

City of Bainbridge Island
Environmental Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC)
Regular Meeting, Council Conference Room, City Hall

December 23, 2009

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Officer Elections
- Bylaw Revisions
- New Member Solicitation
- Outside Scientist List
- Geologically Hazardous Section of CAO
- Shoreline Master Plan Update
- Next Year Schedule

CALL TO ORDER

Members David Sale, Greg Geehan, Chris Waldbillig, Deb Rudnick and Marc Boule were present. City staff was Steve Morse.

Officer Nomination and Elections – David Sale was nominated and unanimously elected Chair. Deb Rudnick was nominated and unanimously elected Vice-Chair.

Bylaws Revisions – There are some differences between the duties listed in the City Council resolution reauthorizing ETAC and in the bylaws adopted by the committee. The bylaws need to be changed to be the same as the resolution. The primary difference has to do with the science standards in the Growth Management Act versus the Shoreline Management Act.

The bylaws also state that City will provide clerical support. Since the bylaws were prepared, the Planning Department has had significant layoffs of clerical support people and clerical support is no longer being provided to the committee. ETAC members will rotate the note-taking duties. The minutes do not need to be very detailed but need to record issues discussed and any decisions. There is also a difference between the experts listed in the bylaws and in the resolution. The bylaws include the language that the experts can be from other disciplines as appropriate. The language in the resolution is the same as the original authorizing resolution for ETAC. The resolution does allow the establishment of an outside pool of experts. Committee members felt that this is not a conflict since the authorization seems to leave room for the committee's technical discretion.

The Committee recommends that the City moves forward as soon as possible with the recruitment of new ETAC members. When the advertisement goes out, the City will send the notice to the members so they can provide the information to any potential new members.

The outside scientist list was discussed. David Sale passed out the expert list that was developed last year. Currently there are nine people on this list, most with geology backgrounds. The question was raised as to whether an approval process was needed for people on the expert list.

It was stated that we need a resume from each person. The list does not limit who the members can talk to but provides credibility.

It was noted that there are no members connected with the Suquamish Tribe. While ETAC does not have a requirement for tribal representation, there has also been a person with tribal connections attending the meetings. Since the tribal government employs a number of scientists, it is a good source of local expertise and a contact should be made with the Tribe to see if any of the scientists are interested in membership. Deb Rudnick is to contact Paul Dorn about interested individuals.

Another group to contact is the Shoreline Homeowners Group to see if they have scientists that they would like to recommend. David Sale will contact them.

Geologically Hazardous Areas – Revisions to the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) section on geologically hazardous areas was discussed. Steve Morse presented the members with a matrix of issues presented to Land Use Committee on revisions. This list had been edited to remove issues not be considered at this time. After reviewing the list the group decided that issues number 6, 7 and 10 were not technical issues. ETAC should just address the technical issues. The staff should limit the list to the technical issues and flesh out the question being asked of ETAC. ETAC established a sub-committee to consider the issue. Members are Greg Geehan, Marc Boule and David Sale. Staff is to email the issues to David Sale. The whole committee needs to be here to look at the issues. The sub-committee will report to ETAC what are its recommendations for revisions.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) update – Steve Morse handed out tasks developed for the shoreline update grant and the timelines for the grant. Steve reported that the recruitment for a new shoreline planner is continuing. Some the tasks are not up-to-date as no planner is currently working on the SMP update.

ETAC discussed their role in the shoreline update. The group should review inventory data sources, shoreline inventory and characterization report. ETAC can also review the consultants work. It would be good idea to meet with the consultant as early as possible to brainstorm with them on technical issues.

Schedule – The next meeting in January (20th) can be on the geologically hazardous areas revisions. Meeting in February could be with the new shoreline planner on the SMP update. Wednesdays work best for meeting as members are available. Locating a room is an issue as several staff meetings occur on Wednesday afternoons. ETAC meeting should be on the third Wednesday of the month at 4 PM (though meetings may be better at 3 PM as we would not run into the City Council meetings).

Other Business – There was a discussion on ETAC interactions with other tech groups and the public involvement consultant. Should ETAC be included in the vision/outreach phase of the SMP update? Should ETAC be doing science workshops? Education could explain the whys of the regulations. People need to know about the option of stewardship.

Both the bylaws and the resolution have provisions to do with conflict of interest. Members need to disclose any conflict of interest and recuse themselves if there is a conflict, as addressed in the ETAC bylaws

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.