

**Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary, June 21, 2006**

Committee members in attendance:

Richard Banel

Bill Coleman

Phil Cloward, Vice-Chair

Jan Eskola

Gary Gehling, Chair

Amy Mower

Norma Otto

Lou Piotrowski

Cindy Purdy

Alan Seid

**1) Determination of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order by Gary Gehling and a determination of a quorum was made.

**2) Public Comment – First Period**

- Linda King asked what is the next step, after the vision meetings and how issues were to be prioritized. Matt responded that all the written comments from the meetings will be posted on the website and considered when forming the vision statement.
- Matt mentioned that Hal Hart would like a presentation to the committee members by emergency management, the County geologist to discuss geologic hazards and a representative from the state about potential funding for sewer and water.

**3) Meeting Summary**

The May 17th, 2006 minutes were approved by consensus.

**4) Updates**

- a. Bill suggested July 19<sup>th</sup> for an advisory committee meeting at the Tribal office. He said the Tribe extends the invitation in order for members to see the facilities and he suggested it be a regular agenda, with Tribal issues as an agenda item. It was decided to meet at the Tribal office, the double-wide on the south side of Deming Road at the eastern end of the parking lot.
- b. John McLaughlin, WWU professor, will make a presentation at this meeting, also. The Tribe will be able to supply a screen and projector for him. A discussion of population projections ensued. Phil expressed concern that the presentation should be informational only. The starting population figures for the east County are too low; McLaughlin projects lower than EcoNorthwest, which may present a problem.

**5) Foothills Subarea Boundary**

The proposed subarea boundary is being reviewed due to concern on the part of landowners who were not represented during the decision to change the Foothills western subarea boundary. Their concern is having their watershed straddling two subareas; Lynden Nooksack Valley and Foothills. After further discussion it was decided to change the southwestern portion of the proposed boundary. Gary brought up the point that some criteria are needed for revisiting issues. He is concerned that revisiting will slow down the process. It was decided to review requests to revisit issues on a case by case basis.

**6) Vision Meeting Discussion**

Alan made the comment that he attended all four meetings and that he was struck by the similarities of issues raised at each meeting, such as character/identity, local economy, transportation. Richard stated that jobs were the major issue at his table. Gary felt the

business people were well represented. In general, committee members were pleased with the turnout and participation.

A discussion ensued about underrepresented areas. Bill Grimes previously suggested polling at meeting places and trailheads. Lou felt that the immediate Deming area needs special attention being newly added to the subarea.

Richard, Phil and Julie (assigned in absence due to interest and experience with sign boards) were appointed as a subcommittee to look into having sandwich boards made to put out before meetings. It was decided that a total of seven were needed.

## **7) Non-agenda Items for Committee Consideration**

- Amy reminded Matt that they are waiting on a summary of the stakeholder interviews. Matt said he would contact Bill Grimes.
- Alan announced that there will be a Sustainable Connection Workshop – Sustainable Communities: the Convergence of Green building and Smart Growth – on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 7-9PM at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal.
- Gary asked Matt for buildout information for the Foothills area.
- Gary mentioned that State DOE representatives would like to talk to the committee about water rights issues. Alan also suggested Tom Anderson, former head of the PUD.
- Lou stated that the Glacier vision meeting involved some younger people whom he hadn't seen involved in the past.

## **8) Public Comment – Second Session**

- Linda Dorsett suggested tapping into the leadership of Deming. She mentioned Lonny Schroeder for example. Phil said he would contact Schroeder.
- Jack Petree suggested getting a copy of John McLaughlin's study posted on the website. He has been to three presentations and points out that McLaughlin claims growth will be 1/3 less than projected by the County. The Bellingham Comprehensive Plan projects 211 dwelling units per year for the unincorporated area, however, between January and May 2006 there have been 780 dwelling units built.
- Mike Head stated he was disappointed in the turnout for the Deming vision meetings, but was thrilled with the Maple Falls turnout. He also commended Roland Middleton's facilitation of the Maple Falls meeting. Mike said he has been apprehensive of the process, but was encouraged to hear about the projects County-assisted going on in the Birch Bay area after completing their subarea plan.
- Linda King suggested speaking to a senior in the Russian community and the high school counselor for suggestions on how to involve the Russians.
- Karen Reich asked several questions: Will the new boundary be posted on-line? Yes. Did people show up to more than one of the vision meetings? Yes. How many tribal members are there? About 1900. And who is the water/sewer state representative? Not yet known. She suggested tagging onto community events, such as the BBQ at Dodson IGA July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, to benefit the Deming Library.

The next meeting will be July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Kendall School Library from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Submitted by:

Sharon Digby