

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUBLIC FORUM
MARCH 2, 2010

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. DISCUSSION FORUMS
3. MEETING RECAP

1. INTRODUCTION

Planning Director Kathy Cook opened the public forum at [6:40:26 PM](#) p.m. by welcoming everyone to the kick-off meeting and telling them that the Shoreline Master Program Update is one of the most important projects the department will be working on for the next year. She then introduced the attending Councilmembers, Planning Commissioners, citizen committee members, staff, and consultant team.

Following Kathy's introduction, Gabe Snedeker of AHBL explained that his firm had been hired to assist the city in designing and implementing the public participation process for the Shoreline Master Program update and briefly reviewed the agenda. He also told the audience that both the consultant team and staff members would be available for questions after the meeting. The materials from the meeting and the draft minutes will also be available on the city's website.

Long Range Planning Manager Libby Hudson presented a brief overview of the update process that included the goals of the Shoreline Management Act, what is included in the shoreline jurisdiction, shorelines of statewide significance, the requirement to update local Shoreline Master Plans, the requirements of the new guidelines, the development of the public participation plan, and the role of the Environmental Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC) in the process.

2. BREAK OUT INTO INDIVIDUAL FORUMS

The tape recorder was turned off at [6:57:34 PM](#). The following notes were recorded during those break-out sessions. (Note: The notes, as they appeared on the boards, are available as a separate document.)

Green Station – Public Involvement Goals and Measuring Success

- The update should be a public process, not a managed process. Set up protocols for participation to help the conversations about the update occur openly. Answer questions in writing so that everyone can see the responses and maintain a timeline in public spaces.
- Educate the citizenry about the current plan, what's required by state, and where the guidelines provide some flexibility, as well as the science that will be used in determining what changes are necessary in the plan.
- Explain the difference between the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), the Shoreline Master Plan, and the Shoreline Management Act.
- Use more specific language and provide concrete proposals for changes to the existing policies and/or regulations in the beginning.
- Notify those who will be directly impacted early in the process.
- Provide information frequently in a variety of formats – through the newspapers, in small groups, and on the internet.
- Measures of success should include stakeholders being informed and expressing their issues early in the process and the community knowing what changes are being proposed.

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUBLIC FORUM
MARCH 2, 2010

Both those measures would rely on a high level of public involvement throughout the process. Another may be that the community can live with it, not litigate it.

- Clarify that everybody is a stakeholder, not just waterfront property owners.
- Keep the project moving forward and stay away from rehashing topics that have already been discussed.
- Remind the community of our collective responsibility.
- Maintain a visual timeline in public spaces
- Track all comments with the name of the commenter, the corresponding code section, and a response that indicates how the issue is being handled.
- There should be an ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of the public participation plan. Check in with the public often to measure their sentiments toward the process.
- Use a survey at the end of the process to measure how satisfied the community was with the process and publish the results.
- The health of the shoreline affects Puget Sound and the entire Island. Demonstrate what has been gained and what has been lost through enforcement of the current regulations in the last 10 years. Field trips and/or visuals would be helpful.
- Gain input from shoreline property owners on their observation of what's happening
- Baseline conditions, including wastewater and infrastructure, must be taken into account when establishing the new plan.
- Have the timeline, milestones, and topics laid out in advance.
- Maintain communication with DOE throughout the process to ensure we're on track.
- How do we measure the needs of the wildlife to measure success?

Yellow Station – Key Issues and Questions

- How real is the 2011 deadline? Can the Dept. of Ecology extend it?
- How will the CAO be integrated into the SMP?
- What is the basis for “no net loss”?
- Does the SMA require a balance of uses?
- Define “best” science and what science applies to the SMP.
- Are the SMA and SMP unconstitutional?
- Clarify the shoreline jurisdiction.
- Staff resources (unfilled shoreline planner and water resources manager positions) are a concern.
- What is the role of the harbor in the SMP?
- Is there science to support blanket, rather than site-specific, regulations for nonconforming uses, buffers, vegetation, bulkheads, and docks?
- Federal regulations on waterways must be considered if there are any additional regulations proposed for buoys and anchored boats. Other agencies with some jurisdiction include the Coast Guard, the Dept. of Natural Resources, and the Dept. of Ecology.
- Protecting public access and the part of road ends in providing public access is important.
- Federal- and state-listed species need to be considered in updating the shoreline regulations.
- How will variances, conditional uses, exemptions, and nonconforming structures be handled?

