THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes
February 9, 2005

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Kohlenberg, followed by introductions of the Thurston County Planning Commission members, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

   a. Attendance

   Members Present:  Liz Kohlenberg, Margaret Paradise, Joyce Roper, Craig Ottavelli, Liz Lyman
   Tom Cole, and Chris Lane.
   Members Absent:  George Darkenwald
   Staff Present:  John Sonnen and Cami Petersen

   b. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Cole moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lane seconded.

Chair Kohlenberg requested to add the following item to the agenda after approval of the Agenda - Thank you letter from former Commissioner Bob Bower.

Motion carried as amended.

2. Miscellaneous

Chair Kohlenberg read a thank you letter from former Commissioner Bob Bower.

3. Public Communication Not Associated For Topics That Have Not Been Docketed As Quasi-Judicial

None.
3. **Briefing: Wetlands**  
*Staff: John Sonnen*


Mr. Sonnen explained that he had provided a copy of the Wetlands draft with highlights signifying the changes to the versions that had previously been reviewed by the Planning Commission (e.g. the riparian and aquifer protection drafts.)

Mr. Sonnen’s briefing of the draft document titled “Committee Draft, Amendments to the Critical Areas Regulations TCC 17.15.900, Wetlands,” included pages eight (8) through twenty-five (25), also referencing page forty-five (45) of the draft for specific discussion. The Planning Commission discussion included the following changes and requests:

a. Parking Lot item: Capacity improvements that would expand County roadways into wetlands or other critical areas  
b. Provide the study which supports the 200 foot buffer in marine wetlands and see if there is any other research available on this subject  
c. Look into what the types of scientific sampling, gauges, and equipment would be used and what their potential impacts there are  
d. Speak with Department of Ecology staff member Grechen Lux to gain further information concerning their recommendation regarding small wetlands, especially the size that they have listed as 1000 to 4000 square feet and why they chose to use priority habitat species as opposed to amphibians as criteria.  
e. Mr. Sonnen will follow up with Jeff Fancher concerning the Wein case and direction it provides for best management practices and exemptions, especially the distinctions between long term agriculture and the areas that are not designated  
f. Dale Rancour will provide addition information to the Planning Commission concerning his ideas to better serve his department’s purposes for roadway expansions.

4. **Approval of Minutes and Acceptance of Tapes from January 5, 2005**

**Commissioner Lyman moved to approve the minutes as amended from January 19, 2005 and accept the tapes as the official record.** **Commissioner Roper seconded. Motion carried.**

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Lyman requested the following changes:

1. Change the reference of Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) and Critical Areas (CA) throughout the document to be consistent since this references the same document.

Chair Kohlenberg requested the following changes:

1. Page 3, Review of 2005 Work Program, third bullet under the heading titled “The following
questions were asked by the Planning Commission,” first sentence – change this to read: 

Commissioner Kohlenberg requested that one item to be added to the work plan is the creation of a list of information that needs to be created as they work through their review processes. Also, remove the second sentence.

5. **Staff Updates**

*Staff: John Sonnen*

Mr. Sonnen explained that staff is spending the majority of time preparing the record for the GMA appeal and have until February 23, 2005 to complete that the index of potential exhibits.

Commissioner Roper stated that an attorney at her place of employment is working with the appellants of the GMA appeal against Thurston County, and that she will no longer be speaking with him during this appeal.

Commissioner Lyman asked that the Planning Commission begin thinking about the agenda items they would like to discuss at the annual dinner meeting with the Board of Commissioners.

6. **Calendar**

*Who will not attend the following upcoming Planning Commission meetings?*

1. *February 16, 2005 – Cole, Ottavelli (tentative)*

2. *March 2, 2005 – Cole*

3. *March 16, 2005 – all available*

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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Liz Kohlenberg, Chair
Tom Cole, Vice Chair

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**Thurston County Planning Commission**
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<th>DATE OF REQUEST</th>
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Thurston County Planning Commission
February 9, 2005 Regular Meeting