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Public Invited to Learn & Share Shoreline Hopes

Anyone who lives on or enjoys our many streams, rivers, lakes and bays should plan to participate in a community event designed for the public to learn more about the status of local fresh- and saltwater shoreline resources and to provide input on a vision for shoreline planning goals in Jefferson County.

Learning & Preparing

A 3-day community workshop called the Shoreline Charrette Primer is planned for October 12th – 14th at the Inn at Port Hadlock (the old alcohol plant) as preparation for a larger community event next February. The first event starts with a session planned for the evening of Thursday, October 12th and is a prime opportunity for public participation. The session will include 1) a keynote address about climate change by a University of Washington senior researcher and professor; 2) an overview presentation of shoreline planning basics and current status of local shorelines; and 3) a visioning workshop about shoreline management goals and the future of local shoreline resources.

All day on Friday will be a joint meeting of the Shoreline Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and the Shoreline Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC). The groups will review the Shoreline Inventory & Characterization Report that is a required step in the ongoing update process of the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and a major effort to compile and analyze scientific data in order to establish a baseline of what our local fresh- and saltwater shorelines are like today. The report assesses landscape scale processes like water flow, erosion, sediment transport and water quality, and their effects on the ecological functions of shoreline resources. The meeting will be open for the public to observe the committee work session and learn about the report's findings.

The 3-day event concludes on Saturday when landowners and residents of marine shoreline property are invited to spend time in the classroom and the field with experts in coastal geology, marine biology and water quality learning about how shorelines work and ways that property owners can help keep their waterfront safe and healthy. Participants must pre-register for the \$12 course and lunch is provided. Contact WSU Extension at 360/379-5610 ext. 200 for more information.

Working Together

After the introductory Shoreline Charrette Primer this month, a full Shoreline Charrette is being planned for February 5th – 10th when staff, consultants, committees, elected officials, stakeholder groups and the public will be invited to participate in a dynamic community workshop to revise the SMP. A variety of sessions will include public meetings and open houses, focus group meetings, committee work sessions and presentations by project consultants and other experts. The idea of the event is that the scientific findings will guide the policy discussions to form SMP goals and regulations with broad community buy-in. The updated SMP is anticipated for submittal to Department of Ecology by June 30, 2007 after Planning Commission recommendation and Board of County Commissioners' approval.

What is a charrette?

The term charrette means “little cart” in French and is rooted in the tradition of fine art and architecture students of 19th century Paris that would engage in a last-minute frenzy to complete their projects when the instructor arrived to collect their assignments in a little cart. Today the term refers to an intensive community process to develop a design or planning product through the collaboration of all affected parties in a short amount of time. Learn more about the charrette approach at <http://www.charretteinstitute.org/charrette.html>.

Anyone interested to learn more can visit the project webpage at <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm> or contact Project Coordinator Michelle McConnell at mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us to join an e-mail distribution list for meeting announcements and periodic project updates.