

Birch Bay Watershed Action Plan PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

HOSTED BY

**WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT – NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION.**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2010 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
BIRCH BAY BIBLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
7039 JACKSON ROAD, BLAINE WA**

From 7 PM – 8:30 PM on November 15, 2010, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services held a public meeting to get feedback on draft Low Impact Development (LID) practices to be included in the forthcoming development manual for the Birch Bay Watershed.

Peter Gill and Adam Merrill (ESA Adolfson Inc.) provided a preview of the draft LID manual for Birch Bay. This included a brief review of the purpose of this alternative development option, site design using LID practices, offsite mitigation for buffer impacts and program eligibility.

Questions and comments were taken throughout the entirety of the presentation and are bulleted below:

- An audience member asked if there would be any role for traditional stormwater infrastructure, such as retention ponds/sediment basins.
- A citizen noted that they would like to see examples of how this could work on real property, rather than examples on theoretical property.
- A citizen asked if the LID manual would be approved by other departments to ensure that county-wide department standards and requirements are met. Another citizen included fire departments as an entity that would need to approve proposed standards.
- An audience member asked about the standards that stormwater facilities would need to be able to meet.
- Another audience member asked about maintenance responsibility.
- A citizen had concerns about conservation easements and whether or not they would be public access.
- Citizens asked if individual permits would need to be reviewed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee if development proposal occurred on APO soils.
- A citizen asked if there is, or will be, pre determined sites for restoration/protection through the proposed Habitat Management Fund.
- An audience member asked if agencies at the state and federal level have provided input on the proposal.
- There was a question on the cost of credits for mitigation in similar programs in other jurisdictions.
- A citizen asked if meeting green building standards might be able to be incorporated into this program.
- An audience member noted that the code needs to be simplified, and expressed a desire for this to accomplish that objective.
- An audience member voiced displeasure with current CAO buffers, designation of APO soils, and the removal of density bonuses for clustering.
- A citizen asked for less subjectivity. If a developer receives an engineers stamp on development plans, the county should have to honor that professional's judgment.

Staff noted that the input from this workshop will be used to help refine the LID manual and that there will be future meetings in December, with the goal of going to the Planning Commission in January and the County Council in February and March.