

**Envision Skagit 2060
Steering Committee & Joint Technical Meeting Summary
Tuesday, November 30, 2010**

Burlington City Hall Chambers, 833 South Spruce Street, Burlington, Washington

Attendance

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Margaret Fleek, City of Burlington | Margaret Studer, Futurewise | Paul Kriegel, Goodyear Nelson |
| Mike Shelby, Western Washington Agriculture Assoc. | Jan Ellingson, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate | Rebecca Ponzio, Puget Sound Partnership |
| Ryan Larsen, City of Anacortes | Kevin Morse, The Nature Conservancy | Gary Christensen, Skagit County Planning Department |
| Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council | John Doyle, Town of La Conner | John Schuh, Skagit Conservation District |
| Gary Slater, Ecostudies Institute | Bob Kuntz, National Park Service | Martha Bray, Skagit Land Trust |
| Claus Svendsen, Skagit Valley College | Bob Warinner, Washington State Dept. of Wildlife | Ryan Sakuma |
| Vickie Crook | John Lombard, Lombard Consulting, LLC | Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental |
| Mark Personius, Consultant | Keith Folkerts, Kitsap County | Betsy Stevenson, Skagit County Planning Dept. |
| Josh Greenberg, Skagit County GIS Department | Kendra Smith, Skagit County Conservation Futures | Kirk Johnson, Skagit County Planning Department |

Handouts:

1. Highlights, Initial Scenarios for 2060
2. July 14, 2010 and August 11, 2010 Steering Committee meeting summaries

The meeting began at 9:10 a.m.

Expected Outcomes:

- Provide an overview of the project status, brief discussion of public outreach approach, and solicit volunteers

- See and understand the use of Envision in this project and how the model distributes population based on the underlying assumptions for each future
- Gain an understanding of the primary decision rules that most influence the modeled scenarios
- Finalize the underlying assumptions inherent in each alternative future scenario

9:15 – Welcome, Agenda Review, Introduction (Kirk Johnson)

- Recap of Citizen Committee efforts and field trips

9:20 - Public Outreach

- Increase public outreach and awareness
- Skagit County will make project slide show/Power Point available for presenters.
- Volunteers for outreach efforts / PowerPoint presentations
 - Jan Ellingston
 - Rebecca Ponzio
 - Margaret Studer
 - Paul Kriegel
 - Kendra
- Sign up list was circulated for people to specify presentations to respective groups in the region – see Attachment 1.
- Create a speaker’s guide for those who would present the slideshow or be “ambassadors” for the project (FAQ document to prep speakers).
- Possible website application where people can provide their vision and/or comments
- Requests for an outreach packet – brochure, FAQs, PowerPoint, Orientation document, etc.
- Provide updates on the project, especially to groups who have already had an Alt Futures presentation in the past
- The purpose of the PowerPoint is to disseminate information about Envision Skagit, inform and engage the general public, and provide information on when, where and how to get involved and provide their perspective..
 - Changes to the slideshow:
 - Make available with and without audio
 - Make available as automatic and static show (Slow slides down for automatic)
 - Add 2 slides at the end, updated every few weeks that give information regarding public outreach events, eg. Community meetings (include dates, location, time, etc)
 - Add References: Points of contact, Website direction, Citizen Committee Orientation Package
 - What’s been done so far? (EPA grant, what’s happened recently/future, timeline)
 - Provide a Power Point as individual slides with no words and no automatic advance so some people can present with just the background images
 - Slow down the process diagram

9:40 - Steering Committee Notes from July and August

- Distribute meeting notes from July 14th and August 11th for review. Kirk will check back with Steering Committee and ask for approval – after approval, post to the website
- Comment made that ground rules state that meeting notes will not mention specific names of people commenting. Steering Committee notes from August 11th will be revised to reflect this requirement. **[note: ground rules do not say that; but that has been general practice in previous notes]**

9:45 – Envision Skagit Model Approach and Outputs: Summary of Initial Results (Kirk Johnson and John Bolte)

- Handout: Initial Scenarios
- **Recap:** Envision Model used to dictate each of the four scenarios: Plan Trend, Ag/Forestry, Economic Development, and Ecosystem. Purpose of the model is to capture scenario qualities to project future change expressed through population patterns, zoning changes, impervious surface changes, etc.

Recommended changes:

