

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Whitman County Planning Commission Date: November 2, 2022

Observer Reporting: Shelley Chambers Fox Length of Meeting: 62 minutes

Members Present: Chad Whetzel, Dave Gibney, Weston Kane (LaCrosse),

Mark Tolman (new member). On Zoom: David Tysz (Tekoa),

Russ Jamison (Garfield), Brian Davies,

Absent: Fred Wexler, Matt Webb.

Others Present (i.e., media, public): Staff: Alan Thomson, Whitman County Planner,

Grace DiBiase, Assistant County Planner, Mark Storey, Director Public Works Engineer,

Brandon Johnson, Public Works (running Zoom),

Rachel Granrath (consultant, SCJ Alliance).

Public: Susan Daniels (Zoom)

Content (What is being discussed):

Reports

1. **Board of Adjustment forthcoming hearings** – Side setback variance for Sam Young, Stoneway Electric for an adjacent building and a conditional use permit for GRYM K9 for a canine behavioral training center on Sand Rd. Hearings are set for November 10, 2022.
2. **Board of County Commissioners' action** – Formal transmission for zoning code amendments to be held on November 7, 2022, at 10.30 a.m. Public hearing for those zoning code amendments set for November 21, 2022, at 10.30 a.m.

Unfinished Business

1. The **Shoreline Master Program** is reviewed by counties in Washington state every 8 years. The plan addresses environmental protection and public access to shorelines. The **consultant is in Colfax tonight** (Nov 2) talking about the Shoreline Plan at an in-person/hybrid Zoom meeting in the auditorium.
2. Draft Plan is 180+ pages.
3. Shoreline Management is required at the state level so intended to coordinate development along shorelines. Protect natural shoreline habitat. Coordinate local uses of shorelines (agriculture).
4. **This is a compliance audit to make sure our plans are consistent with state regulations.**
5. **The new draft proposes 12 changes to Whitman county's Shoreline Management Program:**
 - a. Federal exemption that streamlines approval of shoreline projects proposed by the federal government.
 - b. Updated definitions: development, non-conforming uses, non-conforming structures, substantial development (\$8500),
 - c. WSDOT 90 day review specified
 - d. Exemptions for fish passage project, local review, cost threshold for freshwater docks, ADA compliance projects
 - e. Clarified nonconforming uses and development

6. Process
 - a. Agency and stakeholder outreach
 - b. The consultant has met with all communities to discuss their wishes (except Tekoa that cancelled their meeting without notifying the consultant-planning to re-schedule). The plan covers six other jurisdictions.
 - c. First draft to Department of Ecology (November)
 - d. **Whitman county input includes discussion at the Planning Commission meeting tonight and a website that the public can use to provide input.**
 - e. Intent to adopt (January)
 - f. Public meetings (March-April)
 - g. Representative from Dept of Ecology will present to those in Olympia who will approve the plan.
7. Mark Storey clarifies that when making repairs to local roads they are not subject to the Shoreline Master Plan unless they change the footprint of the road.
8. **The Comprehensive Plan is now available on-line.**

Public Meetings of interest to League

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Process & Protocol: (Observations about participants and procedures of the meeting) *e.g., Did the members appear to have done their “homework”?* Yes *Were members courteous to each other and the public?* Yes. *Was access to materials for certain agenda items available to you?*

Yes, the agenda and meeting link were sent via email. There were several technical problems that made the sound quality of this meeting poor.

Next meeting is tentatively Dec 7, 2022.