

From: Gary Davis
To: Rural Element
Date: 2/27/2009 4:24 PM
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element Update - Reminder for March 4 and 5 meetings

Good afternoon

This is a reminder for the public meetings scheduled for March 4 and 5. Please note the location has changed for the 1:00 p.m. March 5 meeting in the Blaine/Birch Bay area.

- * Wednesday, March 4: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Meridian High School Cafeteria, 194 W. Laurel Rd.
- * Thursday, March 5: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Whatcom County Council Chambers, 311 Grand, Bellingham
- * Thursday, March 5: 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. ***Location Change*** American Legion Peace Arch Post #86
4580 Legion Drive (Directly across the street from North Whatcom Fire, near Birch Bay-Lynden and Blaine Rd)
- * Thursday, March 5: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Rome Grange, 2821 Mt. Baker Hwy. (east of Y Rd.)

We have posted on the Rural Element web site <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/long/projects/lamird> materials that will be discussed at the meetings, including an outline of proposed policy, proposed LAMIRD criteria, and a map of proposed "Rural Centers" <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/long/projects/lamird/updateprocess.jsp>. At these meetings we will discuss a concept to designate LAMIRDs primarily in "Rural Centers" that are geographically distributed throughout the county and have historically provided public and commercial services to the rural areas.

We hope to focus on basic policy concepts that are based on what we heard from the public during the first round of public participation late last year. Following these meetings the County will draft detailed proposals for changes to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning regulations, which will be considered at public meetings of the Planning Commission and County Council in the coming months.

For those of you interested in the Columbia Valley/Kendall area and the issues surrounding its designation as an Urban Growth Area or Rural area, please go to this website for information about an upcoming County Council hearing on March 17th <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/planning/Meetings.htm>

Thanks for your interest and participation in this important project. As always, please let me know if you have comments or questions.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County
Planning & Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246