

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
April 22, 2021**

Public Hearing and Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The virtual meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission
3 Chair, Kelvin Barton at 6:31 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Robert Bartel, Kelvin Barton, Atul Deshmane, Jim Hansen, Stephen Jackson,
6 Kimberley Lund, Dominic Mocerri, Jon Maberry, Natalie McClendon

7 **Staff Present:** Cliff Strong, Mark Personius, Ryan Ericson, and Tammy Axlund

8 **Guest:** Chad Yunge, Department of Ecology

9 **Department Update**

10 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), advised that
11 the Cherry Point Amendment stakeholder group submitted their recommendations to
12 County Council. These will now go through legal review.

13 At our request, Council revised the six month moratorium on accepting new
14 applications for outdoor marijuana growing and processing operations to include
15 greenhouses. Over the next month, staff will put together a briefing memo for Council
16 on marijuana growing and processing issues, with code recommendations and options
17 for how we may address those issues. This will then come back to the Planning
18 Commission for a public review process.

19 At the next Council meeting, we will present the Open Space, Capital Improvement
20 Plan, and Public Participation Plan recommendations from the Planning Commission.
21 We will ask for funding to do a feasibility study for a critical area buffer offsite
22 mitigation program.

23 PDS staff are also putting together potential code amendments to increase affordable
24 housing options.

25 **Open Session Public Comment**

26 **Timestamp: 7:49**

27 Janet Migaki provided public comment.

28 **Commissioner Comments**

29 Commissioner McClendon announced that the ad hoc committee for public participation
30 is holding a virtual meeting Tuesday at 1 p.m. Commissioners are to let her know if
31 they are interested in attending and she will ensure they get an invitation.

32 Commissioner Maberry said he reached out to Diani Taylor of Taylor Shellfish

33 Commissioner Hansen reported that he spoke with Karlee Deatherage this week
34 regarding the SMP.

35 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

36 **Timestamp: 16:19**

37 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to approve the meeting minutes from April 8,
38 2021.

39 **Commissioner Maberry seconded.**

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1 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
2 **McClendon, Mocerri; Abstain- Bartel, Lund; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-2). The**
3 **motion carried.**

4 **Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) 2020 Update**

5 **Timestamp: 17:34**

6 The Chair provided a brief overview of the SMP review process so far. He then
7 introduced PDS staff as well as Chad Yunge representing the State Department of
8 Ecology.

9 Cliff Strong, PDS Senior Planner, provided follow-up on items from previous meetings,
10 and Ryan Ericson iterated that his goal is to get closer to the State requirements.

11 Cliff Strong addressed a typo in the staff recommendation under the File Information
12 section on the first page of the staff report: "2500 sq. ft." replaces "2000 sq. ft."

13 **a) Public Hearing**

14 **Timestamp: 27:58**

15 The chair opened the public hearing and the following individuals provided public
16 comment:

Ed Miller	Andrew Gamble	Roger Almskaar
Diani Taylor	Tim Johnson	
Karlee Deatherage	Wendy Harris	

18 **Timestamp: 52:30**

19 The chair closed the public hearing

20 **b) SMP Work Session**

21 Commissioners indicated they would like to take time to review the last minute
22 comments that came in, and schedule a decision on this topic for the next meeting.

23 **Timestamp: 57:48**

24 **Commissioner Maberry moved** to replace "irrigation ditches" with "artificial
25 waterways." (Pages 82 and 83)

26 Mr. Strong suggested that reverting to the original language would meet the intent.

27 **Commissioner Maberry withdrew the motion.**

28 Mr. Ericson provided background on how the original language came to be and what it
29 was meant to address. Discussion ensued.

30 **Timestamp: 1:28:19**

31 **Commissioner Maberry moved** to go back to the original language for
32 16.16.710(D)(2).

33 **Commissioner Mocerri seconded.**

34 Commissioners and staff discussed the possibility of using stormwater regulations to
35 deal with pollution coming off the roads and into the ditches.

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1 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
2 **Moceri; Abstain- Hansen, McClendon;(Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-2). The motion**
3 **carried.**

4 **Adjournment**

5 The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

6 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

7 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Kelvin Barton, Chair



Tammy Axlund, Secretary

