MINUTES – Regular/Public Meeting

Thurston County Planning Commission
Wednesday, March 17, 2004
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Building 1 - Room 152
Olympia, Washington 98502

Tape side #1:
1. Call to Order

Commissioner Lyman, followed by introductions of the Thurston County Planning Commission members, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

a. Attendance

Thurston County
Members Present: Liz Lyman, Liz Kohlenberg, Margaret Paradise, Tom Cole and Joyce Roper.

Members Absent: Bob Bower, Mark Lovrien, Craig Ottavelli and George Darkenwald.

Staff Present: Jennifer Hayes, Nancy Pritchett, John Sonnen, Thera Black, Karen Parkhurst, Mark Swartout, Jeff Fancher and Cami Petersen

b. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Paradise moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Cole seconded. The Agenda was approved.

It was requested that the following items be added to the Agenda:
- Timing for formally approving the meeting minutes
- Timeline for reviewing the Chehalis Watershed Plan

c. Approval of Official Record

Commissioner Lyman accepted the cassette tapes of the March 3, 2004 meeting as the official record of that meeting.

2. Public Communication

None.
3. **Request for Information Summary**

Staff is still looking into the request listed.

4. **Briefing/Set Hearing: Open Space Application**  
   Staff: Jennifer Hayes

The Planning Commission reviewed the application for Open Space Classification for Project No. 2003104048, Earnest Paul and Michael Leigh. The following question was asked of staff concerning the project application:

- How will removal of the invasive species of the reed canary grass be accomplished – it was explained that this will be an ongoing process

**Commissioner Cole moved to set a public hearing on the Open Space Application Project Number 2003104048, Earnest Paul and Michael Leigh on April 21, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Kohlenberg seconded. Motion carried.**

5. **Timing for Formally Approving Meeting Minutes**

The Planning Commission decided that the draft meeting minutes would be emailed to the Planning Commission by staff. Comments and/or changes will be emailed back to staff. A final draft version of the minutes will be emailed to the Planning Commission a few days prior to the next meeting. The final draft will then be approved at the next meeting. A hard copy of the draft minutes will no longer be included in the Planning Commission mailings.

6. **Chehalis Watershed Planning Commission**

The comment period for the Chehalis Watershed Plan ends at the end of April. The Planning Commission agreed that the final draft of the Planning Commission comment letter be available by the April 21, 2004 regular meeting.

*Tape 1 and 2*

7. **Briefing: TRPC Regional Transportation Plan**  
   Staff: Thera Black, Karen Parkhurst

Thera Black of the Thurston Regional Planning Council addressed the Planning Commission to outline the 2004 draft of the 2025 Thurston Regional Transportation Plan. A flyer was provided to the Planning Commission titled “2025 Thurston Regional Transportation Plan – Guiding Our Future, Draft January
2004.” The points that were raised and discussed by the Planning Commission included the following:

- Is transportation planning and land use planning consistently coordinated and, if not, which should take precedence when there are conflicts
- Concurrency and level of service
- Vehicular congestion
- Cost of maintenance

The comment period for the 2025 draft of the TRPC Regional Transportation Plan ends March 25, 2004. The Planning Commission decided that they might comment as individuals, not as a Planning Commission.

**Tape 2 & 3**

8. **Briefing: Best Available Science**
   Staff: John Sonnen, Jeff Fancher

Staff explained that at the next Planning Commission meeting in April will be the beginning of the discussions of the Critical Areas: Riparian chapter and that “best available science” will be a large part of the discussions. Jeff Fancher, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, addressed the Planning Commission to discuss guidance from the courts concerning “best available science.” The discussion included the following:

- Two types of science – how to distinguish best available science between a pristine condition and a developed condition
- Who determines what the best available science is – who is qualified to determine this

**Tape 3**

9. **Briefing: Critical Areas: Riparian**
   Staff: John Sonnen

John Sonnen addressed the Planning Commission to discuss the Riparian chapter of the Draft Critical Areas Ordinance. The discussion included the following:

- An overview of channel migration
- Staff gave an explanation of how the draft Riparian document is structured
- The participants of the Riparian subcommittee represented the following groups: Thurston County Planning Commission, Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Nisqually Tribe, Black Hills Audubon Society, Olympia Master Builders, Farm Interests, Thurston County Planning Environmental Review, and all of the affected WRIAs, as well as county staff.

Pages 1 through 4 of Attachment B were provided to the Planning Commission (this item had been left out of the mailing).
10. Misc.

Mark Swartout briefed the Planning Commission on the outcome of the Nisqually Watershed Plan hearing. The joint Commissioner meeting for the Nisqually Watershed Plan will be held April 13, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge meeting room.

Staff stated that the Planning Commission had not selected a liaison for the Yelm Planning Commission meetings during the previous discussion and selection of local Planning Commission liaisons. Staff will email this to the Planning Commissioners and a liaison will be selected.

11. Calendar (Tentative)

April 7, 2003 - All present Planning Commissioners will attend

April 21, 2004 - All present Planning Commissioners will attend

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Liz Lyman, Chair
Mark Lovrien, Vice Chair
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF REQUEST</th>
<th>ISSUE/REQUEST</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>STAFF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3, 2004</td>
<td>Annual Retreat – is this allowed and will this type of meeting need to be taped</td>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>John Sonnen</td>
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