



Planning & Development Services

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Memorandum

Skagit County Board of Commissioners Work Session

To: Skagit County Board of Commissioners
From: Hal Hart, Planning and Development Services Director
Re: Shoreline Master Program Update Work Session presenting Public Comments
Date: April 7, 2022

Summary

Planning and Development Services (PDS) is providing this memo in advance of the April 11, 2022, Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting. The purpose of this memo is to present the public comments to the Board of County Commissioners.

2022 Draft Shoreline Master Program

An updated draft Shoreline Master Program (SMP) was published on February 15, 2022 for public review. This draft incorporates edits and comments found in the April 2021 public review draft SMP, changes accepted by Board pursuant to the Planning Commission recorded motion (November 30, 2021), public comments, and Planning and Development Services recommendations. These recommendations are described in the Board Work Session 2 Memo prepared for the Board of Commissioners work session on February 7, 2022.

The changes accepted by the Board are tracked in the Board public hearing draft SMP, including the source of the changes, as referenced back to [Appendix 1 of the BoCC Work Session 2 Memo](#).

Local approval includes the Shoreline Master Program, Appendix 1 List of Lakes, Streams and Rivers in Shoreline Jurisdiction, Shoreline Designation Maps, and the Shoreline Restoration Plan. These and supporting documents, including the Shoreline Analysis Report, No Net Loss report, Cumulative Impacts Analysis report, and others are available at:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/SMP>

Notices and Public Comment Period

Skagit County accepted comments on the SMP Comprehensive Update and Periodic Review during the public comment period. Notice of the public hearing before the Board of Skagit County Commissioners was given on February 10, February 17, 2022, March 10, 2022, and March 17, 2022, in the local newspaper of record. A request was received to extend the comment period to 30 days, so additional notice extending the comment period to April 1, 2022, was given on March 10, 2022, and March 17, 2022, in the local newspaper of record. The notices were also provided to subscribers of the PDS email listserv and parties of record.

Overall, we have received thirty written comments, and twelve parties provided testimony at the public hearing on March 1, 2022. Written comments and hearing testimony can be found in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2, respectively. The comments summarized by topic area can be found in Attachment 3 of this memo along with individual response matrix for comments 27-30. These three documents will be the subject of the discussion on April 11, 2022.

Next Steps

Planning and Development Services will respond to the comments with recommendations. These will be made available for the Board to consider during deliberation.

Following deliberation, staff will make the edits the Board authorizes to the draft SMP. Then, the Board can adopt a resolution attaching the SMP documents the County intends to adopt. This resolution will accompany the remainder of the submittal package that is required by the Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Ecology will then determine if the submittal is complete. Once Ecology has completed its public comment period and review, they will issue a letter (usually a conditional approval letter), outlining required and recommended changes to the SMP submittal packet. At that time, the County will determine what is necessary to complete the adoption process.

The policies and regulations of the proposed SMP are not effective until the state and local adoption process is complete.

Attached:

Attachment 1, Written comments submitted through April 1, 2022.

Attachment 2, Verbal testimony from BoCC SMP Public Hearing on March 1, 2022

Attachment 3, Summary of public comments and individual response matrix for comments 27-30