THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes August 5, 2009

1. 6:34 PM CALL TO ORDER
Chair Lane called the August 5, 2009 meeting of the Thurston County Planning Commission to order at 6:34 p.m. Commissioners provided self-introductions.

Attendance: Chair Chris Lane, Commissioners Scott Nelson, Karen Rogers, Kathleen O’Conner and Christopher Earle.

Excused: Commissioners Liz Meyers, Liz Kohlenberg, William Jackson and Tom Cole

Staff: Jeremy Davis, Cynthia Wilson, Molly Levitt, Dave Ginther and Cami Petersen

6:34 PM APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION: Commissioner O’Connor moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nelson seconded.

Motion carried.

2. 6:34 PM PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Not associated with topics for which public hearings have been held.)

There was no public communication.

3. 6:35 PM APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to approve the June 17, 2009 minutes. Commissioner O’Connor seconded.

Motion carried.

4. 6:35 PM WORKSESSION: TUMWATER UGA SUBDIVISION MORATORIUM
Staff: Jeremy Davis, Cynthia Wilson, Dave Ginther

Mr. Davis provided the Planning Commission (Commission) with a brief overview of the current Tumwater UGA Subdivision Moratorium currently in place and explained that this analysis is scheduled for review on this years Comprehensive Plan docket. Mr. Davis introduced Dave Ginther, City of Tumwater, and provided the Commission with a Power Point presentation which included the following information:

- Map of the area for review
- Timeline for the present moratorium
- Issues surrounding this moratorium area including: high ground water, wetlands, existing city services, minimum density to fund service, and threatened and endangered species and habitat areas
- Map of Salmon Creek Basin
- Map of the high ground water areas in the locations in question
• Map of wetlands in the locations in question
• Map of the existing City services in the area in question. Mr. Ginther explained the status of extending services into certain areas.
• Map of the zoning densities in the area in question
• Map of prairie soils in Thurston County
• Map of sensitive species in Thurston County
• An aerial map of the locations in questions, showing the current densities
• Map focusing on Littlerock Road
• Map focusing on 88th Avenue
• Map of the City of Tumwater’s proposed study area
• Map of the current parcels under moratorium
• Area map
• An outline of the next steps in this process, which include:
  - Sept/Oct – staff analysis and recommendation
  - Oct – Planning Commission briefing
  - Oct/Nov – public outreach
  - Dec – joint public hearing with the Commission and Tumwater Planning Commission
  - Jan – recommendation to City Council
  - Feb/Mar – City Council recommendation to the Board of Commissioners

The Commission expressed concern of the time-frame of the joint Commission public hearing and asked staff to try to schedule this either early in December to avoid the holiday season, or in January, after the holiday’s if any delays in this process occur. Staff concurred.

The Commission is agreeable to holding a joint public hearing on this issue. Staff will update the website with the current information on this project and will email the Commission a link to the web for their review.

5. 6:57 PM WORKSESSION: SHORELINES
Staff: Cynthia Wilson

Ms. Wilson provided the Commission with a brief summary of the work that has occurred to date on updating the Shoreline Master Program (SMP). Ms. Wilson introduced Molly Levitt, Assistant Planner, who is working with Ms. Wilson on the SMP. Ms. Wilson provided a Power Point presentation which included the following information:

• Local government is required to characterize their shoreline through an analysis of ecosystem-wide processes and shoreline ecological functions and provide a detailed inventory of current shoreline and adjacent land use conditions. The findings from this analysis are used to create an informed shoreline zoning overlay, and to determine allowable uses and development regulations

• Tasks:
  - Task 1-Coordination - Ecology, Inter-jurisdictional SMP Work Group, Scientific Technical Advisory Group
  - Task 2-Public Information and Outreach - Develop public outreach plan and
implement, two series of public meeting sessions, 2008 and 2009, website:

http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting/shoreline-master-program/index.html

- Task 3-Preliminary Shoreline Jurisdiction, Goals and Policies
- Task 4-Inventory and Analysis of Shoreline Conditions - Inventory and Acquisition of relevant data. Analysis and Characterization
- Task 5-Environmental Designations and Shoreline Regulations
- Task 6-Address Cumulative impacts
- Task 7-Restoration Plan - Existing efforts, needs, future plan
- Task 8-Local Adoption and State Approval

- Where are we - Thurston County’s update is due in 2011. The County was awarded the full amount of the proposal for a 3 yr project with the understanding that the 3rd year is not obligated until appropriations are secured. Funding for the next biennium has been approved. We are currently finalizing Task 4-Inventory and Characterization and getting it out for review by the public and the Scientific Technical Advisory Group. The next step is to proceed with the Shoreline Environmental Designations and complete the Goals and Policies.

Ms. Wilson explained that currently the data collected to date is very voluminous and asked the Commission members if they are willing to receive a copy of the information on a cd or if they are able to view the information on the website. Ms. Wilson stated that the cost for paper copies of the entire collection would be approximately $80. A discussion followed. The Commission discussed the fact that if there are specific sections that they will need to discuss and edit in a meeting it would be helpful to have paper copies of those sections. The Commission also indicated that it would be easier to review the data if they could be provided a full size County map showing the data points they would be reviewing.

Ms. Wilson can provide the information needed as necessary, and will let the Commission know via email when all the data is posted online.

6. **7:10 PM STAFF UPDATES**

*Staff: Jeremy Davis, Cynthia Wilson*

Mr. Davis and Ms. Wilson provided the Commission with the following staff updates:

- Prairie Habitat/CAO – Mr. Davis explained that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) passed an interim ordinance last week which would enhance the protection of Prairie Habitat throughout Thurston County. A map of prairie soils was shown to the Commission. Mr. Davis explained that changes, and also explained that these changes will be addressed during the Critical Areas Ordinance seven year update which will begin in the near future.
- Long Term Ag – Mr. Davis explained that the Board recently approved a resolution and ordinance to resolve the Growth Management Hearings board issue and changed the land use and zoning from various designations to long term agriculture for fifteen properties under consideration. The Board did not adopt the Planning Commission recommendation to amend the policies in the comprehensive plan for designating lands of long term agricultural significance.
- Conservation Futures – Mr. Davis explained that the Board has approved an
amendment to the Conservation Futures budget, which will include additional properties.

- Drainage Manual – Mr. Davis stated that this is in the process of being updated, but did not have any additional information at this time.

7. **7:20 PM CALENDAR**

   August 19, 2009 – Mineral Lands, Asphalt Task Force Discussion – members present did not indicate that they would be unable to attend.

8. **7:20 PM ADJOURN**

   With there being no further business, Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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   Chris Lane, Chair

Prepared by Cami Petersen, Recording Secretary

*Corrections made August 26, 2009*