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUBLIC FORUM
 MARCH 2, 2010

- What will be the Suquamish Tribe’s involvement in the process?
- What are the state’s minimum requirements and what is under local control? What regulations has the city adopted that exceed the minimum requirements?
- What are the penalties if Bainbridge Island doesn’t adopt a new SMP?
- How are shoreline designations created/defined? What is community character?
- What are the criteria for something to be determined “science” and how is this determined?
- How will specific uses – such as fish farms, shoreline modifications, docks, and moorings – be handled in the update?
- What can we learn from other jurisdictions?
- Impacts outside the shoreline jurisdiction, particularly storm management systems and runoff, need to be considered in the update.
- What are the high priorities – or the items that will provide “the most bang for the buck” – in protecting the waters of Puget Sound?
- What flexibility is available in regulating one area over another depending on ecological functions? (For example, WSF has compromised salmon habitat.)
- How does the Nearshore Assessment relate to the update?
- Why are we updating the SMP?
- What is the follow-up on enforcement? How is code compliance assured?
- Clarify the possible impacts to the property owner and the city’s stand on facts, direction, and the intent of shore management.
- Will the update expose the city to more “takings” litigation?
- Evaluate how clear the regulations are to those who must use them.
- Research how other cities have handled specific issues (such as buffers, bulkheads, and nonconforming uses/structures) and what thresholds they have enacted for those uses.

Red Station – Stakeholder Identification and Communication

Careholders (Stakeholders)
Anchored out community & BAMBI*
Association of Bainbridge Communities*
Audubon Society*
Bainbridge Alliance for Puget Sound*
Bainbridge Conservation Voters
Bainbridge Island Paddle Society
Bainbridge Island Rowing
Bainbridge Resource Group
Bainbridge Shoreline Homeowners
Beachwatchers
Boaters’ list
Boating and kayak groups*
Dive shop/ dive community
Downtown Association*
Ducks Unlimited
Earth Core/Interact (High School)

Elderly shoreline property owners without digital access
Fish farm
Fishing community – commercial, fishing license holders, Puget Sound Anglers, Sportsmen’s Club, gillnetters
Harbor Commission
Harbor users/ recreational boaters
Historic Society
Home Builders’ Association
Inland wetland owners
Island Keepers*
Lawyers
Marinas & yacht clubs*
Neighborhood organizations
Neighborhood watch groups
Parks’ District/ Parks’ walking group*
People for Puget Sound
Property owners across the water
Puget Sound Restoration Fund

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUBLIC FORUM
MARCH 2, 2010

Realtors*
Regional groups (Like PSRC)
Registered Boat Owners*
Scientists – UW faculty
Seaplane Association
Shoreline businesses
Shoreline condos – Sunday Cove & South Beach
Shoreline property owners who live off-Island
Shoreline property owners*
South Bainbridge Communities
State and federal resource agencies (DOE; DNR; DOFW; WSF, Corps)
State-mandated stakeholders
Suquamish Tribe*
Trout Unlimited
Trust for Working Landscapes
Water Trail Association
Watershed Council*
Weed Warriors*
Whole community

Influencers
Bainbridge Island Concerned Citizens
Bainbridge Island Land Trust
Bloedel
Boy/Girl Scouts & Guides
Brownsville Marina/marina owners
Chamber of Commerce*
Church trusts
Churches
Coast Guard Auxiliary
Downtown Association*
Earth Service Corps*
Health Clubs
Historical Society
Interfaith Council*
Intergovernmental Workgroup
Island Moms*
Islandwood
Kitsap County
Kiwanis
Masons
Non-profits

North Kitsap Trails Association
Parks' District*
PTO
Rotary*
Schools*
Science/political science teachers
Squeaky Wheels
Store owners
Sustainable Bainbridge
Volunteer committees
Washington State Ferries

Venues/ Channel
Ask resident websites to host link
Banners & signs for major civic events
Be specific about what could be done – docks, bulkheads, etc.
Bicycle stores
Blog/Facebook page
Bulletin boards
Community website – honest broker from all sides
Display on Winslow Way
Door hanger
Door-to-door canvass
Editorial/news – Review, Sun, Islander
Email
Emailed newsletter on regular basis – what's happening, what's next, links to documents
Embedded link on community web pages
Emergency preparation contacts
Farmers' market booth
Feedback system – did they hear?
Ferries – literature & plasma, riders distributing literature
Fourth of July – float, booth
Green Voices for Bainbridge Island
Insert in Review/Islander
Internet
Library, school, and church bulletins
Mail – preferably postcards
Make materials and information available at central location outside city hall – post office, library, senior center
Master calendar

