THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes April 18, 2007

1. 7:00 PM CALL TO ORDER
Chair Roper called the April 18, 2007 regular meeting of the Thurston County Planning Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners present provided self-introductions.

Attendance: Chair Joyce Roper, Commissioners Tom Cole, Chris Lane (7:03 p.m.), Scott Nelson, Craig Ottavelli, and Rhenda Strub.
Excused: Commissioner Liz Kohlenberg
Staff: John Sonnen, Art Starry, Katie Knight, and Recording Secretary Cheri Lindgren
Others: Craig Riley, Karla Fowler, and Greg Zetner

7:00 PM APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION: Commissioner Cole moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

2. 7:02 PM PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Not associated with topics for which public hearings have been held.)
Chair Roper reported on Liz Lyman’s resignation from the Planning Commission effective immediately.

Commissioner Lane arrived.

3. 7:03 PM APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION: Commissioner Cole moved to approve the April 4, 2007 minutes and accept the audio as the official recording. Commissioner Ottavelli seconded.

DISCUSSION: The following changes were requested to the April 4, 2007 minutes:
- Revise the first sentence following 7:33 PM at the bottom of page 2 to read in part, “Chair Roper … compliance if the language does not already exist making violations of any County ordinance illegal.”
- Revise the second paragraph under “Conservation Easements” on page 4 to read, “Chair Roper expressed concern regarding responsibility for maintenance of land with no ownership. The Commission agreed the option of no ownership is the least preferable option among the three options.”
- Revise the first paragraph under “Staff Findings” on page 4 to read, “Discussion followed regarding potential access issues about the requirement to consider an area greater than the project parcel.”
- Reword the second line within the paragraph following 9:00 PM on page 5 to read in part, “… in the first line of the existing draft CAO language and …”
- Revise the first sentence within the last paragraph on page 5 to read in part, “Mr. Sonnen referred to Commissioner Strub’s request via e-mail for an update about Woodard Creek based on information reported in a newspaper article.”
4. **7:09 PM** W: CRITICAL AREAS – OVERARCHING ISSUES (RECLAIMED WATER) AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES  
*(Staff: John Sonnen)*  
**ITEM:**  
**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Sonnen introduced Craig Riley, Department of Health (DOH), and Greg Zetner, Department of Ecology (DOE). He briefed the Commission on the County’s approach to reclaimed water in the critical areas regulations, reviewed comments contained in the overarching issues matrix, and identified research requests. An aquifer recharge area display map was provided. Mr. Sonnen explained the legend and where application of reclaimed water at agronomic rates is proposed subject to certain conditions.

**7:15 PM** Craig Riley PE, Program Lead, DOH Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, provided a presentation on Critical Aquifer Recharge Area Ordinance, Aquifer Recharge with Reclaimed Water.

Mr. Riley reviewed current drinking water regulations, primary and secondary protection levels, treatment techniques, and the multiple barrier approach. There are four classes of reclaimed water identified as A, B, C, and D. Each classification is based on a different quality and planned use. Class A is the highest quality and the only one based on specific water quality requirements and treatment processes. DOH and stakeholders are drafting formal regulations for reclaimed water.

Mr. Riley described two types of aquifer recharge - surface percolation and direct recharge. He reviewed definitions and standards contained in Title 90.46 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

Discussion ensued about standards and testing not addressing endocrine disruptors. Other discussion points included nitrate loads, active treatment programs, sampling practices and sampling sites, and risks associated with reclaimed water containing remnant endocrine disruptors.

Mr. Riley noted there is no specific dependence on Aquifer Soil Treatment (AST) in Washington State. AST provides additional polishing. Other benefits include extra removal of microbial contaminants, some heavy metals, and organic chemicals including some pesticides.

Discussion followed about surface percolation related to individual wells and/or municipal water supplies in the county and monitoring and treatment methods.

