1. **7:05 PM CALL TO ORDER**
Vice Chair Craig Ottavelli called the May 16, 2007 regular meeting of the Thurston County Planning Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. Commissioners present provided self-introductions.

**Attendance:** Vice Chair Craig Ottavelli, Commissioners Liz Kohlenberg, Chris Lane, Liz Lyman, Scott Nelson, and Rhenda Strub  
**Excused:** Commissioners Tom Cole and Joyce Roper  
**Staff:** John Sonnen, Katie Knight, and Recording Secretary Cheri Lindgren  
**Others:** LOTT Alliance staff member Karla Fowler and Chris Cleveland

2. **7:09 PM P/A: OPEN SPACE – AQUASEED CORPORATION**  
*Staff: Katie Knight*  
**ITEM:**

**DISCUSSION:** Vice Chair Ottavelli opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Ms. Knight reported Aquaseed Corporation is requesting to enroll 21.78 acres into the Open Space - Open Space Tax Program. The property is not currently designated in a Current Use Tax Program. The property is located south of the Black River Habitat Management Area and qualifies for a 70% reduction in property valuation.

There was no public testimony. Vice Chair Ottavelli closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kohlenberg moved to recommend approval of reclassification of 21.78 acres owned by Aquaseed Corporation to Open Space – Open Space for current use assessment, with a 70% reduction in market value. Commissioner Lyman seconded. Motion carried.
3. **7:10 PM PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS** (Not associated with topics for which public hearings have been held.)
   There were no public communications.

4. **7:11 PM APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   **MOTION:** Commissioner Lyman moved to approve the April 18, 2007 minutes and accept the audio as the official recording. Commissioner Lane seconded.

   **DISCUSSION:** The following change was requested to the April 18, 2007 minutes:
   - Commissioner Liz Lyman absence is excused.

   **Motion carried as amended.**

   *Commissioner Strub arrived at 7:12 p.m.*

5. **7:09 PM W: CRITICAL AREAS – OVERARCHING ISSUES (RECLAIMED WATER)**
   *(Staff: John Sonnen)*
   **ITEM:** Review of draft critical area provisions regarding reclaimed water

   **HANDOUTS:**
   - Graphical comparison of water quality by source table
   - State standards matrix
   - Public hearing draft Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

   **DISCUSSION:** Ms. Fowler reviewed information outlined in a letter dated April 13, 2006. Some of the changes to the draft Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) could prevent LOTT from implementing its long-range plan. The draft CAO prohibits new and expanded recharge of reclaimed water within the one-year time of travel zone for Category 1 recharge areas. All the areas LOTT identified as potential recharge sites could be affected by the one-year time of travel provision.

   Discussion ensued about sites LOTT’s purchased and sites the agency located with suitable hydrogeologic capabilities that are available for sale.

   Ms. Fowler explained that production, distribution, and use of Class A reclaimed water are the core of LOTT’s Wastewater Resource Management Plan. Class A is the highest quality of reclaimed water as defined by both the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Ecology (DOE). The standards developed by DOH and DOE are among the most conservative in the country. Both DOH and DOE support reclaimed water programs and are actively promoting the programs statewide. Groundwater recharge is a beneficial use of reclaimed water. The standards ensure that Class A reclaimed water meets drinking water standards by the time it reaches the aquifer. The draft CAO allows
untreated waters (septic tank and stormwater facility discharges) within the one-year time of travel zone but would prevent highly cleaned Class A reclaimed water from recharge in the same area. State standards do not include any time of travel restrictions for surface percolation. There is a one-year time of travel restriction for direct injection of reclaimed water to the point of withdrawal of the water.

Mr. Cleveland reported LOTT uses a one-year time of travel or more criteria (both vertical and horizontal movement) when considering potential sites.

Discussion ensued about LOTT using a different definition and criteria to determine time of travel compared to DOH standards. Mr. Cleveland said LOTT estimates the real time of travel from an application site to where the water is potentially recovered. DOH accepts that methodology.

Ms. Fowler referred to the April letter explaining in detail how the agency evaluates potential groundwater recharge sites. The agency did suggest that the ordinance could limit Class A reclaimed water facilities to LOTT and the municipalities located in the County to ensure the quality of the facilities. Another option is to adopt LOTT’s property acquisition process as a prerequisite for siting groundwater recharging facilities within critical aquifer recharge areas. It is possible that an industrial user could create a reuse facility and produce reclaimed water. LOTT is also concerned that reclaimed water is categorized under sewage treatment and is treated as sewage water in the draft CAO. It has a chilling effect on a high quality water resource product. Terminology makes a difference when trying to find users for the Class A reclaimed water.

Discussion followed about the All Known, Available, and Reasonable Treatment (AKART) compared to Best Management Practices (BMPs), impacts the draft CAO could have on LOTT’s processes, taking into account now impacts to fish, wildlife, and biological systems from compounds (endocrine disruptors, pharmaceutically active compounds, personal care products) that may or may not be present in Class A water, and that impacts to personal health are different from how reclaimed water might affect other things in the environment.

Commissioner Lyman said the question is where it’s best to locate recharge facilities. A concern is individual property owners that are dependent on shallow wells.

