1. **7:01 PM CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Roper called the August 1, 2007 regular meeting of the Thurston County Planning Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. Commissioners provided self-introductions.

**Attendance:** Chair Joyce Roper, Commissioners Liz Kohlenberg, Craig Ottavelli, Scott Nelson, Kathleen O’Connor, and Liz Myers
**Excused:** Commissioners Tom Cole, Rhenda Strub, and Chris Lane
**Staff:** John Sonnen, Cindy Wilson, and Recording Secretary Jessica Tate

2. **7:02 PM APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
**MOTION:** Commissioner Ottavelli moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner O’Connor seconded. Motion carried.

3. **7:04 PM APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
**MOTION:** Commissioner O’Connor moved to approve the July 11, 2007 minutes as presented and accept the audio as the official recording. Commissioner Kohlenberg seconded. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Commissioner O’Connor moved to accept the July 18, 2007 minutes as presented and accept the audio as the official recording. Commissioner Kohlenberg seconded. Motion carried.

4. **7:06 PM W: CRITICAL AREAS – WETLANDS**
(Staff: John Sonnen and Cindy Wilson)
**ITEM:**

**DISCUSSION:** Brad Everson, Department of Ecology (DOE), gave a PowerPoint presentation of “Wetlands in Washington State.” He distributed a hard copy of the presentation.

Commissioner Ottavelli asked for clarification of the term “wetland.” Mr. Everson stated hydrology must be present at least 10 days to two weeks during the growing season, which occurs approximately from February to June.

Commissioner Ottavelli asked if anything suggests level of function is directly
proportional to the size of a wetland. **Gretchen Newman, Department of Ecology**, indicated even the smallest wetlands impact the system. Potential impacts must be assessed prior to proceedings.

Commissioner O’Connor commented that it would be beneficial for the document to indicate that Best Available Science (BAS) was utilized to deter question of reasoning. She asked if cumulative effects were considered. Mr. Sonnen indicated mosaics were included, but landscape approach was not.

**7:44 PM** Commissioner O’Connor asked how wetland types and wetland functions are rated. Ms. Newman stated the three function types are rated evenly. However, some wetland types cannot perform certain functions, so the overall scores are lower in some cases.

Discussion followed regarding how high intensity and low intensity uses correlate with buffer size.

**8:15 PM** Mr. Everson distributed and reviewed a hand out of Table 8C-11 - Mitigation ratios for projects in western Washington.

Discussion followed regarding category determination processes other counties have utilized.

**Donna Lynch, Department of Ecology,** provided a few examples of legal appeals in other counties, as a result of issues with size, sufficient protection from existing systems, and BAS of buffer ratings.

**8:25 PM** Commissioner Ottavelli asked how mosaic wetlands are dealt with. Ms. Wilson stated mosaic wetlands are addressed individually.

Discussion followed regarding the science behind determining exempted wetlands.

**8:35 PM** Mr. Sonnen stated future discussion will include risk analysis options to justify wetland exemption. Ms. Wilson agreed.

Chair Roper asked for clarification of values and functions definitions. Ms. Newman stated wetlands provide ecological functions. Values are human derived values that ascribe to the functions.

Mr. Sonnen asked DOE staff for input regarding issues they noticed in the Critical Areas – Wetlands Draft. Ms. Newman commented that Table 9-2, on pages 9-15 to 9-17, could be simplified. Chair Roper stated the Commission has considered revising the table. However, all of the critical areas regulations contain the same table.

Discussion followed regarding the system of Table 9-2 Allowable Uses in Wetlands and Buffers and Related Restriction.
Chair Roper stated the Agricultural Activities section must be removed until future determinations are made. Mr. Sonnen acknowledged the request.


Commissioner O’Connor referred to item C on the first page. The first sentence should be revised to state, “Establish wetland buffers based on the wetland’s functions and values, sensitivity…” Mr. Sonnen acknowledged the request, and stated he will make the correction throughout the document.

Chair Roper expressed concern about losing flood storage capacity with reducing the size of exempted wetlands. Mr. Sonnen stated staff will provide additional information regarding the issue. Ms. Wilson stated she is not sure if hydrogeologic aspects of all smaller wetlands can be analyzed. Mr. Sonnen stated the risk assessment will also address the issue. Chair Roper requested additional information and discussion of potential water quality impacts at a future meeting. Mr. Sonnen acknowledged the request.

Ms. Wilson stated she will provide information regarding wetland risk assessments at a future meeting.

5. 9:24 PM CALENDAR (TENTATIVE) AND ATTENDANCE

- August 15, 2007: Comprehensive Plan Amendments: (Commissioner Kohlenberg unable to attend, Commissioner Nelson tentative.) Mr. Sonnen stated jurisdiction representatives will attend to advocate amendments.
- August 22, 2007: 2007 Capital Facilities Plan; Critical Areas – Wetlands: (Chair Roper unable to attend.) Mr. Sonnen suggested dedicating the first hour of the meeting to the 2007 Capital Facilities Plan.

Commissioner Ottavelli announced he is unavailable the first Wednesday of the month beginning September 2007.

6. 9:26 PM STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Sonnen reviewed results of the Board’s first worksession and discussion as follows:
- Black River Corridor: 1/20
- Salmon Creek: 1/10
- Nisqually: 1/20
- Chloride/Salt Water: 1/20
- McClane Creek Area: 1/10
- 100% Unbuildable: 1/20
- Urban Reserves: 1/5 with conversion studies

7. 9:42 PM ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Roper adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.