

# SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

- **Status Update on Skagit County Agritourism Exploration and Analysis project**
- **Work Session: Shoreline Master Program Update**

**February 23, 2021**

**6:00 PM – 7:45 PM**

Please refer to transcript and video recording of Planning Commission meeting for in-depth information about these meeting minutes. Referenced documents, the full transcript, meeting agenda, and a video recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm>

## SUMMARY OF MEETING

### ROLL CALL

Chair Raschko began the meeting with a roll call.

Tim Raschko, Chair: Present

Tammy Candler, Vice-Chair: Present

Mark Knutzen: Present

Mark Lundsten: Absent

Amy Hughes: Absent

Kathy Mitchell: Present

Martha Rose: Present

Joseph Shea: Present

Joe Woodmansee: Present

### REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES (02/09/21)

Chair Raschko introduced the meeting minutes from the last meeting (02/09/21) for proposed changes and approval. Commissioner Shea moved to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Mitchell seconded it. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the motion.

### PUBLIC REMARKS

A member of the public Martha Bray spoke in support of Commissioner Lundsten and voiced her support for withdrawing the censure on Commissioner Lundsten. She also expressed support for changing the bylaws and was pleased with the draft bylaws which allowed for dissenting opinion.

## AGRITOURISM UPDATE

Long Range Planner Peter Gill introduced the topic of Agritourism which was first brought up two years ago following a petition to allow food service within the AG zone, when the planning commission recommended adding Agritourism and looking long term at the effects it has. Agritourism involves direct sales, education, or recreation such as horseback riding, hunting, fishing, or corn mazes. The project is currently in the discovery phase where data is being gathered on existing policies, economics, and looking at case studies of other locations. BERK Consulting has been helping with this project and hope to have a report out by the end of the week.

Next, Lisa Grueter from BERK Consulting went over the draft "Situation Assessment" report information which covers economic data from national, state, and local studies and trends.

Since the last update on Agritourism in the fall, the County has created a website for Agritourism and created a survey. In the spring more information will be available on the situation assessment and the results from the survey. Discussion groups are being organized and contacted through email who were first contacted through early interviews or survey response.

## SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

The County is working on a significant update to the Shoreline Master Program. This work session began with Dan Nickel from the Watershed Company who has been working with staff to provide an update to the Shoreline Master Program. Mr. Nickel emphasized the importance of the public engagement on this topic and mentioned the high virtual attendance of several monthly project updates.

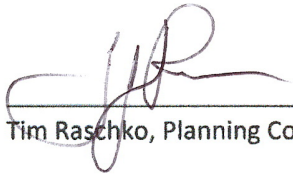
Mr. Nickel first covered the Aquaculture section of the SMP and then discussed the Shoreline Habitat and Natural Systems section of the SMP. Next, Mr. Nickel covers changes to Boating Facilities and Related Structures. The planning Commission recommended adding several definitions. Shoreline stabilization section contains recommendations from the 2016 Planning Commission to allow for stabilization of shorelines if there is risk to a primary structure within three years. The last section is related to transportation. Ferry terminals were added to the list of transportation facilities for consistency, and some policies which read like regulations were moved to Development Standards.

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Mr. Hart addresses the state of permit activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many projects were put on stalled or delayed during the summer, including some of the County's largest projects. However, in December and January the amount of people wanting to do projects broke records. The permit counter is currently completely online and is currently dealing with the surge of people applying for permits. Lastly, Mr. Hart goes over the simplified water mitigation process with the Department of Ecology.

## PLANNING COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT/COMMENTS

Commissioner Woodmansee commented on the helpfulness of the staff in going through Shoreline information. Commissioner Candler expressed gratitude to department staff.



Tim Raschko, Planning Commission Chair

3-9-2021

Date



Hal Hart, Secretary

3/9/2021

Date