

**Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary, May 17, 2006**

Committee members in attendance:

Julie Baker
Phil Cloward, Vice-Chair
Jan Eskola
Gary Gehling, Chair
Amy Mower

Norma Otto
Lou Piotrowski
Cindy Purdy
Alan Seid

The meeting was called to order by Gary Gehling and a determination of a quorum was made.

1) Public Comment – First Period

- Lou welcomed new member Jan Eskola, who is replacing Sheila Brillson in the At-Large position.
- Matt said that the request for the additional funds for the Foothills Subarea planning process is in the packet for the May 23rd Council meeting.

2) Meeting Summary

The May 3, 2006 summary was approved by consensus.

3) At-Large Position

The County Executive reviewed the existing applications and forwarded Jan Eskola's name to the County Council for approval. Jan's approval was confirmed by the Council on May 9, 2006

4) Tribal Invitation for the June 21st meeting

Gary suggested an informational meeting with the Tribe to gather the Tribes thoughts and ideas. The meeting would be open to the public and held at the Tribe office in Deming. This would be a "special meeting" and Gary said he would wait to hear about dates from Bill Coleman.

Matt asked about the regular meeting the first week of June and it was decided there will be no meeting since it is Vision meetings week.

Lou suggested meeting the second week of June to discuss the results of the Vision meeting, rather than waiting till the regular meeting the third week. It was decided to stick to the regular schedule and not meeting the second week.

Amy asked how Bill Grimes of Studio Cascade was going to collate the information from the Vision meetings. Matt responded that he wasn't sure but he would check with Bill.

5) Poster/Postcard Review

It was suggested to drop the questions from the postcard and enlarge the font to make the postcard more legible; also to change "later this year" to "later this summer". The poster was reviewed with suggested changes to the font; color and

logo (make it trees/river/Mt Baker/fish). It was decided to make 20 large and 30 small posters.

6) Questionnaire

Matt said that Bill Grimes would like the Vision meetings to inform the questionnaire and asked for a list of “big picture items” to address when writing up the questionnaire.

- Public parks
- Highway safety
- Walking trails (chain of trails)
- Cell phone service
- Law enforcement
- Carrying capacity
- Maintaining rural character
- Resource protection
- Water quality
- Economics
- Support services and infrastructure
- Open ended questions: What do you like about existing conditions? What would you like to see changed? Why do you live here?
- Public gathering space
- Alternative transportation (bicycle lanes)
- Recreation and tourism
- Natural disasters preparedness
- UGA boundaries
- Environmental protection
- Small business facilitation/cottage industries
- Viability of small town commercial designation
- County/State/Federal regulations
- Aesthetics
- Work closer to home/Light Industrial Impact zoning
- Process of economic development (ways to improve local economy)
- How long to reach carrying capacity
- Retail shopping/amenities

7. Population Presentations

There is no fee for John McLaughlin to speak, EcoNorthwest will charge \$1000 and wouldn't want to debate findings. Gary suggested having John speak and the group could decide later whether to spend money to bring EcoNorthwest.

Alan asked why to population figure matter. Matt responded that they provide the foundation for the plan. GMA requires population figures projected out 20 years. Matt said that for the County-wide Comprehensive Plan, the County has adopted population figures, generally using the high EcoNorthwest projections in urban areas and low projections in the rural areas.

The committee decided to ask John speak to the group. Matt will contact him.

8. Committee Member Input

- Phil pointed out some inaccuracies in the zoning map. Matt suggested coming into the office to discuss.
- Jan reminded the committee that they are dealing with the Foothills area as a whole and not just the Columbia Valley.
- Sharon stated that the Small Town designated Deming is under represented and that the committee should make an effort to contact Deming residents.
- Matt stated that the postcards and posters will be ready in a week. Will need members to post and document where they are located.

10. Public Comment – Second Session

- Karen Reich pointed out that the postcard questions could go on the front of the postcard on the left side. She also suggested that it be pointed out on the questionnaire that Deming is going to be added to the Foothills subarea and ask the question: what are you most afraid of?
- Cheri McKay had several comments for changes to the postcard/poster. She updated the committee that the Lynden Nooksack Valley (LNV) neighbors would like the watershed within the LNV boundary. She has talked to Dan McShane and other geologists and would like the issue revisited. Alan asked if there were any conflicts to moving the boundary back to the original position and Matt replied there would not. Phil pointed out that the original boundary didn't follow the ridgeline, that it was a political boundary. Gary said that it needs to be revisited at another meeting. Amy asked to have a WRIA representative come to a meeting.
- Rob Staveland stated that it took the County 2 years for population projections. There is not enough reasonable capacity for the 20 years population projections. He said that the citizens need to evaluate what type of growth they want to have to accommodate growth. Rob likes actual information with values input.

The next meeting will be June 21st, 2006 at the Kendall School Library from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Submitted by:

Sharon Digby