

>>> "Glacier Water District" <glacierwater@wildblue.net> 4/13/2011 1:05 PM >>>

Hello Gary:

The following are my comments on the Public Participation Plan. I hope that this is the proper format for public comment. If it needs to go somewhere else, please let me know.

I would suggest that the Community chooses its representatives, NOT the county executive or the county council. This would create an opportunity to have locals on any boards or commissions. Why not ballot through the Post Offices or the libraries. This does not have to be a formal election ballot, with all its costs. It could be informal, by signups. Advertise the positions not just on the internet, (some areas in Whatcom County still have dial up internet service) but also in local papers and posters at libraries and Post Offices. Very few people follow these types of processes so PDS needs to get out there! A procedure could be developed both for volunteers and for nominees, then also for election/selection. The county executive has too much power.

The definition of stakeholders should be changed, so that individual property taxpayers and residents (renters too) carry more weight than developers or chambers of commerce or the Port or EDC or utility companies or WSDOT or the bus service, etc. There should be a larger number of taxpayers and residents than of other stakeholders. We have to live with planning, and we have to pay the tax bills, so we should have a larger voice.

Jan Eskola
Glacier, WA

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Davis [<mailto:gdavis@co.whatcom.wa.us>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 4:40 PM

Subject: Whatcom County Draft Public Participation Plan - Planning Commission agenda

Good afternoon,

Attached is the agenda for the April 14, 2011 Planning Commission meeting at which the public hearing on the draft Public Participation Plan will be held. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Northwest Annex Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham.

Also attached is the draft plan, which I sent out last week. If you have any questions or comments about the plan, please let me know.

Gary Davis, AICP
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Planning & Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

>>> Gary Davis 4/1/2011 3:35 PM >>>

Good afternoon,

Whatcom County is updating its Public Participation Plan and you are invited to review the document and make comments. It will be reviewed by the Whatcom County Planning Commission in a public hearing on April 14, 2011 and by the County Council in the following weeks, after a recommendation from the Planning Commission. The draft plan is attached

-- it is also available on the PDS Public Participation web site at
<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031/participation/index.jsp>

The PPP describes the public process for the various long-range planning topics planned to be addressed in the coming year and is designed to meet the following objectives:

Provide a roadmap for the public, outlining a clear and accessible public process for comprehensive plan and development regulation updates;

Ensure input is sought from a broad base of public participants and is elicited in a timely fashion, considered, and incorporated as appropriate into the Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation updates; and

Make a concerted and continuous effort to ensure that elected officials and staff are fully aware of and understand community and stakeholder concerns.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments about the draft.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
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