

**PUBLIC HEARING
OF
ISLAND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**2021 SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE
OF
ISLAND COUNTY CODE 17.05A**

SUMMARY of MINUTES

DATE: APRIL 12, 2021

APPROVED AS WRITTEN



Darin Hand, Chair

APPROVED WITH NOTED
CORRECTIONS

Chair

**ISLAND COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION SUMMARY MINUTES
OF
PUBLIC HEARING FOR
SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM
UPDATE 2021**

APRIL 12, 2021

– VIDEO ONLY via STARLEAF –

CALL TO ORDER:

(Recording timestamp: 00:00:04/01:02:14)

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Darin Hand, Chair.

ROLL CALL:

(Recording timestamp: 00:00:13/01:02:14)

Present:

District 1 – Commissioners Margaret Andersen; Commissioner Criswell

District 2 – Commissioners Darin Hand (Chair); Joseph Busig

District 3 – Commissioners Steve Schwalbe (Vice Chair),

Delayed Arrival:

District 3 - Commissioner Tracy Gilroy (Technical Issues)

(Recording timestamp: 00:06:16/01:02:14)

Absentees:

District 1 - Commissioners Beth Munson; Commissioner Kristi Lovelady

Planning & Community Development Staff Present:

Jonathan Lange, Assistant Planning Director; Meredith Penny, Planning Manager; Jana Raasch, Planning Program Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(Recording timestamp: 00:01:46/01:02:14)

Chair Hand initiated approval of minutes for the March 22, 2021 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Schwalbe moved to approve said minutes. Commissioner Andersen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-0.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC– UNRELATED TO TOPICS ON THE AGENDA

(Recording timestamp: 00:03:05/01:02:14)

Chair Hand asked for public comment for topics not on today's agenda:

No public comments were offered.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(Recording timestamp: 00:03:45/01:02:14)

Assistant Planning Director Jonathan Lange, reported that the Planning Department will be presenting a temporary service agreement for building plan review to the Board of County Commissioners via the April, 13, 2021 consent agenda. This agreement will address the County's backlog while new staff are being trained.

Commissioner Andersen asked for an update on the status of the ADU revision. Lange reported the ordinance is currently under review with the County Attorney. Next steps will be for the planning staff to meet with the County Attorney to finalize the ordinance for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY ON 2021 SMP UPDATE

(Recording timestamp: 00:06:26/01:02:14)

Chair Hand commenced the Public Hearing on the Shoreline Master Program's required periodic update by handing the meeting over to Penny. Penny gave a presentation summarizing the background of the Shoreline Management Act, the process of updating the SMP, year of last SMP update (2016), and reviewed key terms and acronyms.

Penny gave an overview of the four (4) main tasks associated with the SMP update:

1. State required updates
2. Staff initiated updates for process improvements and language clarification
3. Mapping updates, particularly on coastal lagoons and wetlands as well as historic beach communities
4. Best management practices on sea level rise for shoreline property owners as well as working on a sea level rise monitoring program

Gilroy asked Penny whether State-required compliance changes have been shared with the Planning Commission. Penny believes many have already been included and called out on earlier drafts. Penny offered to redistribute the list.

Penny described the general timeline and process of bringing topics and materials to the Technical Review Committee, then to the Planning Commission, and finally to the Board of County Commissioners for discussion. She further explained, due to being a jointly adopted ordinance between Island County and the Washington State Department of Ecology, a joint 30-day public comment period is required, which includes today's Public Hearing. This comment period ends on April 25, 2021. Once the public comment period is over, Island County will hold a public hearing with the Planning Commission (targeted for May 10, 2021) and then with the Board of County Commissioners (targeted for June 22). The final steps of this process include 1) Island County submitting its final draft of the SMP to the Department of Ecology for review, 2) the Department of Ecology supplying Island County with their comments, 3) Island County incorporating the Department of Ecology's comments into the plan to adopt the ordinance locally through a public hearing with the Planning Commission and then with the Board of County Commissioners. Finally the Department of Ecology adopts the ordinance at the State level.

Penny reviewed the general process of today's public hearing and how staff will compile a matrix of all public comments received, and how and why they have been addressed. This matrix will be presented at the next planning Commission meeting scheduled for April 26, 2021. Penny also explained how the public can provide additional comments.

**TOPIC SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –
SPECIFIC TO ISLAND COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM**

(Recording timestamp: 00:18:45/01:02:14)

Chair Hand opened the meeting up for public comments on the Island County Shoreline Master Program workshop agenda item.

Joan Schrammek, 1067 Scenic Avenue, Camano Island, representing herself, expressed concern on sea level rise. She recommended that current and proposed data collection should trigger some type of re-evaluation process. She shared concern regarding failing, or soon to fail, septic systems and overall health of Puget Sound.

Barbara Bennett, 2755 Sun Vista Circle, representing herself, stated she serves as an appointed member of Island County Marine Resources Committee, and as a member of the County's Volunteer Technical Review Committee. (NOTE: Technical difficulties were experienced. Bennett followed up with a telephone call later in the meeting.) Bennett commented on Sea Level Rise, private ownership of shorelines and tidelands, how changes within the shoreline functions and infrastructure contribute to the current status of shorelines, as on difficulties with the SMP timelines.

Mr. Taylor was asked if he wished to speak. He stated he did not wish to speak.

Commissioner Andersen, asked Chair Hand to request those commenting to also follow up with a written comment, if possible, to ensure individual's entire commentary is heard.

Holly Tolle, 1661 Harbor Avenue SW, Unit 502, Seattle, shared she submitted a lengthy letter outlining nine concerns including 2016 SMP changes made to her community regarding rural conservancy shoreline environmental designation and the natural designation. Chair Hand confirmed the Commissioners each received her letter.

Kathryn Hodges and Emily Hagen, representing Puget Sound Energy, Bellevue. PSE asked for clarification on Table 1, 17.05A.080. PSE asked for clarification on how electrical distribution lines fit into this table. Additionally, clarification was requested on whether replacement can be considered normal maintenance and repair. PSE also requested clarification on two definitions which contradict each other. Those definitions pertain to verbiage within 17.05A.070 vs 17.05A.130.E.2.d (ii). Comments were submitted in writing.

Chair Hand, not hearing any further requests to comment, closed the public comment section of the Hearing and opened the floor for Commissioner comments' and discussion.

Questions, comments and discussion ensued from the Planning Commissioners on the following topics:

1. Encouragement to all to read documents
2. System to facilitate full cross-sharing of Commissioners' comments with each other
3. Follow-up on baseline for net loss analysis
4. Timeline and guidance of SMP process
5. Admirals Lagoon status as natural in SMP
6. Septic systems and failing septic systems
7. Clearly identifying comments that have been accepted or not
8. Code enforcement enhancement
9. Items to add to docket – code enforcement and signs
10. Statements of appreciation for all the public comments
11. Goals of Mapping and Sea Level Rise
12. Public Notification and Outreach Plan

ADJOURNMENT

(Recording timestamp: 01:01:40/01:02:14)

Chair Hand entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Busig motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schwalbe seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m.

(Recording timestamp: 01:02:14/01:02:14)

Respectfully submitted by: Jana Raasch