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUBLIC FORUM
 MARCH 2, 2010

Myth-busting photos on web (i.e. This bulkhead will <u>not</u> be removed.)
Newspapers – Kitsap Sun, Review, Islander
One all-Island mailer
Parks classes
Precinct leaders
Public events – Farmers’ Market, Harvest Fair
RSS feeds

Seattle Times
Segment shoreline – volunteer to physically distribute information
Short link to web page
Signs with pull-off info at local stores
Theater group presentation to school assembly
Utility bill stuffers

Blue Station – Public Involvement Techniques and Tools

- Sponsor a panel discussion with Attorney General’s office on the legal issue of takings.
- Look at the ecology under the surface of the water.
- Merge development and preservation of shoreline with scientist(s) in relevant discipline(s).
- Have marine biologist(s) speak on shoreline ecology and processes.
- Provide education on the guidelines and how they will be used in the update process.
- How do contaminated sites fit into the update?
- The cumulative impacts of bulkheads and other armoring on drift cells need to be better understood.
- Create baseline information from which people can determine where there is a common understanding, what they don’t know, and on what they disagree.
- What happens after the SMP is adopted?
- Explain the legal and scientific basis for each proposed change.
- Sponsor a community town hall event with speakers that have done their homework to address a broad range of issues.
- Education and proposals need to be specific to Bainbridge Island.
- Sponsor a series of speakers on complex shoreline issues to promote greater understanding of Puget Sound-wide impacts, not just site-specific concerns.
- Involve people who have been through the shoreline permit process.
- Good facilitation is a must for meetings.
- Have smaller, issue-based meetings with time allotted for dialog and open, civil conversation.
- Remind participants of the ground rules for the meeting up front and often.
- Correct misunderstandings and factual errors as they arise.
- Use “compassionate listening.”
- Provide a bibliography along with reference materials.
- Avoid distrust through transparency. Publicize all drafts.
- Hold day meetings too, but make the same information available at other times.
- Have a very structured workshop in which issues are raised, discussed and voted upon.
- Provide information in informal settings (like the Farmers’ Market) and use visuals.
- Develop realistic agendas that clearly outline the purpose of the meetings and allow time for discussion.
- Make meetings available via webinar or phone if someone can’t physically attend.

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PUBLIC FORUM
MARCH 2, 2010

- Leverage resources by coordinating with Kitsap County's educational efforts.
- Spend more time on high-priority issues on which there appears to be little agreement.
- Ensure that the city knows the property owners' concerns, not just the state requirements.
- Show deliberations, not just decisions.
- Ensure that everyone feels like they've been treated equally.
- Provide meeting summaries in the newspaper and online.
- Provide background information before meeting.
- Host tours on which specific issues can be discussed on-site and provide examples from other communities.
- Illustrate the context of shoreline issues (fish, shoreline functions, how we fit in); develop position papers.
- Get younger people involved; perhaps through the schools.

3. MEETING RECAP [8:33:47 PM](#)

Michael Hintze reported that some of the highlights from the discussions on Goals and Objectives for the public participation plan included getting as many people as possible involved, providing early notification of materials and events; establishing milestones, and providing plenty of opportunities for open dialog. It was generally agreed that no decisions should be made without community knowledge and open discussion. Other recommendations included tracking and responding to all comments and providing the reasoning for decisions that are made. Two of the proposed measures of success were a general knowledge of the update process and the number of people attending meetings.

Gabe Snedeker recapped his station's discussions as including a lot questions about the science and legal requirements, including what is science what is ETAC's role in the process. People also wanted to know what decisions will be based on science and what decisions will be made politically and asked for clear information about Island-specific science and issues. Some of the other comments included a need to discuss property rights issues and the constitutionality of the SMP.

Julie Walton said that facilitation, including ground rules and parameters, were the focus of several comments in the discussions about public involvement techniques. There was also a lot of talk about using an array of methods (such as community conversations and field trips) to communicate and looking at what other communities have done. Participants want to have education up front with the science provided well ahead of time for meaningful conversation and to make the process more transparent. Realistic, clear agendas are need for meetings in neighborhoods, topic groups, or task forces.

Cathie Currie reported that the stakeholders' discussions emphasized that the update is an all island process, involving both shoreline and upland residents. There were also discussion about how to reach residents and property owners who do not have (or use) computer access and how to get the youth community involved.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.