7:46 PM Mr. Sonnen stated Class A drinking water standards do not measure all the constituents found in wastewater releases. The literature suggests there are no documented cases of human impacts associated with endocrine disruptors coming from wastewater facilities. However, that’s not the case for the fish. He reminded Commissioners about the affects of reclaimed water on fish.
Mr. Cleveland outlined the mechanisms LOTT uses to remove endocrine disruptor compounds. The impacts to fish are due to human derived hormones, synthetic or natural.

Commissioner Kohlenberg indicated she will follow up with additional information concerning potential affects to humans.

Conversation followed about direct injection of Class A water, a proposed prohibition to permit irrigation at agronomic rates in areas with elevated nitrate levels, and a goal of the CAO to protect drinking water sources.

Commissioners discussed sewage treatment/disposal uses and activities listed in Table 5-1. Mr. Sonnen suggested replacing “sewage” with “reclaimed water” and replacing “land spreading disposal” with “infiltration of reclaimed water.”

Commissioner Lyman requested including a definition for infiltration that does not include direct injection.

Ms. Fowler said LOTT prefers the table include a separate category for reclaimed water.

Mr. Sonnen and Commissioners reviewed item O language on page 5-25, and feedback from the County’s legal counsel. Mr. Sonnen explained the County has the land use authority to limit the location of recharge facilities consistent with best available science (BAS). A previous suggestion would require a site selection process that uses AKART and BAS to assure application sites will be sustainable, meet regulatory requirements, and support other local uses of the aquifer including potable uses. Legal counsel also suggests leaving mitigated measures to the state.

Commissioner Lyman suggested delaying changes to the language until Commissioner Roper has an opportunity to review the suggested changes.

Commissioners discussed prohibiting the use of reclaimed water in certain areas, impacts to distinguish, and the presence of till layers that are 25 feet thick. Mr. Sonnen said if an aquifer is protected by the thick till layer, it is not vulnerable. Municipal wells are sealed and there are negligible concerns for reclaimed water. Staff could refine the one-year time of travel prohibition to areas that are not protected by a 25-foot thick till layer identified on the map or demonstrated in the field.

Commissioner Lyman reiterated concerns that the regulations do not protect individual wells. Mr. Cleveland said the agency identifies all wells and uses well log data when it evaluates potential candidate sites.

Discussion followed about the state standard that calls for a 500-foot separation between infiltration ponds and any water supply well, as well as a Sequim Study.

8:38 PM Members noted that the areas near Scatter Creek are not viable recharge sites.
Discussion ensued about the quality of water coming out of outfall pipes. Mr. Sonnen suggested if the applicant can demonstrate that the effluent doesn’t contain endocrine disruptors at levels documented to cause harm, it’s not a problem. If the levels coming out of the pipes are above that, the County could only permit recharge areas within close proximity (500 feet) to a stream if the site conditions demonstrate that endocrine disruptors can be removed at levels that do impact fish. Synthetic and naturally occurring estrogens that are tied to fish mutations can be measured.

Mr. Cleveland stated LOTT has two options of seeking a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) for surface water or go to groundwater.

Ms. Fowler said another issue is compounds not limited to wastewater treatment, such as stormwater runoff. Conversation about point and non-point pollution sources followed.

8:56 PM Mr. Sonnen conveyed that staff will work with LOTT and draft new language. The proposal will be forwarded to the Commissioners and LOTT in time for the next meeting.

6. 8:57 PM W: CRITICAL AREAS – ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
The Commission deferred the agenda item to the next meeting.

7. 8:58 PM SPECIAL TOPIC – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF ELIZABETH LYMAN
DISCUSSION: Vice Chair Ottavelli moved adoption of the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Thurston County Planning Commission honors and recognizes the dedicated commitment and years of service given by Elizabeth Lyman in support of our community and the long-term health of Thurston County. Her commitment to service, volunteerism, leadership, civic engagement, and the environment, epitomizes meaningful citizen participation. The leadership skills and social values Elizabeth demonstrates are essential components for the long-term health and viability of a functioning democracy and a healthy community. Through dedication, hard work, and an unmatched mastery of subject matter, Elizabeth set new standards for addressing complex issues. The many successes of her efforts, goals, and contributions have made a significant positive difference in our community.

The Thurston County Planning Commission hereby recognizes and commends Liz Lyman for her outstanding civic volunteerism, which contributes to the fabric of our community and benefits all of Thurston County.

The Thurston County Planning Commission directs that this resolution be incorporated into the minutes of today’s meeting to become part of the official public record, and that a suitable copy be given to Liz Lyman as a permanent reminder of the esteem in which she is held.
Commissioner Lane seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lyman said 2007 marks her eighth year on the Commission. She said she has enjoyed the comradeship, caliber of those serving on the Commission, everyone’s dedication, and that the community is well served by the Planning Commission. Discussion ensued about hosting an off-site celebration in June and advertising the event as a formal public meeting.

8. **9:03 PM CALENDAR (TENTATIVE) AND ATTENDANCE**
   • June 6, 2007: W/B: Critical Areas – Administrative Procedures, and Mining and Mineral Lands Task Force Recommendations

9. **9:04 PM STAFF UPDATES**
   Mr. Sonnen announced the Development Services Department recently hired two new employees.

   Kathleen O’Connor, a new Planning Commissioner, will attend the next meeting.

10. **9:05 PM ADJOURNMENT**
    With no further business, Vice Chair Ottavelli adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

    Craig Ottavelli, Vice Chair

Prepared by Cheri Lindgren, Recording Secretary
Puget Sound Meeting Services