



CHELAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Chelan County Planning Commission
Chelan County Community Development VIA ZOOM

Date: March 24, 2021

Called to Order: 6:00 PM
316 Washington St., Suite 301
Wenatchee, WA 98801

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

COMMISSIONER PRESENT/ABSENT

Ryan Kelso	Present	Carl Blum	Present
Vicki Malloy	Present	Jim Newberry	Present
Pat Hammersmith	Absent	Ed Martinez	Present
James Wiggs	Present	Joel Walinski	Present
Doug England	Present		

STAFF PRESENT

Jim Brown, Director
Catherine Lorbeer, Assistant Director
Alex White, Planner II
Wendy Lane, Permit Clerk

PUBLIC PRESENT

ZOOM MEETING – 38 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING STAFF AND PC MEMBERS

Chairman Carl Blum asked the Planning Commission members if all had read the minutes from the March 10, 2021, meeting.

MOTION:

Motion made by Commissioner Ryan Kelso, second by Commissioner Joel Walinski, to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2021, meeting.

Vote – Unanimous

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Hearing and Decision on Critical Area Ordinance (CAO)

Christina Wollman, from Perteet, gave a high-level PowerPoint presentation on the Critical Area Ordinance for the benefit of the public in attendance.

Chairman Carl Blum opened the floor to public testimony.

Graham Simon, a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Biologist, expressed gratitude to those who participated in the process of revising the Critical Care Ordinance.

Chairman Carl Blum closed the floor to public testimony.

A discussion took place among the Commissioners, additional information was provided by Bill Sullivan, a Geo Engineer Consultant, assisting with the project. Director Jim Brown, Christina Wollman and Planner II Alex White also contributed to the conversation when needed.

MOTION:

Motion made by Commissioner Ryan Kelso, second by Commissioner Joel Walinski, to keep the Geological Technical Report valid for five years instead of three years.

There was a discussion among the Commissioners with regard to the motion. Director Jim Brown contributed as needed.

Vote – Unanimous

Motion carries.

Commissioner Ed Martinez asked about the parallels and agreement between the Critical Areas Ordinance and the Shoreline Master Program. Director Jim Brown, Assistant Director Catherine Lorbeer, and Planner II Alex White all participated in relating the pertinent information and addressing Mr. Martinez's concerns.

MOTION:

Motion made by Commissioner Doug England, second by Commissioner Vicki Malloy, to approve the amended Critical Area Ordinance (CAO).

Commissioner Joel Walinski had a comment with regard to the new text that was added to the CAO and if it was dictated by state law. Director Jim Brown confirmed the procedures where the text was created in a uniform process that could be then be applied to all of the different ordinances.

Vote – Unanimous

Motion carries.

Chairman Carl Blum opened the public hearing portion for the Shoreline Master Program (SMP).

A staff presentation was made by Josh Jensen, of Anchor QEA, who was joined by his colleagues John Small and Sarah Nolan. It was a short presentation to provide a general introduction to the Shoreline Master Program. Chelan County Natural Resource Director, Mike Kaputa also contributed to the presentation.

During the presentation, breaks were made to allow Commissioners to ask questions about the material covered. Input from the Department of Ecology was included in the exchange.

Chairman Carl Blum opened the floor to public comment.

Graham Simon, with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, he wanted to convey that there was consistency between the Critical Area Ordinance and the Shoreline Master Program and spoke of the agencies involved in the process.

Jane Zanol, 336 Whitebirch Place, Wenatchee, an active outdoors woman who spoke on the shorelines of Fish Lake and Lake Wenatchee. She stated that the 2018 changes to the SMP were negatively impacting those areas and gave examples of conditions she has observed. She wants Chelan County to do more to protect shorelines.

Susan Ballinger, 2009 Skyline Drive, Wenatchee, she has a Master's degree in Biology, with a focus on Plant Oncology and Wetland Science. She also teaches at Wenatchee Valley College and is familiar with the best available science that is not yet used in the SMP. She would like the Planning Commission to review a number of publications to make better decisions for Fish Lake.

Sally Freed, 16120 Cedar Brae Road, Leavenworth, south shore at Fish Lake. She spoke of the influx of tourism, especially from the Seattle area. Although, she would agree that tourism is good, it has an impact on the environment. The concern is that a change of classification and the influence it would have for the culture, community and the integrity of the valley.

Commissioner Ed Martinez suggested a revaluation of the shorelines of Fish Lake and Lake Wenatchee. Director Jim Brown and Chelan County Natural Resource Director, Mike Kaputa addressed his concerns on the matter.

Chairman Carl Blum closed the public testimony of the hearing.

Public Hearing and Decision will continue to the April 28, 2021 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Carl Blum reminded fellow Commissioners that the Planning Commission meetings will start at 7:00 pm for the next six months.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTON:

Motion made by Commissioner Ryan Kelso, seconded by Commissioner Doug England, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote – unanimous

Motion carries.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Planning Commission Meeting to be held on April 28, 2021, at 7:00 pm, – a Zoom meeting.

All Planning Commission meetings and hearings are open to the public.