- Place a town label on La Conner
- Sedro Woolley spelled incorrectly
- 2060 UGAs – Ecosystem
 - UGA (commercial and industrial block) East of Highway 9 (under label) needs to be removed from the UGA zone.
 - Remove two portions of MV UGA expansion area (Nookachamps Hills) that enter elk zone
- As a matter of coloring – make all of the cities the same color and then make the UGA expansions a separate color to stray from confusion.
- For the purpose of the general public, create an overlay display to clearly present the difference between the current UGA and the four UGA expansions for the four scenarios in 2060.
- Comment by John Bolte: didn't find any place where they needed to expand Anacortes UGAs.
 - Why didn't we reach UGA expansion threshold in Anacortes? – Check model, talk to Anacortes.
- Provide labels on graphics that clearly show what they actually are (rural villages, UGAs, etc.) Rural villages should be mapped as a different color than urban.
- 2060 UGAs
 - In Development Scenario , UGA commercial/industrial expansion in E Mount Vernon E along Highway 9 should be removed. In Development Scenario, we are allowing commercial/industrial in floodplain and Ag land, so it shouldn't be happening east of Hwy 9.
 - Question regarding S. Mt Vernon expansions into floodplain. Check reality of growth going into floodplain in the South of Mt Vernon rather than in Riverbend. This is a result of how the model allocates growth (from centroid) can this be revised?
 - Development in floodplain in Riverbend and S Mt Vernon not shown in the plan trend because not consistent with current state law
 - Rural villages – not able to absorb 30% of the expansion. If that's desired, we need to redefine these areas and make them larger.
- Right now, UGAs expansion envelopes are only *potential* UGAs for each scenario – does not mean they will necessarily become actualized.
- Slide with all expansion zones is somewhat misleading and confusing. Do we eliminate potential UGA expansion areas based on policies – OR let policies let development happen or not happen.
- Dwellings Graphics/ Dot maps
 - Don't label cities (or reduce size)
 - Needs big color change
 - Outline cities instead of using color to denote boundaries
 - Doesn't seem like a big enough of a change – went from a dot map (2010 dwellings) to a large amount of color and no dots – distracted by the colors from the background of the cities. Outline the cities instead.
 - Green dots don't show up on brown UGA expansion areas
- Concern regarding rural resource areas and their value
- Industrial forest lands should not have houses.
- Concerns that development sites are being taken from Forest lands

- Presentation:
 - On dot maps, No colors for cities – outlines only for city/UGA boundary
 - Existing dwellings in one color dot, new dwellings in contrasting color dot
 - Brighter contrast of colors
- Need to work on Development Scenario. Check how model allocated to urban and rural lands for development scenario future once rural villages get full.
- Development group did not want to take up rural ag lands and there is a fear that it represents that. If that's the case, need to allow the development group to make changes.
- Ag/Forestry has a lot of development in the foothills – seems contradictory to their policies
- Check how model is developing in Ag land over 50 years in Plan trend scenario. Seems too low (too few dots) to be realistic.
- Residential buildout plots – fix the “dip” that occurs in the first three years (probably a function of upzoning)
- Talk to Anacortes about upzone assumptions
- Why is impervious surface higher in Ag/Forestry than Plan Trend
- Capacity Maps
 - Why are we getting more capacity in rural lands over time in all scenarios (ref: graphs of available capacity need to be explored)
 - Why is development future showing rural village capacity in 2060? Why are ag lands being developed rather than rural villages
- Develop a map of conservation easements and TDRs
- Develop a map showing aspects of salmon restoration
- Show where Chinook Recovery Plan projects are occurring versus other conservation lands
- Show total population density for different scenarios to assess transportation issues (videos?)

Public Presentation Considerations

- Consider a web interface
- Display at 30,000' - conceptual, not parcel by parcel
- Display/organize in Sections – bring thoughts along, direct decisions
- Need contrasting colors, less green
- May need paper copies to help in comparing 2010 to 2060
- Additional date: 2010 to 2030 to 2060

Understanding the Model

- Validation – validate and calibrate the model. Sensitivity Analysis. What policies are causing the greatest changes or impacts to indicators?
- Need to know what the policies are and how they are translated. Need to highlight key drivers
- Kirk mentioned the need to update the 60 page scenario description file

12:00 - Adjourn Joint SC/TC Meeting

12:00 -1:00 Session on Development Scenario

- Rural villages need to be expanded (more dense and larger footprint) to take 30% of the growth
- Determine what policy is enabling residential development in Ag lands throughout the delta and change it
- Check what densities are being prescribed in the UGAs and rural villages. What are we achieving with the policies (60/30/10)?

Attachment 1

Outreach Volunteers:

| Name | Outreach to Organization |
|--------------------|---|
| Paul Kriegel | Monthly Timber, Fish & Wildlife breakfast |
| Jan Ellingson | Realtors, Builders, Sedro-Woolley Chamber, Sedro-Woolley Rotary, open to others |
| Shirley Solomon | Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit Audubon, Neighbors and Friends |
| Rebecca Ponzio | Subcommittee and outreach to others later identified |
| Mike Shelby | WWAA annual meeting 1/29/2011 |
| Kevin Morse | |
| Margaret Studer | Anacortes School Board, Kiwanis, Soroptimist |
| Margaret Fleek | Burlington Chamber, Rotary, Planning Commission |
| Gary Christensen | Skagit County Planning & Development Services |
| John Doyle | La Conner Chamber of Commerce and Planning Commission, etc. |
| Kendra Smith | School Boards |
| Josh Greenberg | NW Washington GIS Assoc., Burlington Edison School District, Bay View PTA |
| Betsy Stevenson | Skagit MRC, Mount Vernon School Board |
| Jerrold Hann, AICP | La Conner |
| Claus Svendsen | Skagit Valley College Sustainability Fair end of February |
| Bob Kuntz | National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service Employees, Skagit Audubon Society |
| Vickie Crook | Realtor Association, SICBA, Realtor Broker/Owners |
| John Schuh | Skagit Conservation District |