

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: David Stalheim, Director
DATE: February 18, 2010
RE: Short Course

At the next Planning Commission meeting, both myself and Royce Buckingham from the Prosecuting Attorney's office, will go through an abbreviated "Short Course on Local Planning." My intention for this course will be to focus on the following topics:

- ◆ Role of the Planning Commission
 - Legislative vs. quasi-judicial actions
 - Appearance of Fairness
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Open Public Meetings and Public Records
 - Planning Enabling Act
- ◆ State Planning Statutes Overview
 - Growth Management Act
 - Other State Planning Laws:
 - Shoreline Management
 - State Platting Laws
 - State Environmental Policy Act
- ◆ Growth Management Act
 - Origins of GMA and changes through the years
 - Required Elements
 - Periodic Review and Update Requirements

At the previous meeting, Becky Boxx provided a CD with the Short Course manual. If you have a chance to review parts of that manual, you will be more prepared for the course and able to bring clarifying questions.