

Yellow Pad Comments

Edison Elementary School Community Meeting, 11/10/15

Question 1: What do you value the most about the community in which you live?

- Recreational opportunities – boating, crabbing, bird-watching, safe areas to walk, slough
- Strong sense of self-investment. People live in the community, support each other, not dependent on outside investors, investment by locals, interdependent, people empower each other
- Value land use in the County, there are limits to growth, such as with the community septic system
- Relatively low crime rate in rural areas
- Working farmland
- Strong sense of community
- Self-employment opportunities
- It's a place where people live and work in the community
- There's a good balance of small cities, rural lands, farm and forest lands, and wild/undeveloped lands, National Forests and parks.
- There's a combination of open space, farming, small villages, local farm products
- Marketing opportunities for agricultural products
- Skagit Valley is centrally located, with access to Seattle, Canada, oceans, mountains, a diversity of landscapes
- No big box retail, no Golden Arches or Wal-Mart, but they're not too far away
- You can live outside of the mainstream; hear coyotes, enjoy the rural character
- Value the arts, it's an artistic community, every single house is different
- Small community atmosphere, small scale

Question 2: What are your biggest concerns for the present and/or the future?

- Traffic patterns through town. Truckers, log trucks, fast traffic, it shouldn't be going through town
- Land being taken out of production, designated as open space, being removed from the tax rolls. That increases taxes on others
- But that open space land brings tourism, and that's an economic opportunity
- Dike system infrastructure failing, especially during peak winter tides, seepage of salt water
- Building next to the Bread Farm, seepage between buildings, salt water not draining well, dike on north side causes drainage to the south, lack coordination by separate drainage districts on each side of river

- Expansion into river to enlarge a parking lot; that reduces drainage capacity
- Two businesses utilizing 60% of the sewer system capacity, community subsidizing those two businesses
- Population growth: the Comp Plan concentrates growth in cities, helps preserve the distinctive pattern of rural, small communities
- The current goal is 80% urban and 20% rural; maybe that should be even more in cities? Concentrate transportation and flood protection around cities
- Natural disasters – earthquakes, floods. How will we connect with our kids in a disaster? Feel we're not prepared as a community
- Water restrictions on the east side of the County; could something like that affect the Edison/Samish area?
- Fears change from a self-dependent rural population to a dependent urban population
- Drainage for ag land, especially the Nookachamps and Beaver lake area, County roadside ditches not cleaned, can't farm with large amounts of water. Habitat projects are affecting drainage
- Want to take care of the land the way we should, too much water, buffers, rules and regulations
- An example of a ditch clean out, needed to put in a buffer – that is sour grapes! Hampered by regulations
- Lack of access to public land, and lack of maintenance of public lands. Should be small fees for use, drop boxes
- We lost our public access to the slough. Access to the beach on Samish Island is almost non-existent
- Parking and sidewalks in Edison are a shambles. There's a lack of adequate parking and pedestrian facilities. Part of it is how the town is laid out, buildings close to the street
- The town is on a County road; is it the County's job to maintain the road, parking, traffic, stop signs?
- Traffic is tricky on the weekend with pedestrians wandering in streets; part of charm, but also a safety issue
- Speed and height of logging trucks through Edison; cell phone usage while driving; even school traffic going too fast. How do we change this?
- How do we know if our concerns are being addressed?
- Large trucks travel through Edison to avoid the scale fees
- Farm-to-Market Road needs better signs, especially the intersection near the slough and businesses. No cue to slow down. Bayview Edison Road intersecting with Farm-to-Market is a problem, vehicles going through guardrails. This is a risk to families that live near here. If improved, would be a big positive impact
- The Transportation element should have a stronger bicycle emphasis. There's not a safe route from Edison into cities. Bike element needs to be better thought through.

Question 3: What goals and policies should be emphasized in the Comprehensive Plan Update process?

- Availability of drinking water; both public water and wells. Water is an important factor in the ability to grow
- There should be cost/benefit analyses of all planning proposals. The citizens and taxpayers deserve this.
- Should be a policy on no loss of ag land
- Drainage – nothing is really happening. Deep animosity. Could there be an ombudsman between the county and the residents, to help with finding solutions?
- Traffic, drainage – follow-through and implementation
- Rumors of the tribe doing more development on the hill. The existing development has already caused negative impacts on Bow.
- How does the tribe's Comprehensive Plan affect or relate to the County's Comp Plan?
- There should be better dialogue between the tribe, the county and the community.
- Availability of drinking water – public and wells