

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

5280 Northwest Drive, Suite B  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
360-676-6907, 360-380-8100  
360-738-2525 Fax



**DAVID STALHEIM**  
Director

**J.E. "SAM" RYAN**  
Assistant Director

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Planning Commission  
**FROM:** David Stalheim, Director  
**DATE:** July 17, 2009  
**RE:** Work Program through 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2010

As the Planning Commission begins deliberation on the proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan and zoning code regarding the rural element, or LAMIRDs, I want to provide you with a snapshot look at the work program before you.

Through the end of 2009, we have scheduled the upcoming meetings on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for the LAMIRD project. No further allocation of time has been provided for this topic at this time.

The Planning Commission will be asked to turn your focus to the review and revision of Urban Growth Areas beginning in September. We have scheduled a joint public hearing with the County Council on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The Planning Commission must deliver your recommendation to the County Council by October 8<sup>th</sup> to allow the Council sufficient time to complete their decision, which is due by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

After the UGA review, we have two or three items that are time sensitive that need to be addressed by the end of the year: 1) open space applications; 2) Lake Whatcom Moratorium Response; and 3) NPDES stormwater ordinances.

The County Council has also docketed comprehensive plan amendments that would need to be completed and acted on by the County Council by April of next year, meaning that the Planning Commission will need to finish by early March with your recommendations. Those amendments include a private application to allow a Mineral Resource Land overlay designation to approximately 280 acres of land in Commercial Forestry, adoption of the Foothills Subarea Plan, amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Birch Bay Community Plan regarding fire protection and emergency services, and amendment to the Parks element to allow for collection of park impact fees.

In addition to the comprehensive plan docket items, there are several code amendments that are also awaiting review, including review of lot consolidation for agricultural lands, pipeline safety ordinance, code enforcement provisions, binding site plan provisions and code scrub items.

If the Planning Commission is not ready to provide recommendations to the County Council by August 13<sup>th</sup>, we will need to consider options for work program. We can come back in October to the subject and provide recommendations to the County Council regarding LAMIRDs at that time. We will need to prioritize the other work program elements if that is the choice of the Commission.

Please find attached the Planning Commission meeting schedule through the end of the year. We will make adjustments to this schedule as needed. We look forward to your feedback and questions.

| 2009        |                            |   |         |                         |              |
|-------------|----------------------------|---|---------|-------------------------|--------------|
|             | File #                     | Topic   | Place   | Hearing/<br>Worksession | Staff        |
| <b>JULY</b> |                            |   |         |                         |              |
| 7/23        |                            | Rural Element<br><i>deliberation</i>                      | Council | W                       | Gary         |
| <b>AUG</b>  |                            |   |         |                         |              |
| 8/13        |                            | Rural Element<br><i>deliberation &amp; recommendation</i> | Council | W                       | Gary         |
| <b>SEP</b>  |                            |   |         |                         |              |
| 9/8         | <b>6 p.m.</b>              | UGA Review<br><i>Joint Hearing with County Council</i>    | Council | H                       | Matt         |
| 9/10        | <i>Special meeting ???</i> | UGA Review<br><i>deliberation</i>                         | PDS     |                         |              |
| 9/24        |                            | UGA Review<br><i>deliberation</i>                         | PDS     | W                       | Matt         |
| <b>OCT</b>  |                            |   |         |                         |              |
| 10/8        |                            | UGA Review<br><i>deliberation</i>                         | PDS     | W                       | Matt         |
| 10/22       | PLN2009-00007              | Home Occupation/Cottage Industry                          | PDS     | H                       | Michelle     |
|             | PLN2009-00006              | Accessory Apartments/2nd Kitchen                          | PDS     | H                       | Michelle     |
|             |                            | Open Space Applications                                   |         |                         | Erin         |
|             |                            | Lake Whatcom Moratorium Response                          |         |                         | Rebecca      |
| <b>NOV</b>  |                            |   |         |                         |              |
| 11/12       | PLN2009-00004              | RV's  | Council | H                       | Suzanne      |
|             | PLN2009-00005              | Code Enforcement  |         | H                       | Suzanne      |
| <b>DEC</b>  |                            |   |         |                         |              |
| 12/10       |                            | Code Scrub  |         |                         |              |
|             | PLN2009-00008              | Lot Consolidation/Lot of Record                           | PDS     | H                       | Brenda/Erin  |
|             |                            | NPDES Ordinances  | PDS     | H                       | Public Works |
|             |                            |   |         |                         |              |
|             |                            |   |         |                         |              |
|             |                            |   |         |                         |              |

**Tentative Schedule is subject to change. Please see Planning Commission Agenda for upcoming items.**