Mr. Riley reviewed California’s approach. The state is heavily invested in groundwater recharge as a source of supply, has the longest history with reuse (1912) and ground water recharge, has proposed new recharge regulations (January 2007), and is the only state currently looking at regulating CPCs. He reviewed the state’s regulatory strategy. California has designated hormones, industrial endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals (including caffeine), and other personal care products for monitoring. No standards are anticipated at this point.
8:30 PM There is limited research regarding CPC quality in septic tanks. Anaerobic treatment (septic tanks) is generally considered less effective than aerobic treatment (reclamation plants). Most CPCs bind to solids. More research is necessary. However, industry and research leans to aerobic treatment.

Mr. Riley reported reclaimed water is not wastewater or sewage. It is a manufactured product with the quality necessary for a prescribed use. Irrigation with reclaimed water is not permitted at application rates greater than agronomic rates.

Mr. Riley offered the Commission some suggestions and identified additional issues around reclaimed water the Commission could consider as part of its CAO update.

8:40 PM Mr. Sonnen briefed Commissioners on the affects of reclaimed water on fish. US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) studies note that endocrine disruptors interfere with reproductive and behavior processes and immune systems. Tumors were found in some cases. Within the Potomac River, 80-100% of the fish found were unisex - male fish producing eggs. US Geological Survey (USGS) studies discovered unisex fish scattered around the country. Further research is needed to more clearly define the problems and develop solutions.

Discussion ensued about testing for endocrine disruptors or pharmaceutical compounds at the LOTT plant and the effectiveness of secondary treatment methods. Mr. Zetner said LOTT tests annually for the chemicals previously reviewed. The sampling must demonstrate the treatment plant meets water quality standards for discharge into Budd Inlet and also meets state groundwater quality criteria for discharge at Hawks Prairie.

Mr. Sonnen said a bill was recently enacted to revisit the current standards with a focus on reclaimed water. Mr. Riley stated completion of the regulations is scheduled for January 2010.

Commissioners discussed recharging and soil layers.

Commissioner Strub asked what provides the greater risk to the County - to run sewage through the LOTT treatment plant and dispose of the effluent or take the sewage to a reclaimed water treatment plant and use the effluent. Mr. Riley answered the risk is personally perceived. A lack of water is high risk. He said he would consider reclamation first and is comfortable that the state can do a sufficient job to address known risk levels.

Commissioner Ottavelli commented that the United States is decades behind what other countries are doing.

Mr. Sonnen said Class A water is considered drinking water. The draft regulations include a prohibition about using reclaimed water above agronomic rates within close proximity of a wellhead. Any application of reclaimed water over a porous aquifer is basically equal to direct injection, which is not allowed without further treatment. He asked whether it’s prudent for the County not to allow use of reclaimed water over a critical aquifer. Mr. Riley said there is no significant health risk associated with the public consuming Class A water. Chair Roper said she’s troubled that treatment does not vary based on the depth of aquifer and soil types. Mr. Zetner said as part of a typical permitting process, DOE requires a
hydrogeological evaluation to look at the issue at the time an application is submitted.

5. 9:18 PM B: OPEN SPACE APPLICATION (Aquaseed)
(Staff: Katie Knight)
ITEM:

MOTION: Commissioner Ottavelli moved to schedule a public hearing on May 16, 2007 for the “Aquaseed” Open Space Application. Commissioner Strub seconded. Motion carried.

6. 9:20 PM CALENDAR (TENTATIVE) AND ATTENDANCE
- May 2, 2007: Critical Areas (Commissioner Cole unable to attend)
- May 16, 2007: H: Tentative open space; Critical Areas (Chair Roper unable to attend)

7. 9:21 PM STAFF UPDATES
Mr. Sonnen reported the City of Olympia is hosting a Short Course on Local Planning the evening of May 2, 2007. Commissioners discussed the possibility of cancelling the May 2, 2007 meeting to attend the training. The Commission agreed to retain the May 2, 2007 meeting date.

Mr. Sonnen reported the Board of County Commissioners (Board) will meet in executive session on April 19, 2007 to consider alternative approaches for the rural rezoning project. He outlined specific issues. A briefing is scheduled for May 7, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. Staff will keep Commissioners apprised of the outcome.

8. 9:28 PM ADJOURNMENT
With no further business, Chair Roper adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Joyce Roper, Chair

Prepared by Cheri Lindgren, Recording Secretary
Puget Sound Meeting Services