling every week (alternating between agencies.). There were marine samples coordinated with fresh water samples. Another project was fresh water monitoring of the Chimacum Creek Water Project. This involved temperature, ph, turbidity, nitrates and phosphorus which expanded the number of sampling stations. Beginning in October 2007 the Department of Environmental Health and the Conservation District will team together to work on this.

Regarding the Conservation District, Mr. Harrington reported that sampling is typically taken through agriculturally influenced streams such the Chimacum Watershed, Tarboo, Salmon Creek Watershed and Donovan Creek and that there is additional testing in other rivers over the years. Freshwater quality parameters for chemical and biological such as dissolved oxygen, fecal coli form, turbidity, temperature measurement every 15 minutes for a span of nine month during warm water years. A good trend analysis is obtained over time. The Department of Environmental Health works closely with the Conservation District. The DOE does not have lab facilities, but the Conservation District does.

Dennis Schultz commented that the work done by the Conservation District is head and shoulders above everyone else. Mr. Harrington agreed in that it has been very effective in guiding the implementation of best management practices. Mr. Schultz inquired into the amount of contamination caused by glaciers, wildlife and rotting vegetation, etc... and what is a realistic number if the sample source is undisturbed by man. Mr. Harrington responded that Salmon Creek water is up in timberland so therefore when it reaches the road it's problematic, and that the ideal is to look at unaffected steams.

Ken Brooks commented on areas such as Oak Bay wherein they are being threatened with closure. He noted that Thurston County has developed a study plan to focus on sources which require moving stations instead of monitoring in fixed stations. He suggested that Jefferson County contact those districts to study their experimental design. Mr. Harrington responded that they have done shoreline sampling. He inquired of Mr. Brooks whether those studies were looking at freshwater or marine water systems, and Mr. Brooks indicated, "both".

Chairman Downey stated that a septic problem looks very different than what is found on Discovery Bay. A situation in Purdy was from a DOT drainage ditch which overflowed when excessive rain occurred which in turn went through a septic system and flowed into the bay which was the inverse of Snow Creek because in this situation less rainwater resulted in more fecal matter.

Mr. Harrington concluded his presentation with remarks regarding the department's continued efforts to work with the Conservation District, the department's work towards the creation of a Clean Water District pursuant to RCW 9.72, and that the Clean Water District would fund some monitoring.

Chairman Downey referred the Board back to the tabled motion regarding Commissioner Sokol's motion to forward Dr. Ken Brooks' drafted report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dr. Ken Brooks expressed his concern over a comment that he was a "hired gun".

Jim Hagen gave his thoughts on decorum.

Norman MacLeod gave his thoughts on the Clean Water District and how it will be determined to be paid for.

Jim Fritz expressed his appreciation for the quality of people working on this project, and the PC.

Norman MacLeod thanked the members of the county staff and PC who made it out to the Hoh Valley over the weekend.

C. CRITICAL AREAS STEWARDSHIP PLAN:

Chairman Downey referred the Board to the Critical Areas Stewardship Plan. After lengthy discussion, Chairman Downey called to move forward Commissioner Sokol's original motion, with amendments. Motion carried with six in favor and 2 opposed. (6-2-0)

D. MITIGATION AND MONITORING:

Chairman Downey commented on the strict requirements for mitigation under the RCW's, and that the WAC's should be relied upon to ensure the standards of mitigation are adhered to.

Commissioner Whittaker moved to code writer line 1312 to 1394 on Report 1. Commissioner Schindler seconded. Motion carried with eight in favor. (8-0-0).

Commissioner Miller moved for the introduction to include: "Though the prescriptive measures identified in this ordinance are expected to reasonably address most circumstances, the opportunity to implement voluntary stewardship efforts designed to preserve the functions and values of critical areas of Jefferson County shall be encouraged. Requirements and criteria subject to consideration in a stewardship plan are presented in the Appendix." No second.

Commissioner Schindler moved to change the bylaws for the good of the order. Commissioner Gallant seconded. Chairman Downey tabled the motion until the 9/15/07 PC meeting.

E. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

These minutes were approved this ____ day of _____, 2007.

Peter Downey, Chair

Cathy Alling, Secretary