

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
**WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

1

August 13, 2009

Regular Meeting

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1 **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order, by Whatcom County Planning  
2 Commission Chair, Jean Melious, in the County Council Chambers at 6:40 p.m.

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4 **Roll Call:**

5 Present: Jean Melious, Geoff Menzies, David Hunter, John Lesow, Sean Wilson, John  
6 Steensma, Rabel Burdge, John Belisle

7 Absent: Ken Mann

8

9 **Staff Present:** David Stalheim, Wain Harrison, Michelle Stiles, Samya Lutz, Tyler  
10 Schroeder, Nick Smith, Becky Boxx

11

12 **Director's Dialog**

13

14 Director Stalheim reviewed:

15

16 Changes made to the rural element. A meeting was held with stakeholders to discuss the  
17 issues. Because of the changes another public hearing is recommended on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

18

19 Regarding the UGA updates a joint hearing, with the County Council, is scheduled for  
20 September 17<sup>th</sup>, followed by three work sessions.

21

22 **Open Session for Public Comment**

23

24 Dave Pros, Whatcom County: Stated farm plans are too onerous and septic plans are too  
25 invasive. The Planning Department has no interest in public involvement and listening to  
26 what the public wants.

27

28 Larry Helm, Whatcom County: Addressed clear cutting on Squalicum Mountain, which is in  
29 the Lake Whatcom watershed. State law precludes any County laws concerning the  
30 environmental issues of this cut. Feels the County should have more say.

31

32 Russell Weston, Whatcom County: Whatcom County Deputy to the Washington State  
33 Grange Master. They believe that private property rights should not be encroached upon  
34 without compensation.

35

36 Dennis Jones, Whatcom County: Spoke of Lake Whatcom issues such as stormwater,  
37 oxygen depletion and water treatment.

38

39 **Commissioner Comments**

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41 Hunter: At the next public hearing, regarding LAMIRDs, he would like the public to state  
42 how they are personally affected by the proposals.

43

44 Lesow: Stated real estate investment involves a risk.

45

46 **Approval of Minutes**

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48 July 9, 2009: Wilson moved to approve as written. Belisle seconded. The motion carried.

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1 July 23, 2009: Wilson moved to approve as written. Belisle seconded. The motion carried.

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3 **Work Session**

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5 Staff gave an overview of how the rural process began and where it is to date. The  
6 Growth Management Act gave counties the option to create LAMIRDs, which creates a  
7 boundary around more intensive uses in rural areas. If LAMIRDs are not created the areas  
8 have to be zoned for rural. Through GMHB cases five acres is typically found to be the  
9 minimum for rural but the GMA does not give a definitive size. The County is now under a  
10 court order to act on this issue. A draft proposal was presented in June and a public  
11 hearing held in July. Maps were presented detailing the changes made since the public  
12 hearing.

13

14 Staff gave an overview of the proposed changes to Title 20, which includes new zones,  
15 Rural General Commercial and Rural Industrial Manufacturing.

16

17 Commissioner Lesow requested the Commission prohibit use of water district boundaries  
18 for future LAMIRDs. Director Stalheim clarified that water lines are only used for Type I,  
19 not Type III LAMIRDs.

20

21 Commissioner Belisle requested a buffer larger than 50 feet between manufacturing and  
22 rural and agricultural zones in order to protect the uses in the rural and agricultural zones.

23

24 The Commission agreed to hold another public hearing on LAMIRDs on September 8, 2009  
25 and have another work session on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

26

27 The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

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29 Minutes prepared by B. Boxx.

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32 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Jean Melious, Chair

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David Stalheim, Secretary

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